STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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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 has written about a new AI threat and reflections on the concept of system.

Physician Hari Prakash Garg in India reflects on the art of life.

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@flensburgs.se.

I wish new contributions to the May issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 May 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

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Report from the Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

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

Have a nice Walpurgismäss/Bonfire Night and First of May!

We wish you all a really happy spring! We hope you have a really nice spring weekend filled with spring songs, May bonfires and last but not least spending time with family and friends! It is a red day too so there will be more days off from work. The spring celebration, mainly associated with Walpurgismässoafton on April 30, is a traditional Swedish holiday to welcome spring. The celebration of Walpurgismäss and First of May clearly marks a transition into brighter times with activities such as fireworks and outdoor dining. We have another long weekend in the month of May. It is Ascension Day and then it is a long weekend again. May is also a lovely spring month.

Feedback from the March newsletter about the Vice-Chancellor's work situation discussed in the working committee

In the previous letter, we wrote about the uneven workload at the management of the Academy. Our Vice-Cancellor had signaled a high workload and we tried to deal with this immediately. Our Vice-Cancellor wrote a letter to the Working/Executive Committee and I, as chairman of the board, acted immediately.

The Vice-Chancellor's description of the work situation prompted me to immediately call for an extra Working7Executive Committee meeting, which was planned based on the Vice-Chancellor's personal calendar. The meeting of the Working/Executive Committee took place on March 26, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The agenda for the meeting included a single item and that was practical measures due to the Vice-Chancellor's work situation. The main purpose was to try to improve the Vice-Chancellor's overall work situation.

The Vice-Chancellor first needed to remove assignments that were not assignments as Vice-Chancellor, but then we analyzed in the Working/Executive Committee what could be done to alleviate the Vice-Chancellor's work situation. The Vice-Chancellor needed to support the treasurer's work, as the regular treasurer is away due to illness and this work will end with the annual meeting on April 24, when a new treasurer will be elected by the annual meeting. The Vice-Chancellor also needed to support the secretary's duties, as the regular secretary was not available due to illness. At the annual meeting, our regular secretary will return. We are very pleased and we warmly welcome our regular secretary back to the assignment.

There was a long list of tasks that naturally weigh on the Vice-Chancellor' shoulders. We reported on all the assignments in the previous news forum. Two assignments will be removed with the annual meeting. We hope that the Vice-Chancellor, can fulfill the remaining assignments. This concern makes it clear that we lack administrative support. We would need more administrative support for our activities.

Postponed annual meeting until April 24, 2026

A postponed annual meeting is of course unfortunate for all of us at Strömstad Academy. This has meant that Strömstad Academy has moved the regular annual meeting to a later date (2026-04-23 at 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) than originally planned. The reasons are that we have had two key people in management on sick leave for a long time and we cannot do anything about this. This means the following as we have previously explained: Decisions will be 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 profit and

loss account and balance sheet, will be postponed to the new date. Elections to various positions of trustees will also take place later.

Information from the board work

After the annual meeting, we are now starting a new business year. Our routines are one quarterly board meeting and the Working Committee meets once or twice between board meetings. The minutes from the Board meeting are posted as soon as they are adjusted and ready. We adjust digitally. For the Working Committee, we document in the form of memos. The Working Committee includes the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman and Deputy Chair. The Working Committee can of course co-opt people for special matters. Good meetings in our board require not only a physical presence online but also a conscious presence. Constantly being on the road somewhere else, if not physically then in thought, is part of the everyday challenge for all of us. We must be careful to send out the agenda well ahead of time. We must also be clear about each person's role at the meeting. If this is unclear in any way, we must clarify this in advance. Do members need to participate? Of course, members need to participate in board meetings. Please book the meetings in your calendar when they become known. A calendar will be available shortly. If you are unable to attend, please notify us in good time so that a substitute can replace you. Our meetings last two hours. That is actually quite long. But we can have a break during the meeting so that we maintain our energy!

From now on, our archive is operational. The archive manager is Bode Janzon. The deputy archivist is Sten Philipson. Together with Per Flensburg, they have worked out all the instructions. At the annual meeting, the general outline of what applies to the archive was presented. It is very good that we at Strömstad Academy have become archivists. Strömstad Academy has chosen to save certain documents, in order to be able to prove or document or just so that we remember them. Archival documents are primary sources of historical knowledge, but all researchers know that. An archive of course does not contain all the information from our activities at Strömstad Academy. We will of course be weeding out at regular intervals. Swedish authorities have a legal obligation, as all researchers know, to save documents that have arisen in the activities. These are called public documents. For private individuals, companies and organizations, there is not the same legal protection. With some exceptions, it is up to the person in control (archive manager and assistant archivist) over the archive to decide whether it should be saved and possibly handed over to an archive for preservation and use.

