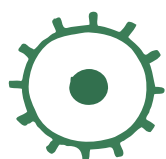


# Annual Report 2018



*Photo: Kim Lindström*



The Åland Islands Peace Institute



# Foreword of the Chair of the Board



Photo: Kim Lindström

## The Increasing Importance of Peace Work

I belong to a generation that has experienced long-term positive development in the world and has always been able to feel safe. The development processes have sometimes gone quickly, sometimes a little slower, but they have almost always gone in the direction towards a safer and more secure world built on co-operation. Statistically, the world continues to improve, child mortality is decreasing, fewer people are living below the poverty line, etc. However, there are other evolutionary trends that are worrying. Nationalism is growing ever stronger, and movements of discontent outside of democratic systems are being increasingly heard and seen. Dissatisfaction often is displayed through expressions of violence. Violence is no longer just taking place far away somewhere on the other side of earth. Europe and the EU are currently facing many domestic concerns, and as I'm writing this, one of the largest member states is planning to leave the Union (Brexit). Many regions in Europe, with varying power and intensity, are seeking to achieve more self-determination, and even independence in some cases. This means that countries that have previously been perceived as unitary and stable democracies can quickly turn into open conflict areas unless wisdom can prevail, and the right measures are taken in time. The Åland example as a model for peaceful conflict resolution has probably never been more relevant. If there is a desire and if sufficient resources are provided, then Finland and Åland have a common export product that unfortunately seems to be in demand.

The refugees who come to Europe after major hardships, especially across the Mediterranean Sea, have also created challenges for their recipient countries and tensions between these countries that would otherwise like to appear accountable and humane. People always have been and probably always will search for a life away from violence and poverty in order to grant themselves

and their children a better future. Sometimes it's probably the only way to survive. As the new Chairperson of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, I endeavour to highlight the need for co-operation between the peace and environmental movements in various contexts. I do so because I'm convinced that climate change is the biggest long-term threat to peace on earth. When previously fertile areas begin to dry and it becomes difficult for people to find food for themselves and their children, then they begin to move and there is an increased risk of inciting tensions and conflicts. Therefore, the climate issue is to a large extent also a peace issue.

As Chairperson, I also want to use this column to thank everyone who is active at the Åland Islands Peace Institute for their excellent achievements in 2018. This applies to the Board, the staff, and everyone who contributes to our organisation and our network in various ways, economically and intellectually, and to the activities that are making the world a little bit better. The contents of this activity report describe a very active and productive year for the Peace Institute.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight the initiative for long-term investment in research that the leaders of four organisations took at the end of 2018. I'm pleased that the Åland Islands Peace Institute, through Director Sia Spiropoulou Åkermark, is one of the initiators and driving forces for creating sustainable knowledge development on Åland. Together with others, we can develop the structures of research and project development that establish good conditions for continued positive societal development on Åland. The Åland example should not only be exported, it also needs to be constantly developed for it to continue to be alive, dynamic, and interesting for others.

*Roger Nordlund, Chair of the Board*

## The Director's words on the past year

# A Year in the Sign of Knowledge

Facts and knowledge are words of great importance for each of us and for the societies in which we live. Through well-founded and versatile descriptions and analyses of our world, we can better understand our reality with all the challenges it entails. Facts are controllable and observable. But the facts in themselves mean something first when they can be put into a larger context within the framework of a whole, a thesis or a theory. The temperature being plus ten degrees has an entirely different meaning in the middle of winter than in the middle of summer. The 2018 Kastelholm talks for peace were entitled "Media, power and courage", and they focused on facts and the concepts of truth and information. Today, many people experience the world as being fragmented, complex, unpredictable, and even threatening, despite the high standard of living for very many people in our part of the world. We're constantly receiving a lot of facts, but we're lacking a sense of context. Through seminars, publications, conversations, and other activities, the Åland Islands Peace Institute contributes by highlighting relevant facts and discussing them comprehensively.

Knowledge is something more than facts. Knowledge is about a deeper understanding of facts and the ability to put facts in larger and longer contexts. With the help of knowledge, we feel safer even in uncertain situations. Knowledge requires extensive experience and the opportunity to deepen our questions. Co-operation is needed in order to broaden the questions and methods for solving problems.

In 2018, the Peace Institute has taken the initiative for a network for sustainable knowledge development on Åland in co-operation with Statistics and Research Åland (ÅSUB), the Åland University of Applied Sciences, and the Åland Maritime Museum. A joint debate article was published in the beginning of October 2018 in Ålandic newspapers. There is a need for infrastructure, library resources, meeting places, funding for research, and knowledge-oriented settings that work together to generate new knowledge that our society needs to evolve, and live sustainably and peacefully.

*Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director*



*Picture on the left: A photocopy of Ålandstidningen on 2nd October 2018, featuring a debate article by a new network for sustainable knowledge development on Åland.*

*Lower photo: A meeting with invited researchers and the Peace Institute's staff before the symposium on demilitarisation held in October. From left to right: Filip Holiencin, Lauri Hannikainen, Geir Ulfstein, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Susann Simolin, Petra Granholm, Mirjam Lukola, Heidi Öst, Willy Østreg, and Greg Simmons.*



*Photo: Lauren Stevens*

# The Work of the Board of Directors

*The Board of Directors of the Institute, chaired by Roger Nordlund, met on six occasions in 2018 and in addition to ongoing matters, among other things, decided on a statutory amendment and appointed a nomination committee for the election of the Board in 2019.*

The Board of the Åland Islands Peace Institute decides on the overall activities of the Peace Institute. The Board consists of seven to ten members and the term is two years.

