STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

Content

Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson 1
Report from the Chairman and Vice-Chancellor 1
Jürgen Habermas in memoriam.....4
Science Festival 10-12 August 5

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and **Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg** inform about Strömstad Academy news.

Vice-**Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg** inform about Science Festival in Strömstad 10-12 August 2026 and written Jürgen Habermas in memoriam.

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 April issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 April 2026: 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 anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: per@flensburgs.se, the video series SAV to gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com

Report from the Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

Monthly report from Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the Board

Happy Easter!

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

We wish you all a happy Easter. We hope you have a really nice Easter weekend filled with sweets, spring feelings and Easter celebrations. There are

many red days at Easter. It is time for egg hunting, Easter decorations with chickens, hares and feathers and really good Easter food! For Easter food we can serve food such as herring, Jansson's temptation, and of course in eggs in all shapes, Easter must drink and sweets. Eating lamb at Easter is a relatively new tradition in Sweden, but it comes from a very old Jewish tradition that you can read about in Exodus, chapter 12, on bibeln.se. We hope that everyone can enjoy the time off and the spring sun. We wish everyone a really happy and pleasant Easter weekend with loved ones.

Chairman of the Board's Letter

The work situation at the Academy from the Board's perspective the Vice-Chancellor has been hit by an unbalanced workload and we must find a solution.

We have and have had an unbalanced workload in the management of the Academy. Our Vice-Chancellor has signaled this and we absolutely must deal with this immediately. Our Vice-Chancellor wrote a letter to the work committee/Executive Committee, which made me, as Chairman of the Board, act immediately. The Vice-Chancellor's description of the work situation prompted me to immediately call for a work committee meeting, which was planned based on the Vice-Chancellor's personal calendar. The meeting of the work committee took place on March 27, 2026, from 12:00 to 14:00. The agenda for the meeting included a single item and that is measures due to the Vice-Chancellor's work situation.

The Vice-Chancellor may remove assignments that are not due to assignments as Vice-Chancellor, but then we will analyze together what can be done immediately to alleviate the Vice-Chancellor's work situation. The Vice-Chancellor needed to support the treasurer's work, since the regular treasurer announced illness. The Vice-Chancellor also needed to support the secretary's duties, since the regular secretary was not available. The Vice-Chancellor's regular duties with the Strömstad Academy website are also included in the picture. There is a long list of tasks that have unfortunately ended up on the Vice-Chancellor's shoulders. The Vice-Chancellor of the Academy involves development, representation and he is also a general contact person. The Vice-Chancellor is also responsible for the layout of all our publications, including the news forum that comes out once a month, and he is a web designer who involves continuous development of the website and establishment of theme group websites. The Vice-Chancellor is also a producer of articles for the news forum. He is also a producer of chapters in anthologies. The Vice-Chancellor is also a "sparring partner" to Rune, Dag and partly to Johanna in their scientific activities. The Vice-Chancellor is also working on initiating a scientific journal at the Royal Library: AASS. There are several tasks that rest on the Vice-Chancellor's shoulders.

We have a big problem at Strömstad Academy. We are short of people who want and can actively engage in the association's tasks. Getting more active members is not easy. It's about the fact that we need more people who can and want to get actively involved in Strömstad Academy. We have to try to create a culture of community, make the need for efforts visible, as I am trying to do in Nyhetsforum. We need to try to lower the thresholds for active participation. By making involvement in Strömstad Academy meaningful and fun, so that we increase the chance that more members will take the step from being passive members to active members.

To get more active members, a combination of personal treatment, clear value creation in Strömstad Academy and adapted levels of involvement for those interested is required. We in the management need to offer meaningful assignments and try to communicate the value of active membership. We need to think about how we will get more active members. We absolutely have to find a solution to this. Some of it will be resolved when we have the annual meeting in April, but not everything.

Postponed annual meeting a natural consequence of the academy's work environment problems

A postponed annual meeting is unfortunate for all of us at Strömstad Academy. This means that Strömstad Academy is postponing the annual general meeting (AGM) to a later date (2026-04-23 at 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) than originally planned. When we, as above, describe the situation in the Academy, the reasons for the decision should be clear.