Science Festival 2026-08-10-12, warm and heartfelt welcome!

Remember to register for the Science Festival that this year takes place in Strömstad City Hall. Responsible for the program are Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Anders Gustavsson. There is also a local organizing group that is responsible for the important social arrangements in the Science Festival. It consists of Sveza Filipova, Rosa Jörgensson, Peter Fritzell and Lars Broman. The Science Festival is important. That's when we meet physically. Meeting physically strengthens the community and it's important to think about. Our Science Festival acts as an added value to our web meetings. Offer your expertise and knowledge and register to give a lecture! Our theme groups will meet during the Science Fstival and then it's an opportunity to see what the theme groups are working on. As an extra spice, we hope to be able to finance a performance by the Rilke Ensemble under the direction of Honorary Professor Gunnar Eriksson in the Strömstad Church. In our opinion, they are one of the world's leading ensembles. They already performed in 2023 during the Science Festival then. As an extra spice, Thomas von Brömssen will also participate. All of this, however, provided that we receive sufficient contributions.

Academic activities

Our themes have gotten off to a good start. The Technology Assessment Group is responding to a debate article at DI about Sweden's AI initiatives and a performance is planned at Almedalsveckan to promote Maglev trains. Arne Fagerström has started an energy theme together with Agneta Sundström, where a number of activities are underway, Per Staffan Boström has started a theme for mentors for doctoral students together with Margareta Berg and Per Staffan has a theme underway that involves collaboration with companies. A theme about cultures around the Black Sea is in the starting blocks. In addition, a number of articles are in production and our scientific journal is to be launched. We are considering further emphasizing the interdisciplinary approach by calling it Acta Akademiae Strömstadiensis Interdisciplinaris, abbreviated AASI. With this focus, it will be easier to include applied research, which we are doing in both the technology assessment and energy themes. At the same time, it is important to also include more theoretical and comprehensive research.

How are we going to create really good collaboration in Strömstad Academy?

This is a big and important question to think about. We need to create a culture of trust and that we care about openness. We need to prioritize common goals, clear communication and shared information. We need to become good at building team feelings by getting to know each other, and that we think about using the unique strengths of our members. We will try to encourage feedback and that we will resolve our conflicts constructively. We in the management should think about giving clear guidelines and also make sure that we have regular follow-ups of what we are working on. We are always open to good advice.

A special opportunity is to use IT for these purposes. We have tried discussion forums without success. But we also know that some of our members are happy to use AI as a sparring partner. It is actually a frightening phenomenon, because it shows that we would rather discuss with a machine than a human. It is the first step in the machines taking over! One way to get around this is to do as Dag Lindgren did, start a blog! Dag's blog can be accessed through https://www.stromstadakademi.org/befolkning/ and it is free to comment on the posts. We are thinking of setting up a similar blog for the Academy: https://www.stromstadakademi.org/disk/ where those who wish can get an account to start new threads but where you can comment without being logged in. The only functioning discussion forum we have now is the news forum, with a month between each reply.

H P Garg: The art of life

The Art of Life – As I Think

Hari Prakash Garg, Honorary Professor at Strömstad Academy

I use to ask to myself when I was a Child, Student, a married young man, a Scientist, Professor, Administrator and after retirement to myself and my wife – what have I truly done & achieved in life? It then also led me to ask myself– what has been the goal of my life? Man like me getting up in the morning, eating food, earning money, enjoying life with family should not be the aim of life.

As I received myself from a curious sojourn, I opened my eyes to the smile of a girl I had helped to educate. It was then that I realized, it wasn't the money I had earned or name/ fame/respect/contacts in India or abroad or my rewarded research in Solar/ Renewable

energy that could have been the goal of my life. It was the way of my life. My wife used to tell me that this is what everybody is doing and our satisfaction in life is most important.

One often believes that survival - in terms of care for family, respect in society, success, fame and health is the ultimate goal of his or her life. I believe that I should live for the society, work for the society and make a purpose of life. There are many challenges in the society particularly among poor people such as poverty, unemployment, illness, superstition, addiction, discrimination and education. How are then humans different from animals? We have indeed been blessed with wisdom, but not for the benefit of self. Each human's life must be, as I think, shared for the benefit of others around them.