The Board has convened six times during the year. The Board has gone from eight members to seven as Christian Pleijel resigned at his own request during the year. The Board decided not to choose a replacement, but rather wait until 2019, when new members will be elected at the annual meeting in April.

In 2018, the Board appointed Roger Jansson as the Peace Institute's third Senior Adviser. Roger Jansson, who has been a member of the Peace Institute's Board for ten years, has, among other things, been a Member of the Parliament of Finland, the Speaker of the Åland Parliament, and Head of the Åland Government.

In 2018, the Board discussed the direction of the 2019 Kastelholm talks for peace and updated the statutes in accordance with new legislation. A

new information policy and a policy for ecological and social sustainability have been approved by the Board. The Board has also appointed a Nomination Committee in preparation for the election of the Board in 2019.

In 2018, the foundation's subsidiary, Fredsfast Ab, kept the Board informed of current property issues.

*Mirjam Lukola,  
Organisational Secretary  
and Secretary of the Board*



*The Board Members, Senior Advisers, and Members of the Research Council participate actively in the Peace Institute's activities. Seen here (to the right) is Board Member Kenneth Gustavsson and Senior Adviser Gunnar Jansson conversing with (to the left) Professors Henrik Ringbom and Lauri Hannikainen at the symposium on demilitarisation organised in October.*

## The Research Council

The Research Council of the Peace Institute decides on the scientific direction and ensures the quality of the Peace Institute's research. The Chair of the Research Council is Gunilla Herolf, PhD, expert on issues of European Integration and security policy. Mikael Wigell, PhD, Researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki remains as a member. Associate Professor of International Law, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, and Professor of International Relations, Kjell-Åke Nordquist, switched positions within the Research Council in 2018, when Sia returned as Director after research leave, and Kjell-Åke's commitment as Deputy Director ended. The shift meant that Kjell-Åke is now a Member of the Research Council and Sia is its Secretary. The Council is assisted by the Research Coordinator, Elias Vartio at the beginning of the year, who was succeeded by Petra Granholm.

## Members of the Board

**Roger Nordlund**, Chair of the Board, Member of the Parliament of Åland, former Deputy Premier and Finance Minister of the Åland Government, former the Speaker of the Parliament of Åland.

**Ulla Backlund**, Deputy Chair of the Board, active in the Norwegian Refugee Council, former Director of the Refugee Council in Georgia, Burundi, and Lebanon respectively.

**Katarina Fellman**, Director at Statistics and Research Åland (ÅSUB).

**Nina Fellman**, Minister of the Åland Government, former Editor-in-chief of the newspaper Nya Åland.

**Kenneth Gustavsson**, Antiquarian at the Åland Museum, Associate Professor of History, Researcher of Åland's Security Policy and the strategic importance of Åland in the Baltic Sea during the 20th century.

**Göran Lindholm**, lawyer, former President of the insurance company Ålands ömsesidiga 1999-2015.

**Lia Markelin**, PhD in Social Sciences from Bradford University in England, Research Co-ordinator at the think tank Magma in Helsinki.

**Christian Pleijel** (Member until April 2018), Programme Director at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Secretary General of the European Small Islands Federation, expert on island communities, Member of the Municipal Executive Board in the Kökar municipality.

# The Peace Institute's Research

*The new research program for 2018-2021 adopted in 2018 is a basis for a large part of the Peace Institute's activities. As before, the Peace Institute will work within the intersection between minority rights, autonomy issues, and demilitarisation and neutralisation.*

In light of the ongoing development, some thematic areas have been identified in the research programme. They are as follows:

- Peace promotion and conflict resolution, such as the use and relevance of the Åland example and paradiplomacy;
- Autonomy, multilevel governance and internationalisation;
- Militarisation, demilitarisation, rearmament, and disarmament as phenomena in modern society, not least from a Nordic perspective;
- Comparative studies of island communities;
- Participation, democracy, and sustainable development from a peace perspective

Research discussions is a form of seminar that contributes to the research at the Peace Institute. Moreover, the research activities are also supported and supplemented by the Peace Institute's other areas of activity, particularly the dissemination of knowledge through education, seminar, and information initiatives. The Peace Institute's e-journal *Journal of Autonomy and Security (JASS)* thereby plays an important role. In order to institutionalise research at

the Peace Institute, it has also been considered important that research is included in the fixed tasks for certain staff at the Peace Institute.

The Research Council has met twice in 2018 and discussed the ongoing research and ideas for the future. In 2018, it was noted that the e-journal *JASS* has become a major asset for the Peace Institute through the publication of several excellent articles within the Peace Institute's main areas.

Likewise, the institutionalisation of research within the Peace Institute has been expanded through the survey of trust on Åland, which was conducted in co-operation with ÅSUB, as well as a report on the experiences of the Contact Group between the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Åland Government. The 2018 autumn symposium provided an opportunity to present and discuss the conclusions of the three-year research project on demilitarisation that was completed in 2018.

