Fil. Dr. Nils **Jakob** Albert Westergren
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Swedish citizen
Born 1994 in Kristianstad, Sweden

28th of October 2026

CURRENT POSITIONS/AFFILIATIONS

Postdoc in Cultural Policy, Department of Communication, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Start date: September 1st, 2025
Advisor: Nanna Kann-Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen
Funder: VELUX Fonden

Affiliated researcher, Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden

Start date: September 9th, 2025
Contact: Stefan Arora-Jonsson

EDUCATION

Degrees

Ph.D. in Business Studies (Organization Theory) from the Department of Business Studies at Uppsala University, Sweden

Start date: September 1st, 2019
Advisors: Stefan Arora-Jonsson, 1st, Uppsala University
Maria Blomgren, 2nd, Uppsala University
Henrik Dellestrand, 2nd, Uppsala University

Final seminar
Date: December 18th, 2024
Opponent: Justine Grønbæk Pors, Copenhagen Business School

Public defense
Thesis title: But now tell me how this drink is made: Four essays on the enactment of school competition
Date: May 26th, 2025
Opponent: Rick Delbridge, Cardiff University
Committee: Torkild Thanem, Stockholm University
Ylva Bergström, Uppsala University
Anna-Carin Nordvall, Uppsala University
Staffan Furusten (reserve), Stockholm University

M.Sc. in Business and Management: International Business, Uppsala University, 2019
B.Sc. in Business Administration, Kristianstad University college, 2017
International Baccalaureate Diploma, Söderportgymnasiet, 2013

Mobility and international experience

Year	*School*	*Where*	*Reason for visit*
Sep. 2025-Apr. 2027	University of Copenhagen	Copenhagen, Denmark	Postdoc fellowship
Sep. 2024-Feb. 2025	Aalto University	Espoo, Finland	Visiting doctoral student, invited by Professor Nina Granqvist
Jul.-Nov. 2018	University of Melbourne	Melbourne, Australia	Graduate exchange semester

Aug.-Dec. 2016	California Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks, USA	Undergraduate exchange semester

Doctoral coursework included in Ph.D. degree [92 ECTS]

Year	*Course*	*Taught by*	*Taught at*
2024	The higher seminar	Fredrik Tell	Uppsala University
2024	SCANCOR PhD workshop on institutional analysis	Achim Oberg and Walter W. Powell	University of Hamburg
2022	Reflexive and creative methodology	Mats Alvesson	Stockholm School of Economics
2022	Boundaries of IB as a research field, international business strategy and literature on the multinational enterprise	Timothy Devinney	University of Manchester
2021	Developing teaching excellence	Pär Mårtensson	Stockholm School of Economics
2021	Developing theory	Stefan Arora-Jonsson	Uppsala University
2021	Organization outside organizations	Nils Brunsson	Uppsala University
2021	Critical management studies	Roland Paulsen	Lund University
2020	Case studies in business and management research	Rebecca Piekkari and Catherine Welch	Aalto University
2020	The research process	Udo Zander	Stockholm School of Economics
2019	Methods for empirical analysis	Rickard Sandberg	Stockholm School of Economics
2019	Qualitative methods	Linda Wedlin	Uppsala University
2019	Perspectives on science and research	Fredrik Tell	Uppsala University

Other coursework [65 ECTS]

Year	*Course*	*Level*	*Taught at*
2022	Overview of the IB-field	Post-graduate	Aalto University
2020	Seminars and thesis work	Post-graduate	Uppsala University
2018	Good and bad science	Graduate	Uppsala University
2014	Graphic design	Undergraduate	Malmö University
2014	Media production	Undergraduate	Malmö University
2013	Practical rhetoric	Undergraduate	Lund University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic positions

When	*Position*	*Department*	*Institution*
Sep. 2025-Apr. 2027	Postdoc	Department of Communication	University of Copenhagen
Sep. 2025-	Affiliated researcher	Department of Business Studies	Uppsala University
Sep. 2019-May 2025	Ph.D. Student	Department of Business Studies	Uppsala University

University service

When	*Position*	*Institution*
Jun. 2021-Oct. 2024	Safety representative (*Skyddsombud*)	Uppsala University
May 2021-May 2023	SACO Ph.D. representative	Uppsala University

