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Introduction

The Swedish Institute for Disability Research (SIDR) was established in the year 2000 on the initiative of several persons, among whom were the vice Chancellor of Linköping University and Örebro University, Bertil Andersson and Janerik Gidlund. This initiative was indeed welcome as disability research has long been neglected in Sweden.

International observers have also pointed out that research in the area has lagged behind in comparison with the great initiatives that have been taken in the area of disability policy. Cooperation between the two universities was the kind of show of strength that was needed. SIDR alone, of course, is not sufficient to raise Swedish disability research to the level where this field should be, but it does make an important contribution. The priority given to this area by the two universities is thus far rather unique, but the hope is that others will soon follow this lead.

This area of scholarship should also receive higher priority from the government. The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research has launched a proposal that may bring about a tripling of the governmental resources for this area of research. There are strong reasons for the government to carry out this effort, a viewpoint that has also been emphasized by the authorities to whom the proposal has been referred for comment.

SIDR is the start of something that can be of great significance to both research and society in the years ahead. As dissertations are published, knowledge about a reality that has long been hidden from the mainstream will increase. This new knowledge will also be important for the formation of future policy in the area of disability. The goal of research does not always have to be the creation of a better society, but in this area the prerequisites for such a “side-effect” are unusually good.

The Goal

SIDR shall devote itself to the establishment of a vigorous international level research program, doctoral program, and undergraduate level courses at the universities in Linköping and Örebro.

The Background

In accordance with a decision made by vice Chancellor Anders Flodström, Linköping University (July 16, 1998), Professor Jerker Rönnberg was appointed to make an analysis of the future prospects for and the orientation of The Center for Disability Research (the forerunner of SIDR). The interdisciplinary and problems-oriented ambitions were stressed as especially important.

In December 1998 a proposal was submitted to the Board of Directors of Linköping University in which six program areas for interdisciplinary disability research were proposed: communication disabilities, IT and disabilities, measurement and evaluation methods, research on interventions, research on daily life, and research on health and disabilities. This research was to include the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Linköping Institute of Technology, and the Faculty of Health Sciences, all part of Linköping University, as well as being based on bilateral cooperation with Örebro University. The goal was approximately six new posts at professor’s level, four or five teacher positions, and about 10-12 posts for doctoral students every other year, according to the proposal.

In a later decision made by the university and the terms of the formal contract (July 1, 2000) the goals were adjusted, as was the organizational and financial framework divided between the universities in the form of the SIDR. In the spring of 2001, 21 doctoral students were accepted. The board of directors of
SIDR reflects the various interests of the universities and the faculties involved. Disability research has also been accepted as a subject for doctoral studies, and plans of study for disability research are registered with the respective universities. Work in developing the content of disability research has taken its departure point in the six program areas named earlier.

**Organization and Leadership**

The two universities are together responsible for SIDR and the organization is led by a board of directors appointed by the vice chancellors of the universities. The board of directors has an overall responsibility for SIDR’s economy and activities. This means that the obligations of the board of directors are:
- To promote the development and financing of the programs
- To promote other relevant subject areas and the development of strategies and policies
- To coordinate applications for external funding
- To cooperate with other interests, for example, industry and health and sick care, when development of the program so demands
- To convene an international reference group with scholars known within the field of disability research
- To act as a forum for the discussion of ideas.

The Ahlsén Research Institute. Speech – Hearing – Deafness is found within the framework of SIDR. Earlier an independent organization, since the establishment of SIDR it is a part of SIDR’s organization in Örebro, where the institute’s laboratories are located (further information below).

**Financing**

SIDR’s activities are financed by funds contributed by both universities and by external grants. During the period the total sum reached ca. 19.5 million SEK, 7.5 of which consisted of contributions from the universities.

An important part of the financing consists of contracts for the financing of doctoral students. Such contracts exist with The Swedish Defence Research Agency; the Örebro County Council; Gävle University College; Division of Rehabilitation Technology, Department of Design Sciences, Lund College of Technology, University of Lund; the municipality of Norrköping; Trollhättan/Uddevalla University College; and the Östergötland County Council.

SIDR also has a program grant from The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, as well as support for a number of research projects from foundations such as the Swedish Agency for Innovations Systems, The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, The Swedish Research Council and The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research. Additional support has also been received from other private foundations.

**Some Scientific Evaluations**

- In the evaluation the Social Science Council made in 1994 for the program grant proposals, our communicative disability research was top ranked by three independent international reviewers. In 2002 The Swedish Council Working Life and Social Research also evaluated a new set of Swedish program proposals in disability research, and, again, the program group received the highest rank.
- An issue of Scandinavian Audiology (with our own and other international contributions), published in December 1998 and based on the research and ideas of our program grant was selected as part of the “Best of Audiology” section (1998) in the Hearing Journal.
- One of the graduate students in the speech and hearing area published two articles during 2002 that were selected by the Hearing Journal as best in two categories (“best for the clinician” and most “thought provoking” article).
- In a recent international evaluation of Swedish Disability Research (administered by the Swedish
Council for Working Life and Social Research, previously SFR, (Feb. 7, 2001), the Linköping-Orebro doctoral program and the research carried out was cited as a leading model in Sweden – a very encouraging statement.

**Doctoral Studies**

Linköping University and Orebro University are together responsible for the graduate program in disability research. The Department of Caring Sciences, Orebro University and the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Linköping University, serve as hosts for the institute.

Disability research is an interdisciplinary subject which includes knowledge in medicine, technology, social and cultural sciences. The reason for formulating disability research as an area of study is to encompass various dimensions of handicap and disability and to allow various perspectives to meet and to come into conflict with and enrich one another.