*Gunilla Herolf, Chair of the Research Council*



*The European Society of International Law (ESIL), held its annual meeting on 13th to 15th September in Manchester in Britain, at the University's International Law Centre (MILC). The theme was international law and universality, that is, an assumption, requirement, or expectation of the international or global relevance and validity of international law. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in the discussions together with over 450 international lawyers and philosophers of law from all over the world. Photo: Alexandra Xanthaki, Professor of Law at Brunel University in London.*



*Director of the Development and Communication Institute in Chandigarh in India, Professor Pramod Kumar, visited the Peace Institute together with Research Council Member Kjell-Åke Nordquist on 20th September 2018. Professor Kumar's work focuses on the three cohesive thematic areas of development, violence, and governance. During his visit, he discussed such issues with the Peace Institute's Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark*

# Meetings with Researchers, Diplomats and Students

*The Peace Institute hosts diplomats, journalists, researchers, and officials from different parts of the world, who want to know more about the Åland example, and the Institute's research and activities. The staff also participate in various seminars and conferences outside of Åland. Here are some examples from 2018.*



*Students from Quebec.*



*Researchers from Japan.*

- 9.5 A workshop on autonomy and minority issues was held for twenty-two students and two teachers from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM) in Canada
- 24-25.5 Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark held a presentation at the RECAST seminar “Controversies in the Scholarly and Public Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe” at the University of Malta. RECAST is a research network entitled “Reappraising Intellectual Debates on Civic Rights and Democracy in Europe”, funded through the EU’s Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) program.
- 26.5 Sia participated in a diversity seminar in Riga, Latvia, where she spoke about minority protection in Europe.
- 20.6 Maria Ackrén from the University of Greenland and four researchers from the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi visited the Peace Institute
- 24.8 A group of young people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia came on a study visit together with a youth coach at the Archipelago youth interest organisation SKUNK (Skärgårdsungdomarnas Intresseorganisation), Joanna Rengel, and two volunteers. The youth are members of the organisation Youthfully Yours SR, which works for active citizenship, social inclusion, and intercultural dialogue.
- 6.9. Susann Simolin gave a lecture on “The Many Borders of the Åland Example” at the Border Regional Forum organised on 5-6.9 in Mariehamn. The forum is held annually and is a venue for the twelve border committees in the Nordic region.
- 20.9 The Åland Academy visited the Institute. The Academy consists of officials at ministries in Finland, who are invited to Åland by the Åland Government. This year, the invited officials were working with EU issues.
- 27.9 Ambassador of France to Finland, Serge Tomasi, visited the Peace Institute with Honorary Consul Elisabeth Nauclér and Deputy Director of the Åland Parliament, Carina Strand. Senior Adviser Roger Jansson was the host.
- 5.11 Finnish Foreign Minister, Timo Soini, visited the Peace Institute during his visit to Åland
- 6.11. Officials from the Finnish Prime Minister’s Office and the Åland Government attended a meeting at the Peace Institute as part of the preparations for the Presidency programme during Finland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- 7-8.11 Professor Tsukimura from Doshisha University in Japan, and Associate Professor Fujio Ohnishi from the Hokkaido University Arctic Research Centre in Japan came to visit Åland and the Peace Institute. Fujio Ohnishi has been in contact with the Institute and studied the Åland example for many years. During the visit, the guests and the hosts presented current research on Okinawa, Arctic safety, demilitarisation, and the Åland example, among other things.
- 4.12 Sia spoke at a conference about minorities and minority legislation organised in Stockholm by the Government Offices of Sweden. She gave a lecture entitled “International commitments on the rights of national minorities - part of the protection of human rights”.

# Book and Symposium on Collective Security and Demilitarisation

*The three-year research project “Demilitarisation in an Increasingly Militarised World” was completed and the project’s results were presented in a publication, a scientific symposium, and in an open seminar.*

The book “Demilitarisation and International Law in Context - The Åland Islands” written by the Project Researcher, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Saila Heinikoski, and Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen were published by the Routledge publishing company in 2018. An international scientific symposium and an open seminar in Swedish were held on 4th and 5th October 2018 in Mariehamn after the completion of the project. The symposium was entitled “Collective Security, a Rules-based International Order and the Åland Islands”, and was opened by the Permanent State Secretary at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Matti Anttonen. The project and the symposium were made possible thanks to support from the Kone Foundation, the Åland Cultural Foundation, and the Otto A. Malms Donation Fund.

At the symposium, the research project’s Scientific Advisers, Researchers, and Experts expressed interest in issues of collective security and Åland’s status. In addition to the project’s researchers, the speakers included Professors Geir Ulfstein, Tuomas Forsberg, and Lauri Hannikainen.

*Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark,  
Director and Head of the Research Project*



*Saila Heinikoski speaking about European defence and security co-operation, and Åland’s demilitarisation.*



*Panel discussion with Saila Heinikoski, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Gunilla Herolf, Pirjo Kleemola-Juntunen, and Timo Koivurova.*





Photos: Kim Lindström. Photo of box with flowers: Lauren Stevens

# Autonomy and Security Themes in E-journal JASS

*Two issues of the Peace Institute's open, electronic, and peer-reviewed journal, the Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies (JASS), were published in 2018.*

The overarching themes of the journal are peace and security, themes that are contemplated from the perspectives of autonomy, demilitarisation, and minorities. The journal welcomes scientific contributions in accordance with the instructions on the journal's home page, [www.jass.ax](http://www.jass.ax).

Professor Kjell-Åke Nordquist is the Editor-in-chief of the journal. The Editorial Board of the journal consists of members of the Research Council, i.e. Gunilla Herolf, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, and Mikael Wigell. As of the turn of the year 2018-2019, it is the Research Coordinator, Petra Granholm, who serves as the Assistant Editor-in-chief of the journal.

The first issue of JASS in 2018 included two peer-reviewed articles concerning the autonomy legislation on Åland. The issue's articles were

addressed at a research discussion on 20th October 2018 that was organised by the Peace Institute. Rhodri Williams presented his article about the origins and developments of the land acquisition regulation on Åland. Susann Simolin talked about her analysis of how the Åland Islands and Finland reacted to the revision of the Åland Autonomy Act from 2010 to 2017.

The Director of the Peace Institute, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, had special editorial responsibility for the issue with the theme security of that was published in autumn 2018. The theme related to the symposium that was held on 4th and 5th October 2018 in connection with the completion of the demilitarisation project. This issue of JASS included a record number of six articles about different aspects and case studies about the concept of 'security'.

