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# A historical perspective on the co-operation of the Nordic journalism teachers

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# TAMPERE MUTANTUR



Ett lyckobringande  
minne från nordiska  
journalistlärarseminariet  
1982

Ulla Skov-Wahl

Lars Funnhoff

Jon Drott

Enik Sund

Ulla Wahl

# Beginning in the 1960s

- 1963 newly established schools from Denmark, Norway and Sweden as well as older one from Finland meet in Aarhus with Erik Reske-Nielsen at the Nordic centre for further education of journalists, “Nordic Course”
- 1965 they attend conference in Tampere and decide to set up “Rectors Committee”
  - see Ulla-Stina Westman’s report
- 1969 first teachers’ seminar takes place in Saltsjöbaden-Stockholm with a long list of topics for group discussion
  - see proposals by the Norwegian school:

- Interview
- News values
- Language and writing
- Graphical technique and layout
- Press ethics
- Reportage
- Telegram treatment
- Source criticism
- Mass communication research
- Political journalism
- Culture journalism
- Social journalism
- Foreign journalism
- Economic journalism

# Seminars financed by Nordic Cultural Fund

- 1971 August: Oslo hosted by Norsk Journalistkole (director Jon Dörsjö)
- 1972 Summer: three seminars hosted by Journalisthögskolan i Göteborg (director Lars Alfvegren)
  - May Skagen “How to learn to write?”
  - June Kungälv “Training papers”
  - August Åland “Integration of social scientific and journalistic subjects in teaching”

- 1974 August: Aarhus hosted by Danmarks Journalisthøjskole (director Erik Reske-Nielsen)  
“Media in work”, “Media and reality”,  
“Media in society”, “Language in media”
- 1975 June: Biskops Arnö hosted by Journalisthögskolan i Stockholm (director Lars Furhoff)  
“Ethical codes and self regulation”, “Integrity”,  
“Criteria for good and bad journalism”
- 1976 June: Leangkollen hosted by Norsk Journalistkole (director Jon Dörsjö)  
“Integration of social science and journalism”  
“Professionalisation”

- 1978 June: Kungälv hosted by Journalisthögskolan i Göteborgs Universitet (director Lars Alfvegren)  
“Journalism in local society”
- 1980 August: Borgå hosted by Svenska Social- och Kommunalhögskolan vid Helsingfors Universitet (director Ulla-Stina Westman)  
“Possibilities to change journalistic practice”
- 1982 August: Murikka hosted by Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Tampere (director Pertti Hemánus)  
“Journalism under change”
- 1984 August: Oslo hosted by Norsk Journalisthøgskole

# New round 1996–2012

- No more seminars while Nordic financing stopped in 1985-95
- Yet Cooperation Committee continued to meet annually
- Teachers' seminars restarted with financing of own schools:

1996	Oslo
1998	Grenå
2001	Biskops-Arnö
2002	Eckerö
2004	Hovdabrekka
2006	Stavanger
2008	Gilleleje
2010	Lökeberg
2012	Murikka



# Lessons of history

- Nordic networking sought as soon as schools established
- Topics wide and eternal from the beginning
- Theory-practice division present but treated politely
- Social science-journalism question tackled proactively
- Journalism research/theory tackled with caution
- Release of monopoly and integration to universities proceeded slowly but surely: from isolated professional schools to academic education
- Nordic landscape typical of European average
  - see my conclusions in *European Journalism Education* (edited by Terzis, Bristol: Intellect 2009)



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**Thank you!**

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