Disability research investigates dimensions such as individuals–society and nature–culture. The dimension individual–society includes the individual’s opportunities, problems and perspectives, as well as the social conditions of the disabled. The dimension nature–culture comprises medical and technical problems, as well as the cultural and social aspects of handicap and disability.

**Examples of Current Research During the Period**

(See also the section on dissertations)

- Education for various groups of disabled between the years 1850 and 1914.
- The occurrence of long-term sequelae after skull injuries seen from a neuro-audiological perspective, function and disability.
- Children and youths who exhibit both ADHD and anxiety problems and how people in their surroundings can best help them to function appropriately in various situations.
- Integration of persons of foreign origin with functional disabilities into Swedish society.
- Living with muscular dystrophy from a family perspective – a follow-up after ten years.
- The reasons for and consequences of sensory-neural hearing loss.
- Communicative and cognitive prerequisites for persons with cognitive disabilities, especially mental disability.
- Daily life, quality of life and family perspective in connection with illnesses caused by brain tumors.
- Cerebral palsy, communication, reading and writing difficulties.
- Integrated or segregated instruction in physical education in the compulsory grade school.
- Representations of ability of persons with severe brain damage to communicate and factors that influence and support communication between persons with acquired severe brain damage and those persons in their immediate surroundings.
- Persons with Asperger’s syndrome/high functioning autism – self-image and close relations.
- Prospective memory and conceptions of time in individuals who are mentally disabled.
- The participation of youths who are mentally disabled in secondary education.
- Problems in the relations between need in persons who are deaf and blind and society’s services.
- The value of technical assistance in everyday life.
- Differences in the phonological processing of spoken and signed language.
- Transient sounds that cause disturbances in hearing aids.
- Daily life for adults with acquired brain injuries.
- Health-related quality of life and the ability to remain active at the onset of rheumatoid arthritis.
- The history of epilepsy in Sweden 1750-1920.
- Communication and hearing loss.
- The genesis of hearing loss, the interaction between heredity and environment.
- Diagnosis of hearing loss.
- Development of laboratories for ecological studies of hearing and communication.
- The development of technical assistance for individuals who are deaf-blind.
- Perspectives from gender theory applied to disabled women, bodies and sexuality.
- Research on crimes, gender and disabilities.
- A study of women with visible disabilities from the perspective of gender theory.
- Women and men who have a hearing impairment in working life. Working conditions, communication and the psycho-social work environment.
- Persons with impaired hearing who have Swedish as a second language.
- From social utility to integration: Changing norms in Swedish policies on disabilities.
• Computerized training programs for educational intervention in the area of reading difficulties/dyslexia.
• The development of interactive hearing aids.
• The comprehension of speech with a hearing aid with/without reading, cognitive ability and degree of effort.
• The development of reference data for the evaluation of hearing function in groups exposed to noise.
• Analysis of the concept of health and related concepts.
• Disabilities and supported employment.
• Theoretical evaluation of the psycho-social rehabilitation method for psychological disabilities.
**Doctoral Students**

(Fil.mag. corresponds to a Master’s Degree and fil.kand. to a Bachelor’s Degree)

**Staffan Bengtsson** (b. 1970) has a fil. mag. in history. Other subjects he has studied include history of literature and Swedish. His research deals with society’s relations to norms, normality and deviation. The education of various groups of disabled forms the primary empirical material used in this study. The question concerning why compulsory schooling for the deaf and blind was introduced forms the focus. The dissertation uses an historical perspective and concentrates on the period 1830-1914.

**Per-Olof Bergemalm** (b. 1951) has undergraduate degrees both in medicine and dentistry. He is employed at the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, Lindegberg Hospital, and is carrying out his research at the Ahlén Research Institute, The University Hospital, Örebro. His research is devoted to the occurrence of long-term sequelae following skull injuries from a neuro-audiological perspective, function and disability. The results of the dissertation can be of significance for the primary medical care of patients with skull injuries who have hearing loss caused by trauma. This study may also have significance for insurance considerations.

**Stefan Billinger** (b. 1961) is a psychologist and employed by the municipality of Örebro. His dissertation deals with the study of the lack of concentration in children seen from the viewpoint of ADHD with coexistent anxiety problems. When we, as parents or school personnel, try to help these children and youths function in a more goal-oriented manner in different situations, is there something special we should have in mind that is different from when a child “merely” exhibits symptoms of ADHD or anxiety?

**Jamie Bolling** (b. 1955) has a fil. mag. with a major in social anthropology. She has a half-time position as public relations person at Swedish handicap organizations’ international support association. Her dissertation will deal with how society treats a disabled person with a personal assistant, depending on whether the person has a Swedish or foreign background.

**Katrin Boström** (b. 1955) has a fil. mag. in social work and is employed at the Health Secretariat of the Örebro Provincial Council with questions concerning rehabilitation, disability and technical assistance related to the tasks of the Health and Sick Care Board. Her dissertation “Living with muscular dystrophy from the perspective of the family – a follow-up ten years after” has the goal of describing the quality of life and conditions for these persons and those closest to them.

**Marianne Boström** (b. 1953) is a registered occupational therapist and has a fil. mag. in nursing science with occupational therapy, education and sociology. She works as instructor at The Department of Nursing Sciences, Örebro University. Her dissertation project is a theoretical examination of a psycho-social rehabilitation method for the mentally disabled. She was accepted as a doctoral student at SIDR in January 2003.

**Per-Inge Carlsson** (b. 1959) has a medical degree and is a specialist in ear, nose and throat diseases and hearing impairment. The goal of his dissertation work is to provide a broad perspective on sensory-neural hearing impairments both in regard to causes (genetic factors, interaction) and consequences. He was earlier secretary and is now president of the Swedish Medical Audiological Association.