# E-course on Territorial Autonomy and Åland

*The English language e-course on territorial autonomy and diversity was organised again in autumn 2018.*

In 2018, thirteen participants from eleven different countries enrolled on the course "Territorial Autonomy as a Tool for Diversity Management: Lessons from the Åland Example". The course was again delivered in co-operation with the Åland Open University.

The objective of the course is to provide students with a broad foundation of knowledge for discussing territorial autonomy from different perspectives with origins in the Åland example and its components. The course aims

to increase knowledge of and interest in territorial solutions and the Åland example, and to convey the research results of the Peace Institute and others. The course includes written and audiovisual sources, recorded lectures, and online discussions. Participants who complete all elements receive five ECTS academic credits.

The Peace Institute's evaluations indicate that there is also a need in the future for corresponding courses at a more basic level as well as in the Swedish language.

# Kastelholm Talks about Media, Power, and Courage in the Public Discourse

*“Media, power, and courage – on credibility and trust in the public discourse” was the theme for the 2018 Kastelholm talks on peace of this year that took place on 22nd March.*



*The speakers of the 2018 Kastelholm talks. From left to right: Britt Lundberg, Merete Mazzarella, Anders Mellbourn, former President Tarja Halonen, and Olof Ehrenkrona.*

The theme for 2018 Kastelholm talks concentrated on two central changes that have recently occurred as bases for the public discussion. The first concerns the remarkable leaks of classified information that have taken place, and the other concerns the denial of the importance of truth, relevance, and credibility, that now often occur in public discussion. The effects on our societies that are based on trust on the media have been remarkable and there is an increasing concern on what consequences fake information can have on the results of elections as well as on individual people's possibilities to obtain credible information.

The Kastelholm talks opened with a panel discussion in the Kastelholm Castle where the patron of the talks, former President Tarja Halonen, discussed with a panel comprised of author, essayist, journalist, and professor of Literature Science, Merete

Mazzarella; Ambassador and the Consul General of Sweden on Åland, Olof Ehrenkrona; political scientist, journalist, Professor, former Editor-in-chief of the newspaper Dagens Nyheter as well as former Director of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Anders Mellbourn; and President of the Nordic Council in 2017, Member of the Åland Parliament, former Speaker of the Åland Parliament, as well as former Minister and Deputy Head of the Åland Government, Britt Lundberg. The discussion was moderated by Professor Kjell-Åke Nordquist.

After a coffee break, the discussion continued with a round table discussion in the nearby restaurant Smakbyn. The discussion began with three new speakers, Chairperson of the LGBT+ organisation 'Regnbågsfyren' and person responsible for sustainability at Emmaus Åland, Martha

Hannus; former Speaker of the Åland Parliament, former Chairperson of the Peace Institute and current Honorary Chairperson, Barbro Sundback; and Editor-in-chief of the journal Ny Tid, Janne Wass. The Director of the Peace Institute, Associate Professor Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, moderated the discussion. The audience also participated in the discussion, and therefore the theme was considered from many different perspectives.

Summaries in Swedish of the discussions during the 2018 Kastelholm talks can be found on the Peace Institute's home page [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax). The Kastelholm talks were livestreamed in co-operation with the Nordic Institute on Åland (NIPÅ), and can still be watched afterwards. The link is available at [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).

*Susann Simolin, Project Manager  
of the Kastelholm talks*

# Seminar and Report about the Contact Group Celebrating its Anniversary

*The Contact Group between the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Åland Government turned twenty years old, and celebrated with a seminar and a report about the work of the group.*

The Contact Group between the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Åland Government was founded in 1998, and thus celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2018.

The purpose of the Contact Group is to “develop and increase the use of the Åland example in international contexts, as well as other ways to further enhance information about and contacts with Åland”.

The Group celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Helsinki on 14th December, where two of its founders,

former President Tarja Halonen; and former Member of the Parliament of Finland and the Åland Parliament, Roger Jansson, held speeches at a seminar held for an invited audience. A report about the first twenty years of the group was also presented in celebration of the anniversary. The Peace Institute was commissioned by the Contact Group to write the report, which was presented by its author, Susann Simolin.

The report, which is mainly based on protocols and interviews, shows

that the group has maintained its aims and goals since its start, but the agenda has expanded, and its focus has changed over the years. When the group started its work, its focus was on international contacts, and on crisis and conflict management. In recent years, the function of the group as an interface between Åland and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and a forum for discussing ongoing work on agreements has become increasingly important.



*The seminar was moderated by the Chairperson of the Contact Group, Kaija Suvanto. The speakers were former President Tarja Halonen; and former Member of the Åland Parliament, Roger Jansson; as well as the author of the report, Susann Simolin.*



## Books in Boxes to Borrow

Of course, it's well-known to everyone who lives on Åland knows that it's an autonomous, demilitarised, neutralised, and Swedish-speaking territory in Finland, but many others aren't so familiar with the Åland's exciting history and status.

In order to disseminate information about Åland, autonomy, minority issues, demilitarisation, and neutralisation, the Peace Institute has collected books that the Institute has published itself or in co-operation with others, and put them in twenty book boxes.

The book boxes were put in different locations on Åland where there are lots of people so that those who are interested can borrow, browse, and read a book, and then put it back for the next reader.

Examples of books in the boxes are “Islands of Peace – Åland's Autonomy, Demilitarisation and Neutralisation”, and “Outpost, Land in Between, Bridge”. The boxes contain books and information in Swedish, English, Finnish, and Russian.