Education for girl child and the poor, medical help, clothes and shelter for the vulnerable, financial help for the ones in need and unwavering respect and support for all – that is the true way of living one's life, 'Making a Difference'. And this way of life, which is pure, honest and also noble must be the only goal of our lives.

Why don't we make a note to always ask ourselves this–are my actions aimed at benefiting only myself and my loved ones? Because, at the end of the day and at the end of our lives, if we have lived only for ourselves, what difference did we make in the world?

We have adopted two families, and help them financially like fees to the children, medical help, token money every month, free loan, advice, etc.

Per Flensburg: New AI threat

New AI threat

Per Flensburg, professor of computer science

In 2021, siblings Daniela Amodei and Dario Amodei founded the company Anthropic PBC, an American privately held AI company based in San Francisco. They were both former employees of OpenAI. The company is registered as a Public Benefit Corporation, which gives the company the legal freedom to invest part of its profits in public benefit projects, instead of exclusively maximizing dividends to shareholders. In return, full transparency and annual reports are required that report on how the business has contributed to the public good.

The company has developed a series of large language models (LLMs) under the name Claude, which compete directly with models such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. The company also has the programming tool Claude Code, for software developers. Anthropic has profiled itself through ethical guidelines; among other things, the company avoids developing entertainment products that risk becoming addictive.

In February 2026, Anthropic entered an open conflict with the Pentagon. The conflict concerned Anthropic's terms of service, which prohibit the company's technology from being used for mass surveillance in the United States or to control fully autonomous weapons. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth demanded that these restrictions be removed to enable "all lawful uses" within the military. When Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei refused to budge and stood firm on the company's ethical boundaries, Hegseth threatened to classify the company as a supplier risk and possibly invoke the federal emergency Defense Production Act. In late February 2026, President Donald Trump intervened in the conflict. He sharply criticized Anthropic, calling the company's management "radical left" and saying that their approach put American troops at risk and jeopardized national security. The Trump administration then announced that federal agencies would cease all use of Claude, and the Pen-

tagon labeled the company a risk. Anthropic responded by threatening to sue the US government, arguing that the blacklisting violated legal principles and set a dangerous precedent. The company received support from digital human rights organizations such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).

Anthropic specializes in tools for programmers. Last week, the company released information about its new AI model, Mythos. According to Anthropic, it is extremely skilled at finding security holes in IT systems, even those that most human experts miss. Therefore, Anthropic decided not to release the model to the public for the time being. Instead, large tech companies such as Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Nvidia will first have a chance to run it against their own systems, so they can find any security holes in their own software before others do. Releasing it openly would simply be too dangerous, the company argued.

A way to build hype, some people say. Good and responsible, others say. But given the row with Trump earlier this year, the company has every reason to hype its products.

To prevent the new AI model from giving criminals and other threat actors an advantage, only a select number of tech companies will have access to it for the time being. The project is called Glas-swing and includes Google, Microsoft and the foundation behind Linux, among others. The idea is that they will get a chance to run Mythos against their own code and thus find security holes before attackers do.

The banking and finance world is particularly concerned about the threat that an abused Mythos would pose. Banks have special requirements for their IT security, since cyberattacks against them could shake the entire financial system. The Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority and its counterparts in both the UK and the US will issue warnings to the banks.

The major Swedish banks are more reticent. Handelsbanken does not want to comment on Mythos. Swedbank also does not want to say anything specific about this model. Nordea's press department writes in an email: "We follow developments in artificial intelligence closely. New advances, including Anthropic's new language model Mythos, have not come as a surprise to us." According to Anthropic, Mythos has already found thousands of security holes in everything from operating systems to browsers. Among them is a bug in an operating system that had been hidden in the code for 27 years.

In my opinion, in the wrong hands, Mythos can create complete chaos in all IT systems worldwide. It is a well-known fact that all IT systems contain errors that have not yet been discovered. Gödel showed this as early as 1931 with his incompleteness theorem: In every consistent formal system, sufficient for arithmetic, there is a formula that cannot be proven and whose negation cannot be proven either. We cannot therefore prove that a computer program is correct. Mythos, on the other hand, can show that it is incorrect by discovering new bugs.

