

## **Notes inaugural meeting of Peace Research in Sweden (PRIS), at the biennial National Conference of Peace and Conflict Research, April 15, Malmö.**

**Present delegates:** Anna Jarstad, Isak Svensson, Desirée Nilsson, Mimmi Söderberg Kovacs, Signe Østerskov Borch, Malin Åkebo, Lisa Hultman, Stefan Döring, Annkatrin Tritschoks, Johanna Ohlsson, Camilla Orjuela, Frida Pålsson, Malin Isaksson, Matthew Osborne, Sanela Bajramovic Jusufbegovic, Ann-Catrin Kristianssen, Josepha Ivanka Wessels, Jannie Lilja, Emma Elfversson, Manuela Nilsson, Ivan Gušić.

### **1. The opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the meeting Kristine Höglund, Uppsala University, declared the meeting opened and presented the agenda, which was accepted. Ann-Catrin Kristianssen, Örebro University, was elected secretary of the meeting and Emma Elfversson, the meeting adjuster.

### **2. Background**

Kristine introduced the discussions concerning the development of a new association for researchers within the field of peace, conflict, and development. At the last national conference in Umeå, there was a discussion on how to bring all researchers within this field together and how to get information across to all universities in Sweden regarding the activities within the research field. Furthermore, the Folke Bernadotte Academy will no longer pay for the conference in current form which requires a broader engagement of the research community. A working group was therefore set up, coordinated by Patrik Johansson, Department of Political Science, Umeå University, to discuss the forms and scope of a new association. The working group has produced a draft Charter for the new association which is presented at the inaugural meeting. The work group consisted of:

- Camilla Orjuela & Jan Aart Scholte, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University.
- Karin Aggestam & Ivan Gusic, Department of Political Science, Lund University.
- Kristine Höglund & Magnus Öberg, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
- Malin Eklund Wimelius & Anna Jarstad, Department of Political Science, Umeå University.
- Jonas Ewald & Manuela Nilsson, Department of Social Studies, Linnaeus University.
- Christina Hansen & Kristian Steiner, Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University.
- Christian Altpeter & Richard Zajac-Sannerholm, Folke Bernadotte Academy.
- Caroline Holmqvist, Department of Security, Strategy, and Leadership, National Defense College.
- Johanna Mannergren, The Swedish Institute of International Affairs.
- Maria Småberg, Department of History, Lund University.

- Johanna Nilsson, Department of Government, Uppsala University.
- Roland Kostic', The Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University.

### 3. The name of the association

The working group discussed a number of suggestions regarding the name of the association and brought forward the following suggestions for the meeting to decide upon:

- Association for Peace, Conflict and Development Research in Sweden (APCDRS)
- Association of Peace Researchers in Sweden/Association for Peace Research in Sweden (APRS)
- Peace and Conflict Studies Network (PCSN)
- Peace Researchers in Sweden (PRIS)
- Swedish Academic Peace Research Association (SAPRA)
- Swedish Association for Peace and Conflict Research (SAPCR)
- Swedish Peace and Conflict Research Association (SPCRA)
- Swedish Peace Research Association (SWEPR)

The delegates at the meeting were first of all positive towards the establishment of a more formal organization and given the number of researchers within this field at a variety of Universities and other research institutions, it is seen as an important channel of information and cooperation.

The first issue regarding the name was how it includes as many research perspectives as possible rather than excluding researchers. Some institutions are more focused on development for instance while others more on conflict and the term peace seems to be the uniting factor. The name should reflect that perspective. Another issue was that some of the names are long and more complicated to associate with. It was also added that the name Peace Researchers in Sweden had been used before. Therefore, the following suggestions/modifications were also added to the list:

- Peace Research in Sweden (PRIS)
- Peace Research Network in Sweden (PRNS)

The term network was according to some delegates problematic as it may be interpreted as too informal and could give another connotation. After a brief discussion around these points, the meeting decided to name the new association Peace Research in Sweden (PRIS).

### 4. The charter

A draft Charter was sent out to all the participants at the National Conference of Peace and Conflict Research. The Charter regulates the character of the association, the purpose, membership, voting procedures and the role of the conference, the constitution of the board, and how the Charter will be amended.