# Study and Seminar on Trust on Åland



*Maria Bäck, Laura Hartman Lars Trägårdh, Petra Granholm and Sanna Roos in a panel discussion moderated by The the Director of ÅSUB, Katarina Fellman.*

*The Åland Islands Peace Institute has conducted a study in co-operation with ÅSUB that provides an overview of the current research about trust, and measures trust in its various forms on Åland.*

Through the Research Coordinator, Petra Granholm, the Åland Islands Peace Institute contributed to the first study about trust on Åland which was implemented by Researcher from ÅSUB, Sanna Roos, according to a commission from the Åland Government. The survey material was collected in spring 2018, and a total of 681 respondents aged 16 and above took part in the research.

The survey included questions about different forms of trust, security, and confidence, as well as about politics, society, and democracy. The media consumption and the current societal issues of Ålanders were also surveyed because they may be related to trust. In order to measure trust, the respondents as-

sessed whether or not most people can generally be trusted. The results show that 63 percent of Ålanders have a high level of interpersonal trust, which is a relatively high percentage, and on approximately the same level as the other Nordic countries as a whole.

Confidence in society's institutes and groups (the vertical level of trust) has a significant connection to interpersonal trust (the horizontal level of trust). Most trust was reported in the police and healthcare (78 percent and 71 percent respectively of the respondents reported fairly or high very high confidence).

These results were presented during the launch of the trust study during the trust seminar on 12th

November 2018. During the full seminar in the Alandica Culture and Congress Centre, Professor of History and Civil Society Studies, Lars Trägårdh; as well as Associate Professor in National Economics and Chairperson of the Swedish Delegation for Trust-Based Public Management, Laura Hartman, also talked about the role of trust in the society and about how we can strengthen and make use of trust as a resource for Åland. From the Finnish-Swedish side, PhD and Researcher at the Social Science Research Institute at Åbo Akademi University, Maria Bäck, talked about trust and social capital.

*Petra Granholm,  
Research Coordinator*

# Lunch Seminars with Presidential Candidates and Researchers

*The Peace Institute has arranged open seminars since 2016, at which researchers, experts, and politicians give lectures about current topics over lunch. 2018 was special because the presidential election campaign took place, and two candidates came to Åland and held a lecture each. Additionally, two lunch seminars were held in the usual format, at which researchers talked about islands and identity, and about the Baltic Sea and environmental management respectively.*

Firstly, presidential candidate, Green Party Member of the Parliament of Finland, and former Minister, Pekka Haavisto, gave a lecture on 15th January entitled Finland, peace, and the future. Due to the significant interest expressed beforehand, the Peace Institute changed from the usual location to a bigger one. Approximately 120 people participated. Haavisto discussed with the moderator, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, about how Finland can act and navigate in order to promote peaceful development both in the world and domestically today in the present and in the future.

On 26th January, it was time for Member of the Swedish People's Party of Finland and the European Parliament since 2012, Nils Torvalds. The discussion was entitled EU – the Nordic countries – NATO. Finland's security policy decisions. The title was chosen since Torvalds had caused some debate being the only Presidential candidate taking a clear stance in favour of NATO membership.

Torvalds discussed with the moderator, Kjell-Åke Nordquist.

How do islanders perceive their identity and their history in relation to the nation state and to the world outside? This has been studied by historian Janne Holmén through his research on the one hand about islands, identity, and historiography, and on the other about historical consciousness and mental maps. On 10th April, the lunch seminar "islands, identities, and mental maps" was held, where he told approximately fifty listeners how regional historiography has contributed to the establishment of regional identities on the islands Åland, Gotland, Dagö, Ösel, and Bornholm. His research has shown, among other things, that whilst regional historiography aims at integrating the island in the nation state in most cases, it was used on Åland during the twentieth century to depict its inhabitants as a separate nation.

On Tuesday 11th December, Specialist in Maritime Law and the Law

of the Sea, Professor Henrik Ringbom, gave a lecture entitled "Who will save the Baltic Sea? The role of law in environmental governance". The Baltic Sea is affected by up to six different levels of legislation at the same time, and is thus probably the world's most regulated and managed sea area. A high number of actors, among them the EU, the countries around the Baltic Sea, cross-border bodies and organisations, as well as the autonomous Åland, affect and are affected by both the state of the Baltic Sea and the various layers of regulations. It is a complex challenge to take measures to, for example, improve the sea environment. At the seminar, Ringbom presented research that has been conducted within the framework of the BALEX network, which is an international legal competence centre oriented towards legal research and education on Baltic Sea issues. Approximately seventy people participated.

