

# 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 19th conference in the series was held in Karlstad, Sweden, 13th-15th August 2009. Host for the conference was the Association for Swedish Media and Communication Research (FSMK). About 265 scholars from Denmark (37), Finland (43), Iceland (2), Norway (53) and Sweden (114) gathered to discuss current research and findings. In addition, some participants came from further afield, from the Baltic States, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, South Africa and the USA.

The conference proceedings included plenary sessions with keynote speakers and thematic seminars in different working groups. In addition participants enjoyed a number of social gatherings and cultural events. The theme of the plenary sessions this year was *Body, Soul and Society*. 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. More than 175 research papers were presented in 12 working groups:

Environment, Science and Risk Communication; Journalism Studies; Media and Communication History; Media, Culture and Society; Media, Globalization and Social Change; Media Literacy and Media Education; Media Organizations, Policy and Economy; Media, Technology and Aesthetics; Organization, Communication and Society; Political Communication; Theory, Philosophy and Ethics of Communication; and Theme Division: Body Soul and Society.

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 were Lars Holmgaard Christensen, SMID (Denmark); Sinikka Torkola and Juha Koivisto, TOY (Finland); Þorbjörn Broddason (University of Iceland); Kristin Skare Orgeret and Audun Engelstad, NML (Norway); André Jansson, FSMK (Sweden); and Ulla Carlsson, Nordicom.

A Local Planning Committee at Karlstad University was responsible for the arrangements and details of the conference: André Jansson (Chair), Miyase Christensen, Lars Högberg, Helena Persson, Malin Svenningsson Elm and Jakob Svensson (conference general).

The next *Nordic Conference on Media and Communication Research* is to be held in Akureyri, Iceland, 11-13 August 2011.

Göteborg in May 2010

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