**Henrik Danielsson** (b. 1974) is Master of Science in electrical engineering and did his degree project at Certec, Lund University, on digital pictures and aphasia. His dissertation project deals with communicative and cognitive conditions for persons with cognitive disabilities, especially mental disabilities.

**Tanja Edvardsson** (b. 1951) is a psychologist employed by Adult Rehabilitation at the Örebro County Council. “Daily life, coping and quality of life for persons with brain tumors and their kin-dred” is the preliminary title of her dissertation. The dissertation will provide new knowledge about what it means to be afflicted with and live with a low malignancy brain tumor from the perspective of the family.

**Janna Ferreira** (b. 1973) has a fil.kand. in general linguistics and is a registered speech and language pathologist. Her greatest interest is augmentative and alternative communication.
Janna has worked in developing a computer training program "Comphot" (COMputerized PHONological Training).

This program trains the phonological awareness in children with reading and writing difficulties. The program is also adapted for use with children with Cerebral Palsy who is non-vocal and have severe motor difficulties. Janna is cooperating with the Institute for Special Education, with rehabilitation groups in the province and with special schools.

Weronika Fremenius (b. 1972) has a fil. kand. in history and was accepted as a doctoral student in disability research in the fall of 1996. Her research project deals with the history of epilepsy in Sweden 1750-1920. The project uses a broad approach from the perspective of cultural history and follows the development of legislation from the marriage prohibition in 1757 onward. She has served as assistant at SIDR, and has been responsible for the seminar series. She has been on leave and parental leave since August 2001.

Marie Jansson (b. 1960) has a fil. kand. in political science. She was accepted as a doctoral student in the fall of 1996. In January 2003 she defended her dissertation “Två kön eller inget alls – Politiska intentioner och vardagslivets realiteter i den arbetslivsinriktade rehabiliteringen” [Two genders or none at all – Political intentions and the realities of daily life in rehabilitation aimed at working life] at the Department of Health and Society, The Institute for Health and Society, Linköping University.

Kajsa Jerlinder (b. 1976) has a fil. mag. in education with an orientation toward health. Her dissertation will provide increased knowledge in how physical education in the compulsory elementary school is conducted for children and youths with functional disabilities (cerebral palsy, rupture of the spinal cord, muscular diseases). Kajsa is part of the EMIL-group, which the Swedish Center for the Development of Sports for the Disabled assigned the task of working with development of teaching material in physical education for children and youths in need of special support.

Pia Käcker (b. 1952) has a fil. kand. in occupational therapy and is a registered occupational therapist employed by the municipality of Norrköping, where she has worked with disability problems since 1993. Her dissertation is a study of communication between people with severe acquired brain damage and their closest relatives/personnel.

Gunvor Larsson (b. 1970) has a fil. mag. in psychology and is a registered psychologist with an orientation toward cognitive behavioral therapy. She has also studied various languages, social anthropology, and religion. Her dissertation investigates young adults with Asperger’s syndrome or high functioning autism and how they regard their diagnoses as well as the consequences which these diagnoses have for their relationships.
Anna Levén (b. 1976) has a fil. kand. in social psychology and has also studied engineering in the field of molecular biotechnology. In her dissertation project she is working with persons with mental disabilities and their concepts of time. Anna is active in the local association of doctoral students and is their representative on the board of the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Linköping University. She was earlier student representative in the organization of the open university.

Martin Molin (b. 1967) has a degree in social care with an orientation toward care of the mentally disabled and persons with multiple disabilities. Martin is an instructor at the Trollhättan/Uddevalla University College in the social education program. Martin has worked for a number of years in special care and has taught in the area of disabilities in the social education program. His dissertation project, which is concerned with the participation of youths in the secondary school, lies within the framework of the larger project “Becoming adult and participation – a research project on what it is like for people with disabilities to become adults in today’s Swedish society”. The study may be described as an ethnographic case study that brings to light different forms of participation in the municipal secondary schools.

Kerstin Möller (b. 1950) has a fil. mag. degree in Management of Health and Welfare Organisations. Her dissertation will treat the problems concerning the relationship between the needs of persons who are deafblind and the services offered by society. Kerstin has participated actively in the network for the deafblind in central Sweden since 1997. She has also been a member of the ACDC group within the Swedish National Agency for Education to whom the government assigned the task of working with different studies of the problems of the disabled in schools. She has also been a member of a group that has worked with the concept “participation” as part of ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) in conjunction with the Swedish field trials.

Ingevor Pettersson (b. 1950) was schooled as an occupational therapist and is a qualified nursing instructor. She works as an instructor at the Department of Nursing Sciences, Örebro University. The goal of her dissertation project is to increase knowledge about the significance of using technical assistance in daily life seen from the perspective of persons who have suffered strokes, their relatives and the personnel working in home services. Ingvor is a member of the board at the Department of Nursing Sciences.

Mary Rudner (b. 1958) has a BA in languages from the University of Cambridge, UK and a fil. mag. in Cognitive Science from Linköping University. She has worked for many years as a translator of scientific works. In her research Mary is studying how language is processed in the brain by comparing the phonological processes in spoken and signed language. She uses behavioral measures, brain imaging and modeling. Her research will increase our knowledge about language itself and about the differences in the phonological processes in spoken and signed language. Such knowledge can lay the foundation for the development of methods in education, therapy and technology in the field of language.

Åsa Skagerstrand (b. 1969) has a degree in audiology. She works as instructor at the Department for Nursing Sciences, Örebro University. The title of her dissertation project is “Disturbances caused by transient noise in hearing aids”. How are these sounds experienced by the user and how are they processed by hearing aids? She is the representative for the doctoral students in SIDR’s board.