*Susann Simolin, Head of Information*

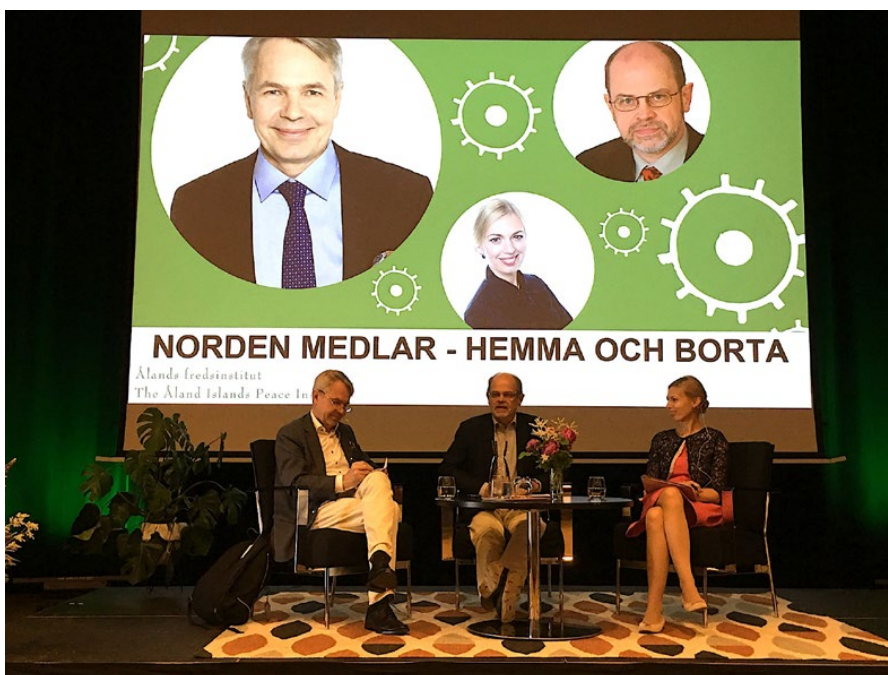


# The Nordic Countries Mediating

*Pekka Haavisto and Justina Donielaite talked about mediation at the international and national levels with the moderator, Kjell-Åke Nordquist, during the first edition of the Alandica Debatt event.*

The first edition of the Alandica Debatt event was organised from 13th to 16th June 2018 with the theme “The Nordic countries in change”. The Peace Institute took the opportunity to organise a discussion about mediation at different levels entitled “The Nordic countries mediate: at home and abroad”. The discussion was conducted between Member of the Parliament of Finland with extensive mediation experience in international conflicts, Pekka Haavisto; and Head of the Åland Mediation Office, Justina Donielaite. The moderator was Professor Kjell-Åke Nordquist, who has contributed in mediation in East Timor, the Middle East, Burma/Myanmar, and Columbia, among others.

Whilst mediation in international or intrastate conflicts is often a process that goes on for a very long time, local mediation is a more time-limited process. The similarity between the two is that both are trust-based processes. The discussion also touched on specifically Nordic mediation: “The organisation of the Nordic countries reflects a way to manage conflicts that is based on trust and can also often be found in mediation activities”, Kjell-Åke Nordquist stated. Pekka Haavisto agreed: “The peace cannot be maintained if insti-



tutions don't function. As a mediator, coming from Finland can be both an advantage or a disadvantage. On the one hand, you have a society with functioning institutions, whilst at the same time you can point to the situation one hundred years ago. On the other hand, precisely this Finnish strength can be met with frustration from, for example, the youth in different African countries who follow

global events and see the shortcomings in their own societies”.

Justina Donielaite stated: “As the saying goes, conflicts are a very valuable property. The democratic tradition in the Nordic countries is important - people are used to being able to influence decisions that concern themselves”.

*Petra Granholm,  
Research Coordinator*



## Seminar About the EU and Future Security Policy

On 8th May in Mariehamn, the Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, moderated a seminar about the EU, Åland, and the future security policy model. The seminar was organised by Europe Information and the Contact Group between the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Åland Government. The panel consisted of Members of European Parliament, Nils Torvalds and Christofer Fjellner; Member of the Parliament of Finland, Mats Löfström; and the Director General for Legal Affairs at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Päivi Kaukoranta.

# Festivities on Åland's Autonomy Day



On 9th June, Åland's Autonomy Day, the Åland Islands Peace Institute offered treats, recreation, and information at Mariehamn town square alongside the parade and the speeches that the Åland Parliament traditionally organises.

The Peace Institute served over six hundred slices of Åland's pancake (Ålandspannkaka) with cream and plum jam, as well as coffee and apple juice for the celebrants of Autonomy Day. The folk music group "Kvinnfolk" entertained with violin music on the stage of the square and the Chairperson of the Peace Institute, Roger Nordlund, held a speech.

In addition, the Peace Institute displayed book boxes and a large part of the Peace Institute's book production. The books were on sale at discount prices. The festivities were organised with the support of the Åland Cultural Delegation.

# Photo Donation to the Peace Institute



The Åland Islands Peace Institute received a donation from the photographer, Ingmar Lundberg, that consists of an exhibition of seven photos that were taken between 1973 and 1980. The exhibition "A small everyday world characterised by peace" can be seen in the mediation room at the Peace Institute. Above is a photocopy of the local newspaper Nya Åland, which includes a photo that was taken during the vernissage held on 23rd October.



# The International Peace Run Came to Åland

About ten runners from different countries came to Åland on 21st and 22nd July as part of the international Peace Run (Sri Chinmoy Oneness - Home Peace Run). They were greeted by the Mayor of Mariehamn, Barbara Heinonen (Mayors for Peace); Board member of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, Katarina Fellman; and the Peace Institute's Head of Information, Susann Simolin. They first met outside the Peace Institute, and continued on to the stage in the Maritime Quarter of Mariehamn during the ongoing Sea Days (Sjödagarerna).

The runners managed to get around Mariehamn, to Bomarsund, then and on to Eckerö during their barely two days on Åland.

The race has been organised for thirty-one years and lasts for eight months in almost every country in Europe. From Åland, the peace relay continued to Sweden.



# The work of the Åland Mediation Office

*Mediation is a statutory service that is free of charge and open to everyone in Finland. In 2018, 37 cases were brought to the Åland Mediation Office.*

Through mediation, the parties in a criminal case or dispute are given the opportunity to own their conflict and find a solution themselves through constructive discussions that are facilitated by the help and support of educated and impartial voluntary mediators.

The responsible authority for mediation in crime and in certain disputes in Finland has been the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) since 2016.