Mythos being released to several large tech companies I consider to be the same as letting it go free. Someone will leak; someone will be careless so a link will go astray. In addition to filling the internet with AI-generated garbage, there is now a risk that AI will sabotage virtually all the world's computers. Can we protect ourselves against this? Not really, we don't know where the attacks can come from. You can change your password, you can introduce two-factor authentication, but that's just an outer shell of protection. What I've done is that I've backed up all the information I have in the cloud, copied it to external hard drives and then put it away in my desk drawer. You can buy a 4 TB external hard drive for less than 1500 SEK and that's money well invested and it holds everything you can produce throughout your life!

Per Flensburg: No systems, please!

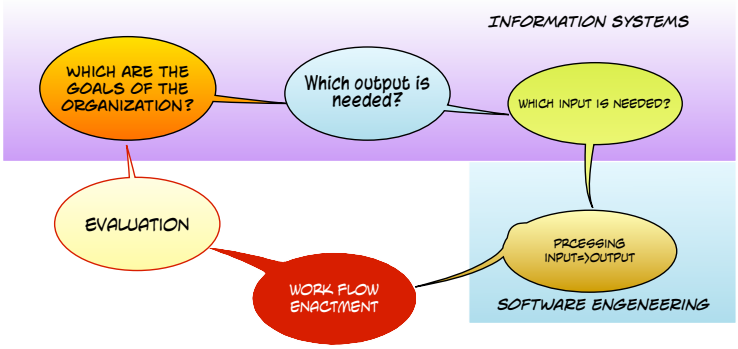
No systems, please!

Per Flensburg, professor of information systems

One of the most misused concepts in organizational theory is the concept of “system”. In its general meaning it is “components with relationships between them”. There is a science called General Systems Theory that deals with systems in this sense. It is a very general definition of systems that is behind it and it is usually said that the difference between ordinary science and systems science is that the ordinary scientist knows everything about nothing while the systems scientist knows nothing about everything. A bit pointed, admittedly, but it gives an insight into the subject.

The concept of “system” is often misused by using it to refer to computerized information processing systems, in short: IT systems. These are the kinds of systems we study in informatics. It all started in 1966 when Börje Langefors wrote his famous book: “Theoretical analysis of information systems” where he laid the foundation for the subject and at the same time became a professor in “Information processing – especially the methodology of administrative data processing” (Langefors B 1966). He did not even have to defend his thesis to get this professorship.

Börje’s major contribution was the realization that you could not start by programming when you wanted to introduce a new information system, but you had to first find out what information was needed. An incredible amount of research was put into finding out how this could best be done. Different systems development models were introduced. Each organization had its own model, its own approach and it basically looked like the figure below.



The process consisted of several phases and each phase had a strange name such as target study, information study, processing study, etc. In the figure beside I have written what was done in the different phases. The whole thing was often drawn up with fancy figures and text, but in reality the whole thing was carried out in strict order. What was framed in a purple frame was part of the informatics subject, while what was in the blue area was the computer scientists' headache. It is noticeable that neither computer scientists nor information systems scientists were particularly interested in what the work routines looked like in the finished system. But this was what was crucial for the organization's function! Without a well-thought-out implementation, the entire system development failed!

In the 1980s, this was realized and two ways of dealing with the problems were formed. One was called socio-technology and in its most radical form meant that those who would use the finished IT system also decided how to work with it (E. Mumford 1983). It was assumed that there were several different solutions if one had to choose the one that provided the best working environment. This assumed that both employers and employees agreed on what was best. The other way was the trade union way and it was based on the fact that employers and employees were never in agreement but were always in conflict with each

other. The only way to deal with these was through regular negotiations (Ehn and Sandberg 1979). . Consequently, the union demanded strict decision points where negotiations could take place, while socio-technology saw the whole thing as a gradual adaptation

Developing IT systems according to the model described above was expensive and took a long time. Since many of the routines in a company were fairly similar between different companies, it became much cheaper to buy standard systems and then adapt them to the company or possibly vice versa. And so it went. But gradually, public sector activities also began to be computerized. And then things went completely wrong.

A big mistake was that people talk about "systems" (Nurminen 1981). And in the next step, they talk about "users", i.e. operators of the system (Flensburg 2015). An IT system is not a system, it is a work organization. We see that in the figure above. For the staff, it is about working in a new way, using new work routines. This stage in the development is not clear to system developers and programmers. The staff in the organization will now work in a completely new way, but no one has told them how. At best, they have received buttonology training where someone has explained at breakneck speed what happens when you press a certain button or select a certain menu option. How it all fits together as a work routine is not discussed.

Since it is about organizing work, the Public Procurement Act cannot be applied, and if you do, you create a large, heavy and unwieldy millstone that you hang around the neck of the healthcare staff. The strangest thing is that this is called rationalization and efficiency! Instead, frustration is created and it becomes impossible to carry out your work. This is especially important when it comes to activities that can mean life or death, i.e. healthcare.