Nov. 2020-Oct. 2022	Ph.D. representative to the board of the Department of Business Studies	Uppsala University
Oct. 2020-Oct. 2021	Chairperson of the Ph.D. association at the Department of Business Studies	Uppsala University
Nov. 2019-Oct. 2020	Ph.D. representative (stand-in) to the board of the Department of Business Studies	Uppsala University
Oct. 2019-Sep. 2020	Representative at the Social Science Ph.D. council	Uppsala University

Other work experience

When	*Position*	*Employer*	*Workplace*
2017-2018	Janitor	Region Skåne	Centralsjukhuset Kristianstad
2016	Cleaner	Region Skåne	Hässleholms Sjukhus
2015-2016	Mailman	StudentConsulting	PostNord Sverige AB, Kristianstad

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

[A4] Blomgren, M., Arora-Jonsson, S., & Westergren, J. (2026). Between equality and competition: The organisational consequences of imagined competition. *Journal of Organizational Sociology*, e-pub ahead of print.

We wrote an op-ed in *Svenska Dagbladet* based on this article. The op-ed was highlighted by the news platform *Omni*. See subheading 'Media appearances' below.

[A3] Edlund, P., & Westergren, J. (2025). Navigating the creation of educational offers: Insights from Swedish upper secondary schools. *International Journal of Educational Management*, *39*(6), pp. 1610-1625.

[A2] Westergren, J., & Schunnesson, J. (2025). Guaranteeing desirable futures: What schools offer to prospective students when in mutual competition. *Journal of Organizational Sociology, 3*(2), pp. 267-299.

[A1] Källström, L., Persson, S., & Westergren, J. (2021). The Role of Place in City Centre Retailing. *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy, 17*(1), pp. 36-49.

This article was referred to in an OECD report. OECD (2026*). Local Retail, Global Trends: How Digital, Green and Skills Shifts in the EU are Reshaping SMEs in Towns and Cities*, OECD Studies on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, OECD publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/55e2edec-en.

Working papers and early-stage ideas

[W6] Kann-Rasmussen, N., Christensen, H. D., Henningsen, A. F., Jessen, T., Thorsen, A. A., & Westergren, J. [title redacted] (submitted to *International Journal of Cultural Policy*)

[W5] Westergren, J., & Kann-Rasmussen, N. [title redacted]. (submitted to *Public Money & Management*)

[W4] Arora-Jonsson, S., Edlund, P., & Westergren, J. The emergence of perceived competition in school markets: A theory of administrative, structural, and cognitive drivers. (mid-stage draft planned for *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*)

[W3] Westergren, J., & Kann-Rasmussen, N. Negotiating distance: Governance relations between state, municipalities and private funders in Danish cultural policy. (early-stage draft planned for *International Journal of Cultural Policy*)

[W2] Westergren, J., & Arora-Jonsson, S. Legitimating contested school actors. (early-stage idea)

[W1] Westergren, J. Commodities that cause trouble: Extreme metal t-shirts. (early-stage idea to be submitted to *Consumption Markets & Culture*)

Book chapters

[C1] Dellestrand, H., Lindahl, O., & Westergren, J. (2021). The Role of Boundary-Spanners in the Post-Digitalized Multinational Corporation. In P. Ekman, P. Dahlin, & C. Keller (Eds.), *Management and Information Technology after Digital Transformation*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Theses

[T3] Westergren, J. (2025). But now tell me how this drink is made: Four essays on the enactment of school competition. Doctoral thesis No. 226. Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University.

[T2] Schunnesson, J., & Westergren, J. (2019). "What is fun for you, is what's important to us!": Image work and positional games in Swedish upper secondary education. Master Thesis. Uppsala University. Supervisor: Stefan Arora-Jonsson.

