



Arts and
Humanities
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Organizing a Resistance Movement: Sweden's Nuclear Experience in the Late Cold War Period

Stockholm University (SU), Kungstenen

Alma Mater, Monday 26 September 2022

Organizers: the AHRC research project [Global Histories of Peace and Anti-Nuclear Activism](#) & the Hans Blix Centre for the History of International Relations History, SU.

Sweden is an interesting case of a state that started off with an ambitious dual-use program to produce nuclear weapons and nuclear power in the 1950s. The nuclear dual-use program was abandoned in 1968 and Sweden became an ardent supporter for disarmament. One of the most important reasons why the bomb program was shelved had to do with strong resistance against those plans within the parliament and growing opposition from anti-nuclear and peace activist groups. The activism against nuclear weapons continued during the 1970s and 1980s but this time the focus was to get rid of nuclear power and to stop the deployment of the so-called intermediate nuclear weapons, or the Euromissiles, in NATO states.

The aim of this workshop is to convene Swedish and international scholars, peace activists, scientists, and politicians to share views and discuss the Swedish nuclear experience in a comparative manner, placing the Swedish case in a broader global perspective. An important question to discuss is in what way the peace movements tried to influence the government's policy on disarmament and if they were successful in their efforts. What kind of collaboration existed among different Swedish resistance groups and their counterparts in Europe and in the rest of the world? How did the official Sweden, the government and political parties, react to these efforts to influence the decision makers? The workshop will also consider where the archival records of key Swedish organisations are held, and how these can be made more accessible to researchers and activists worldwide.

10.00 Opening Remarks

10.30-12.00 Panel 1: Research on nuclear social activism in Sweden and Scandinavia

Chair: Eirini Karamouzi

Kim Salomon, *Peace movements in Scandinavia in the late cold war period.*

Thomas Jonter, *Olof Palme and the peace movements.*

Emma Rosengren, Nuclear Weapons Free Zone debates in Scandinavia

12.00-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.30 Panel 2: Oral history & creating a digital archive

Peter Wallensteen, *Establishing peace research as an academic discipline in Sweden*

Aryo Makko, *Central archives on nuclear activism in Sweden*

Charles Kraus, *Creating a global digital archive: Lessons from the Woodrow Wilson Center*

Luc-André Brunet, *Building the Digital Peace Archive on global anti-nuclear activism*

16.00-17.30 Public Roundtable: Nuclear Activism in Sweden, Then and Now

Chair: Thomas Jonter

Rolf Ekeus

Thomas Magnusson

Kerstin Grebäck

Gunnar Westberg

Speakers:

Rolf Ekeus, Ambassador, From 1978 to 1983, representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, 1991 and 1997 he was Director of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq, the United Nations disarmament observers in Iraq after the Gulf War.

Thomas Jonter, Professor of International Relations, Department of Economic History and International Relations, SU

Thomas Magnusson, former chairman of Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society

Kerstin Grebäck, former chairman of the Swedish section of *Womens' International League for Peace & Freedom*

Emma Rosengren, PhD and post doc, Department of Economic History and International Relations; SU

Arryo Makko, Professor of History, Director of Hans Blix Centre for the History of International Relations History, SU

Kim Salomon, Professor emeritus of History, Lund University

Peter Wallensteen, Senior Professor in Peace and Conflict Research and Research Professor of Peace Studies, at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at University of Notre Dame

Gunnar Westberg, Professor of Medicine, former chairman of the Swedish Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons, Gothenburg University

Luc-André Brunet, Senior Lecturer in Contemporary International History, The Open University, UK

Eirini Karamouzi is Senior Lecturer in Contemporary History, The University of Sheffield

Charles Kraus is the Deputy Director of the History and Public Policy Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC.