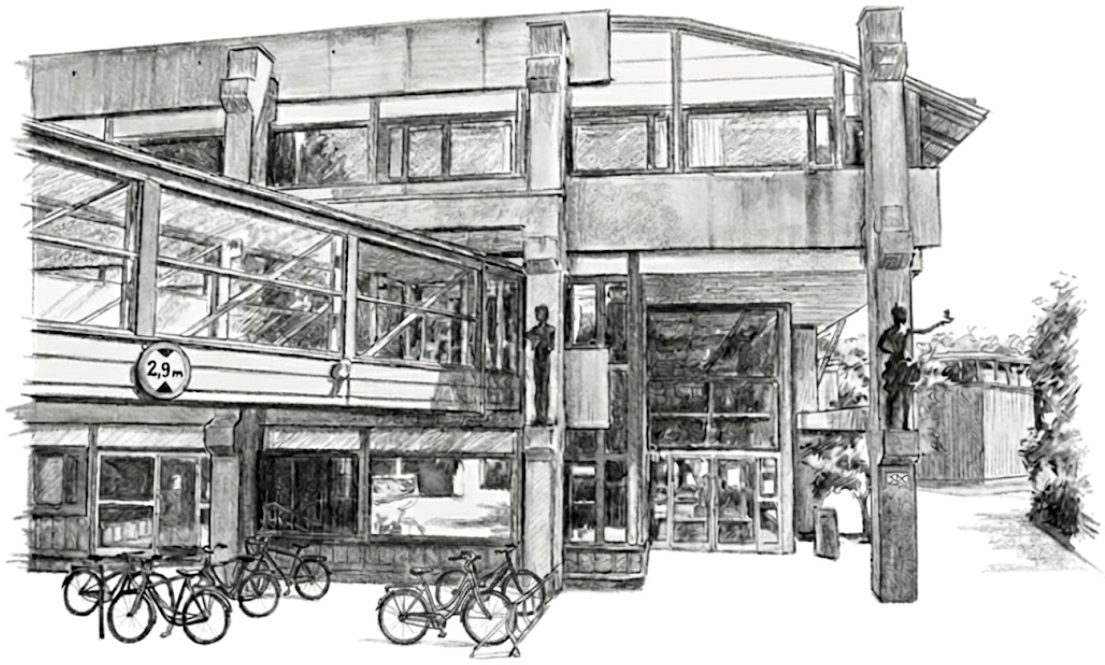
NOKSA 2026

Social Studies in Times of Curriculum Changes

Program



Stockholm University, Sweden

April 16th-17th

Program Overview

Thursday 16th of April

08.30 Registration
09.00 Opening of the Conference
09.15 Keynote: Carla van Boxtel
10.15 Break
10.30 Parallel Session I
12.00 Lunch
13.00 Parallel Session II
14.30 Break
15.00 Parallel Session III
19.00 Conference Dinner

Friday 17th of April

08.30 Panel Discussion
09.30 Break
09.45 Parallel Session IV
11.15 Break
11.30 Parallel Session V
13.00 Lunch and end of conference

Dr. Professor Carla van Boxtel: *Making sense of societal issues: what knowledge and understanding matter?*


Carla van Boxtel

Teachers in secondary education have the important task of helping to prepare young people for participation in a democratic, pluralistic society. Young people need to understand societal issues such as sustainability, inequality, or historical injustices, determine their own positions, and be able to engage with multiple perspectives as well as with the vast flow of information available online.

This keynote explores the question of what knowledge and understandings students need to develop. Drawing on examples from research projects at the University of Amsterdam, it highlights the role of different types of knowledge, such as substantive and metaconceptual disciplinary knowledge, epistemic knowledge and knowledge of moral values and ethical frameworks, and shows how these can be meaningfully integrated into teaching practice.

Carla van Boxtel studied History and Educational Sciences. The projects she is currently coordinating and supervising at the University of Amsterdam focus on historical reasoning, social scientific reasoning, teaching about controversial issues, inquiry-based learning, collaborative learning, disciplinary literacy instruction and heritage education. She closely collaborates with teachers, teacher educators, schools and museums to co-create high-quality and meaningful education.

Panel Discussion: *Social Studies in Times of Curriculum Changes*



This panel brings together four Nordic researchers to discuss *Social Studies in Times of Curriculum Changes*. Across the Nordic countries, curriculum reforms are currently underway or have recently been implemented, reshaping the aims, content, and teaching practices of social studies. The panel will address emerging trends and examine how reforms reflect broader political priorities and governance strategies. The discussion will explore developments across different curriculum arenas, from the ideological to the experienced.