[T1] Persson, S., & Westergren, J. (2017). Why do we "double tap" the image? A case study on engagement in social media through communicated city center attributes. Bachelor Thesis. Kristianstad University College. Supervisor: Lisa Källström.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations

Year	*Title*	*Event*
2026	Drawing the line: How municipal actors negotiate appropriate societal engagement in cultural institutions	International Conference on Cultural Policy Research at University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada.
2025	Insidious rhetoric or impotent ramble? Disentangling discursive legitimation by an interest group	85th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Copenhagen, Denmark.
2025	Insidious rhetoric or impotent ramble? Disentangling discursive legitimation by an interest group	8th Interdisciplinary Market Studies Workshop at Stockholm School of Economics in Stockholm, Sweden.
2024	The banality of agnotology: The case of an interest group in the Swedish educational system	40th EGOS Colloquium at University of Milano-Bicocca in Milano, Italy.
2023	Guaranteeing the future: Constructing an educational offer on the Swedish school market	Quality in Education Conference at Stockholm School of Economics in Stockholm, Sweden.
2018	The place role for city centre retailing	The 6th Nordic Retail and Wholesale Conference organized by Icelandic Centre for Retail Studies and the Institute of Economic Studies at University of Iceland in Reykjavík, Iceland.

Invited presentations

Year	*Title*	*Where*
Apr. 2026	Setting the frame: How municipal actors frame appropriate societal engagement in cultural institutions.	4th Research Seminar of The Future of Cultural Policy Network, Union, Copenhagen.
Oct. 2025	Skolor i konkurrens – (il)legitima aktörer, utbildningserbjudanden, och konsumenter.	Stockholm University Research Network for School Development, Stockholm University.
Sep. 2025	Enacting competition? Exploring how upper secondary schools struggle to become legitimate competing actors	Center for Educational Leadership and Excellence, Stockholm School of Economics.

Media appearances

Date	*Outlet*	*Title*	*Type*
2026-09-08	Svenska Dagbladet	Valfrihet kräver inte att skolor tävlar om eleverna[1]	Online media contribution
2026-09-03	Omni	Forskare: Skolorna ska inte välja sina elever[2]	Online media coverage
2026-09-03	Svenska Dagbladet	Tävlan om elever skadar skolan – oavsett ägare[3]	Print and online media contribution
2025-10-12	Tankesmedjan Balans	Forskare: Skolkonkurrensen handlar om annat än skolors kvalitet![4]	Online media coverage
2025-10-06	Skolporten	Marknadslogiken påverkar skolan mer än vi trott[5]	Online media coverage

Competitive workshops

Year	*Organizer*	*Event*
2026	EGOS	Pre-Colloquium Post-Doctoral and Early Career Scholars Workshop at University of Bergamo in Bergamo, Italy
2024	SCANCOR	The 20th SCANCOR PhD Workshop on Institutional Analysis at the University of Hamburg in Hamburg, Germany
2024	WU Vienna	The 11th Austrian Early Scholars Workshop in Management in Vienna, Austria
2024	NOOS	NOOS Seminar at Lund University in Lund, Sweden
2023	EGOS	Pre-Colloquium PhD Workshop at University of Cagliari in Cagliari, Italy

Other workshops

Year	*Organizer*	*Event*
2024	Qual+	Qualitative Data Analysis in the AI Era: Key Considerations for IB Researchers at Aalto University in Espoo, Finland
2024	Qual+	Academy of Management Review Workshop: Developing and Publishing Theory Papers at Aalto University in Espoo, Finland
2023	FEKIS	FEKIS PhD Day at Stockholm School of Economics in Stockholm, Sweden
2023	SSE Art Initiative	Ontology, Action and Worldmaking Art in Gattières, France

Conference participation without presentation

Year	*Organizer*	*Event*
2026	Kommunernes Landsforening	KLs Kultur- og Fritidskonference in Kolding, Denmark
2026	Dansk Kulturliv	Kulturlivets Topmøde at Vejle Musikteater in Vejle, Denmark
2026	Applaus and Dansk Kulturliv	Verdens bedste kulturpolitik? at Christiansborg in Copenhagen, Denmark
2024	EIBA	50th Conference of the European International Business Academy at Aalto University in Espoo, Finland.