Lewis Mumford talks about type 1 and type 2 machines (L. Mumford 1934). Type 1 machines are reinforcements of abilities we already have, such as the ability to move, to lift things, to talk to each other, etc. In principle, the same activity can be performed without the machine, but it takes longer and is much more difficult. Type 2 machines are machines that operate in accordance with an inbuilt worldview. The only such machine that Mumford knew of in the 1930s was the clock, which operated in accordance with the solar system. Today we have computers that can operate from a variety of different worldviews, which can also change within a few milliseconds. I use the term Weltanshauung to denote the perception of the world in terms of ontology, epistemology, ethics and aesthetics that underlies an IT system (Flensburg 1986).

This was clear to system developers at an early stage. Already in the mid-1970s comments like "Why give a human the chance to make a mistake, when a computer can do the right thing!" were heard. The image that system developers had of the people who would use their systems was not flattering. They were considered lazy, irresponsible, careless and required constant monitoring (Hedberg and Mumford 1975). Consequently, IT systems were developed with this image of the user as a built-in worldview. It would be as difficult as possible for the user to do anything other than what was prescribed by the system.

In the 1980s, researchers began to realize that this image of the organization's employees was not correct and that their tacit knowledge had to be taken into account (Göranzon 1984; Flensburg 1986). Other models for system development were developed, based on much greater participation (E. Mumford 1983; Friis 1995). In commercial system development, to the extent that it exists, this approach has completely taken over (Cajander Å et al. 2013). However, the image of the blindly rule-following civil servant still lives on in public administration. The consequences of this are sometimes hair-raising, such as expelling an 8-month-old baby without parents. Alvesson calls this by its rightful name: Stupidity (Alvesson 2006).

The example of the Millennium Disaster shows very clearly what happens when a system with an impossible worldview is forced on an organization. Millenium was developed for American conditions with private healthcare, financed by independent insurance companies. In American society, insurance companies and lawyers who represent the companies play a very large role. Consequently, the image of the person behind such a system is that he likes to be deceived, to seize unfair advantages and to cheat if possible. The system should make all this difficult, preferably impossible, and then you realize that it may take 24 keystrokes to register a patient. The fact that the condition may be life-threatening is not taken into account. Preventing possible cheating is considered more important!

Again, if we look at Millenium, we cannot help but marvel at how they managed to make all sorts of mistakes, plus some impossible ones, during the development and implementation of the system. It is completely incomprehensible how well-trained senior doctors were so mildly seduced by the project that they lost their sense of humor, abandoned their professional role and thus the motivation for participating in the project and did not realize that nothing was working! The three project leaders claimed at the press conference that everything was working pretty well, when in fact it seemed like complete chaos in the operation (Companello 2026). They were in a different universe with a different Weltanschauung!

Could the Millennium Scandal have been avoided? Of course, the question is wrongly posed! The right question is: How was it possible to do so much wrong? How was it possible to so completely disregard established knowledge, established science and proven experiences? We actually believe that we researchers cannot completely swear ourselves free. We are victims of a phenomenon that divides society. The parts are sometimes called sectors, sometimes drainpipes, but I call them wardrobes! A project is a closet and to avoid disruptions that risk delaying the project, the door is kept tightly closed. This way, you stick to the given requirement specification of 3000 pages and peel off pages as the delay increases. If someone in the closet points out that the system will not work, they are thrown out! Nothing must disturb the important work that is taking place in the closet. The surprise is massive when the door is finally opened and the fantastic masterpiece turns out to be completely unusable!

The first phase is *denial*: These are temporary errors, the training is not finished, it will be sorted out. The next phase is *insight*: You realize that the system as it stands right now cannot be used. You may have rushed the implementation too much. But if you are given just a little time, it will surely be fine. In quite a few cases, it stops here. You have invested several millions (billions?) and it would be foolish to throw them away. So some adaptations are made, some adjustments are made and the system works well. In addition, the staff find different ways to get around the system, find unknown shortcuts, avoid poorly functioning functions and the like. But in some cases, the third stage of *termination* is reached: Often this is because you realize that it would cost far too much to make the system usable. You can possibly use a small part of it, which is described as a major breakthrough, innovative, unique and other superlatives. But in a few

cases, you realize that the system is completely unusable, that you have made a fundamental mistake and the only thing left is to look for another job!

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