

# Stockholm +50: The Nordic Model of Ecological Transformation: 1972-2022



## Hosted by the Department of Economic History & International Relations, Stockholm University

On May 16th, 19th and 20th the Department of Economic History and International Relations will host an online conference addressing Nordic nations' engagement with the ecological crisis. We will explore the historical origins of such engagement and the strengths and weaknesses of the "Nordic" ecological model. A key theme in this conference will be the role played by "mobilizations" which refers to systems to organize intellectual, ideological, political, and economic power. The fiftieth anniversary of the first major United Nations Conference on the Environment is a cause for reflection on what has worked and not worked in promoting systemic environmental transformation. Scientists increasingly warn that we have little time left to make a major transformation to help prevent some of the worst impacts of climate change. In contrast to many other memorial events, this workshop will look at the *Nordic* scale of transformation. Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark have been ranked as leaders on Yale's 2020 ecological scorecard with Denmark first, Finland seventh, Sweden eighth and Norway ninth. This status raises several questions which the workshops will address.

The first question concerns the *origins* of the Nordic model. Why have these nations achieved better results than many other countries with far greater resources?

The second question examines key bridging mechanisms between ecological visions and potential results.

The third question why the tensions of fifty years ago, between the Global North and South (and fragmentation defined by gender culture and power), still constrain ecological challenges today?

The fourth issue is how we can advance a Green (New) Deal either nationally or regionally, by linking labor, government and business efforts to reduce the carbon footprint and advance green technologies.

The fifth question explores how we can achieve three urgent goals: speeding up change, creating more comprehensive change and change that covers a greater geographic scope.

Finally, we will examine the impact of the Ukraine War on ecological and energy transformation challenges. The original impetus for the 1972 conference related to the overlap between issues of war and environment, particularly related to problems of nuclear war and ecocide. Learning from this history is essential for understanding the contemporary crises defined by war and ecological decay.

When?	May 16 (Monday), May 19 (Thursday), May 20 (Friday), 2022
Where?	On line via this link: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/28w7txey">tinyurl.com/28w7txey</a> or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/5679486908732706">https://www.facebook.com/groups/5679486908732706</a>
How?	Go to the Facebook page to see the livestream

## **Day I: The Cultural/Historical Origins and the Universities, Unions and Industries as Change Platforms, Monday, May 16, 2022**

### **13:00 Opening Remarks**

[Magnus Petersson](#), Professor of International Relations and Chairperson (*Prefekt*), Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University  
[Jonathan Michael Feldman](#), Associate Professor, Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University

### **13:10-14:50 Cultural and Philosophical Origins of the Nordic Model**

This panel will explore some of the roots of the Nordic environmental discourse in culture, the welfare state, and related factors. These upstream factors may shape the conditions under which a given state engages ecologically or even how that state engages ecologically. We see potential overlaps and linkages between culture and politics as well. Among the themes addressed will be how certain key thinkers and cultural practices helped shape ecological discourse and action. One element that will be discussed is how Nordic environmental discourses have positioned the Sami and the local Sami reception of the Nordic environmentalism.

[Peder Anker](#), Gallatin School of Individualized Study, Environmental Studies, New York University, USA, Presenter and Moderator

[Boel Hackman](#), Chairperson (*Prefekt*), Department of Culture and Aesthetics, Stockholm University, Sweden

[David Larsson Heidenblad](#), Associate Professor of History, Deputy Director of the Center for the History of Knowledge (LUCK), Lund University, Sweden and Professor II at the Center for the Study of Professions (SPS), Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.

[Jukka Nyysönen](#), Researcher, High North Department, Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, NIKU, Tromsø, Norway

[Randi Birgitte Frøberg Skjerstad](#), University of Oslo, Norway

### **15:05 The Role of the University: Material and Discursive Mobilizations**

The university can be a key institutional actor in ecological mobilizations given its relationship to alternative energy, transportation, and food provision as well as the way in which it organizes a relationship to society through practical pedagogy and framing the ecological discourse.

[Jonathan Michael Feldman](#), Stockholm University, Sweden, Presenter and Moderator

[Simon Hallberg](#), Doctoral Student, Uppsala University, Sweden

[Laila Mendy](#), Doctoral Student, Department of Earth Sciences, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, Uppsala University, Sweden

### **16:00-17:30 Green Mobilizations in Unions, Industries and Regions**

The Nordic Governments' mobilization for industrial decarbonization takes place amidst an historically conflicted period in world history, with economies still recovering from the COVID pandemic, restrictions, and war, in addition to growing tensions within democracies themselves. This session sets out to discuss the mobilization and transformation in specific regions, where carbon-intensive industries are situated. One focus is on trade unions, centrally and locally, and how these mobilize to transform their industries and societies in ways that also protect union members. We will also address the discursive frameworks which shape how green mobilizations take place and that may place constraints on unions, industries and regions to advance comprehensive ecological change.

