



The aim of this conference is to establish an arena for researchers with an interest in the Nordic rural areas as an empirical field. For this purpose biennial conferences circulating between the Nordic countries are planned. The first conference will be held in the Stockholm-Uppsala region in Sweden in 3–5 May 2010 with the following sub themes:

- New understandings and use of nature and landscapes
- Flows of people, ideas and images
- Politics and policy

Deadlines are as follows:

Oct 15th	call for abstracts posted
Dec 15th	deadline for abstracts
Jan 15th	abstracts accepted/rejected
April 15th	deadline for papers

Registration to nrf@sol.slu.se no later than March 15th, 2010.

Keynote speakers include:

Professor em *Ottar Brox*, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research

Johannes Nørgaard Frandsen, Head of Department Institut for Litteratur, Kultur og Medier; University of Southern Denmark

Professor *Katherine Gibson*, College of Asia and the Pacific, The Australian National University,

Professor *Erik Westholm*, Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm

The conference is hosted by the Department for Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Swedish National Rural Network in collaboration.

Visit our conference website for more information and registration:

www.sol.slu.se/nrf

The planning committee for the conference includes:

Cecilia Waldenström, Assistant professor, Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Ann-Kristin Ekman, Professor in Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Leif Berndtsson, Research coordinator, Swedish National Rural Network

Lars Pettersson, Ph.D, Swedish Board of Agriculture and Jönköping University

Hilkka Vihinen, Professor of Rural Policy, MTT Agrifood Research Finland

Michael Kull, Principal Research Scientist, MTT Agrifood Research Finland

Hanne Tanvig, Senior researcher and adviser, Forest & Landscape, University of Copenhagen

Marit S. Haugen, Research Manager, Centre for Rural Research, Trondheim, Norway

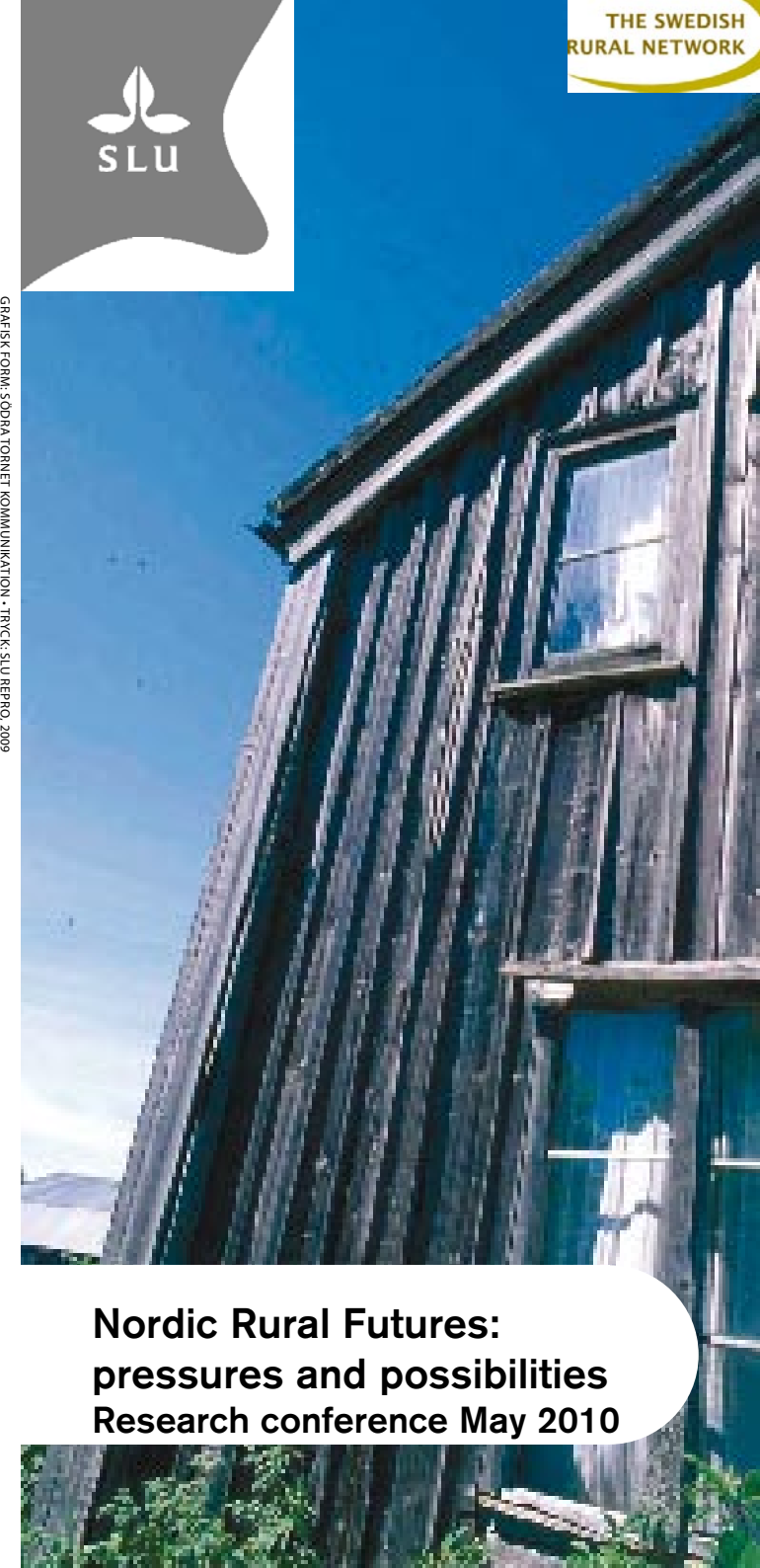
Karl Benediktsson, Professor of Human Geography, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland

