STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

# News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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## Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

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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.

**Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg** proposes a new journal called Acta Academiae Strömstadiensis Scientas abbr. AASS. He discusses Strömstad Academy and sustainability. It is important that all the members of Strömstad Academy as soon as possible will pay the annual fee 600 SEK.

**Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson** has in ARV. Nordic Yearbook of Folklore 2025 s. 227-228 reviewed Leif Carlsson: "Fiender till hela mänskligheten". Judefientliga bibeltexter och tolkningar. Universus Academic Press. Lund 2024. https://publicera.kb.se/arv/article/view/61245 .

**Entrepreneur researcher Bengt Johannisson** discusses the task of Strömsatad Academy.

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 February issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 24 February 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.flensburg@stromstadakademi.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**

We cannot write the January monthly report without mentioning the storms that have affected us in Sweden in various ways.

For Per, the storm started when he was driving home from New Year's celebrations in the Falkenberg area. 100 kilometers in light snowfall and muddy roads. No major problems, we just had to take it easy. But then we stayed home when Johannes was on the move. At some point, we had to take the car somewhere, and it was quite a task to dig it out, remove all the ice on the windows, and then get out of the parking lot. But if you put in a little effort, you could back out. Then Riksbyggen came and plowed, we were really happy to live in a condominium and not having to run the snow blower to be able to get out at all. On another occasion, we couldn't open the driver's door. All the other doors worked fine, but the driver's door was stuck like a rock. The locking mechanism had frozen, but luckily, the door could be opened from the inside. It was January 14th, and Per was going to Uddevalla to give a lecture about what it's like to be in the company of burnt philosophers. It was above zero and the roads were nice, but when he got home, it had frozen over. On a few occasions, the rear of the car thought it was going to go off on its own, but with a little careful persuasion, our Vice-Chancellor managed to get it to change its mind. And now we're waiting for the next cold snap.

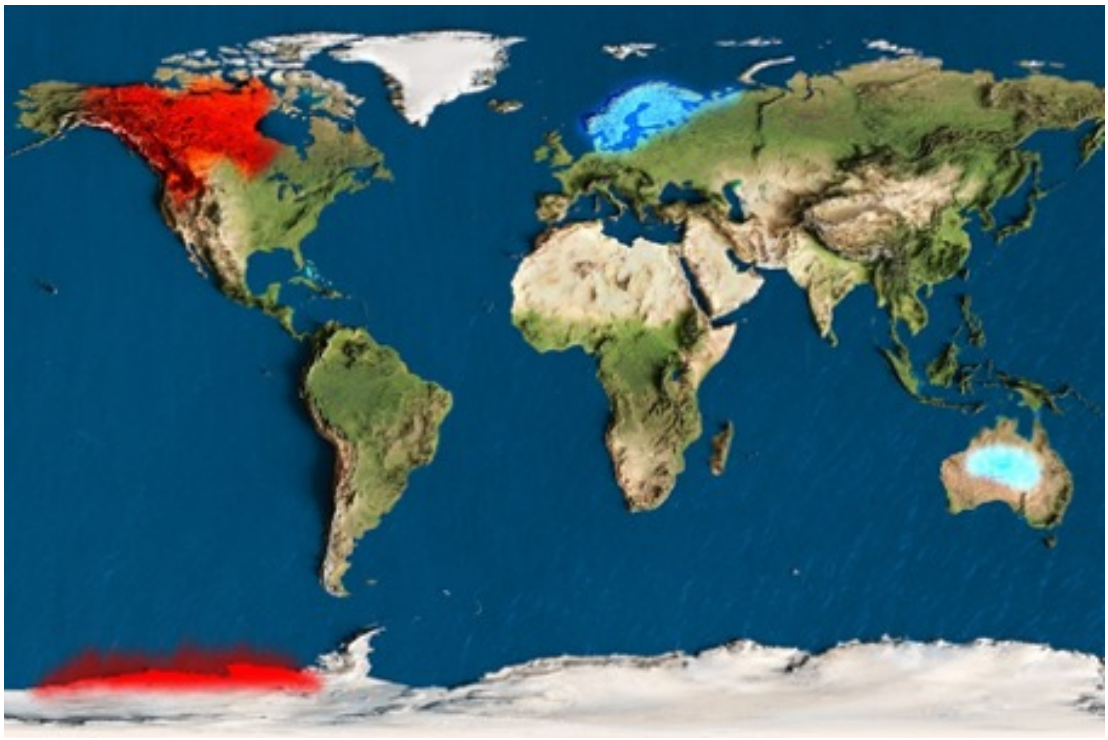
Åsa Morberg lives in Sandviken and was first hit by Johannes and then by Anna. Sandviken is in the area affected by snow cannons! Åsa was snowed in for five days, as the contractor Åsa has for plowing her property had more important roads to prioritize. Thank goodness the power grid was working. It was of course an experience in itself. The snowstorm began the night before New Year's Day and continued for three days. Åsa's experiences with the snowstorm include traffic chaos with canceled trips and heavy delays, short power outages, fallen trees on power lines, and challenges to the food supply. It was easy to make it through five days without visiting the grocery store. The lessons learned from this period are the need for better preparedness, the purchase of a generator and snow blower, and the need to secure the outdoor furniture. They had to be picked up in a nearby forest area after the storm.