The conversation will also consider the implications for practicing teachers and researchers. How do curriculum changes influence teachers' professional agency, subject understandings, and pedagogical choices? In what ways can research critically analyse and support teaching in times of reform? By offering comparative Nordic perspectives, the panel aims to nurture dialogue on the future directions of social studies education in the Nordic countries.

The panel consist of Professor Johan Sandahl (Sweden), Senior lecturer Anders S. Christensen (Denmark), Associate Professor Nora E. H. Mathé (Norway) and Associate Professor Pia Mikander (Finland). The panel have experience as experts, advisors and researchers in curricula changes in the Nordic countries.

Moderator: Ann-Sofie Jägerskog

Thursday 16th of April

Parallel Session I

10.30-12.00			
A	**B**	**C**	**D**
Room **G-salen**	Room **E249**	Room **E250**	Room **E476**
Observing the inclusion of inquiry-oriented teaching in the social science classroom **Nora E. H. Mathé** Teaching for democratic self-defense: The teaching practice simulator and serious games as training environments **Thomas Nygren et al.** *Chair: Nora E. H. Mathé*	"Is this enough?": locating the minimum of Finnish social studies education **Pia Mikander & Leea Lakka** Ideas of democracy and individual liberty as reflected in changes in curricula of social studies in Denmark Norway and Sweden **Anders Stig Christensen** Implementering af samfundsfag som demokratisk dannelsesfag i den grønlandske folkeskole: Strukturelle og fagdidaktiske barrierer **Line Groth Nielsen** *Chair: Pia Mikander*	Norske læreres erfaringer med undervisning i demokrati og medborgerskap etter LK20 **Knut Vesterdal** Vilka krav i samhällsvetenskaper för behörig lärare i samhällslära? **Jan Löfström** Mer enn bare et verktøy? En utforskende studie av Kunstig Intelligens i samfunnskunnskap **Mona Langø & Daniela Munoz** *Chair: Knut Vesterdal*	Vad hindrar och främjar ett deliberativt samtal i en elevstyrd diskussion? En fallstudie av undervisning i samhällskunskap på gymnasiet **Kerstin Hudner Sidén** Duktighetens pris - Om bristen på öppen diskussion i samhällskunskapsklassrum med högpresterande elever på högskoleförberedande program **Linda Ekström & Anna Ambrose** *Chair: Linda Ekström*

Please note that the sessions (I-V) might be changed before and during the conference. See the webpage for updated versions.

Parallel Session II

13.00-14.30			
A	**B**	**C**	**D**
Room **G-salen**	Room **E249**	Room **E250**	Room **E476**
Civics teachers' grading practices in Swedish upper secondary schools **Tobias Jansson** Den begränsade och långsamma militariseringen av samhällskunskapsämnet: historiska, samtida och framtida perspektiv på läroplansreformer och undervisning 1958-2028 **Johan Samuelsson, Martin Jakobsson, Åsa Melin** Bedömarkompetens i praktiken: hur samhälls-kunskapslärare navigerar bedömningskulturer och läroplansförändringar **Jennika Mattisson** *Chair: Martin Jakobsson*	Teaching about Society through Multidimensional Bildung: A Critical-Constructive Perspective **Sara Blanck** Towards a theory of civic consciousness for social science education **Patrik Johansson & Johan Sandahl** From Educational Goals to Classroom Practice: Teaching Active Citizenship in Swedish Social Studies **Virginia Beramendi Heine** *Chair: Sara Blanck*	Forholdet mellom demokrati og menneskerettigheter i skole og utdanning **Knut Vesterdal** Demokratiopplæring og elevdeltagelse på en skandinavisk demokraticamp **Lise Granlund & Silje Førland Erdal** Democratic Education in Times of Curriculum Change **Sara Hasselrot** *Chair: Knut Vesterdal*	Samhällsvetenskaplig kausalanalys i teori och bedömningspraktiker **Majja Malmsten, Thomas Nygren & Nils Kirsten** Modelling Misperceptions about Migration: How the Push-Pull Framework Constructs Flawed Views of Migrants' Agency **Markus Al-Afifi & Malin Tväråna** Komplexitet och dynamik i elevers resonemang om fattigdom i SO-ämnena: Ett komparativt ämnesdidaktiskt perspektiv **Mattias Björklund et al.** *Chair: Malin Tväråna*

