

Foreword

The media and communication research associations of the Nordic countries in cooperation with Nordicom have held conferences every second year since 1973. These Nordic conferences have contributed greatly to the development of media and communication research in the Nordic countries. The 18th conference in the series was held in Helsinki, Finland, 16th-19th August 2007. Host for the conference was the Finnish Association for Mass Communication Research (TOY). About 320 scholars from Denmark (48), Finland (79), Greenland (1), Iceland (4), Norway (79) and Sweden (76) gathered to discuss current research and findings. In addition, some participants came from further afield, from the Baltic States, Austria, France, Germany and Great Britain in Europe, and also from Australia, Canada and the USA.

The conference proceedings included plenary sessions with keynote speakers and thematic seminars in 23 different working groups. In addition participants enjoyed a number of social gatherings and cultural events. The theme of the plenary sessions this year was *Generations, Communication and Media Philosophy*. This special issue of *Nordicom Review* contains all the lectures held in plenary sessions.

As usual, the main business of the conference took place in the working group sessions. About 230 research papers were presented in 23 working groups. A number of the papers presented at the conference have been revised and edited to become articles that were then submitted for review for publication in English. Together, the articles presented in this issue of *Nordicom Review* give the reader some idea of the breadth and depth of Nordic scholarship in the area.

Responsibility for arranging the conferences is divided into two parts. More comprehensive questions, such as the theme, keynote speakers, working groups and fees are the responsibility of a Nordic Planning Committee, whose members are appointed by the national media and communication research associations and Nordicom. Members of the Committee that planned the conference in Helsinki were Gunhild Agger, SMID (Denmark); Henrika Zilliacus-Tikkanen, TOY (Finland); Leif-Ove Larsen, NML (Norway); Monica Löfgren Nilsson, FSMK (Sweden); Epp Lauk, University of Tartu (Estonia); and Ulla Carlsson, Nordicom.

A Local Planning Committee was responsible for the arrangements and details of the conference: Irma Kaarina Halonen (Chair), Åbo University; Anu Kantola, Ullamaija Kivikuru, Hannu Nieminen, Esa Väliverronen and Henrika Zilliacus-Tikkanen, University of Helsinki; Anneli Lehtisalo and Risto Kunelius, University of Tampere; Raimo Salokangas, University of Jyväskylä.

Jenny Hokka served as coordinator for the conference as a whole.

The next *Nordic Conference on Media and Communication Research* is to be held in Karlstad, Sweden, 13th-15th August 2009.

Göteborg in October 2008

Ulla Carlsson
Editor

