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.

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

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 March issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 March 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 , 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

February is the second month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and has 28 days (29 in leap years) and is therefore the shortest month of the year. It is a winter month, but we are all waiting for spring and warmth. The light is coming back to us and we are happy about that!

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

The annual meeting is moved forward one month

As previously announced, the annual meeting is digital. We have decided in the working committee to move the annual meeting due to the illness of the treasurer and secretary. We have no way of keeping the schedule. The annual meeting will be a month later. Then all documents can be available well ahead of time. The notice is sent personally to all members as soon as possible. Then all other documents for the annual meeting are posted online.

The documents are the annual report, financial report, audit report, business plan, budget, Nominating Committee's proposal. No motions and proposals have been submitted and that point/item is therefore deleted. These documents must be available to members during the time stated in the statute, which ensures a democratic and formal process. Strömstad Academy's statute is also available online. It is the statute that rules.

At the annual meeting, it is important to follow the statutes for notice in good time, prepare documents (annual report, financial statements) and ensure that a voting list is in place.

We will hold the meeting formally with an appointed chairman, secretary and auditor, and focus on granting discharge from liability for the Board, electing representatives and deciding on the membership fee.

We have resolved the treasurer issue for the next term. We are very happy about that. It has been very difficult to find a solution.

The annual meeting will be on April 24 at 2:00 p.m. The link for the annual meeting will be on the notice. Book the annual meeting in your calendar.

The local chapters have been discontinued – new organization is on the way

Per Staffan Boström participated in the last working/executive committee meeting. He has looked at the local chapters and his proposal was to have them discontinued. We have had a standing item at the board meetings, namely information from the local chapters. No information has come from any of the local chapters. It is absolutely impossible to have an organization that does not work. Per Staffan Boström has developed a plan for our organization and a proposal will be coming soon. Per Staffan Boström participates as an associate in the Working/Executive Committee and the development of a new organization is taking place in close collaboration with the Working/Executive Committee. It has been extremely sad that the local chapters have not worked at all and it is absolutely not a day too soon for them to be discontinued. The organization must work or it will have to be changed.

Science Festival 2026, August 10-12

Time flies so fast. Now we have about half a year until we meet in Strömstad. There is a very big interest in the science festival. We all live under the same sky, but our horizons are different and we all think a little differently about the science festival. Now we will get a preliminary program for the science festival from Per Flensburg and Anders Gustavsson who are outlining a preliminary program for the festival. We have received information in Nyhetsforum but it is easier to look at a preliminary program. A general block program is presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will of course have the opportunity to present texts, as usual! We are all looking forward to meet in Strömstad as usual. A new point is that we are inviting all group leaders and the equivalent of the political parties to a discussion/seminar about what Strömstad Academy can do for Strömstad Municipality and vice versa. We invite them to join the mingle so that personal contacts can be made.

We have a local group that takes care of the cultural and social aspects of the festival. It is Peter Fritzell, convener, Lasse Broman, Rosa Jörgenson and Sveza Filipova. Per Staffan Boström will possibly support the planning by being present in Strömstad this summer. We see that as a very good resource. We see good opportunities to create a fruitful and memorable science festival.

Debate more! The think tank – an arena for researchers!

Here we quote the magazine Curie. By the way, does it reach all members of the Strömstad Academy? It is the magazine of the Swedish Science Council. “When academics step into think tanks, the boundaries are blurred – and new questions are raised about roles, responsibility and credibility. Curie has spoken to three opinion-forming academics who disagree on most things. Except for one thing: more researchers should get involved in the public debate.”

Researchers as debaters play an important role in that they can add objectivity, knowledge and evidence to the public debate. By highlighting their research results and their insights into current issues, they help raise the level of discussions on all sorts of topics, such as climate change, education, economics and digitalization. Researchers often aim to influence political decisions with their debate articles.

Per Flensburg has created a think tank that we can all use. It is called Tvärtänkt! An interesting name for our think tank. It refers to interdisciplinary research that often also goes against established beliefs. Double bottom, then!

We have just seen a very good article in Svenska Dagbladet by Margareta Berg. We are getting a link to the article so that more people can read it. It is a very well-written and very thought-provoking article. Dag Lindgren has also received a debate article about overpopulation in DN. It is very important that we list Strömstad Academy as one of our home bases so that the concept is visible and gets a human face to it.

We would like to inspire our researchers to debate more. Of course, we have our own forum, Nyhetsforum, where we can always submit debate articles, and of course we have a number of journals that accept debate articles. DN Debatt is a challenge for all debaters, but you can always try! We have also started a debate journal within the framework of Tvärtänkt: “Tidningen Tvärtänkt” where you can submit your debate articles. Send them to per@tvartankt.se and they will be processed in good order.

How to write a good debate article? There is, of course, as much good advice as there are researchers. A good debate article should have a clear thesis, strong factual arguments, respond to counterarguments and end with a call to action, usually within 2000–3000 characters. Start with a powerful headline and a thought-provoking introduction where the author's opinion is immediately clear. Keep the tone factual, but engaging, use source references for increased credibility if the journal uses source references, and focus on one and only one really clear message. Good luck with the debate articles!

A new journal on the way

We have noticed that the influx of articles to our peer-reviewed journal AAS has not been particularly large. This could be due to many reasons: that the review takes a long time, that it is not always perceived as particularly relevant, that it is considered that the readership is limited, etc. In addition, we have not been able to find any university that is willing to publish our articles in DiVA. The reach is thus extremely limited, which also affects the willingness to publish in AAS. The Vice-Chancellor has previously suggested that we start a journal that is published on the Royal Library's website: publicera.kb.se It is a national resource that KB makes available free of charge. At a meeting held on 20 January, it was deci-

ded that we would try to create such a journal. A core group was formed, but it is important that as many people as possible in the Academy are involved. More about this can be found elsewhere in this news forum.

New members

Since last time, we have had Gunnar Mosnik, business developer in Jönköping, and Thomas Magnusson, a well-known historian, as regular members, and we have my friend Bengt Olsson, geophysicist and Chalmers scholar, as a new supporting member. We welcome them all to this illustrious society and hope that your fingertips will glow from all the interesting material you send in to the Academy! A glass with ice cubes next to (NOTE: Not in!) the keyboard can do the trick!

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.

Science Festival 10-12 August

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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.

Below 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 afterwards. 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	Leading politicians in Strömstad
	16:00-17:00	Installation new members	Vice-Chancellor, Åke Cantrell
	17:00-20:00	Mingel	

Day	Time	Subject	Person
Tuesday 11/8	09:00	Speech	
	09:40	Speech	
	10:20	Coffee	
	10:40	Speech	
	11:20	Speech	
	12:00	Lunch	
	13:30	Speech	
	14:10	Speech	
	14:50	Coffee	
	15:10	Speech	
	15:50	Speech	
	16.20	Speech	
Wednesday 12/8	09:00	Overpopulation	
	09:40	Overpopulation	
	10:20	Coffee	
	10:40	Theme	
	11:20	Theme	
	12:00	Lunch	
	13:30	Theme	
	14:10	Theme	
	14:50	Coffee	
	15:10	Theme	
	15:50	Theme	