Thomas Strandberg (b. 1965) has a fil. mag. with social work as a major and has also completed the educational program for teaching of subjects in the field of nursing sciences. His dissertation “Adults with acquired mild traumatic brain damage – the socio-psychological consequences in a life perspective” has the aim of illuminating, describing and analyzing the daily life and life situation for injured adults after a traumatic brain injury. Thomas is the student representative in the SACO [the central organization for Swedish academics] board and in the departmental board at the Department of Caring Sciences, Örebro.

Ingrid Thyberg (b. 1951) has a fil. mag. in nursing science and is employed as occupational therapist and project leader at the Unit for Rheumatology, Linköping University Hospital. Her dissertation work focuses on quality of life and ability to be active at the onset of rheumatoid arthritis.
Approved Doctor’s Dissertations

No. 1. Stefan Gustafson, Varieties of reading disability: Phonological and orthographic word decoding deficits and implications for interventions is the title of the dissertation which was published in the year 2000. (ISBN 91-7219-867-2). In his dissertation Stefan studies the reasons for various types of reading difficulties and possible pedagogical interventions.


No. 3. Ulf Andersson, Cognitive deafness. The deterioration of phonological representations in adults with an acquired severe hearing loss and its implications for speech understanding is the title of this dissertation published in 2001 (ISBN 91-7373-029-7). Ulf accounts for how a severe hearing loss in adulthood affects the ability to understand speech. What significance does this have for those who have received cochlea implants as compared to those who lip-read?

No. 4. Carin Fredriksson, Att lära sig leva med förvärvad hörselnedsättning sett ur par-perspektiv – om anpassningsstrategiers funktionella och sociala innebörder [Learning to live with an acquired hearing loss and its implications for speech understanding] is the title of this dissertation which was published in 2001 (ISBN 91-7373-029-7). Carin works in the occupational therapy program at the Department of Nursing Sciences, Örebro University.

No. 5. Gunnar Lundberg published his dissertation Signs, Symptoms, and Disability Related to the Musculo-Skeletal System – Studies of Home Care Personnel and Patients with Fibromyalgia in 2002 (ISBN 91-7373-160-9). In this study of women employed in the home service corps Gunnar presents his results concerning the occurrence of pain and limitation of functions and their relation to the results of the study (signs).


No. 7. Marie Gustavsson Holmström, Föräldrar med funktionshinder – om barn, föräldraskap och familjeliv [Parents with disabilities – on children, parenting and family life] is the dissertation which was released by the publisher Carlsons bokförlag in 2002 (ISBN 91-7203-500-5). Does life in a family where one of the parents has a form of physical disability differ from the way in which other families live? This is one of the questions Marie answers. Marie has received a grant from The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research for post-doctoral studies at the Department of Occupation and Leisure Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney, Australia.

No. 8. Kersti Samuelsson, Active wheelchair use in daily life – Considerations for mobility and seating is the title of this dissertation published in 2002 (ISBN 91-7373-196-X). The occurrence of later complications such as back pain and shoulder problems have been charted in this dissertation for people who are confined to wheelchairs due to damage to the spinal cord. The effect of interventions on the ergonomy of persons sitting in wheelchairs as well as aspects of the wheelchair as a means of locomotion are also presented.
No. 9, Marie Jansson, Två kön eller inget alls – Politiska intentioner och vardagslivets realiteter i den arbetslivsinriktade rehabiliteringen [Two genders or none at all – Political intentions and the realities of daily life in rehabilitation aimed at working life] is the title of her dissertation (ISBN 91-7373-568-X). This dissertation was published in January 2003 within two series, Linköping Dissertations on Health and Society, No. 3 and Studies from the Swedish Institute for Disability Research, No. 9.

Senior Researchers

(Docent corresponds to Senior Lecturer or Associate Professor)

Gerd Ablström has been awarded the title docent, and holds the position of university lecturer. She is also a nurse and has long experience within the disability movement, primarily in The National Association for the Neurologically Disabled. She has served as research leader in rehabilitation at the University Hospital in Örebro. She is currently lecturer at the Department of Nursing Sciences, Örebro University. Gerd has been responsible for ten or more large research projects dealing with functionally disabled persons who live with multiple disabilities, seen from the perspective of the family. Her research has primarily focused on people's own resources to cope with difficult life situations, everyday activities and quality of life. A couple of projects deal with intervention research: one is concerned with psycho-social support of a multi-professional team and one has studied complementary health methods. The various research projects presuppose different designs of research, everything from discovering purposes by means of qualitative methods to quasi-experiments with the measurement of effects utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods. The development of instruments concerns quality of life, coping and activities in daily life (ADL). One of the projects studies the effect of the reform contained in the “Law on support and service to certain disabled” for one group, those with severe and long-term limitations in their ability to move. In the project, in addition to the disabled, relatives and personal assistants were interviewed.

Ulf Andersson received his PhD degree at the Center for Disability Research in 2001. His thesis focused on cognitive consequences of an acquired hearing impairment or deafness in adulthood and the impact of these cognitive changes on speech understanding with or without hearing devices. His main research interest lies in the field of cognitive arithmetic and children with arithmetical difficulties, and a project is currently underway that addresses the question of whether working memory deficits are responsible for children’s arithmetical difficulties. Another specific interest concerns the involvement of working memory in mental arithmetic in adults.

Sivert Antonson has a PhD and is university lecturer in disability research. His dissertation in education is entitled Hörselskadade i högskolestudier. Möjligheter och hinder [Hearing impaired in university studies: Opportunities and hindners] (1998). He is active at the Department of Nursing Sciences, Örebro University. Today his research interests are directed toward persons with various disabilities related to the labor market. His latest book (2002) is called Stödets betydelse – supported employment – i kampen för arbete och att bryta utsatthet [The Importance of Support – Supported Employment – in Struggle for Work and to Break an Exposed Position]. Skrifter serien 71, Örebro University.