We will have three cold winters ahead. It is said to be due to a volcanic eruption in the Pacific Ocean three years ago. An underground volcano named Hunga-Tonga Ha'aapai erupted violently on January 15, 2022, sending a 58 km high plume of gas, smoke, and ash into the atmosphere. 150 million tons of seawater evaporated and ended up in the stratosphere. This volcanic eruption was the largest to have happened and resulted in, among other things,

- A record-breaking atmospheric pressure wave, which circled the planet several times with a top speed of 1,158 kilometers per hour.
- 2,615 flashes of lightning per minute were triggered by the record-breaking thunderstorm that formed above Hunga Tonga.
- A 45-meter-high tsunami that followed the eruption and that violently affected the island of Tofua, among other places.

Today, water vapor has descended through the stratosphere and affects the weather in the underlying troposphere through a phenomenon that meteorologists call atmospheric waves. It affects the temperature differently on Earth. See fig. below. North America gets warmer

while Northern Europe/Scandinavia and inland Australia get colder. This lasts for the rest of the decade.



**Archive work**

We now have an archive policy with an archive description, archive management and archive managers. Fantastic work by Bode Janzon, Sten Philipson and Per Flensburg. We are an association and must ensure that we have order among our documents, not least for posterity. This is not bureaucracy, but an important measure for the association. We receive instructions on how to work gradually.

The archive is needed to document our common history and cultural heritage, facilitate research and knowledge creation, and enable transparency. The archive functions as society's memory by saving important information from the association for current and future use. The archive will also be brought up at the annual meeting. Information is also needed for the Academy about how we should handle archiving in the Academy in the best way. A webinar would certainly be good for all of us.

**Anthologies – our editor Anders Gustavsson has a new anthology in the works**

We have a new anthology in the works at Strömstad Academy. According to the editor, the contributors list is complete, and there is a total of twelve authors. The anthology is about the time after retirement and how we writers continued our work. Editor Anders Gustavsson has read all the drafts received and intends to comment on them soon. Åsa Morberg called for freedom in writing. Of course, this applies now as well as in previous anthologies, according to the editor. Authors have such different writing styles. The editor can ultimately imagine a manuscript of 5-10 pages and up to 25-30 pages with single line spacing. All authors must use the template that Per has made. Illustrations can be attached. The editor has written a few pages that are his preliminary manuscript in this anthology. Our admiration goes to Anders for his energy and productivity.

### The Academy's organization

In the last newsletter, the Vice-Chancellor described some problems we have with publications and an Editorial Board that has not worked. There has now been a meeting about this proposal, and the Vice-Chancellor will report on it separately elsewhere in this news forum.

## Annual fee

It's a new year, and it's time to pay the annual membership fee. It's 600 SEK for regular members and 200 SEK for supporting members. Honorary professors and honorary members don't have to pay anything, however. Some of you have also paid for two years, so you will receive a personal letter about that. There are two ways to pay:

Account for international payments

IBAN SE38 9500 0099 6042 0001 1155

BIC NDEASESS

Bank Nordea, SE-10571 Stockholm, SWEDEN

If you have Paypal you can just send an e-mail to per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se and you will receive an invoice which you can pay with a card. It will cost the Academy 25 SEK so if you are generous, you pay 625 SEK doing it this way.

## Strömstad Academy and Sustainability

### Strömstad Academy and Sustainability

*Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor*

In this context, sustainability has a slightly different meaning than when it comes to climate contexts. Vulnerability is perhaps a better word. I am mainly thinking of two things:

1. Dependence on people

2. Loss of functions

The first thing we noticed when John got sick and we suddenly had no treasurer. It happened back in 2024 and then we also had a problem of type 2, namely a Nominating Committee that did not work. I stepped in as deputy treasurer but did not have access to our accounts. When John then got even sicker, he could not deal with payments properly, which meant that bills went unpaid. Then Marylou had a stroke and I also had to step in as secretary. What happens if I get sick?

We can also think about the websites, our Google drive, login to Bokinfo, layout for books and newsletters. I do all of this and there is no replacement. Marylou can help me with the internal website, but as it stands today, she can't write anything longer. The conclusion is not good at all: Strömstad Academy is too dependent on its Vice-Chancellor! I would therefore like to urge all members to consider whether they can contribute to reducing vulnerability, for example by becoming treasurer, secretary, webmaster, designer or something else. We should actually have double staffing for all positions: Full-time and assistant.

The Academy is dependent on a functioning internet and a functioning website. Added to this is all the information that is on the members' computers. I personally have all the information regarding Strömstad Academy in the cloud, on Dropbox and Google Drive, but

both of these are in America and given Trump's capriciousness, they could suddenly be shut down. I have copies of most of it on my hard drives, but even these have a limited lifespan. Now we have established archiving and at regular intervals the archive managers should copy the archive to a special hard drive that the Academy has.

