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ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report of the Alva Myrdal Centre 2022



Contents

Background.....	3
Education	4
Research.....	5
Collaboration	7
Management and administrative support.....	9
Finance.....	9

Background

The Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) was established on 23 March 2021 by the Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University in accordance with the model for a research centre without its own staff (UFV 2020/716). In organisational terms, AMC was placed within the Faculty of Social Sciences/Department of Peace and Conflict Research (FoK). An initial meeting of the Board of AMC was held on 21 June 2021.

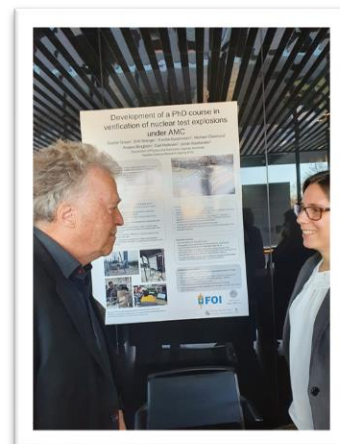


Photo of Alva Myrdal from the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in 1969. Photo: TT/Nyhetsbyrå

Education

In spring 2022, a basic course in Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament was developed by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research. The course corresponds to 7.5 higher education credits and was given at 50% pace to seven students during the autumn semester 2022 as a limited trial run. The course was evaluated and the plan is to continue to offer it regularly. The next course will be offered in the autumn semester 2023, when the number of students is expected to be considerably higher.

During the autumn semester 2022, a course in Nuclear Verification was provided at doctoral level by the Department of Physics and Astronomy (IFA) in collaboration with, among others, the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI). The focus was primarily on Applied Nuclear Physics, with some elements from other subjects. The course corresponds to 7.5 higher education credits, i.e. five weeks of full-time study, and it had 11 students. The course was evaluated and the plan is to continue to offer it every other year.



During AMC's first annual conference in 2022, the course in Technical Verification was presented by Sophie Grape.



Group picture of the participants at the summer school in 2022.

of 2023.

During the spring and summer of 2022, a summer course in Armament and Disarmament was developed by AMC in collaboration with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Odessa Center for Nonproliferation (OdCNP). The course was given over one week at the end of the summer of 2022 to a group of 24 people, consisting of 18 international participants and 6 Sweden-based participants. The course was evaluated and will be offered once more in the summer

Research

AMC's research work continues to be centred around six working groups with different focuses, linked to nuclear disarmament in a broad sense. Each working group is led by prominent researchers and consists of up to a dozen or so members, recruited in Sweden and internationally to create a critical mass around each theme.

The working groups are as follows:

WG1: Negotiating Nuclear Disarmament

Led by Isak Svensson, Professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research. The working group studies international negotiations on nuclear weapons (disarmament, restrictions, non-proliferation, test bans, etc.) based on negotiation research, etc. Giacomo Cassano, the doctoral student affiliated with Working Group 1, began his doctoral studies in 2022.

WG2: International Measures for Compliance to Nuclear Disarmament Regimes

Led by Peter Wallensteen, Professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research and the Stockholm Process on the Implementation of Smart Sanctions (SPITS). The working group raises questions about how, for example, international inspections and sanctions can be effective in reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation or in maintaining disarmament agreements.

WG3: Data on Nuclear Rivalries, Negotiations and Agreements

Led by Margareta Sollenberg, PhD and Deputy Director of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), and Magnus Öberg, Director of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP). The working group works to produce detailed data on rivalries, crises, negotiation processes and agreements between nuclear powers (potential, historical and contemporary) to enable nuanced, systematic, comparative studies of obstacles to and opportunities for disarmament, as well as risks of the proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with UCDP.

WG4: Technical Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Safeguards

Led by Sophie Grape, Associate Professor at the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The Division of Applied Nuclear Physics conducts, among other things, research with the aim of supporting the international community with technical solutions to ensure that nuclear material is not diverted from the peaceful nuclear fuel cycle. This work focuses on issues including the verification of spent nuclear fuel, detector systems for nuclear detonations and future new nuclear energy systems that can both pose a challenge for the non-proliferation of fissile material and offer a solution for destroying nuclear material.

WG5: Nuclear Disarmament in Policy and International Law

Led by Dr Sibylle Bauer, Director of Studies for Armament and Disarmament, SIPRI, and Dr Wilfred Wan, Director of Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, SIPRI. The working group deals with the international legal framework with multilateral agreements such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Test Ban Treaty, zone agreements and issues relating to nuclear weapons where international negotiations have not been initiated (e.g. the manufacturing of special fissile material). The bilateral agreements on strategic arms control between the USA and Russia are also being studied.

WG6: Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Led by Målfrid Braut-Hegghammer, Professor of Political Science, Research Director of the Oslo Nuclear Project, University of Oslo. The working group studies nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and procurement strategies, and the governance and control of fissile material.



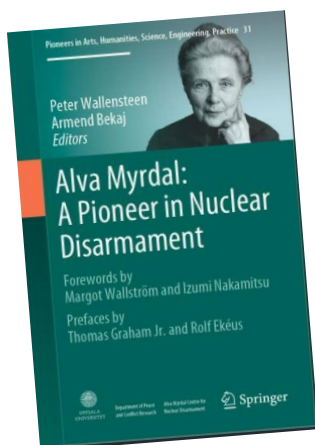
Photo from AMC's first annual conference, which was held at UKK in 2022.



The conference included poster sessions.

Annual conference

The Centre's first annual conference was held in a hybrid format in the autumn of 2022, and focused, among other things, on presenting and discussing knowledge reviews from each working group in order to provide an overall picture of the state of knowledge. Panels were organised to present and discuss research studies. Over 80 participants attended in person and another 20 or so people participated remotely. The programme included just over 60 research contributions, which were presented over two days.