[1] https://www.svd.se/a/xrdvPj/skolan-valfrihet-kraver-inte-att-skolor-tavlar-om-eleverna-skriver-forskare
[2] https://omni.se/forskare-skolorna-ska-inte-valja-sina-elever/a/oEBryg
[3] https://www.svd.se/a/K81rbo/tavlan-om-eleverna-skadar-skolan-oavsett-vem-som-ager-den-skriver-professorer
[4] https://tankesmedjanbalans.se/forskare-skolkonkurrensen-handlar-om-annat-an-skolors-kvalitet/
[5] https://www.skolporten.se/forskning/intervju/marknadslogiken-paverkar-skolan-mer-an-vi-trott/

PEDAGOGIC PROFILE

Pedagogic education

Year	*Course*	*Taught by*	*Taught at*
2021	Developing Teaching Excellence	Pär Mårtensson	Stockholm School of Economics

Teaching responsibilities (everything at Uppsala University), 1168 hours

Year	*Hours*	*Course*	*Responsibilities*
2024	24	Advanced Organization Theory, M.Sc.	I taught two lectures and organized two seminars. I also provided feedback on the assignments submitted after the seminars.
2024	48	Consulting, Communication, and Change, M.Sc.	I primarily assisted the head teacher with administrative tasks.
2023	128	International HRM, M.Sc.	I taught two lectures and organized four literature seminars. I also graded the final exam. Together with the head teacher I organized the final course paper seminar and graded the course papers.
2020-2023	195	Corporate Strategy, M.Sc.	I graded and provided feedback on all six case assignments.
2022	10	Business Strategy and Legal Context, M.Sc.	I organized one seminar together with one head teacher.
2021, 2023-2024	318	Business and Organizing in Change, B.Sc.	In 2023 and 2024, I organized and graded two seminars and taught one lecture. Together with the head teacher I constructed the exam questions and graded the final exam (organization). In 2021, I constructed exam questions and graded the final exam (international business).
2022, 2024	314	Introduction to Business and Organizing, B.Sc.	I organized three seminars and provided supervision for the different course papers. I also graded course papers and constructed multiple choice exam questions. In 2024, I organized two seminars and I graded the final course paper.
2021, 2023	131	Markets and Organizations, B.Sc.	In 2021 and 2023 I helped construct the final exam questions, and I also graded the exam (marketing). In 2023, I also provided supervision and feedback on course papers.

Seminar activities

Year	*Role*	*Seminar*
Jun. 2025	Discussant	Higher seminar. Anika Wiese, PhD student of organization studies. Alternative organizing and the construction of social order(s).
May 2023	Discussant	Higher seminar. Anika Wiese, PhD student of organization studies. A space in-between: Exploring alternative organizing in the performing arts.
Oct. 2022	Discussant	Higher seminar. Johan Fröberg, PhD student of marketing. Collective inaction in strategic networks.
May 2022	Convenor	Higher seminar. Monika Müller, Lund University. Night(work) and Organizations.
Dec. 2021	Convenor	Higher seminar. Peter Svensson, Lund University. Wonderless research: Why business administration is uninteresting.

Dec. 2021	Discussant	Higher seminar. Nils Brunsson and Stefan Arora-Jonsson, SCORE and Uppsala University. Competition: What it is and why it happens.

Reviewing activities

Year	*Role*	*Outlet*
2025	Reviewer	Journal of Organizational Sociology
2025	Reviewer	85th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Copenhagen, CMS division
2024	Reviewer	84th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Chicago, OMT division
2023	Reviewer	83rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Boston, OMT and CMS divisions

RECOGNITIONS

Research grants, total

Year	*Granting organization*	*Amount*	*Grant number*
2024	Helge Ax:son Johnsons stiftelse	40 000 SEK	F24-0032
2023	Jan Wallanders och Tom Hedelius stiftelse	130 000 SEK	H23-0018
		170 000 SEK	

Awards

Year	*Award*	*Event*
2021	Best reviewer award	MIT Spring Conference 2021 at Linnaeus University

PERSONAL

Language

Swedish (**C2**, fully proficient user, mother tongue)
English (**C2**, fully proficient user)
Danish (**B1**, intermediate user)

Other

Hobbies: Trail and road running (5k: 21:00; 10k: 44:21; half marathon: 1:41:58), bouldering, and concerts (>600 shows)

REFERENCES

Professor **Stefan Arora-Jonsson** (primary advisor during PhD)
Uppsala University and Stockholm School of Economics
stefan.jonsson@fek.uu.se

Professor **Maria Blomgren** (secondary advisor during PhD)
Uppsala University
maria.blomgren@fek.uu.se

Professor **Henrik Dellestrand** (secondary advisor during PhD)
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Uppsala University
henrik.dellestrand@slu.se