Then we have sabotage and trolls. Yes, we already have trolls, I have to clean out comments with Cyrillic letters on the website at regular intervals, at most there were 3000 once. Now I have closed all possibilities to comment so now there are no more there. On discussion forums, however, there may be a few thousand, I haven't been there for a long time. However, Dag's blog about overpopulation seems to have survived so far. You can find it at https://stromstadakademi.org/befolkning. When it comes to pure sabotage against our website, the probability that we would be the target is quite small, but our web hotel is in Denmark and Trump's longing for Greenland could cause problems. But in that case, many people will be affected and the matter will be sorted out fairly quickly. In any case, when sensible Swedish alternatives to Dropbox and Google Drive come along, I think we should invest in them.

In short: We must have back-up not only for technical items but also for humans! Every position ought to be doubled, today only Vice-Chancellor and Chairman is!

## Per Flensburg: Scientific Journal

### Scientific Journal

*Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor*

In the last newsletter I presented some ideas about how we could organize academic work better. It was partly about a kind of faculty organization, and partly about starting a scientific journal on publicera.kb.se. I have also announced a general webinar about this proposal. It was held on Tuesday, January 20th, between 4:00 PM and 5:45 PM. There were 8 participants at most. In short, the result was that people were not particularly enthusiastic about a faculty organization, but they agreed that some form of review of our scientific publications was needed. I would have liked to have some form of review of the other publication series as well, but we did not come up with anything there.

However, we decided that Strömstad Academy would try to start a journal on the Royal Library's platform: www.publicera.kb.se. I explained my arguments that I presented in the last newsletter: https://stromstadakademi.se/Nybrev/NB2025-12.pdf and there is no need to repeat them again. There were some points of view, but I think Marylou summed it up best: “We can try! Better than doing nothing. It can only go to hell!” The latter means that we have not managed to produce enough articles and will then be closed by the Royal Library.

We will create an application group that will prepare the application itself, write the scope & aim, develop overall assessment criteria with subject-specific in-depth studies, and what else is required. This group includes Per Flensburg, Anders Gustavsson, Rune Wigblad, and Bode Janzon. Natural scientists, medical scientists, behavioral scientists, social scientists, art historians, and other scientists are also needed, especially in the design of in-depth assessment criteria. Registration is open to the public. You get the title assoc. editor if you have space on your business card. In bullet form, I have thought that this would apply to the journal:

- The name is **Acta Academiae Strömstadiensis Scientas** abbreviated **AASS**
- It is interdisciplinary with one theme per issue. However, there is also room for subject-specific articles
- The journal has an annual continuous publication. This means that one issue is produced per year and that an article is published as soon as it has been approved. An example of this is META (https://publicera.kb.se/meta/about)
- Like META, we can accept articles with both blind review or with a simplified review procedure. It should be clearly stated which type is used
- Per is the editor-in-chief and Anders is the deputy editor-in-chief (or possibly the other way around, the idea is that we decide together)
- The language can be Swedish, Danish, Norwegian or English.

So dear readers, throw yourself over the previous newsletter and immediately sign up for the application group and exercise your influence!

## Bengt Johannisson: Tha task of the academy

*Bengt Johannisson*

As a rather late and not a very active member of the Strömstad Academy I have been very impressed by the commitment that the troika Åsa Morberg, Per Flensburg and Anders Gustavsson constitute. Publishing the News Forum they persistently and contemplating keep us as members informed about what has been done, what is going to happen and what is not yet accomplished. This we appreciate. But of course, we should be more involved ourselves.

To me SA:s members  jointly are qualified enough to organize group discussions by themselves. While employed by universities they have contributed more than enough. The many disciplines that are represented at SA provide a platform that offers many opportunities for bringing up and answering questions which probly is appreciated by SA members and other readers of the News Forum. Personally I have for example read several of Åsa Morbergs reflections on the present state of the Swedish school, today a critical issue in Sweden.

Reporting from the last year's book fair in Gothenburg representatives from the SA proposed that the theme of the upcoming SA research festival in Strömstad in August should be 'adult education'. This I appreciated since I in the November issue of the SA newsletter contributed with a text 'Education, Community and Inclusion' that in 2025 was published in our local folklore society. In the article I argue the people's own tales are more educative than  researchers' inquiries. 40 years ago the geographer Lage Wahlström stated: places matter. Of course I would have been pleased if at least one of my SA-colleagues in the December issue of the New Forum had reflected on my argumentation.

I was partially consoled when I recently read the new book by Sverker Sörlin: The Value of Culture'. Reading the preface was enugh since the author states that ' Culture may be much more than what the present culture policy is in charge of. The next neighbour to culture is knowledge and feeling as much as art. All together they provide education – and together they are the mother of democracy.' However, in the main text of the book Sörlin not at all discusses feelings – possibly because to him culture is mainly associated with art and not (also) with a way of life. However, feelings certainly turn people and places into strong communities.