Stig Arlinger, professor of technical audiology at the University Hospital, Linköping University, works in the audiological clinic. The research group deals with the development of the treatment of signals in hearing aids, methods for adaptation of hearing aids and for the evaluation of the usefulness of hearing aids, methods for examining and describing both the peripheral and central hearing functions, and studies of noise and hearing damage.

Erik Borg, professor and doctor in audiology. His research deals with the physiological and medical aspects of audiology. Since 1978 he has worked with clinical audiology, first at Karolinska Institutet, a medical university in Stockholm and since 1991 in Örebro. Since 1998 he has been the director of the Ahlsén Research Institute, University Hospital, Örebro. The research he has built up in Örebro includes, for example, hereditary hearing disorders, development of diagnostic methods and methods for rehabilitation. The overriding perspective is ecological and is combined with laboratory studies under controlled conditions. At present he leads a research project on the orientation in their surroundings of the deaf and blind; diagnosing sensory-neural hearing loss; the development of speech in hearing.
impaired children; and the importance of hereditary factors for the occurrence of hearing impairment due to noise.

Ann-Christin Cederborg has the title docent and is also a registered psychotherapist at the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Linköping University. Her research deals with children and youths in vulnerable life situations and the way in which they are treated by professionals. Furthermore, she has studied how disabled children who are suspected of having been subjected to crimes are dealt with in the judicial process. How children with Asperger syndrome/autism communicate with their surroundings is another ongoing project she is conducting.

Lotta Coniavitis Gellerstedt has a PhD in sociology and is involved in the research projects "Hearing impairment in working life" (the book Att höra till – om böselskadades psykosociala arbetstillvård [Belonging – on the psycho-social environment of the work environment] was scheduled for publication in February 2003) and “The new flexibility of the labor market and career opportunities for the hearing impaired-a pilot project” (AFI report no. S/2002), both together with Berth Danermark. She is also conducting the project “Hearing impaired active professionals. Cognitive ability, noise environment and Swedish as a second language”.

Berth Danermark is vice chairman of SIDR and professor of sociology at Örebro University and is employed at the Department of Caring Sciences. He is also responsible for the doctoral program for SIDR. Berth has a fil. kand. in sociology, but has also studied political science, history of ideas, and economics. Together with Professor Erik Borg, he began building up the organization that in 1995 became the Ahlén Research Institute. Berth has conducted research in methodology, social questions related to housing conditions, and communication disabilities. In addition to some 80 publications, he has, together with three colleagues, published the book “Explaining society”, as well as books on cooperation.

Carin Fredrikksson defended her dissertation in disability research Att lära sig leva med förvärvad hörselskadning sett ur par-perspektiv – om anpassningsstrategiers funktionella och sociala innebörder [Learning to live with an acquired hearing loss from the perspective of couples – on the social and functional implications of adaptational strategies] (2001). She is employed in the occupational therapy program at the Department of Nursing Sciences, Örebro University.

Staffan Förhammar has been awarded the title docent in history and holds the position of university lecturer in history at the Department of History, The Tema Institute, Linköping University. Staffan is supervisor for one of SIDR’s doctoral students and together with Professor Marie C. Nelson is responsible for SIDR’s historical dimension. Current research may be summarized under the project title “From social rationality to integration: Changing norms in Swedish disability policy”.

Björn Gerde is professor of rehabilitation medicine at the University Hospital, Linköping University and director of the Center for Pain and Rehabilitation at the same hospital. His research at present deals primarily with pain and its consequences, as well as the consequences of neurological disabilities. His publications include 115 articles in international journals.

Stefan Gustafson, Ph.D., is university lecturer at Linköping University, Department of Behavioural Sciences. Stefan defended his dissertation in 2000 in disability research. His research interests include individual differences among children with reading difficulties and the significance of these differences for reading pedagogy, as well as the relationship between dyslexia and other types of reading disorders.

Björn Lyxell, professor of psychology, with an orientation toward perception and cognition, Linköping University. Björn’s research is concerned with the neurophysiological, perceptual and cognitive consequences of acquired hearing disability and how these are related to the possibility for compensation and use of technical aids (tactile aids, hearing aids, and cochlea implants). Björn is also active at the Ahlén Research Institute in Örebro. He has contributed nearly 50 articles to international journals or books.

Denise Malmberg is university lecturer in feminist theory at Örebro University. She defended her dissertation in ethnology in 1991, Skammens röda blomma? Menstruationen och den menstruerande kvinnan i svensk tradition [The red flower of shame? Menstruation and the menstruating woman in Swedish tradition]. She is employed at the Center for
Women’s Studies, Örebro University and the Center for Women’s Studies, Uppsala University. At present Denise is conducting research in the project “High heels and wheelchairs: A study of women with visible disabilities from the perspective of gender theory”. The focus of the investigation is adult women who, since birth or early childhood, have lived with a visible physical disability. The study’s major questions deal with gender, the body and sexuality. The analysis is based on interviews concerning the experiences of disabled women in our society, their ideas and attitudes, as well as the behavior with which they have been confronted. The personal experiences are thus related to a social context.

**Marie Nelson**, Ph.D. in history (Uppsala University, 1988), docent (Uppsala, 1995), was named professor of social history (Linköping University, 2001). She has been employed as university lecturer in history at The Department of History, Tema Institute, Linköping University since 1995. Marie published her dissertation on famine in northern Sweden during the 1860s, but during recent years has conducted research primarily in the area described as social history of medicine. One area of interest is the introduction of public health legislation in the country (1874) and the interaction of ideologies, political decisions and the reduction of mortality in Sweden. The results of a research project on childhood mortality in the late 19th century and how society reacted to the increase in childhood deaths in that period are being compiled. A current research project is entitled “Swedish Health Policy in an International Perspective.” She has published in international journals, as well as contributing chapters to a number of books.