Here is what this means in practice: Decisions are made later. Matters that are to be decided at the annual meeting, such as discharge from liability for the board, election of new board members and adoption of the income statement and balance sheet, are postponed to the new date. We regret that we have been forced to deal with the problems we have had and are having in Strömstad Academy with a postponed AGM.

Respecting the management's decision to postpone an AGM means that you are in line with the association's legal rules (the statutes), where the Board is responsible for ensuring that the meeting can be carried out correctly. Our responsibility as management and board is to inform the association's members in good time about the postponed annual meeting.

By accepting the decision, it is ensured that the annual general meeting can be held under better conditions, which reduces the risk of the decisions being criticized afterwards.

Information from the board work

The Board of Strömstad Academy and the Academy's management are responsible for communicating information that affects the members. Here are the most important points, based on good practice and on each person's areas of responsibility.

We have a division between the Vice-Chancellor and the Board. The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the Academy and is responsible for the academic area. The Vice-Chancellor writes about this in his letter, please see above.

The Board of Strömstad Academy is responsible for managing the operations, finances and assets, according to the statute. The Board also implements the decisions of the annual meeting, represents the association's Board externally and is responsible for preparing the annual report. The responsibility is shared by all members of the Board.

We summarize the decisions we have taken in recent years: new statute, ethical policy, ethical council and recent archiving policy. Everything is available online.

We have two motions for the annual meeting submitted by Lars Broman. They concern the preservation of local chapters and the reinstatement of honorary professors.

The problems announced by the Vice-Chancellor are being addressed in the form of proposals. We do not have a board meeting before the annual meeting, but the motions are being prepared in the Working Committee/Executive Committee. After reviewing the Vice-Chancellor's work situation, the Working Committee will compile a proposal on changes in the work situation for the Vice-Chancellor.

Letter from the Vice Chancellor

As the Chairman points out above, my work situation has been extremely high in recent months. It is partly my own fault, because I have taken on too much. As I wrote somewhere: Strömstad Academy is too dependent on its Vice-Chancellor. But Åsa quickly got to grips with the situation and there are also some new members on their way to the Academy and I can hopefully get help with all our websites.

Otherwise, things are starting to happen, a new theme on Sustainable Local Development (HLU) has started and a sub-project called Energy has been started there. There will be a conference on this in Järvsö 23-25 September. Per Staffan Boström is trying to get a project about industrial doctoral students started and there will be a kick-off meeting at Tjärnö in early June. Our "pensioners' book" is being completed and we may be able to afford to print it. The treasurer problem has been solved now that we have a candidate. In addition, the authors are starting to use our template, which makes the layout work easier and faster. So there is hope!

What is important, not only for me but for all members of the Academy, is that we can continue writing. That is why a journal is important and I give that work a fairly high priority. We are a group, me, Anders, Bode and Rune, who help each other with the application. It is quite extensive, but I think most of it has already been done. With a journal in place, we will also be more visible.

The local chapters are also, as we wrote in the last news forum, a problem. Falun is working, they have a collaboration with Folkuniversitetet and organizes a local science festival every year in December. The local branch West has a collaboration with Folkuniversitetet in Trollhättan and holds lectures at Bohus Museum in Uddevalla. There are several study associations that also organize lectures: FAS, PRO, SPF, Vuxenskolan, ABF, local historical associations, etc. I see great potential, if only someone would take action.

In summary, the Academy is on its way, we don't really know where, but that's part of the charm. As Karin Boye says:

There is still a goal and meaning in our journey
but it is the path that is worth the effort.

However, she forgets one thing and here comes a tricky continuation:

The lonely path is worth nothing
The common journey creates our world

Have a good day, dear Academy!

Jürgen Habermas in memoriam

Jürgen Habermas in memoriam

Per Flensburg

Photo: Wolfram Huke

A great philosopher and social debater has passed away. Jürgen Habermas was 96 years old and has inspired countless political scientists, sociologists, historians and philosophers. I came across his work "Knowledge and Human Interest" where he explains the three knowledge interests: technical, practical and emancipatory (Habermas 1972). Habermas applies them to various sciences, but I saw them as more general and recurring in many contexts.

