



The Engelsberg Seminar 2000



Visions of the Future

Conference dates 26th – 28th of August 2000
Avesta/Engelsberg

A conference arranged in co-operation between

THE ODD ENGSTRÖM FOUNDATION

and

AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION

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Odd Engström (1941–1998), one-time Deputy Prime Minister, started his career as a civil servant with the Swedish Government Research Advisory Board before entering politics and, not long before his premature death, had turned to business activity within the expansive Kinnevik Group. Odd Engström took passionate interest in questions concerning the future and was deeply involved with the great philosophic, economic and political issues of our age.

This conference, dedicated to the memory of Odd Engström, is aimed, in his spirit, at transcending boundaries at a time of great changes and at reflecting his curiosity, interest and commitment regarding major issues of existence and public affairs.



Visions of the Future

The twentieth century came to an unexpected ending. For a long time during the Cold War, two evenly balanced blocks appeared to be confronting each other, but suddenly the communist empires collapsed, at the same time as the capitalist societies introduced a revolution of information technology, the further consequences of which we can, at present, only guess at. Meanwhile the outlines are appearing of a genetic engineering revolution which is probably going to change the world even more than the IT revolution has done already.

There have been other periods in history when people have felt themselves faced with steadily accelerated changes, but never, it seems, has that feeling been more justified than today. We have a profound crisis of orientation: everything that used to be solid is evaporating, the old patterns of interpretation are weighed and found wanting. What economic, political and technical opportunities and problems lie ahead of us, and by what values and norms are our actions to be governed? The unexpected ending of the twentieth century reminds us of the unpredictability of future developments, but

without asking questions of this kind we will be less prepared than ever for the complex issues with which we are going to be confronted.

The world that is now taking shape as we enter the twenty-first century seems different in many ways from the world we have been accustomed to. What kind of society awaits us? What role will be played by the national state and what future lies in store for political democracy? What counterpoises will there be to global capitalism? What will the working life of the future be like? How will science and technology develop? What kind of wars and conflicts will we see in the future?

What is the import of being human if we are able to take evolution into our own hands, and what would be the political and cultural implications of such possibilities? What will become of our collective and individual identity in a world so changeable and devoid of frontiers? What will become of imagination and artistic narrative in a culture where opportunities for virtual experience and interactivity are so great and in which reality itself is tending to become more and more virtual?

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Moderator for the conference: **Göran Rosenberg**

Sat 26 August

What Is a Man?

2:00–4:00 p.m.

~ Registration, coffee and sandwiches

4:00–4:30 p.m.

Introduction: **Gunilla Engström**, Chairman Odd Engström Foundation, Sweden, **Antonia Ax:son Johnson**, Chairman Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation, Sweden, **Kurt Almqvist**, Director Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation, Sweden, **Göran Rosenberg**, moderator

4:30–5:00 p.m.

Harold Bloom: The Invention of the Human

5:00–5:30 p.m.

Michael Maccoby: The Changing Sense of Self

5:30–6:00 p.m.

Robert Jay Lifton: The Protean Self—A Future of Many Shapes

6:00–6:45 p.m.

Panel: **Ulf Petterson**, **Peter Sylwan**, **Agneta Pleijel**

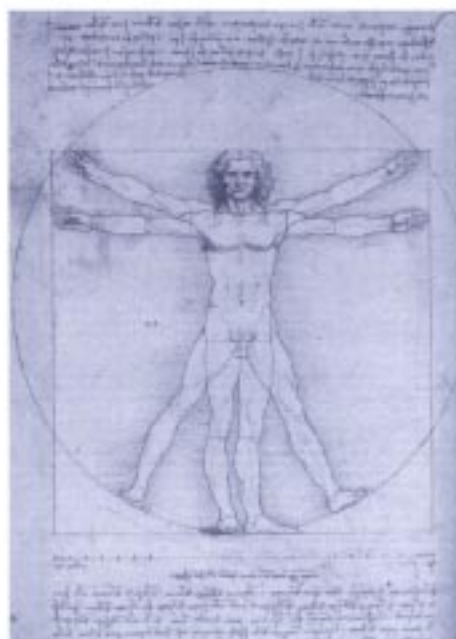
6:45–7:00 p.m.

~ Drink

7:00 p.m.

~ Dinner

Robert Eklund: Swedish and Scottish lute music



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Sun 27 August

The Future of Society

- 8:00–9:00 a.m. ~ Breakfast
- 9:00–9:30 a.m. **Saskia Sassen:** Cities and Globalisation
9:30–10:00 a.m. **Johan Rådberg:** The Role of Architecture
- 10:00–10:45 a.m. Panel: **Nils Karlson, Lars Magnusson, Peter Sylwan, Robert Shapiro**
- 10:45–11:30 a.m. ~ Coffee break
- 11:30–12:00 a.m. Guided tour – The Coin Museum, group 1
12:00–12:30 p.m. Guided tour – The Coin Museum, group 2
- 12:30–2:00 p.m. ~ Lunch

The Future of Imagination and Narrative

- 2:00–2:30 p.m. **Harold Bloom:** How To Read
2:30–3:00 p.m. **Harold Bloom:** The Western Canon
3:00–3:45 p.m. Panel: **Johan Svedjedal, Agneta Pleijel, Anders Mortensen, Dan Laurin**
- 3:45–4:30 p.m. ~ Coffee break

The Future of War and Conflict

- 4:30–5:00 p.m. **David Kimche:** The Future of War and Conflict
5:00–5:30 p.m. **Rolf Ekéus:** War and Politics
5:30–6:00 p.m. **Robert Jay Lifton:** Trickle-down Nuclearism
5:30–6:00 p.m. **Martin van Creveld:** The Future of War
6:15–7:00 p.m. Panel: **Rolf Ekéus, Kay Glans, David Kimche, Robert Jay Lifton, Martin van Creveld**
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Drink
- 7:30 p.m. ~ Dinner
- Dan Laurin:** Music

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Mon 28 August

The Future of Work

8:00–9:00 a.m.

