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 responsibilities are: (i) the quarterly journal Acta Sociologica, which publishes papers on high-quality sociology; (ii) the Nordic Sociological Conference which takes place every second year, and (iii) stimulating the development of sociology in the Nordic countries, financially and otherwise. By convention, the position as chair rotates between the national associations, with the country responsible for the upcoming biannual conference introducing its candidate. The NSA2020 Conference was planned to be hosted at the Oslo Metropolitan University in early August 2020, but has been postponed to August 2021 due to COVID-19 related restrictions on travel and meeting.

More information about NSA can be found at: www.nordicsociologicalassociation.org/.
Board meetings and Board members
The board met five times during this period:

16 March 2019: Turku
11 October 2019: Sigtuna
28 February 2020: Reykjavik
20 April 2020: Extraordinary Digital meeting
25 August 2020: Digital meeting

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:**
- Anne-Kirstine Mølholt (Turku)
- Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen (all meetings)
- Jonas Stage (Sigtuna; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)

**Finland: Westermarck Society:**
- Jani Erola (Turku; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)
- Sirpa Wrede (Turku; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)
- Mika Helander (Sigtuna)

**Iceland: Félagsfrædingafélags Íslands:**
- Stefán Hrafn Jónsson (all meetings). **Deputy Chair 2018-2020**
- Sunna Símonardóttir (Sigtuna; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)

**Norway: Norsk sosiologforening:**
- Kristian Berg Harpviken (all meetings). **Chair 2018-2020**
- Marit Haldar (Sigtuna; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)
- Magnus Heie (Turku)

**Sweden: Sveriges sociologförbund:**
- Christofer Edling (Turku; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)
- Erika Willander (Turku; Sigtuna; Reykjavik; Extraordinary Digital; Digital)

**Treasurer:**
- Sverre Wide
Members of the National Sociological Associations who receive Acta

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<td>2179</td>
<td>2314</td>
<td>2274</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1833</td>
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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 NSA2018 Conference

The 29th Nordic Sociological Association Conference (NSA2018) was held at Aalborg University (AAU), Campus East Aalborg, Denmark, 8th-10th of August 2018. One important aim of the conference was to offer a great opportunity to network with colleagues, be inspired and keep up to date with the latest developments in Nordic sociology with a global outlook. The conference had approx. 175 participants, presentations divided into 24 thematic sessions, some of them streams. There were 3 keynote speakers, 6 panelists, 2 moderators, as well as volunteer student helpers.

The theme of the conference was ‘The Global North – Welfare Policies, Mobilities, Inequalities, and Social Movements. The conference focused on the relation between Nordic countries and global processes. How do the Nordic countries influence global processes and how do global processes such as migration, division of labor, environmental problems, commodity production and discourses for modern governance influence the Nordic countries? The conference addressed challenges to the Nordic countries – questions of migration, poverty, inequality, recent labor market and welfare state developments – and responses to such challenges. The conference also focused on responses from civil society, institutional developments, changes in organizations, management, governance, and the frontline of the welfare state.

There were three keynote speakers. Professor Mike Savage from London School of Economics (LSE) gave a keynote talk on “Escalating inequality & global geo-politics”. Professor Guy Standing of SOAS University of London gave a talk 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, presented a keynote talk titled “Nationalism and Welfare”.

The day before the conference a successful Pre-Conference for PhD students was held, titled ‘Theoretical and methodological challenges to the study of rising inequalities’. Professor Mike Savage from London School of Economics (LSE), who was also a keynote speaker at the main conference, participated in this, where he commented and gave two talks. This event received support from NSA and the International Sociological Association (ISA).
Supported projects

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. The applications were reviewed by researchers from AAU and accepted on this basis. 7 participants received grants.

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.

