



Nordic  
Sociological  
Association

Nordisk Sociologforbund

## **The Boards report for the Congress period Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2016**

The Nordic Sociological Association (NSA) is an alliance of the national sociological associations in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. All members of the national sociological associations are collective members of NSA. NSA's main tasks are the quarterly journal *Acta Sociological*, which publishes papers on high-quality innovative sociology, Nordic Sociological Conference which takes place every second year, and supporting the sociological professional development in the Nordic countries. This entails both economic support for Nordic seminars, conferences and meetings. For this purpose, we have 200.000 NOK annually available for funding.

More information on: [www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/](http://www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/).

### **Board members in the Congress period Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2016:**

All five Nordic countries are represented in the board with two members appointed by each national association. In addition the NSA has a treasurer/secretary. The Board members in the Congress period Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2016 have been:

Finland: Westermarck Society:  
Sirpa Wrede (chairperson)  
Anu-Hanna Anttila

Denmark: Dansk sociologforening:  
Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen (deputy 2016)  
Kristian Bernt Karlson (deputy 2014-2015)  
Anne-Kirstine Mølholt (2016)  
Kirsten Meyer (2014-2015)

Sweden: Sveriges sociologförbund  
Christofer Edling  
Sverre Wide

Iceland: Félagsfræðingafélags Íslands:  
Stefán Hrafn Jónsson  
Snorri Örn Árnason (2016)  
Rannveig Þórisdóttir (2014-2015)

Norway: Norsk sosiologforening:  
Marianne Dæhlen  
Inger Marie Hagen

### **Board meetings**

The board held four meetings during the period; Lund 3.8.2014, Reykjavik 9.5.2015, Copenhagen 8.10.2015 and Oslo 9.4.2016.

## Members in the National Sociological Association (who receive Acta)

	2 008	2 009	2 010	2 011	2 012	2 013	2 014	2 015
Iceland	146	142	154	112	130	133	148	136
Norway	746	723	721	701	606	591	638	739
Denmark	707	668	717	689	667	669	640	625
Finland	891	695	407	602	595	673	637	528
Sweden	487	487	382	470	500	591	128	151
Total Nordic countries	2 977	2 715	2 381	2 573	2 498	2 657	2 191	2 179

The above figures relate to those members who receive Acta. The different National Associations have somewhat different practices related to which members receive the journal, particularly regarding student members.

### The finances of the association:

The treasurer/secretary has been Lars-Erik Becken  
See cashier's accounting report in a separate document.

### Specific tasks for NSA

#### A. Acta Sociologica

Publisher:

Acta Sociologica is published by SAGE Publishing. The agreement with SAGE ends at the end of 2017. All members of the national associations receive a paper version of the journal. The partnership with Sage has been very smooth and matters related to distribution and visibility seem to be very well looked after by SAGE.

Editors:

Until 2014, the editorship of Acta was located at University of Oslo with Lise Kjølørød and Arne Mastekaasa as editors-in-chief. That year, NSA completed a tender process in Finland, which was the next country to take over the editorial responsibilities. Two offers were submitted in the call for a new editorial team. NSA selected the University of Turku as the host organisation with Jani Erola and Suvi Salmenniemi as editors-in-chief, and Mari Toivanen as the managing editor. The agreement with the University of Turku ends at the end of 2018.

Journal:

Acta's impact factor has increased and the editors have consciously aimed at broadening up the scope of the journal to a wider sociological audience. These changes have shown in a growing number of submissions. The good situation with the submitted manuscripts and the lengthening publication line increases the pressure towards the publisher to increase the number of printed pages in the journal. Around half of the article submissions come from Nordic sociologists; the number of submissions from Nordic countries could also be higher.

#### B. Nordic Sociological Conference

The 27th Nordic Sociological Conference was held in Lund, Sweden, on August 14-16 2014, under the title "Exploring Blind Spots". The conference hosted three distinguished

and highly appreciated keynote speakers, Michael Burawoy on “Confronting blind spots”, Eva Illouz on “What is an emotion?”, Guy Standing on “A precariat charter”, and 266 registered participants who discussed their sociological work across 23 thematic sessions. The local organizing committee received external funding from the Swedish Research Council, The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare, and The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences. Still, the conference fee was relatively high and by many participants considered too high. Overall, the conference was a success both in academic and social terms and received high approval rates in the evaluation survey with 90 percent of the participants stating they were satisfied or very satisfied with the conference.

The 28th conference will be held in Helsinki (11-13.08.2016), and the 29th conference will be in Aalborg, Denmark in 2018.

### **C. Projects**

During the period the association has funded three types of activities:

#### **1. Student support to Nordic Sociological Conference**

- NSA gave grants to 12 students from the Nordic countries to attend the conference in Lund in 2014. The NSA has paid 100000 NOK to support students to Helsinki. This support was now organized so that the proportion of three countries (Denmark, Finland and Sweden) was used to lower the conference fee for Ph.D. students. This was done to encounter the criticism that the conference fee is high. Norway used the support to increase awareness of the conference among Norwegian members and Iceland supported student participation from Iceland.

