STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and **Educator and Chairman of the Board** Åsa Morberg inform about Strömstad Academy news. Flensburg has written an obituary of the historian Bo Andersson.

Orthopedist Margareta Berg et al have published Overview of surgical training and assessment of surgical skills: a narrative review: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/surgery/articles/10.3389/fsurg.2025.1605495/pdf.

I want to urge a previous call for all members to verify and complete their personal information on the Academy website. Also try to recruit new members to the Academy, not least young scholars. Please, send suggestions to **Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg** at per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

I wish new contributions to the November issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 November 2025: anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no . Send short articles, opinion articles and/or reviews of new scientific literature. Swedish contributions should have an English translation. Texts should be in Word- or Open Office format!

Please, also send contributions to the Academy´s publication series Acta Academia Strömstadiensis, AAS, to peter@wahrborg.se , the video series SAV to: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor

October Monthly Report. *By Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Åsa Morberg, Chair*

Board Meeting, Participation and Possible Absence

We have had a board meeting, and we have a lot to report on. First of all, the participation in the board meeting was a bit low. It was Anders Gustavsson, Per Flensburg, Lars Broman, Peter Fritzell, Rune Wigblad, Sten Philipson, Per Staffan Boström and Åsa Morberg.

We were missing Marie-Louise G Wadenberg (an-

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

nounced), John Fletcher (announced), Bode Janzon, Angelika Basch, Stig Ottosson, Bodil Frisdal, Fredrik Eriksson, Arne Fagerström, Gudmund Bergqvist. We always bring both deputies and the Nominating Cmmittee! When a notice is sent to a board meeting, we are grateful if we receive notification of participation or absence. Then we also receive confirmation that the email has arrived.

Local chapter news

The board meeting went well and we are happy to now have a coordinator in the Local Chapter West. It is Per Staffan Boström, who has taken on the assignment. Per Staffan will be on our Working Committee and will discuss the assignment. Per Staffan will also be the coordinator for all coordinators. We are so grateful that we have staffed the assignments again. We will discuss with Per Staffan in the working committee and we wish him luck with this important assignment. Our local chapters are still important. The theme groups have a different function. Per Flensburg has listed the local chapters (https://www.stromstadakademi.org/lokalavdelningar /), so you can see where you belong if you are wondering. The local chapters fulfill an important function in Strömstad Academy, since we do not have the opportunity to have frequent physical contacts, there are opportunities for contacts in the local chapter. Per Staffan has an exciting new way of thinking when it comes to the local chapters.

Science Festival 2026 – book the date in your calendars

We are now trying to have the festival in August, more precisely August 10-12! We have a local planning group consisting of Peter Fritzell, convener, Lars Broman, Rosa Jörgenson, Sveza Daceva and Sven Moosberg. The people responsible for the program are Per Flensburg and Anders Gustavsson. We discussed the venue issue and what is now proposed is Strömstad City Hall and Fars sal. It should be possible for the new working year for the politicians, who have hardly had time to start then.

Strömstad Academy Memorial Fund

There is a memorial fund at Strömstad Academy. It was established a long time ago, but the instructions for use were only decided at this meeting. We decided that there would be somewhat open instructions and that the Board could decide on the use. Today there is a little over 10,000:- funded.

In a short time, two members have left us: Nils-Göran Areskough and now on Saturday, Oct 11th, Bo Andersson. It might be a good idea to remember them.

Publications and printing costs

It has now been decided that two book projects will be awarded 10,000: - each. It is a book about the time before doctoral education, where Anders Gustafsson is the editor it is also a book that Gudmund Bergqvist and Anders Gustafsson where are the editors. There is a budget for printing costs for each project, because 10,000: - is of course, not enough.

So we will continue to have to live with the fact that book projects appear every now and then like "the old man in the box", and the editors ask for funds for printing costs. It is absolutely impossible to get a budget before the project starts and then we will adjust accordingly.

Science Festival

It is now clear that next year's science festival will be 10-12 August and will be held in the City Hall, in Fars sal. The first day will be as usual, starting at 2:00 PM with a members'

meeting about the Academy's development, then installation of new members and mingling in the café.

The other days are open, we will continue with 20+20 minutes per lecture, possibly grouping the lectures by theme and gathering the discussion at the end. Then more people can give lectures.

A big question is who is our target group. Is it the residents of Strömstad and the surrounding area or is it the Academy's members? There were many at the book fair who said they would come, but saying is one thing, doing is another!

We also hope to be able to keep costs down so that the conference fee is 0:- SEK. We will probably invest more in marketing, perhaps an advertisement in the newspaper.

In memoriam: Bo Andersson

Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor

A few years ago, during the planning of our book about the use of power, I unexpectedly received some book packages. They contained exciting titles: We and They, The Age of Evil, Power Thrusts and Human Value. A little later, a 700-page brick arrived about the brandy king L O Smith in Karlshamn. My wife is from Karlshamn and knew L O Smith, who is depicted on all Absolut Vodka bottles. So she had to throw herself at this book. At the time, I myself had cataracts in both eyes and could only read on the screen if the letters were one centimeter high. So the books were left on the bookshelf, in the Strömstad Academy section, for later reading or lending. They were all written by a Bo Andersson, who had been a member of Strömstad Academy since October 14, 2013. He was a professor of democracy research, which I thought was a very interesting subject. But the work on the book of power and some events related to it meant that the contact I had planned to take did not happen.

When we wrote our latest book “Straight paths and crooked paths – The road to becoming a researcher”, Bo had a chapter in it where he described how he became one of Sweden’s foremost historians. Yes, I added the epithet “foremost” because it was clear from his text. I was appointed to review Bo’s text, and I found it to be incredibly well-written, with a clear common thread, well-organized, and also with nice typography. I had a few small things that Bo could perhaps improve on, and I received an email back thanking me for my wise views. The contact was made, and it ended with me visiting Bo at his home one afternoon. He was in a

wheelchair, had cancer all over his body, and told me that he had been given an end date several times, but had come up short of the prognosis. Bo was a warm, knowledgeable, and happy person, easy to talk to, lively, and alert. We spent a very pleasant afternoon together, which ended with Bo being the first and so far only person to read my avant-garde poems. He praised them and thought I should publish them. Maybe I will when I have written a few more. I came home with two more books by Bo: The Value of Man in the Time of Evil and Ludwig Wittgenstein's World of Ideas, both very relevant. This happened on August 14th. About two months later, Bo's daughter called me and told me that he had passed away.

I am incredibly happy that we got to meet and that I got to know this fantastic person. The book "Straight Tracks and Crooked Paths" will be published on November 21st, and I would like to encourage you all to get a copy and read Bo's captivating story. The book will also be available on our website.

Finally, I just want to say that Strömstad Academy misses you, Bo Andersson! Rest in peace!