~ Breakfast

9:00–9:30 a.m.

Robert Shapiro: A Global Perspective from America

9:30–10:00 a.m.

Allan Larsson: A European Perspective

10:00–10:45 a.m.

Panel: **Michael Maccoby, Mikael Löfgren, Ingvar Carlsson**

11:00–2:30 p.m.

~ Visit to Engelsberg World Heritage. Lunch at 12:00

2:30–3:30 p.m.

~ Coffee break at Avesta Manor. Time to rest

The Future of Knowledge

3:30–4:00 p.m.

Jeffrey Rosen: The Eroded Self: Information and Knowledge in Cyberspace

4:00–4:30 p.m.

John Ziman: The Globalisation of Science

4:30–5:15 p.m.

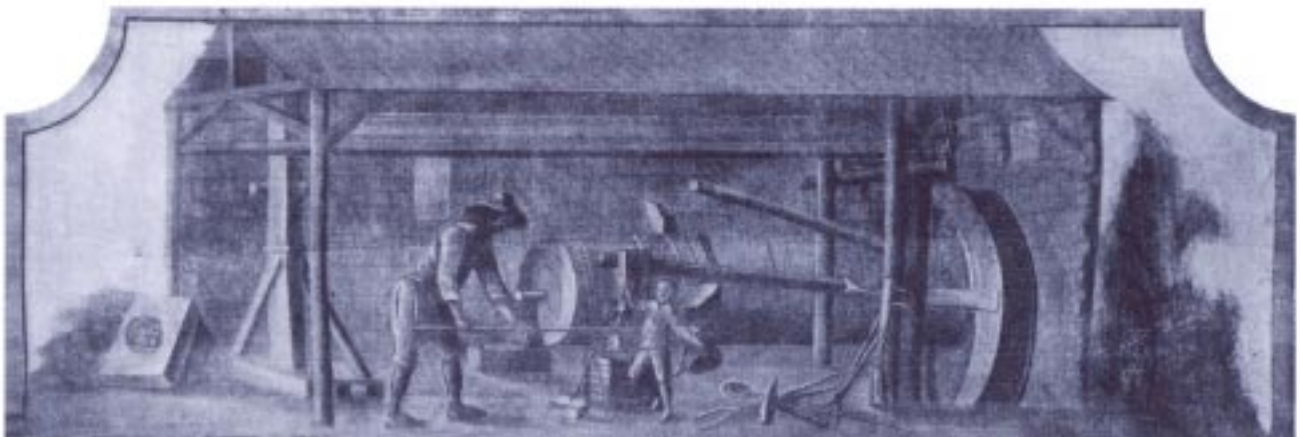
Panel: **Henry Etzkowitz, Bernt Ericson, Joan Solomon, Nils Karlson**

5:30–6:00 p.m.

~ Drink

6:00 p.m.

~ Dinner



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Lecturers and panel members

Prof. **Harold Bloom**, Yale University and New York University, USA

Former Swedish Prime Minister, **Ingvar Carlsson**, Member of the Advisory Board to the UN Staff College, Sweden

Prof. **Martin van Creveld**, Hebrew University, Israel

Ambassador **Rolf Ekéus**, Chairman of the Governing Board at SIPRI, Sweden

Dr. **Bernt Ericson**, LM Ericsson, Sweden

Assoc. Prof. **Henry Etzkowitz**, State University of New York, USA

Editor and writer **Kay Glans**, Svenska Dagbladet, Sweden

Ph. D. **Nils Karlson**, The City University, Sweden

Ph. D. **David Kimche**, Israel Council for Foreign Relations, Israel

Allan Larsson, Chairman of the Swedish Television, Sweden

Prof. **Dan Laurin**, Japan

Prof. **Robert Jay Lifton**, The City University of New York, USA

Editor, **Mikael Löfgren**, Dagens Nyheter, Sweden

Ph. D. **Michael Maccoby**, The Maccoby Group, USA

Prof. **Lars Magnusson**, Uppsala University, Sweden

Dr. **Anders Mortensen**, University of Lund, Sweden

Prof. **Ulf Pettersson**, Uppsala University, Sweden

Writer **Agneta Pleijel**, Sweden

Assoc. Prof. **Jeffrey Rosen**, The George Washington University, USA

Writer **Göran Rosenberg**, Dagens Nyheter, Sweden

Prof. **Johan Rådberg**, University of Lund, Sweden

Prof. **Saskia Sassen**, University of Chicago, USA

Ph. D. **Robert Shapiro**, United States Department of Commerce, USA

Prof. **Joan Solomon**, The Centre for Science Education of the Open University, Great Britain

Prof. **Johan Svedjedal**, Uppsala University, Sweden

Dr. **Peter Sylwan**, University of Lund, Sweden

Prof. **John Ziman**, University of Bristol, Great Britain

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