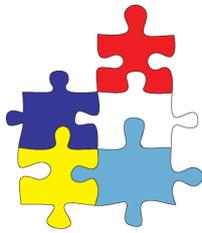


Board's report 2020-2022

Board's report of the Nordic Sociological Association for the period September 2020 to August 2022

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.

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



Board meetings and Board members

The board met four times during this period:

- 15 April 2021: Digital meeting
- 19 October 2021: Digital meeting
- 3 March 2022: Oslo
- 25 May 2022: Extraordinary Digital meeting

Planned Board meeting:

- 9 August 2022: Reykjavik

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:

- Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen
- Jonas Stage
- Pia Heike Johansen

Finland: Westermarck Society:

- Jani Erola
- Sirpa Wrede
- Janne Autto

Iceland: Félagsfrædingafélags Íslands:

- Sunna Símonardóttir **Chair 2020-2022**
- Ásdís Arnalds

Norway: Norsk sosiologforening:

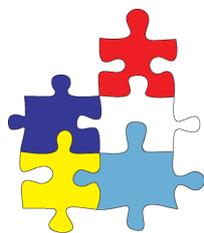
- Marit Haldar
- Kenneth Dahlgren
- Johannes Bennetzen

Sweden: Sveriges sociologförbund:

- Christofer Edling
- Erika Willander **Vice chair 2020-2022**

Treasurer:

- Sverre Wide



Members of the National Sociological Associations who receive Acta

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Denmark | 669 | 640 | 625 | 607 | 597 | 608 | 593 | 535 | 520 |
| Iceland | 133 | 148 | 136 | 106 | 105 | 101 | 95 | 85 | 121 |
| Finland | 673 | 637 | 528 | 754 | 697 | 595 | 526 | 338 | 315 |
| Norway | 591 | 638 | 739 | 662 | 650 | 426 | 434 | 466 | 401 |
| Sweden | 591 | 128 | 151 | 185 | 225 | 196 | 185 | 261 | 309 |
| Total | 2657 | 2191 | 2179 | 2314 | 2274 | 1926 | 1833 | 1685 | 1666 |

The figures relate to members receiving Acta. We have yet to receive numbers from all issues in 2021, so those figures are calculated on 2021:1 and 2021:2 only. The different National associations have somewhat different practices related to which members receive the journal, particularly regarding student members.

The NSA2021 Conference - Cancelled

The Nordic Sociological Conference in Oslo, originally planned for August 2020, then pushed forward to 4-6 August 2021 was cancelled in light of the continued uncertainty caused by the pandemic, and the constraints on mobility that followed. However, invited keynote speaker Sari Hanafi was able to deliver his keynote speech on YouTube with a link from the Norwegian website sosiologen.no

Supported projects

Like previous years, the board decided to give student support at the 2022 NSA conference. The board decided to use the student support in a similar way as before. The board decided that the student support 2022 should amount to 100.000 NOK.

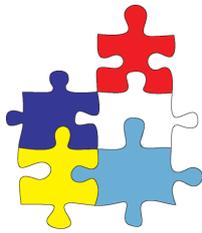
Project support, NSA conference 2022. The board decided, in accordance with previous decisions, to support the PhD pre-conference at the NSA conference 2022 with 25.000 NOK. The board also reminded the Icelandic organizing committee that NSA guarantees a support up to 60.000 NOK for the NSA conference 2022 if needed.

For the 2022 Reykjavík conference, 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)
- To support the PhD pre-conference with 25.000 NOK
- In addition, the Nordic Association offers a deficit guarantee, limited upward to 60 000 NOK

One other relevant project has also been supported by the Association in this period:

- "Sosiologiaa Pohjoismaista" – Publication of a series of articles on Nordic countries for Finnish sociologists and general audience in Ilmiö. Coordinated by The Westermarck Society, Contact person: Lotta Haikkola. Up to s 3500 € in 2021.



The NSA2022 Conference

The 30 Nordic Sociological Association Conference (NSA2022) is planned for 10-12 August 2022, to be hosted at the University of Iceland, under the theme: 'Myths and Realities of the Nordic Welfare state'.

The conference will feature over 30 sessions with keynote presentations from Julian Go Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago and Mary C. Waters, John Loeb Professor of Sociology and the PVK Professor of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University.

A specific PhD pre-conference has been organized with the support of The Nordic Sociological Association.

