



Board's report 2016-2018

Board's report of the Nordic Sociological Association for the period August 2016 to August 2018

The Nordic Sociological Association (NSA) is an alliance of the national sociological associations in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. All members of the national sociological associations are collective members of NSA. NSA's main tasks are the quarterly journal *Acta Sociologica*, which publishes papers on high-quality sociology, the Nordic Sociological Conference which takes place every second year, and supporting the sociological development in the Nordic countries i.e. via project support. The chairpersonship follows the country responsible for the conference. In August 2018 the NSA2018 Conference will be held in Aalborg, Denmark, at the Department for Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University.

More information about NSA can be found at: www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/.

Board meetings and Board members

The board met four times during this period; at Helsinki, 10.08.2016; at Uppsala 25.03.2017; at Reykjavik 16.09.2017; and at Oslo 14.4.2018.

Five Nordic countries are represented on the board with two members appointed by each national association. In addition the NSA has a treasurer/secretary. The following persons have represented their national associations at the board meetings:



Denmark: Dansk sociologiforening:

- Pia Heike Johansen (Reykjavik, Oslo)
- Anne-Kirstine Mølholt (Helsinki, Uppsala)
- Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen, **Chairperson of NSA 2016-2018** (Helsinki, Uppsala, Reykjavik, Oslo)

Finland: Westermarck Society:

- Anu-Hanna Anttila (Helsinki)
- Jani Erola (Helsinki, Oslo)
- Pekka Rantanen (Reykjavik)
- Sirpa Wrede (Uppsala, Reykjavik, Oslo)

Iceland: Félagsfrædingafélags Islands:

- Snorri Örn Árnason (Helsinki, Uppsala, Reykjavik, Oslo)
- Margrét Einarsdóttir (Reykjavik, Oslo)
- Stefán Hrafn Jónsson (Helsinki, Uppsala)

Norway: Norsk sosiologforening:

- Marianne Dæhlen (Helsinki)
- Inger Marie Hagen (Helsinki)
- Marit Haldar (Oslo)
- Magnus Heie (Reykjavik)
- Jørn Ljunggren (Uppsala)
- Eirin Pedersen, **Deputy chairperson of NSA 2016-2018** (Uppsala, Oslo)
- Erika Sterri (Reykjavik)

Sweden: Sveriges sociologförbund:

- Christofer Edling (Uppsala, Reykjavik, Oslo)
- Sverre Wide (Helsinki, Uppsala)

Members of the National Sociological Associations who receive Acta

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Denmark	717	689	667	669	640	625	607	597
Iceland	154	112	130	133	148	136	106	105
Finland	407	602	595	673	637	528	754	697
Norway	721	701	606	591	638	739	662	650
Sweden	382	470	500	591	128	151	185	225
<i>Total</i>	<i>2381</i>	<i>2574</i>	<i>2498</i>	<i>2657</i>	<i>2191</i>	<i>2179</i>	<i>2314</i>	<i>2274</i>

The figures relate to members receiving Acta. The different National associations have somewhat different practices related to which members receive the journal, particularly regarding student members. The figures for 2016 and 2017 represent the mean for the whole year.



The NSA2016 Conference

The 28th Nordic Sociological Association Conference was held on the 10th to the 13th of August 2016 at University of Helsinki, Finland. The program included 31 working groups, 228 presentations, three keynote lectures, and two plenary- and two semi plenary-sessions. A total number of 318 conference participants from all over the world were gathered together in Helsinki.

The theme of the conference was *Knowledge-Making Practices and Sociology's Global Challenge*. The conference considered and focused on methodological challenges in social sciences in a global context, as well as on modern colonialisms, the changed political situation in Europe, and the dialogue between sociology and economics. The invited keynote speakers were Professor Emeritus *Raewyn Connell* (University of Sydney, Australia), Professor *Giampietro Gobo* (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy) and Professor *Gurminder K. Bhambra* (University of Warwick, UK).

The day before the conference a successful Pre-Conference for PhD students was held. All three keynote speakers participated in this. This event received support from NSA and the International Sociological Association (ISA).

A greater number of participants participated at the NSA2016 Conference than expected. The conference generated a surplus. This has made it possible to earmark project support for questions on the role of the Global South.

The board decided to offer a special support for the next three upcoming NSA conferences for arranging a special key note, panel, workshop or other event on a topic related to "Knowledge-Making Practices and Sociology's Global Challenge".