Through an agreement with THL, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has been commissioned to provide mediation services on Åland through the Åland Mediation Office. Mediation can be seen as complementary to a legal process and as a way to the parties to get to talk to each other and to gain an understanding of the origin



and consequences of the case.

The Åland Mediation Office has a part-time Mediation Officer and around ten active voluntary mediators. In 2018, Heidi Öst resigned from her post as Substitute Mediation Officer in 2018. In the spring, Justina Donielaite became the permanent Mediation Officer together with Petra Granholm as a Mediation Secretary responsible for the activity. As of Midsummer, Justina Donielaite was on leave of absence, and Petra Granholm became the Substitute Mediation Officer.

In 2018, the Mediation Office focused on deepening its relations with THL and other mediation offices around Finland, especially those that mediate in Swedish. Mediation is an rising trend throughout Finland. The activity is relatively modest on Åland, but interest is growing. In 2018, the Mediation Office received

thirty-seven initiatives, of which seventeen proceeded to mediation. As previously, most of the initiatives come from the police and the most common criminal offence is ongoing abuse. However, the Mediation Office also receives initiatives from prosecutors and social authorities as well as from private individuals who want to settle disputes. The mediation is fully dependent on the efforts of the voluntary mediators, and therefore a lot of energy is put into further training and immersion in what is called the restorative justice. The restorative justice is a theory of justice that focuses on repairing the damage caused by a crime or a violation. As a starting point, the mediators consider that the parties are specialists in their own conflict who can take responsibility for its solution themselves.

*Petra Granholm,  
Substitute Mediation Officer*

## False News Discussed at the Helsinki Book Fair



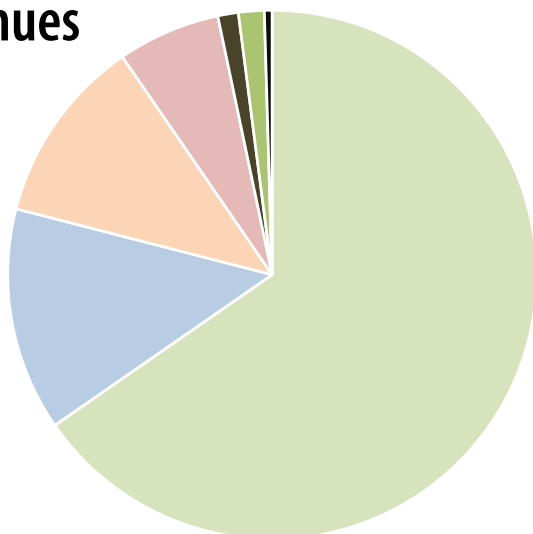
*Head of Information at the Peace Institute and the local Editor for the Fredsposten magazine, Susann Simolin, participated in the 2018 Helsinki Book Fair. On Saturday 27th October, she participated in the panel "Combating fake news - cultural journalism as an opportunity". The Swedish language department of Finland's national public broadcasting company, Svenska Yle, wrote about the panel discussion in an article entitled "How can we have a dialogue if we think of completely different things as facts?".*

*Photo: Christian Lång / Tidskriftscentralen*



# The Institute's Economy 2018

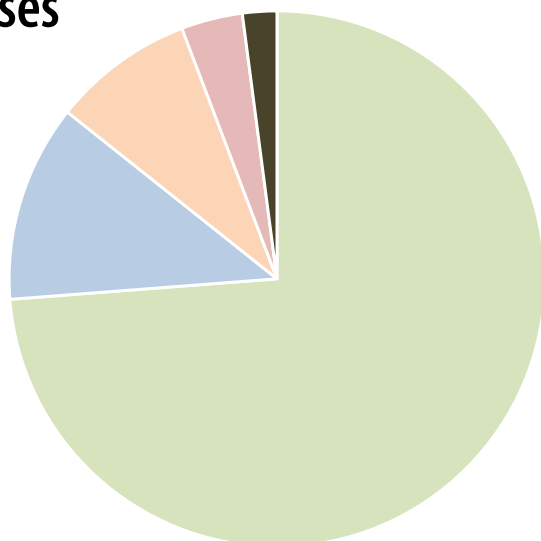
## Revenues



Åland government/PAF	208 000 €	65,4 %
Other incomes*	43 461 €	13,7 %
Institute for Health and Welfare	36 307 €	11,4 %
Ministry for Foreign affairs	20 000 €	6,3 %
Swedish Cultural Foundation	4 000 €	1,3 %
Åland Cultural Delegation	5 000 €	1,6 %
Cultural Foundation Swe-Fi	1 500 €	0,5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>318 268 €</b>	<b>100 %</b>

\* Other incomes include sold services, travel cost reimbursements, donations etc.

## Expenses



Core functions	232 234 €	74 %
Mediation Office	37 514 €	12 %
Kastelholm Talks	26 854 €	9 %
E-course on autonomy	11 655 €	4 %
Autonomy Day	6 523 €	2 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>314 780 €</b>	<b>100 %</b>

The basic funding the Åland Islands Peace Institute receives from the Åland Government provides stability for the Peace Institute's basic functions. It also enables the development of new projects and applications for additional funding for research and different types of projects and initiatives. For many years, the Peace Institute has emphasised the importance of long-term planning and financing in order to ensure the sustainability of staff supply and basic functions. A new multi-annual agreement for the years 2018-2021 has been negotiated between the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the Åland Government. In 2018, the Peace Institute also received significant operational support from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. In 2018, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has also received project support from the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland, and the Åland Cultural Delegation, among others. Some research projects conducted at the Peace Institute are financially managed independently and separately from the Peace Institute in accordance with the instructions from the funders.