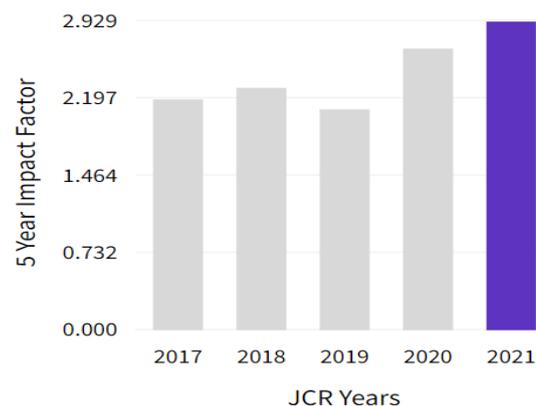
See the [conference website](#) for more information.

Acta Sociologica

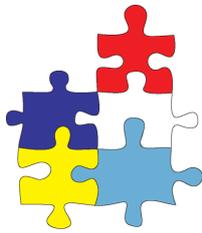
It is one of the main objectives of the association to support the publication of the scientific journal *Acta Sociologica*.

The Icelandic editorial team Jón Gunnar Bernburg and Sigrún Ólafsdóttir, who took up the task from 1 January 2019, continued to run the journal with a steady hand in the period of 2020-2022.

The 5 years Impact Factor for the journal has had a very good evolution over the past few years (see figure) and there has also been a substantial increase in downloads.



The Editors of Acta have noticed an increase in submissions, but also some difficulties in engaging reviewers and in having them to keep their deadlines. This is in line with concerns from others in academic publishing and remains a concern for the academic publishing world. The quality of submissions is generally high, and the editors are continuing the work with establishing Acta Sociologica as a journal open for many theoretical, empirical and methodological approaches. The Icelandic team has appointed a new editorial Board for Acta Sociologica and during the period of



2020-2022 the NSA board discussed several issues, among which the need for achieving a balance between strategic and quality driven work. It also discussed a possible project for enhancing knowledge of Acta in the sociological community and among the general public.

SAGE are working to keep the revenues up in times of changing conditions for journals and publishers. They do not expect a substantial drop in revenue for NSA. However, in order to lower the production costs and for environmental reasons they have suggested a shift from providing printed issues to digital access for NSA members/members of the national associations. Such access would also include access to some other SAGE journal/s and this suggestion has been viewed favourably by the board and the chairs of the national association. The implementation of this change will be in the hands of the incoming board and new chair.

One of the biggest tasks of the last year has been to facilitate the successful transfer of the editorship of Acta from Iceland to Denmark. The board decided to set up a working group to facilitate the upcoming editorial shift. The Danish national association started the application process early in 2022 and with an extended application date ended up with two excellent applications. The board then decided to accept the application from the University of Copenhagen, with the two incoming editors Mikael Carleheden and Jonas Tobøl. The incoming editors will have the chance to meet up with the outgoing editors and have access to them throughout the transition to ensure its success.

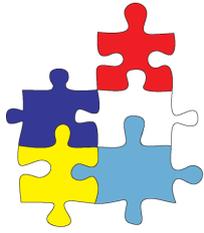
The finances of the association

The finances of the association are healthy, with an equity capital of 2 585 551 NOK by 1 January 2022. The pandemic implies savings, both as a result of the postponed biannual conference in Norway in 2021, and because most board meetings were 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 great privilege to chair the NSA for the past two years and I am thankful to the entire board and treasurer for their cooperation, support and friendliness. This period was of course heavily marked by the Covid pandemic which resulted in most of our meetings being online and having to make the difficult decision when it came to cancelling the NSA conference that was scheduled for 2021 in Oslo. The Norwegian organizing team did a fantastic job under difficult circumstances, and I want to thank them especially. Being able to meet, face to face, exchange ideas and get to know one another as people rather than grainy images on a screen is a vital part of an organization such as the NSA – this became evident during the last two years. But nevertheless, we managed to do the best we could and were happy to be able to meet in person in Oslo in March of this year. The board consists of dedicated professionals with a burning desire to develop sociology as a discipline in the Nordic countries and I have learnt a lot from our



Nordic
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Association

Board's report 2020-2022

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discussions. I am grateful to each and every board member, to the editors of *Acta Sociologica* and especially the treasurer Sverre Wide who has always been friendly, solution oriented and a great help to me during the last two years.

I am confident that there is further potential to cultivate more intra-Nordic cooperation, exploring various aspects of the so-called Nordic model, building on the scholarly strength of the scholars in our respective countries. In this year's conference in Reykjavík we invite conference participants to engage in a conversation about the myths and realities of the Nordic welfare state where scholars can both describe Nordic realities but also critically examine myths of Nordic excellence. The NSA has an important role when it comes to cultivating and securing the continued cooperation and collaboration between Nordic sociologists and help to ensure that the dialogue stays vibrant and strong.

On behalf of the board,

Sunna Símonardóttir

Chair, September 2020 to August 2022,
Nordic Sociological Association