Activities for the NSA in the period

The 2016-2018 chairpersonship has been a time of transitions for the association. In 2016 the long time secretary and treasurer of the association Lars-Erik Becken announced that he would like to step down. The board opened a round where it was possible to announce candidates for the position. The board would like to thank Lars-Erik for his dedicated work for the association.

After a round of deliberation, the member of the board Sverre Wide announced his candidacy and was elected by the board as the new secretary and treasurer. Following a transitional period where the former and new secretary were involved, Sverre stepped down as a member of the board and took on this important position fully from the summer of 2017.

The association is happy to announce that one member of the prize jury of the newly formed *Hans L. Zetterberg Prize in Sociology* should be appointed by the board of the Nordic Sociological Association. We thank the founders of this prize for the trust they have shown NSA by this. The prize is based at Uppsala University in Sweden. In 2017 the board appointed the member of the board and former chairperson professor Sirpa Wrede to this position. The board would like to thank Sirpa for her effort in this committee.



The board has begun a communication strategy that will expand the coming years. First, information on the persons in charge of communication within a range of sociological milieus in the individual member countries have been collected with the help of the members of the board. Second, internally the board has discussed new ways of communication in between the board meetings. The board has also decided to update the internet page of the association. This project will be developed further, however, a new version of the homepage has been in effect from the summer of 2018.

Supported projects

Prior to this period the Norwegian Sociological Association received funding for a Nordic project called "Mapping Sociology / Sociologists in the Nordic countries". The national associations contributed to this mapping. Lists of relevant sociological networks, research units and workplaces within Academia – and in both the public and the private sectors can be found on the homepage sosiologen.no. The board followed this project with interest and received a final report on the project at the board meeting in Reykjavik in 2017.

In 2017 the board received an application for funding for the third Nordic Science and Technology Studies Conference. The board decided to grant 25.000 NOK for the conference. After the conference was held, the association received a written report of the event.

Like previous years, the board decided to give student support at the 2018 NSA conference. The board decided to use the student support in a similar way as 2016. All countries but Iceland will use "their" share of the support to lower the general conference fee for PhD-students. Iceland will use "its" share in the form of support to individual students attending the conference. The amount for each association is based on the number of members of each association. The board decided that the student support 2018 should amount to 100.000 NOK.

The board discussed a request for support for student (bachelor and master) activities at the upcoming 2018 NSA conference. This was in part based on a query from the students of the Finnish sociological milieu. The board decided to support bachelor and master student activities at the 2018 NSA conference to an amount of 10.000 NOK.

Project support, NSA conference 2018. The board decided, in accordance to previous decisions, to support the Pre-conference at the NSA conference 2018 with 25.000 NOK. The board also reminded the Danish organizing committee that NSA guarantees a support up to 60.000 NOK for the NSA conference 2018 if needed.

Though we have supported good projects in this period, the board will encourage the sociological networks and communities to send in more applications for projects as we have not received the amount we were hoping for.

The NSA2018 Conference

The 29th Nordic Sociological Association Conference (NSA2018) will be held at Aalborg University, Campus East Aalborg, Denmark, 8th-10th of August 2018. The title of the conference is: *The Global North – Welfare policies, mobilities, inequalities, and social movements*.

The conference offers a great opportunity to network with colleagues, be inspired and keep up to date with the latest developments in Nordic sociology.

The conference programme offers more than 20 different sessions and prominent keynote speakers. Professor Mike Savage from London School of Economics (LSE) will give a talk titled "Escalating inequality & global geo-politics". Professor Guy Standing of SOAS University of London will be talking about "Responding to Rentier Capitalism: The Precariat in the Commons". Dr. Prerna Singh, Mahatma Gandhi Associate Professor of Politics and International Studies, Department of Political Science, Watson Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, Brown University presents a speech titled: "Nationalism and Welfare".

Read about the conference at: <http://www.nsa2018.aau.dk/>

There will be a Pre-Conference for PhD students on the 7th of August as well.
<http://www.nsa2018.aau.dk/PhD+Preconference/>

Acta Sociologica

It is one of the main objectives of the association to support the publication of the scientific journal *Acta Sociologica*.

In this period the board has spent a lot of energy and effort on securing a good future for *Acta Sociologica*. In 2016 and 2017 we prepared and finalized the dialogue and negotiations of a new agreement of publication of the journal between NSA and Sage Publications. This agreement resulted in a new and more up-to-date version of the previous agreement with the same publishing house. We are happy to continue a positive development of the scientific journal and securing a steady economy. This process was based on the serious work of a working group within the board and the huge effort of the editorial team from Finland. The editorial team of *Acta Sociologica* supported this process with their editorial knowledge and they presented the wishes for an even stronger journal. One outcome of the new agreement is that more printed pages are added to each number of the journal. This was a central wish from the editorial team. The dialogue with Sage Publications has been positive and we feel confident and happy to continue this collaboration.