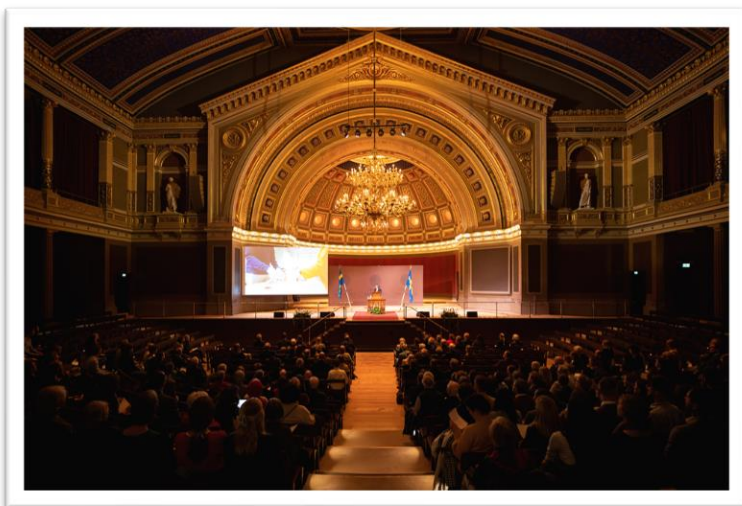


Book about Alva Myrdal's work on disarmament

Under the direction of Peter Wallensteen and Armend Bekaj, a publication was produced about Alva Myrdal and her work on disarmament, with the title "Alva Myrdal: A Pioneer in Nuclear Disarmament". The book was published by Springer in their series "Pioneers in Arts, Humanities, Science and Engineering". A presentation of the book with Peter Wallensteen and three of the co-authors was held at the City Library in conjunction with AMC's annual conference.

Collaboration

The Alva Myrdal Centre was inaugurated in the Uppsala University Auditorium on 19 October. The event was open to the general public. Participants included the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Rector, ambassadors, representatives from Alva Myrdal's family, prominent researchers in the field of nuclear disarmament, staff and students at Uppsala University and the general public.



The inauguration of AMC in the Uppsala University Auditorium on 19 October 2022.

In 2022, researchers affiliated with AMC participated in a number of media appearances, including SVT, TV4, DN, Expressen, Aftonbladet, Upsala Nya Tidning, Svenska Yle and RAI. The media interviews related primarily to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but also to the formation and inauguration of AMC.

During the year, the Department of Peace and Conflict Research's podcast *Researching Peace* published 11 episodes focusing on nuclear disarmament and AMC's work. The podcast is Uppsala University's only social sciences podcast and the only peace research podcast in Sweden. In May 2022, *Researching Peace* reached its highest position as Sweden's eighth most listened to social sciences podcast and 36th most listened to science podcast on Apple Podcasts. AMC and nuclear disarmament were also the topic of a seminar in the series of seminars entitled *UppTalk Weekly*, hosted by the Faculty of Science and Technology at Uppsala University. The Director of AMC also participated in an episode of the Vice-Chancellor's podcast.

In connection with the Tenth NPT Review Conference in New York, AMC was co-organiser of a side event that focused on how the global situation is creating challenges for the NPT. SIPRI and AMC's Working Group 5 led the event, at which the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs also participated.





Japanese Ambassador Noke Masaki and Erik Melander, Director of AMC.

AMC collaborated with other governmental actors, primarily the Swedish Defence Research Agency and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on activities in the area in order to avoid duplication of research already in progress and to discuss how AMC can provide interdisciplinary support to policy work in the field of disarmament.

AMC collaborated with individual organisations and civil society, including Swedish Doctors Against Nuclear Weapons, the Swedish UN Association, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Folk och Försvar (*Society and Defence*), to discuss how AMC can contribute to raising public awareness of disarmament, to public debate about the challenges of work on disarmament, and to the sharing of knowledge.



AMC received visits from, among others, the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time, Ann Linde, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation Policy Ann Ganzer, and Senior Advisor Jennie Gromoll, as well as Japanese Ambassador Noke Masaki.

AMC's website has been expanded with information about the Centre's working groups, its research and its collaborative work. Identities have been activated on Twitter and LinkedIn, where

AMC publishes information about the Centre's activities on an ongoing basis.

AMC's Director Erik Melander, AMC's Chair Cecilia Wikström, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde (Social Democrats), Department Head Ashok Swain, Professor Peter Wallensteen and Dr Sibylle Bauer.

Management and administrative support

Being the Director of AMC is a 50% full-time assignment. The Director leads, represents and develops the Centre's activities on an ongoing basis, and is responsible for internal management and control.

The Director is accountable to the Board of AMC and is the rapporteur-general on the Board. The Board is responsible for ensuring that activities are conducted in accordance with the Centre's purpose. The Board met on four occasions in 2022.

An administrator has been appointed on a full-time basis to support AMC. The administrator is employed at the host department, and the Department Head at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research is the manager with employer responsibility.

In January 2022, the newly appointed Communications Officer took up their position at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research. AMC finances and uses 25% of the Communications Officer's working time. The Department Head at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research is the manager with employer responsibility.

Finance

Funding for AMC is provided through government appropriations, and also through funds from the Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University. Uppsala University's joint co-funding of AMC to the order of SEK 5 million per annum from 2022 onwards was adopted in Uppsala University's operational plan. Just under half of the funds from the Vice-Chancellor were utilised, and the balance will be transferred to the budget for 2023.

The annual government appropriation was SEK 10 million in 2022. The entire government appropriation was utilised during the year.