Conference coordinator is *Stina Powell*, Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Stina.Powell@sol.slu.se

We look forward to receiving your submissions, and to meeting you in Sweden next year! Most welcome!



GRAFISK FORM: SÖDRA TORNET KOMMUNIKATION • TRYCK: SLU REPRO, 2009



**Nordic Rural Futures:
pressures and possibilities
Research conference May 2010**

Welcome to a research conference on the future of Nordic rural areas. The aims of this conference are to establish an arena for researchers with an interest in the Nordic rural areas as an empirical field and to offer young researchers an arena to discuss their ongoing research with key scholars from the region.

For this purpose, biennial conferences circulating between the Nordic countries are planned. We welcome papers from established researchers as well as PhD-students from the fields of political science, anthropology, sociology, human geography and rural economics etc. The first conference, 'Nordic Rural Futures: pressures and possibilities', will be held in Sweden on 3–5 May 2010 with the following subthemes:

New understandings and use of nature and landscapes

New ways of relating to and using nature, landscapes and natural resources are emerging. This leads to processes of re-evaluation, appreciations and innovations as well as new kinds of claims on resources. How is this enacted in the rural areas? What are the impacts on local levels, for example on rural economy and rural entrepreneurship as well as on local development and social cohesion? What are the futures for agriculture and forestry in the Nordic countries and what are the economic, social and

cultural implications of the pressures and possibilities in these sectors? How do trends in tourism, nature conservation, and other fields affect Nordic rural areas?

Flows of people, ideas and images

Rural communities are in transition as the mobility of images, ideas and people lead simultaneously to new fragilities and opportunities. Multi locational living, with homes in urban as well as in rural places, is becoming all the more common. This leads to social transformations, to new alliances and linkages, new assemblages and boundaries as well as to the breakdown of older forms. For instance, the attractiveness and aesthetics of place may become a contested issue. Many rural residents no longer make a living from natural resource-based production. Migrant labour becomes vital to many rural economies but migrants might face several problems in the receiving countries, such as social exclusion or insufficient legislation etc. Processes of inclusion and exclusion

may be at work in parallel and the 'periurban' and the 'rural' characteristics may overlap, which brings increasing rural complexities. How will this affect rural areas? Will there be a deeper divide between remote areas and those closer to urban centres? How are these flows and mobilities explored in research?

Politics and policy

Rural politics and rural policies are changing. In the context of the EU, the integration of rural development issues into the CAP is one aspect of this. What is on the horizon beyond the present period of the EU rural development programme? Changing regional policies and welfare state regimes also affect rural areas. New governance practices invite and open for new constellations and partnerships in rural development. Local and multilevel governance is becoming more common, bringing the potential conflicts between governance- and government-directed policies to the fore. What characterises the relations between the project-oriented rural "policy" and its actors and those involved in planning and regulation? What concepts of rurality underpin these different practices? How are issues of local embeddedness and endogenous development understood and handled in policy processes?