For the 2020 Oslo conference (postponed till 2021), the association decided to offer the following support:

- For supporting PhD and master students’ attendance through lowering the conference fee (up to 100 000 NOK) (with a special arrangement for Iceland, whose 6 000 NOK share of this allocation will be used to directly support student attendance)
- For conference panels/keynotes on the topic “Knowledge-Making Practices and Sociology's Global Challenge” (up to 30 000 NOK)
- For a special project on public sociology (up to 35 000 NOK)
- For a meeting of Nordic journal editors (up to 40 000 NOK)
- In addition, the Nordic Association offers a deficit guarantee, limited upward to 60 000 NOK

A number of relevant projects have also been supported by the Association in this period:

- ‘Reconciliation Processes in the Nordic Countries’, Astrid Nonbo Andersen (PI), Ebbe Volquardsen, Astri Dankertsen, Malin Arvidsson. Up to 50 000 NOK in 2019-2020
- ‘The Nordic network of Institutional Ethnography’, coordinated by May-Linda Magnussen. Up to 33 000 NOK in 2020
The NSA2020 Conference

The 30 Nordic Sociological Association Conference (NSA2020) was planned for 5-7 August 2020, to be hosted at Oslo Metropolitan University, under the theme: ‘The Sociology of Conflict: Global Transformations – Local Manifestations’.

See the [conference website](#) for more information.

In view of the restrictions on travel and meetings introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizational committee decided to postpone the conference for one year, till 4-6 August 2021, maintaining the original structure and content.

Acta Sociologica

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

The Finnish editorial team, Jani Erola and Suvi Salmenniemi, stepped down at the end of 2018, following a four-year term in which the quality and impact of the journal had continued to evolve very positively.

A call for a new editorial team was circulated in Iceland, with a successful application from Jón Gunnar Bernburg and Sigrún Ólafsdóttir, who took up the task from 1 January 2019, running the journal with a steady hand.

The 2 years Impact Factor for the journal has had a very good evolution over the past few years, but took a dive in 2019 (see figure).

![ACTA SOCIOLÓGICA 2 YEAR IF](image)

Fluctuations in the impact factor is nothing abnormal. In the case of Acta, 2016 was an extraordinary year, and the impact factors before and after that represent more of a normal for the journal. Also
noteworthy is that several highly cited articles published in 2016 contributed significantly to the impact in the two following years, but no longer count as a basis with the 2019 factor. Also, an increase in the number of articles from 40 to 44 has a negative impact (as previous individual citations are divided by the number of current issue articles). All in all, there is every reason to keep a keen eye on the impact factor, and the editorial team is certainly doing that in close dialogue with Sage Publications. A continued steady decline would certainly be reason to worry, and the goal is to be able to secure a steady increase.

A serious concern, seen from the vantage point of the Nordic Association, is that current reforms in academic publishing, with publishers and research funders/libraries negotiating new transformative agreements leading the way towards open access, will inevitably mean that royalties from the journal will decrease (linked to CoalitionS and PlanS). The board has been engaged in dialogue with Sage on the implications. We are yet unable to estimate the scope of the reductions in royalty income, or how quickly those will materialize. Yet, it is generally acknowledged that on of the less desirable consequences of the current shift is that scientific community organizations, such as NSA, who own journals, are to suffer a major economic loss.

The finances of the association
The finances of the association are healthy, with an equity capital of 1 674 605 NOK by 1 January 2020. The pandemic implies savings, both as a result of the postponed biannual conference (albeit only postponed to 2021), and because all board meetings are now virtual. Given the uncertainty about future royalty income, a moderate growth in equity capital is very welcome.

From early 2017 the treasurer/secretary of the association was Sverre Wide. Please read the accounting report for more information.

Chair’s reflections
It has been a privilege to chair the NSA for these two years. The board is a collegium of dedicated professionals with a burning desire to develop sociology as a discipline in the Nordic countries. I have learnt a lot from our discussions, always friendly, never trivial, always solutions oriented. I am grateful to each and every board member, to the treasurer, and to the editors of Acta Sociologica, for what I have learnt.

NSA is an organization with a strong rationale, and I am confident that there if further potential to cultivate more intra-Nordic comparisons, studies of various aspects of the so-called Nordic model, building on the scholarly strength of the scholars in our respective countries. NSA is not only needed, it is also an organization which responds to a clear need, with the potential to do even much more.

As a chair, I have learnt a lot about the vibrant sociological milieu we have across the Nordic countries. Nordic sociology is recognized by fellow academics globally, and it plays a major role in the development of the Nordic welfare model, and have every reason to be proud of its achievements. That being said, there are also worrying signs, with the emergence of anti-democratic, even ‘post-truth’ movements, also in Norden, that sees sociological knowledge as a politicized, even destructive,
force in society. How sociology should position itself, if such forces continue to strengthen their ground, may be one of the most important challenges the discipline is facing.

On behalf of the board,

Kristian Berg Harpviken, Research Professor
Chair, August 2018 to September 2020,
Nordic Sociological Association