Parallel Session III

15.00-16.30			
A	**B**	**C**	**D**
Room **G-salen**	Room **E249**	Room **E250**	Room **E476**
Teaching social-ecological economics – didactic principles **Pernilla Andersson & Lina Isacs** Financial education materials on the internet: Publishers, target groups and diversity of life situations **Anja Bonfig & Gina Meimann** Understand, Influence, and Change: Economic Education for the Citizens of the Future **Mattias Björklund, Johan Sandahl & Ann-Sofie Jägerskog** *Chair: Mattias Björklund*	SSE, the curriculum and international knowledge assessments, some insights from a PhD project **Fredrik Tilhon-Lindén** Possible benefits of a Pragmatic Sociology of Educational Knowledge in the analyses of contemporary Nordic curricular reform **Ove Skarpenes & Kari-Mette Walmann Hidle** Primary Teachers' Enactment of LK20 in Social Studies **Kristine Rubilar** *Chair: Kari-Mette Walmann Hidle*	Demokratikunnskap og undervisningspraksis i Skandinavia: En komparativ studie basert på data fra ICCS 2022 **Kjersti Eggen Dahl & Oddveig Storstad** Hva forteller feilsvarene? Distraktoranalyse som inngang til norske VG2-elevers demokratiforståelse **Gunnar Grut** Når kompetansemål skal gi kunnskap: Måling av demokratikunnskap i videregående opplæring **Kjersti Eggen Dahl, Oddveig Storstad, Thomas Dahl & Gunnar Grut** *Chair: Oddveig Storstad*	Learning to Reason About Armed Conflict Through Model-Based Instruction **Thomas Nygren, Alva Lindberg & Nimo Ahmed** [Late cancellation] ~~"Jeg mangler karakterer i alt..." - en kvalitativ studie av skoleerfaringer og skolers praksis i møte med ungdomskriminalitet.~~ **Irene Trysnes & Katja H-W Skjølberg** Undersøgelse af core-practices til samfundsfagdidaktisk udvikling **Mette Damgaard Jørgensen** *Chair: Thomas Nygren*

Friday 17th of April

Parallel Session IV

09.45-11.15			
A	**B**	**C**	**D**
Room **G-salen**	Room **E246**	Room **E250**	Room **E376**
Social studies teaching in Nordic classrooms: is there a Nordic model? **Nora E. H. Mathé et al.** Source trust and source evaluation in social science education **Jenny Rosengren** Teaching source evaluation through inquiry: a comparison of inquiry-based and textbook instruction in secondary classrooms **Maartje van der Eem, Carla van Boxtel & Janet van Drie** *Chair: Jenny Rosengren*	Testing variation theory driven civics teaching in elementary school – an experiment approach **Kristoffer Larsson & Klas Andersson** Teaching democracy to young learners: Perceptions and didactical choices among social science teachers in upper primary school **Linna Sjöblom** Social studies in grades 1-4: Teachers' tales about practice **Julie Ane Ødegaard Borge, Kari- Mette Walmann Hidle & Evy Jøsok** *Chair: Linna Sjöblom*	Professionsutvecklande arbete i samhällskunskap för att möta demokratins utmaningar **Patrik Johansson & Karolina Sandahl** Utveckling av elevers kunskaper om politiskt ansvar genom nyhetsbevakning i samhällskunskap: Resultat från den första fasen i ett praktikutvecklande forskningsprojekt **Martin Jakobsson & Roger Olsson** Att undervisa för demokratisk handlingskraft: nyhetsbaserad undervisning i mellanstadiet **Kamilla Lundborg** *Chair: Patrik Johansson*	Yngre barns förståelse av privatekonomiska val och dess konsekvenser för individ, miljö och samhälle **Bodil Mårald Kåks** Traces of embeddedness in upper secondary economics education **Pernilla Andersson, Lina Isacs & Tom Kuppens** Venn eller Donut? Hur olika visuella hållbarhetsmodeller formar elevers resonemang i undervisningspraktiken **Ann-Sofie Jägerskog et al.** *Chair: Elin Sæther*