[Johan Gärdebo](#), Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of History of Science and Ideas, Uppsala University, Sweden, Moderator and Respondent

[Linda Clarke](#), Professor of European Industrial Relations, Westminster Business School, University of Westminster, United Kingdom

[Johan Hall](#), The Swedish Trade Union Confederation, LO, Sweden

[Michael Søggaard Jørgensen](#), Associate Professor, Department of Planning, Aalborg University, Denmark, Respondent

[Evelina Jonsson](#), Researcher, Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University, Sweden, Respondent

## **Day II: Power and Post-Colonial/Intersectional Approaches to the Ecological Crisis, Thursday, May 19, 2022**

### **Power and Post-Colonial/Intersectional Approaches to the Ecological Crisis**

These two panels will address the various ways in which one's region, ethnicity, gender, class, or power position can influence ecological effects as well as the ability to challenge the forces which promote climate change and negative ecological outcomes. Some groups may have more or less power to promote ecological change. Various groups may gain resources from their social position to promote ecological solutions. These include cultural, economic or other resources which can provide a basis for empowerment vis-à-vis the ecological crisis.

### **13:30-15:00 The Nordic Region**

[Ulrika Gunnarsson Östling](#), Associate Professor and Head of Division, School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Sustainable Development, Environmental Science and Engineering, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, Moderator and Presenter

[Dorothee Cambou](#), Assistant Professor of Sustainability Science, Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science, University of Helsinki, Finland

[Susanne Normann](#), Researcher, Nordland Research Institute, Norway

[Daniel Berg](#), Researcher, Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University, Sweden

### **15:15 Discussing the Global South**

[Suanne Mistel Segovia-Tzompa](#), Doctoral Student, Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University, Sweden, Moderator and Presenter

[Marcela Torres Wong](#), Researcher, FLACSO, México

## **Day III: Systemic Mobilizations: How to Achieve the Scale, Scope and Speed for Change & Impacts of War, Friday, May 20, 2022**

### **10:00-11:15 Key Note Lecture: How Mobilizations can help us reach our Climate Change Goals**

Laurence L. Delina, Institute for Emerging Market Studies, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, is one of the world's leading thinkers on ecological mobilizations and comprehensive ecological change. He is author of *Strategies for Rapid Climate Mitigation* (2016), *Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transitions* (2017), *Climate Actions* (2018), and *Emancipatory Climate Actions* (2019).

[Jonathan Michael Feldman](#), Stockholm University, Sweden, Moderator  
[Laurence L. Delina](#), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

### **11:30-12:45 From Nordic Environmental Cooperation towards a Nordic Green New Deal**

This panel begins by discussing the history of Nordic cooperation and then explores the designs and strategies necessary for promoting a Green New Deal both at the national, Nordic, European and global levels.

[Jamil Khan](#), Associate Professor, Environmental and Energy Systems Studies, Lund University, Sweden, Moderator and Participant

[Melina Antonia Buns](#), Postdoctoral Researcher, The University of Stavanger, Norway, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

[Lars H. Gulbrandsen](#), Deputy Director, Research Director, Climate and Energy, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway

[Paavo Järvensivu](#), Bios, Finland and affiliated with [Center for Humanities](#), CUNY, USA

[Helene Dyrhaug](#), Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University, Denmark

[Laurence L. Delina](#), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, Respondent

### **13:30 The Relationship between War, Energy and the Environment: What's happening and how should Europe, the Nordic Model and Environmentalists Respond to the New European Security Crisis?**

This panel discusses the potential impacts of the security crisis on efforts to address ecological sustainability with implications for the Nordic model of ecological transformation and the environmental movement more generally. We examine various aspects of ecological security and potential means to address both ecological and security goals, e.g. delinking from oil use, converting from green or defense to civilian industries, reorienting financial and securities investments from military to ecological purposes. We will look at the implications of the war for developing countries and the Global South and how Europe's pivot away from Russian gas and petroleum affects Europe as well as emerging economies in Latin America and Asia.

[Jonathan Michael Feldman](#), Associate Professor, Department of Economic History and International Relations, Stockholm University, Sweden, Moderator

[Sasja Beslik](#), [Sustainable Finance](#), Sweden

[Caroline Kuzemko](#), Associate Professor in International Political Economy, University Warwick, United Kingdom

[Mathieu Blondeel](#), Strategy and International Business Group, University Warwick, United Kingdom

**15:30 Ends**

**Conference Contact point:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5679486908732706>