#### **2. Support for seminars, conferences and other academic initiatives with Nordic profile:**

- Support for the operation of the journal ”Icelandic Society” which is the only sociological journal in Icelandic. They got 14,000 NOK in 2012 and 7000 NOK in 2013 and in 2014.
- 25000 NOK support to the 4<sup>th</sup> Nordic Conference for Rural Research in Akureyri, Iceland May 23-24 2016.
- *The NSA has received too few applications for project funding. The Board encourages sociological communities to submit applications (see information on the website about the criteria for support).*

#### **3. Support for projects:**

- The most important project of NSF during this period has been to strengthen cooperation between the editors of Nordic sociology journals. NSF developed in 2011 a database on [www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/](http://www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/) with provides an overview of all social science journals in the Nordic countries who publishes sociological articles. The list encompasses approximately 60 Nordic journals. The database is updated regularly.
- In Helsinki will we again gather the editors of the Nordic sociology journals in a meeting (as we did in Lund in 2014 and in Reykjavik in 2012). The meeting will be chaired by Sverre Wide, who sits on the board of NSA and is editor of Sociologisk Forskning (the Swedish journal).

- We organized a Pre-conference in Helsinki for doctoral students. The admission to the Pre-conference was open to all Ph.D. students in the Nordic countries. In addition, the local organizing committee who organized the Pre-conference (Sirpa Wrede, Elina Oinas and Anna Kuokkanen) collaborated with UNIPID, the Finnish University Partnership for International Development through which Ph.D. students also were recruited. UNIPID is represented through Salla Tuori. The International Sociological Association (ISA) supported the arrangements of the Pre-conference through a grant for Westermarck Society. The three keynotes (Connell, Gobo and Bhambra) each headed a workshop and took part in a panel discussion. In addition SAGE organized a publishing workshop and opportunities were provided for students to develop networks.
- Based on an initiative from the Norwegian Sociological Association that also carries out the activities, the NSA supports a project that examines sociology and identifies sociologists in the Nordic region.

#### **D. Website:**

The website <http://www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/> acts presents NSA history and activities. The national associations have their own, more interactive web pages.

### **Thank you and good luck Denmark!**

As president of the board during the period August 2014 to August 2016 I wish to direct my warmest gratitude for their valuable collaboration to the members of the board and to the cashier and secretary of the association, Lars-Erik Becken. My thanks go also to the editors of Acta, both the previous and the present, as well as to SAGE, the publisher of Acta.

It has been very rewarding to work with the board of the NSA, and I have learned a lot both about sociology in the different Nordic countries and about the key activities of the association. In addition to organizing the conference, the work involves monitoring the publication of the NSA journal Acta Sociologica. During this period I have had the privilege to follow how smoothly the shift between the two editorial teams has gone. My role has been to support the new editors, who in a very professional manner have taken it as their goal to strengthen Acta's position. They aim at improving its already well-established ranking among high-quality journals with a general sociological scope. The new editors have also implemented many of the new features offered by SAGE. This is important, as the landscape in which scientific journals operate is rapidly changing. In the final months of my period a working group, headed by the incoming president and consisting of me and the editors, has been reviewing the publishing contract for Acta, making sure that the development of the journal in the future will continue in a sound way, both economically and scientifically. The board discusses Acta in all of its meetings, and there is a shared vision of the journal as a high-level venue for Nordic sociology that is open to input from outside.

In addition to the two main tasks of NSA, the conference and Acta, the board has dealt with diverse projects (see above), discussing their Nordic dimensions. It is obvious that the situation of the discipline and the profession varies a lot in the different Nordic countries. This unavoidable diversity is primarily a richness for NSA, even though it may sometimes be difficult to accommodate the different needs. Yet the fact that there is a strong element of continuity in the board has secured that it has been possible to overcome difficulties and find good solutions, including different measures directed to support junior scholars in

participating in the conference. The board has also discussed the possibility to in the future make the conference cheaper for the members of the national associations. This would be a welcome development, as the high fees of the conference have been a cause for criticism at least in the two last conferences.

After two years the presidency for the NSA now goes further to Denmark. Lykke og god arbejdslyst Denmark!

Sirpa Wrede  
President for NSA 2014-2016

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The Board consists at any time of two representatives from each of the five Nordic countries. The following board members attended the board meeting on 10.08.16. We confirm the Boards report for the Congress period Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2016

**DENMARK: Dansk sociologforening:**

Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen : \_\_\_\_\_

Anne-Kirstine Mølholt: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINLAND : Westermarck Society:**

Sirpa Wrede: \_\_\_\_\_

Anu-Hanna Anttila: \_\_\_\_\_

**ICELAND: Félagsfrædingafélags Islands:**

Snorri Örn Árnason-: \_\_\_\_\_

Stefán Hrafn Jónsson: \_\_\_\_\_

**NORWAY: Norsk sosiologforening:**

Inger Marie Hagen: \_\_\_\_\_

Marianne Dæhlen: \_\_\_\_\_

**SWEDEN: Svenska sociologförening:**

Sverre Wide: \_\_\_\_\_

Christofer Edling: \_\_\_\_\_