Parallel Session V

11.30-13.00			
A	**B**	**C**	**D**
Room **G-salen**	Room **E246**	Room **E250**	Room **E376**
Håb og handling – perspektiver ind i samfundsfag **Carsten Linding Jakobsen & Mogens Hansen** History with/and Social Studies: Curricular Changes in Swedish and Norwegian Upper Secondary Schools (Approximately 1920–1960) **Anne Helene Høyland Mork** Ulik demokrati- og medborgerskapsopplæring for minoritet og majoritet? – En kritisk diskursanalyse av Læreplan i samfunnsfag for forberedende opplæring for voksne **Sanna Ørsjødal Brattland** *Chair: Mogens Hansen*	Att navigera affektiv komplexitet: Relationell kompetens i mötet med känsliga frågor i undervisningen **Anna Ambrose & Linda Ekström** Engagement and Exclusion: The Pedagogical Risks and Possibilities of Teaching Crime as a Controversial Issue in Social Studies Classrooms. Student Engagement, Democratic Agency, and the Risk of Exclusion in Swedish Social Studies Classrooms **Binta-Victoria Jammeh** Enchantment in the daily grind: pride, boredom and care in social science teaching **Katarina Blennow** *Chair: Katarina Blennow*	The problem of individualization and a quest for connections, structures and relations in sustainability education **Elin Sæther & Ole Andreas Kvamme** Bildspråk och samhällskunskap: En analys av metaforer, analogier och exempel för lärande om samhället **Jonas Nordmark** Teachers' Conceptions of Environmental and Sustainable Education in Swedish Upper Secondary Social Studies **Amanda Norling** *Chair: Pernilla Andersson*	

About the Conference

NOKSA (Nordisk konferanse i Samfunnskunnskapsdidaktikk) is a Nordic conference dedicated to Social Science Education (SSE), but also more broadly to *social studies* as curricula in the Nordic countries are differently formulated in relation to other school subjects such as geography and history. Themes at the conference encompass educational perspectives from primary school to secondary school and teacher education.

The 2026 NOKSA is the fifth biannual conference and this time hosted by the Department of Teaching and Learning at Stockholm University, Sweden. This year's theme is "Social Studies Education in Times of Curriculum Change". NOKSA encourage the use of Scandinavian languages but are not exclusive. In the parallel sessions you will find tracks that are *English* speaking or *Scandinavian* speaking.

About the Host

In 2026, the Department of Teaching and Learning (Institutionen för ämnesdidaktik) at Stockholm University hosts NOKSA. The department is responsible for all teacher education programs at Stockholm University and is specialized in subject matter education related to school subjects (and some cases higher education). It has roughly 280 employees, of whom 110 are lecturers, 18 professors and 45 doctoral students. If you have any questions not relating to registration (see below), you can contact the conference team by email: NOKSA2026@su.se.

Follow updated information on our NOKSA-webpage.

Registration and Fee

Registration and payment are handled by Akademikonferens. **Registration deadline: March 16th.**

Register here

- For questions regarding registration or payment, please contact Akademikonferens by email: reg.noksa2026@akademikonferens.se
- Conference fee 2026: 2,300 SEK (excl. VAT except for Swedish HEI).

Going to and from Stockholm (and within)

Stockholm is reachable by several means of transport. Arlanda airport is located circa 35 kilometers north of Stockholm. If you prefer trains or buses, they reach Stockholm Central Station in the heart of the city. Stockholm has a well-functioning public transport with metro, commuter trains, trams, and buses. For shorter stays in the city, it is recommended to use a credit card to access public transport (possible to "blip" your way in using card or phone). For longer stays it is recommended to purchase a 7-day ticket. You can do this online.

Staying in Stockholm City

We have no specific offers for hotels. A recommendation is to book a hotel along the "red line" in the metro system – line 14 (Towards Mörby Centrum) stops at "Universitetet". A recommendation is either Hotel Scandia Anglais (close to the metro and only three stops from the University) or Hilton Stockholm Slussen (five stops from the University and close to the venue of the dinner on the 16th of April).

Finding your way to Stockholm University and the Conference

The metro line 14 (Towards Mörby Centrum) stops at "Universitetet". When you arrive, take the left walking lane towards the Arrhenius Laboratories. Your goal is the "G-salen", located on Svante Arrhenius väg 20C. This auditorium will serve as the main venue for the opening, key-note, panel discussion and one parallel session as well as assembly point for coffee brakes and lunches. The other sessions will be held at the Department of Teaching and Learning (Svante Arrenius väg 20C, E-building, floor 3 and 4. It is a close walking distance from the auditorium. See map below.



Map of Campus Frescati (north part). Upon arrival at the metro station "Universitetet", follow the crowd to the escalators and choose the left walking path towards G-salen.

Dinner Conference (April 16th)

On the evening of the 16th of April at 19.00 you are all welcome to the conference dinner, held at Ersta Terass, Erstagatan 1K on the island of Södermalm. The dinner is included in the price and dietary requirements can be indicated during registration.

Nordisk konferanse i samfunnskunnskapsdidaktikk

NOKSA2026

Nordic Conference in Social Science Education