**Jerker Rönnberg** is professor and the scientific secretary of SIDR. He received his PhD in 1980 at Uppsala University and since 1995 has been professor at the Department of Behavioural Sciences, Linköping University. Jerker’s main research has been conducted in the area of cognition, communication and disability from the perspectives of both the behavioral sciences and neurosciences. Research on memory and linguistic processes have been carried out in using signed and spoken language (with the help of brain imaging techniques). He has also studied memory (picture recognition) in persons with mental disabilities. The cognitive and linguistic prerequisites for persons with CP and their use of systems of symbols, as well as the communicative abilities of severely brain damaged persons, have also been addressed. Jerker has comprehensive experience of cognitive and communicative research in the field of hearing (e.g., in cooperation with the Ahlén Research Institute) and has shared responsibility for many other projects in the field. Jerker has published about 100 articles in international journals, about 30 book chapters and a number of books. He is also research leader for “Cognition, communication, development and disability” (CCDD), a research division of the Department of Behavioural Science.
Laboratories

There are four special research laboratories at the Ahlén Research Institute, University Hospital, Örebro. The laboratories are used for functional diagnosis and analysis, as well as for the training of persons with hearing loss. Other uses are as a testing station for the evaluation of various technologies and as an educational instrument where the hearing impaired and communications partners can gain insight and have the opportunity to receive training in a realistic environment under controlled circumstances. Below are listed facilities found there and elsewhere.

- The echo-free room is equipped with comprehensive material for the recording, directing and presentation of simple, complex and natural sound environments.
- The sound environment room is a simpler version of the echo-free room for the purpose of simplifying methods so that they can be used clinically.
- The neuro-psychological laboratory with, e.g. cognitive tests and tests of the ability to read and the ability to deal with audio-visual information.
- The diagnostic laboratory with equipment for the audiometric impedance measurement of the otoacoustic emissions, phase audiometry, advanced measurement under masking conditions and electrophysiology (forthcoming).
- Equipment for various purposes can be found in IBV’s psychology laboratories:
  - For perception experiments and for psychophysiological measurements
  - For video editing and the playing of stimulus material
  - For simpler experiments and statistical calculations
  - Suitable software.

Other laboratory equipment is available at Linköping University at the Computer Science Laboratories (IDA) and The Department of Technical Audiology (INA), the latter with easy access to clinical material in the research context. The institute also has access to laboratories at The Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute and The Swedish Defence Research Agency, both with facilities located on the campus of Linköping University.
Publications

Orginal articles in scientific journals

A


B


Johansson O, Andersson J & Rönnberg J. Do elderly couples have a better prospective memory than other elderly people when they collaborate? Applied Cognitive Psychology, 2000;14:121-133.


Karlsson S & Gerdl B. Mean frequency and signal amplitude of the surface EMG of the quadriceps muscles increase with increasing torque – a study using the continuous wavelet transform. Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology, 2001;11:131-140.


Larsson B, Björk J, Henriksson K-G, Gerdl B & Lindman R. The prevalences of cytochrome Coxidae negative and superpositive fibres and ragged-red


Nordenfelt L. Towards a New Paradigm for Health Promotion, Review Article, Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy, 2000;3:317-319.
**Nordenfelt L.** On the Goals of Medicine, Health Enhancement, and Social Care, Health Care Analysis, 2001;9:1.


**Nordenfelt L.** Om hälsa och naturliga funktioner [On health and natural functions], Filosofisk Tidskrift, 2001;4:35-43.


**Nätterlund B, Gunnarsson L-G & Ablström G.** Disability, Coping and Quality of Life in Individuals with Muscular Dystrophy: A Prospective Study over Five-Years. Disability and Rehabilitation, 2000;22:776-785.


Trygg T, Lundberg G, Rosenlund E, Timpka T & Gerdle B. Personality Characteristics of Women with chronic neck, shoulder, or low back complaints in terms of Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) and Defense Mechanism Technique modified (DMTm). Journal of Musculoskeletal Pain 2002;10:33-55.


Original articles in other journals


Ahlström G. Vilken forskning är viktig/nödvändig för omvårdnadsämnets fortsatta utveckling? [What research is important for the continued development of the field of nursing?] The Swedish Nursing Association conference report, Omvårdnad som akademiskt ämne [Nursing as an academic subject], Stockholm, 2001.


Danermark B. Att förlora hörseln är att förlora en del av sig själv [Losing hearing is to lose a part of oneself], Socialpolitik, 2000;1:42-43.


Strandberg T. Recension av Medvetenhet och bemötande. En studie om sjuksköterskans funktion

Books

Antonson S. Stödets betydelse – supported employment – i kampen för arbet och att bryta utsatthet [The importance of support – supported employment – in the struggle for work and to break an exposed position]. Örebro University, Universitetsbiblioteket, Skriftserien 71:2002.


Chapters in books – scientific publications


Nordenfelt L. Om medicinens filosofi [On the Philosophy of Medicine], in Qvarsell R & Torell U (eds.) Humanistic health research: A research summary, Studentlitteratur, 2001.


External reports


Levén A. Official opinions on the report: Toward an open university – conditions for students with psychological and neuro-psychological disabilities. It also has the task of developing a plan of action for wider recruitment and for promoting equal treatment and reducing discrimination.