The first discussion concerned membership and voting procedure as these two aspects are intertwined. Some of the delegates expressed a concern about the restriction on who



has the right to vote based on institutional membership. There could be individual researchers who could contribute to the association that are working abroad or in institutions not inclined to become members of the association. Even though they could listen to the discussion during the meeting, they do not have the right to vote. The proponents for institutional membership recognized that risk, but emphasized the administrative burden of also having membership based on the individual. The membership fee suggested at 1000 kronor per year is regarded as a low fee that most institutions could pay, although not hosting that many researchers within the field. The delegates decided to accept the text for paragraph 1 and 3 according to the suggestion in the draft and the membership is thus institutional. The discussion on the forms of membership was quite lively and the assembly decided to delegate to the board to discuss future options for other forms of memberships.

Paragraph 2 in the Charter states the purpose of the association and the delegates engaged in a brief discussion. The two purposes presented in the draft were accepted and the delegates agreed that the main purpose of the organization is to be a communication channel regarding peace, conflict, and development research in Sweden and to arrange the biennial conference. It was also suggested that the board establishes a website where information on research activities are posted and an e-maillist of researchers in Sweden. It was also pointed out that in the year between the biennial conference there has been a Ph.D-conference, which has been very much appreciated. This should not be forgotten in the upcoming work of the board. It was suggested that the details regarding how these purposes will be fulfilled is left to the board to decide according to paragraph 7.

The next discussion concerned the role of the Assembly and paragraph 4. Besides the discussion on membership and voting procedure that has been presented above, there was also a discussion regarding the fee. There were delegates who feared that 1000 kronor per member institution is too small in order to cover the expenses of an association. It led to a discussion on whether there should be a fee at all. The meeting concluded that the membership of 1000 kronor is appropriate at this point as there are costs involved in setting up the website and other costs related to the conference. For the conference it is required to find a broader financial solution. Paragraph 4 was thus accepted according to the draft.

Paragraph 5, 6 and 7 concerns extraordinary meetings, the set-up of the board and its work. The delegates agreed that paragraph 6 is in need of clarification regarding the nomination procedure of board members in between conferences. The nominees for that vote should be brought forward by the nomination committee and the member institutions have one vote each in this process. These paragraphs were accepted by the delegates with the condition that this clarification is included.

## **5. Election of the board**

The delegates then turned to the actual election of the board. According to the suggestion of the working group, the board should consist of 7 members (5 researchers and 2 Ph.D-students). Three researchers and one Ph.D. student is elected for two years and the remaining for one year. The setup of the board was discussed briefly and it was



suggested for the future to think about the possibility to have external members of the boards such as practitioner members. At this point all the board members were elected according to the list of candidates:

**Chair:** Anna Jarstad (2 years), Department of Political Science, Umeå University & Department of Political Science, Uppsala University.

**Secretary:** Patrik Johansson (2 years), Department of Political Science, Umeå University.

**Member (researcher):** Manuela Nilsson (2 years), Department of Social Studies, Linnaeus University.

**Member (Ph.D. student):** Fredrika Larsson (2 years), Department of History, Lund University.

**Member (researcher):** Jens Sörensen, (1 year), School of Global Studies, Göteborg University.

**Member (researcher):** Ann-Catrin Kristianssen (1 year), School of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences, Örebro University.

**Member (Ph.D. student):** Emma Elfversson (1 year), Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

Camilla Orjuela, School of Global Studies, Göteborg University, was elected the nomination committee. Malin Isaksson, Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University was elected accountant. The meeting decided to leave the second position as accountant vacant.

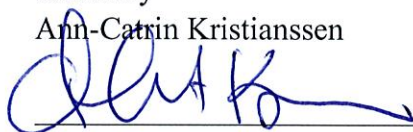
According to the new Chair Anna Jarstad, the Department of Political Science, Umeå University, will provide support to the role of Chair and Secretary by financing 10% of their respective employments. Hopefully, upcoming Chair departments will be able to do the same. It was also clarified during the meeting that the role of the secretary also contains the role of keeping track of the economy (kassör).

## 6. The next conference

It was decided that Anna Jarstad will contact representatives from Lund University regarding arranging the next conference in 2018. There is a list of departments who have arranged this conference since 2004 and this list is used as a reference. This list will be used as a basis for discussion at the biennial conferences opening up for other institutions to arrange the conference. For instance, it was suggested that smaller institutions could co-host conferences as a way to broaden the engagement without burdening smaller environments.

Secretary

Ann-Catrin Kristianssen



Adjuster

Emma Elfversson

