

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 20th conference in the series was held in Akureyri, Iceland, 11th-13th August 2011. Host for the conference was the University of Akureyri and University of Iceland. About 240 scholars from Denmark (30), Finland (61), Iceland (18), Norway (58) and Sweden (63) gathered to discuss current research and findings. In addition, some participants came from further afield, from the Baltic States, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Great Britain, Israel, Luxemburg, Switzerland 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 Media and Communication Studies: *Doing the Right Thing?* This special issue of *Nordicom Information* contains the speeches held in plenary sessions.

As usual, the main business of the conference took place in the working group sessions. More than 180 research papers were presented in 11 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; and Theory, Philosophy and Ethics of Communication. All papers are listed in this report.

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); Juha Koivisto, TOY (Finland); Kjartan Ólafsson (Iceland); Audun Engelstad, NML (Norway); Margareta Melin, FSMK (Sweden); and Ulla Carlsson (Nordicom).

Dr. Kjartan Ólafsson, University of Akureyri, acted as Chairmen of the Icelandic Organizing Committee

The next *Nordic Conference on Media and Communication Research* is to be held in Oslo, 8-10 August 2013.

Göteborg in June 2012

Ulla Carlsson
Director
Nordicom