Internal reports


Ahlström G & Davidsson S. Tre kärnfulla berättelser – Anhörigas uppfattningar om vadassistans innebär för den funktionshindrade och hur de etiska värdegrunderna i LSS tillämpas [Three compelling stories – The relatives' view of the implications of assistance for the disabled and how the fundamental ethical norms in the law on support and service for certain disabled persons are applied]. FoU-enheten Psykiatri och habilitering, Örebro, Mementum, 2000;24.

Ahlström G & Klinkert P. Den svåra balansgången – personliga assistenters möjligheter att tillämpa de etiska värdegrunderna i LSS [The difficult balancing act – the opportunities for a personal assistant to apply the fundamental ethical norms in the law on support and service for certain disabled persons]. A research summary. Habilitationens forskningscentrum, Örebro, Scriptum, 2001;3.


Danermark B. Handikappforskning som tvärvetenskap [Disability research as an interdisciplinary field]. Örebro University, Department of Sociology, Work in progress, 2000;2.

Gellerstedt L & Danermark B. Arbetsmarknadens nya flexibilitet och hörselskadades karriärmöjligheter – ett pilotprojekt [New flexibility in the labor market and the career opportunities for those with hearing loss]. Örebro University, University Hospital Örebro, AFI-report 2002;5.

Jerlinder K. Upplevd hälsa vid renodling av sjukförsäkringen [ Experienced health when isolated by health insurance]. A deep interviews with persons who have applied for insurance benefits during 1997 in Gävleborg county. The County of Gävleborg, report from FoU-forum, 2000;1.

Jerlinder K. Kartläggning av utbildningsutbudet i anpassad fysisk aktivitet vid Sveriges folkhögskolor, högskolor och universitet [Charting the courses offered in adapted physical activity at Sweden’s folk high schools, colleges and universities]. SUH report, 2001;2.

Papers, abstracts and posters presented at national and international conferences

Ablström G. Experiences of loss and chronic sorrow in person with neurological disorders. 8th World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses Congress. September 16-20, 2001, Sidney Australia, (Abstract).


Danermark B. NNDR-konferens 22-25 augusti 2002, Reykjavik, Island. Presentation of paper, Disability – a question of recognition or redistribution?

Danermark B & Gellerstedt L. Everyday life, quality of life, and rehabilitation, 8th research conference in Örebro 13-14 March 2002. Abstract Hörselskadade i arbetslivet [Hearing impaired i working life].


Edvardsson T. Poster at the 8th research conference in Örebro, 13-14 March. Everyday life, quality of life, and rehabilitation.


Möller K. From shame to recognition, Pupils with deafblindness in the gymnasium. Presentation at the 5th European Deafblind conference (DbI) in the Netherlands, 24-29 July 2001.


Nelson M. När doktorn inte fanns… Historiska perspektiv på alternativmedicin, [When there was no doctor... Historical perspectives on alternatives in medicine]. Society, health and medical pluralism. A multidisciplinary research seminar. Örebro University, 29-30 August 2002.


Nelson M. A New Century – A New Approach: The Revision of Swedish Infectious Disease Legislation around 1900, Contribution to the session, Demographers, public health and politics (18th-20th centuries). Social Science History Association meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, October 24-27, 2002.


Workshop
Assessment of auditory communication: From lab to real life, Örebro university, September 2001

In September 2001 SIDR held its second workshop with international scholars. This time the major theme was evaluation. Below is a list of the participants and their presentations. Most of the contributions are published in International Journal of Audiology, vol 42, suppl 1, 2003.

**Gerhard Andersson**, Uppsala University, Departments of Psychology and Audiology, Box 256, SE-751 05 Uppsala, Sweden.
Title: *What I coping? A critical review of the construct.*

**Stig Arlinger**, Linköpings University, Department of Nerve Science and Locomotion, SE-581 83 Linköping, Sweden.
Title: *How to assess individual ability, individual need and individual benefit.*

**Erik Borg**, Ahlsén Research Institute, Medical Centre Hospital, SE-701 05 Örebro, Sweden.
Title: *Application of an ecological framework in audiological assessment.*

**Robyn M. Cox**, The University of Memphis, TN, 38105 USA.
Title: *Assessment of Subjective Benefit of Hearing Aids.*

**Berth Danermark**, Örebro University, The Swedish Institute for Disability Research, SE-701 82 Örebro, Sweden.
Title: *The need for different approaches in assessment. An epistemological perspective.*

**Susan Foster** (*& Janet MacLeod-Gallinger*), National Technical Institute for the Deaf Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY 14623-5603 USA.
Title: *Deaf People at Work: Communication Experiences. Challenges and Strategies.*

**Jean-Pierre Gagné**, École d’orthophonie et d’audiologie, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, centre-ville, Montréal, Québec, Canada, H3C317.
Title: *Treatment effectiveness research in audiological rehabilitation: Fundamental considerations.*

**Stuart Gatehouse**, MRC Institute of Hearing Research (Scottish Section), Glasgow Royal Infirmary, North Glasgow University Hospitals NHS Trust, Glasgow, Scotland.
Title: *Benefits from hearing aids in relation to the interaction between the user and the environment.*

**Jacqueline Leybaert, (Murielle d’Hondt & Carol La Sasso)**, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgien.
Title: *Neurolinguistic development in deaf children the effect of early language experience.*

**Thomas Lunner**, Oticon A/S, Research Centre Eriksholm, 243 Kongevejen, DK-3070 Snekkersten, Denmark.
Title: *Cognitive function in relation to hearing aid use.*

**Björn Lyxell**, Linköping University, The Swedish Institute for Disability Research, SE-581 83 Linköping, Sweden and Ahlsén Research Institute, Medical Centre Hospital, SE-701 05 Örebro Sweden.
Title: *Working memory capacity and phonological processing in speech understanding with hearing-aids and cochlear implants.*