Publisher

Acta Sociologica is published by *Sage Publishing*. The agreement with *Sage Publications* was renewed in 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

Since 2015 the editorial team has been based at the University of Turku, which is the host organisation. Jani Erola and Suvi Salmenniemi are editors-in-chief, and Mari Toivanen is the managing editor. The agreement with the University of Turku ends at the end of 2018, after which the editorship will be transferred to Iceland. The board has been very satisfied with the editorial team based at University of Turku, Finland. Nevertheless, the editorship of the *Acta Sociologica* rotates between the national scientific milieus of the association. In 2019 it is Iceland's turn to take over the task of hosting the editorial team. This transition began in 2017 where the board started the process by setting up a supporting project group that would advise the Icelandic Sociological Association. An open call to all Sociological milieus was published by the Icelandic team taking care of this. The board received an application for editorship from two professors from the University of Iceland. In the spring of 2018 their application was positively assessed by the board of NSA. The agreement between NSA, the hosting institution, and the new editorial team is in its final process, and the board is looking forward to meeting the applicants at the board meeting in August in Aalborg, Denmark.

Journal

The editors have consciously aimed at broadening up the scope of the journal to a wider sociological audience. *Acta's* impact factor has increased to 1.500 in 2017. These changes have also shown in a growing number of submissions. In 2017 altogether 161 original manuscripts were submitted to the journal. The good situation with the submitted manuscripts and the lengthening publication line increased the pressure towards the publisher to increase the number of printed pages in the journal. As a result, the new contract that was negotiated with Sage includes an increase in the page budget effective from the beginning of 2018. Around half of the article submissions come from Nordic sociologists, and all sub-fields of sociology are more increasingly represented. *Acta* has also received increased visibility through its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and online audio podcasts) that have been in use since 2015.

The finances of the association

From 2016-2017 the treasurer/secretary of the association was Lars-Erik Becken. During the beginning of 2017 Sverre Wide took over this position. Please read the accounting report for more information.

Unfortunately, in 2017 we experienced a case of fraud against the NSA. In the middle of the period of transition from one secretary to the next, the new secretary/treasurer received an email cloaked to look as if it was from the chairperson. After an email correspondence based on fraud and illegal identity copying from the perpetrators side an amount was transferred. After the secretary/treasurer and the chairman became aware of the fraud the bank used by the association and the police have been involved. Nevertheless, it has not been possible to get the money back or find the responsible violators. The secretary/treasurer and the chairperson has presented a full report of this incident to the board and the board approved of this report. The secretary/treasurer and the chairperson have



developed a set of precautions in order to avoid that such a case of fraud will happen again. Please refer to the accounting report for more information.

Chairperson's report

First of all, as the chairperson, I would like to thank all the board members for good dialogues and highly relevant discussions throughout the period of this chairpersonship. I have had very good support from the two secretaries/treasurers and from the deputy chairperson. In addition, I have had the pleasure of being able to draw upon the knowledge of the two previous presidents of the association, when I needed background information.

We formed two different working groups in the period of the chairpersonship. I would like to emphasize the work of the members of these project groups that have dealt with the new agreements for *Acta Sociologica*. The editorial team of the journal have had a central and important role to play in this. This specific work with the agreements has at times been both demanding and rewarding. I am happy to be able to say that we have reached good agreements that will work as the right frame for the work of the editors.

I feel happy and confident to know that there is a milieu so supportive and interested in promoting and developing sociology in the Nordic countries and beyond. As a member of the board of NSA I have learned about the importance of meeting across borders to discuss how we can support the advance of Nordic sociology. The commonalities are strong. Yet the differences and nuances of what sociology is – and should be – is a real driving force in the work of NSA. It is clear that the national associations each face some of the same challenges for the future to come. Exactly this point can be a building stone for the development of the future of Nordic sociology.

Sociology as a subject seems to expand its influence in all the Nordic countries. During this, there are exciting questions that needs to be posed again, like: What is sociology? What will it be? And what is the role of the national associations? I hope that some of the answers to these questions will be found via the future work of the NSA. The economy of the association is quite good and once again we can only stress the importance of encouraging projects which have the aim of strengthening Nordic sociology.

On behalf of the board, best regards,

Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen, PhD, Assistant Professor

Chairperson, August 2016 to August 2018, Nordic Sociological Association