

Track no 1: The Governance of Modern Universities

Convenors

Lars Engwall, Uppsala University, Sweden (chair)

Antti Ainamo, Aalto University, Finland

Kerstin Sahlin, Uppsala University, Sweden

The Governance of Modern Universities

Since the beginning of the last century the field of business administration has been very successful in academia. A large number of business schools and departments of business administration have been created and a growing number of students have acquired business administration ways of thinking. As these students have gone into the labour market, more and more organizations have adopted modern management ideas for their governance. This is today also true for universities and university colleges, which are increasingly governed by principles developed for large enterprises. As a result Vice-Chancellors are today often looked upon as CEOs and the earlier strong principle of collegial decision-making has been reduced. In addition, funding is gradually more driven by market principles: block grants have been reduced to the benefit of project grants; researchers are judged more and more by their publications in prestigious journals; institutions are ranked with respect to various quantitative targets; etc.

Against the above background the track invites contributions that deal with the changing character of university governance in general and in the Nordic countries in particular. Papers dealing with recent changes – such as new principles for appointment of key actors, mergers between academic institutions, the effects of rankings and evaluations, etc. – are particularly welcomed.