Title: *Interactions of language and cognition in deaf learners: From research to practice.*

**Kerstin Möller**, Örebro University, The Swedish Institute for Disability Research, SE-701 82 Örebro, Sweden.
Title: *Deafblindness: A challenge for assessment – is ICF a useful tool?*

**Jan Persson**, Center for Medical Technology Assessment (CMT), Linköping University, SE-581 83 Linköping, Sweden.
Title: *Balancing societal costs and users’ quality of life – priority setting of interventions for the hard-of-hearing.*

**M. Kathleen Pichora-Fuller**, University of British Columbia. Processing Speed: 6331 Crescent Road Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2.
Title: *Psychoacoustics, speech perception, and comprehension.*
Title: *Cognition in the hearing impaired and deaf as a bridge between signal and dialogue.*

Rune Simeonson, Ph.D, MSPH, Professor of Education, Research Professor of Psychology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA 27599-8185.
Title: *Communication disabilities in children and youth: Issues in classification and measurement.*

Dafydd Stephens (＆Patricia Kerr), Welsh Hearing Institute, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, CF 14 4XN U.K. and Queen Margaret University College, Clerwood Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Title: *The role of positive experiences in living with acquired hearing loss.*

Elisabeth Svensson, Örebro University, Department of Business Administration, Computer Science, Economics and Statistics, SE-701 82 Örebro.
Title: *Statistical methods in qualitative assessments.*

**Other Activities**

*of the participants in the institute (a selection):*

Stig Arlinger
- Swedish representative in international standardisation within International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC) TC29 "Electroacoustics" concerning audiometric equipment, in International Organization for Standardization (ISO) TC43 "Acoustics" concerning audiometry and hearing protectors, 1976 –
- Within the European standardisation CEN chairman for TC159 "Hearing protectors" 1997–
- Member of editorial committee for British Journal of Audiology, Audiology, Australian Journal of Audiology until 2001
- Chief editor of the International Journal of Audiology 2002–
- Swedish representative in the European Federation of Audiology Societies
- One of four representative in the Europe in the council of the International Society of Audiology and chairman of its Scientific Committee.

Jamie Bolling
- Chairman of Stockholm City’s Integration Committee’s Disability Council, 2000
- Alternate member of the board of Furuboda Folk High School, 2002
- Alternate member of the national board of the United Nations Association of Sweden, 2002
- Alternate member of the board for The Foundation of Sunnerdahls Disability Foundation, 2002
- Alternate member of the board of Concord Sweden, The Swedish NGO Platform for international development cooperation – SHIA – Swedish Organisation of Disabled Persons International Aid Association’s, representative, 2002
- Swedish Federation of People with Mobility Impairment’s representative in The Swedish Disability Federation’s ethnic committee, 2001
- Referral person – Swedish Federation of People with Mobility Impairment’s immigrant network, 2000
- Advisory Council DCDD – Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development, 2001

Per-Inge Carlsson
- Chairman in the association – The Swedish Medical Audiological Association.

Berth Danermark
- Board member of Institute for special education, 2001–
- Member of the faculty board at The Faculty of Medicine, Science and Technology, Örebro University, 2001–
- President of the International Association of Critical Realism, 2000–
- Member of Swedish Sociological Association
- Head of Doctoral Studies, The Swedish Institute for Disability Research.

Stefan Gustafson
- Chairman of the committee appointed to study the situation of students with disabilities at Linköping University.

Denise Malmberg
- Chairman of The Nordic council for research on women and gender.
Marie Nelson
• Chairperson of The International Network for the History of Public Health
• Member of the Editorial Board of the journal The Social History of Medicine
• Editor of the electronic journal Hygiea Internationalis: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the History of Public Health. (http://www.liu.se/tema/inphj)
• Member of the Conference Organizing Committee, INHPH and SSHM joint conference Health in the City: the History of Public Health, University of Liverpool, England, 4-7 September 1997; Member of the planning committee for the JNHPH and EAHMH conference, “The Healthy Life: People, Perceptions, Politics” Almuñécar, Spain, 2-5 September 1999; EAHMH and INHPH conference in Oslo, September 2003
• Co-Chairperson (with Philipp Sarasin-Zürich) for the Health sector of the ESSCH conference in Berlin, March 2004
• Newly appointed member of the Scientific Board of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health (EAHMH).

Lennart Nordenfelt
• Co-editor of the book series European Studies in the Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care (Kluwer Academic Publishers)
• President of the Nordic Network for Philosophy, Medicine and Mental Health, 1995–
• President of the European Society for the Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care, 1999 –
• President of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Society for Philosophy 2001–
• Deputy Head of the Department of Health and Society, Linköping University
• European Society for the Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care
• International Society for Bioethics
• Nordic Network for Philosophy, Medicine and Mental Health.

Jerker Rönnberg
• National editor of Scandinavian Journal of Psychology 1996– prolonged to 2005-12-31
• Ass. editor of European Journal of Cognitive Psychology 1997–2001
• Advisory Board for Advances in Physiotherapy 1999–
• Editorial board for Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education 1999–
• Member of European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCP)
• Member of European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI)
• Member of New York Academy of Sciences
• Member of The Swedish Neuropsychology Ass
• Member of The Swedish Stitching for Dyslexia
• Coordinator and responsible for two international workshops sponsored by two programme grants (FAS): “Communication in the hearing impaired and deaf: From signal to dialogue” and “Aspects of compensation in the hearing impaired and deaf: From signal to society”
• Head of research for the Cognition, Communication, Development & Disability (CCDD) research division at the department of Behavioural Sciences, Linköping
• Head of Research, The Swedish Institute for Disability Research.