In 2018, the revenue from specific projects was €73,107. The costs of specific projects during the year amounted to €82,546. The projects include the 2018 Kastelholm talks, the international e-course on territorial autonomy and the Åland example, and the celebration of Åland's Autonomy Day in June 2018, among other projects. Office and administration revenue amounted to €245,161, and the costs of the office and administration were €232,234.

The total costs for 2018 were thus €314,780. The total revenue was €318,268. Subsequently, the outcome for 2018 was a surplus of €3,488.

The foundation has not paid any fees to Board members. As of July 2018, the internal financial administration has been reinforced by an external accountant who will also assist with the financial statements. The Peace Institute's Finance Council meets approximately once a month to evaluate the Peace Institute's finances. In 2018, the financial system was also changed from the Visma Administration to the web-based Briox.

## Fredsfast AB

The Åland Peace Institute's subsidiary, Fredsfast AB, carried out planned maintenance work during the financial year in accordance with the company's renovation plan. All premises were leased during the financial year.

The Board of Fredsfast AB has been composed of Chairman and CEO of the company, Roger Jansson; Barbro Sundback; and Bror Myllykoski. Erika Sjölund has been the company's auditor. The Annual General Meeting was held at the Åland Islands Peace Institute on 21st May 2018.

# Human Resources of the Institute

In 2018, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark returned to the position of Director after being on research leave. The employment of Acting Director Kjell-Åke Nordquist was thus terminated. He returned to his position as a member of the Research Council and continues as Editor-in-chief of the Peace Institute's e-journal JASS. Organisational Secretary and Mediation Officer, Justina Donielaite, went on parental leave. She is substituted by Mirjam Lukola as Organisational Secretary and Petra Granholm as Mediation Officer. Petra shares her time between the Mediation Office and her position as Research Coordinator. Heidi Öst was a substitute at the Mediation Office at the beginning of 2018, and was then employed for a research project. Head of Information, Susann Simolin, was on part-time leave for research. As before, Jonny Andersen has been responsible for IT issues and finance. An accounting firm has been hired for accounting. As for the hourly employees, real estate manager Bror Myllykoski, librarian John Knight, and cleaner Johanna Eker, the year passed without changes.



*Coffe break for the staff in the meeting room of the Institute.  
From the left: Aune Sanz, John Knight, Jonny Andersen,  
Justina Donielaite, Petra Granholm and Heidi Öst*



## Seven interns at the Åland Islands Peace Institute in 2018

In the spring, the PEace Institute had four interns. Kai Klesmann from Estonia lives in Åland and her internship was part of her studies in Swedish. Kai has studied law and has previously worked in court, as a municipal employee and in the Estonian Air Force.

Valentin Strömberg, who was born in Sweden and grew up in Spain, studies international relations at Linköping University and writes his Master's thesis on Greenland's influence on Arctic issues in the light of

theories of ontological security.

Aune Sanz is studying statistics at the University of Helsinki and takes an interest in data visualization, survey methodology and feminist criminology, which she has studied at the University of Otago, New Zealand.

Regina Österlund was an intern in April and May in accordance with an agreement with AMS, the Åland labour market and study service authority.

During the fall, the Peace Institute had three trainees. Hasan Akintug is

originally from Northern Cyprus. He grew up in Canada and is currently studying for a Master's in European and Nordic Studies at the University of Helsinki. Lauren Stevens from the UK is studying for a Master's Degree in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research at the University of Tampere. Finally, the last intern of the year, Marielle Fellman comes from Åland and holds a Master's degree in Cultural Geography from Örebro University.



## The Peace Fund

The Åland Islands Peace Fund was established by the Åland Islands Peace Institute with the purpose of supporting work for peace. As the peace fund grows the interest accrued can be awarded for purposes decided by the Board. The peace fund can also be used for special purposes, for example, condolences.

Payments can be made to:  
Ålandsbanken 660100-12 09 154  
IBAN: FI22 6601 0001 2091 54  
BIC: AABAFI22  
Nordea 203218 -22 564  
IBAN: FI70 2032 1800 0225 64  
BIC: NDEAFIHH

Donations can also be made through [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).  
Donation cards are available in banks and at undertakers on Åland.

## Newsletters

The Åland Islands Peace Institute sends electronic newsletters to subscribers 4-5 times a year. To subscribe, please register at [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).

## Publications

The "Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute" series, working papers and selected additional publications, can be downloaded in pdf, free of charge at [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax). Articles from the e-journal Journal of Autonomy and Security Studies can be downloaded free of charge at [www.jass.ax](http://www.jass.ax). Other publications can be ordered from [books@peace.ax](mailto:books@peace.ax).

## Visits

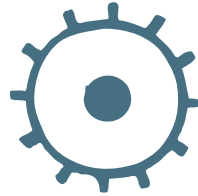
Every year, the Peace Institute meets with groups or individual politicians, officials, NGOs, journalists etc. with an interest in the international relevance of the Åland Example. The core concept for the introductions includes a presentation of the Åland Example, its history, components and lessons learned as well as the role and the agenda of the Peace Institute. These complimentary presentations last for approximately one hour including discussion, and are offered in Swedish or English. Longer or more specialised presentations can also be arranged for an agreed fee.

## Library

The Åland Islands Peace Institute's library holds material on peace and conflict issues, minorities, autonomy, security, gender, human rights, and the Åland Islands and their unique status. The library of the Peace Institute is included within the Åland library database found at [www.bibliotek.ax](http://www.bibliotek.ax), which allows you to search the catalogues. Items can be borrowed at the Peace Institute with a valid Åland library card and returned to any library on Åland.

The Peace Institute's brochure is available in English, Swedish, and Russian.





*Photo: Lauren Stevens*

peace.ax

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