Habermas is considered one of the more prominent philosophers of the Frankfurt

School, along with Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer. The representatives of this orientation saw their theory as opposed to traditional bourgeois and positivist theory. This type of traditional social theory was considered to be content with describing reality as it was and describing this existing state as natural and necessary. The critical theory of the Frankfurt School was critical of the prevailing order and focused on the possibility of change. This meant taking an active stance for a socialist society that the representatives of the Frankfurt School saw as characterized by democracy and with liberated citizens.

Habermas is best known for his theory of the importance of communication in society and its democratic governance. In representative democracy, the people are not involved actively enough in the governance of their own society, while complicated democratic challenges, such as pluralism, moral disagreement, and democratic legitimacy are not handled in sufficient detail. Against this background, Habermas believed that the public exchange of opinions should be at the center. Citizens and representatives should give justifications for their preferences, different alternatives, and action plans in public discussions. He believes that then the people can arrive at decisions that everyone can agree on and accept. He calls this discursive democracy.

A consequence of the interest in democracy is his research into communication and the formulation of speech act theory (Habermas 1984, 1988). This has been used in computer science by, among others, Göran Goldkuhl and Owen Eriksson (Axelsson and Goldkuhl 1998; Eriksson 2000). It is important that we understand each other when developing systems and not let one way of reasoning dominate.

Literature

Axelsson, Karin, och Göran Goldkuhl. 1998. Strukturering av informationssystem : arkitekturstrategier i teori och praktik. Studentlitteratur.

Eriksson, O. 2000. Kommunikationskvalitet hos informationssystem och affärsprocesser (in Swedish), PhD thesis. Linköping studies in information science.

Habermas, J. 1972. Knowledge and Human Interest. Beacon Press.

Habermas, J. 1984. The Theory of Communicative Action. Vol I: Reason and Rationalization of Society. London.

Habermas, J. 1988. The Theory of Communicative Action. Vol II: The Critique of Functionalist Reason. London.

Science Festival 10-12 August

The festival will take place 10-12 August in Fars sal in the Town Hall of Strömstad. A new point is a discussion with Strömstad's leading politicians about how Strömstad Academy and the municipality can mutually enrich each other. What can the Academy do for the Municipality and vice versa. If this does not work, i.e. if the politicians do not show up, we will instead have an internal discussion about the magazine and local chapters' replacements. We also hope that there will be a concert with the Rilke ensemble, one of Swedens most famous choirs, lead by Gunnar Eriksson, Honarary Professor of Strömstad Academy. It will according to the plan be in the church of Strömstad and also dependent on us getting financing for it.

On next page is a block schedule for the two days. Each theme has 80 minutes that they can use as they wish. The lectures are as usual 20 minutes long plus 20 minutes of discussion

after- wards. There will be room for 17 lectures, maybe a few more depending on how the themes use their time.

Day	Time	Subject	Person
Monday 10/8	14:00-14:15	Welcome	Vice-Chancellor+ org chair
	14:15-16:00	Debate with politicians	Politicians in Strömstad
	16:00-17:00	Installation new members	Vice-Chancellor, Åke Cantrell
	17:00-18:30	Mingel	
	19:00-21:00	Concert	The Rilke ensemble
Tuesday 11/8	09:00	Senior researchers a resource for society	Anders Gustavsson
	09:40	Cultures around the Black Sea	Sveza Daceva
	10:20	Kaffe	
	10:40	Lecture	
	11:20	Lecture	
	12:00	Lunch	
	13:30	Lecture	
	14:10	Lecture	
	14:50	Kaffe	
	15:10	Lecture	
	15:50	Lecture	
	16.20	Lecture	
Wednesday 12/8	09:00	Overpopulation	Dag Lindgren
	09:40	Overpopulation	
	10:20	Kaffe	
	10:40	Technique Evaluation	Rune Wigblad
	11:20	Technique Evaluation	
	12:00	Lunch	
	13:30	Supervision	Per Staffan Boström
	14:10	Supervision	
	14:50	Kaffe	
	15:10	Energy	Arne Fagerström
	15:50	Energy	
	16.20	Energy	