

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Nils Karlson

Contact

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Research Profile

Political scientist and economist, working in the fields of institutional politics and economics, industrial relations, political theory, public choice, and constitutional political economy.

Research focus on the interaction between politics, markets and civil society in advanced democracies and welfare states.

Major interests in statecraft and liberal, welfare-enhancing reform, constitutional design and consequences of welfare state expansion. Special interests in labour market models and collective bargaining, education and skills formation, virtue ethics, entrepreneurship and market processes, and the future of the European Union.

Present Professional Position

Founding President and CEO of the Ratio Institute, 2002-

The Ratio Institute (www.ratio.se) is an independent, private and interdisciplinary academic research institute in Stockholm (Ratio is Latin for "reason".) focusing the conditions for enterprise and how they can be improved, within three integrated areas:

- Laws, rules and values
- The market economy, entrepreneurship and growth
- How political change can be achieved

Academic Titles and Education

Docent (Associate Professor), Department of Politics, Uppsala University, 2004

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, Uppsala University, 1993

PhD studies in Economics, George Mason University, VA, 1986-1987

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Political Science, Uppsala University, 1984

Studies at Universidad Mendez Pelayo, Santander, Spain, 1981

Studies at the University of Sorbonne, Paris, 1978-1979

Gymnasieexamen, natural science orientation, Högländsskolan, 1978

High School Diploma, Laconia, NH, 1977

Memberships, Boards etc.

Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, IVA, 2006-

Member of the Mont Pelerin Society, 1999-, Member of the Board, 2016-

Advisory Board for Centrum of Balicum Foundation, 2015-

Board Member of the Institute for Taxes and the Rule of Law, 2007-2013

Vice-Chairman of the Swedish Tax-Payers Association, 2005-2010

Board Member Swedish Tax-Payers Association, 2004-2010
Chairman of the Foundation City University of Stockholm, 2002-2005

Previous Professional Positions

President and CEO of the City University of Stockholm, 1994-2002
Adviser to the Swedish Minister of Education and Science, 1991-1994
Assistant Secretary of the Advisory Board for Research and Science, 1991-1994
Dean of Studies at the City University of Stockholm, 1988-1991
Editorial Writer at Svenska Dagbladet, 1989-1990
Lecturer in Economics and Political Science, Uppsala University, 1984-1991
First Amanuensis in Economics, Department of Law, Uppsala University, 1984-1989

Academic Books, Monographs

Karlson, N. (2018). *Statecraft and Liberal Reform in Advance Democracies*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Karlson, N. (1993/2002). *The State of State. An Inquiry Concerning the Role of Invisible Hands in Politics and Civil Society* (1993). Stockholm: Almquist & Wiksell International. Also published by Transaction Press, New Brunswick & London, with a new preface, 2002. Doctoral thesis.

Karlson, N., Berggren, N., and Nergelius, J. (2001). *Den konstitutionella revolutionen* (2001). Slutrapport i projektet *Demokrati och konstitutionalism*. Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: *The Constitutional Revolution*)

Karlson, N., Malm Lindberg, H. and Johanna Grönback (2015). *Ultima Ratio. Svenska konfliktregler i ett internationellt perspektiv* (2015). Iustus förlag. (English translation: *Ultima Ratio: Swedish Rules of Industrial Action in an International Perspective*)

Karlson, N., Lindberg, H., Larsson, A.-S., Lundkvist, T. and Stern, L. (2014). *Lönebildning i verkligheten* (2014), Lund: Studentlitteratur. (English translation: *Wage Formation in Reality*)

Karlson, N. and Lindberg, H. (2008). *En ny svensk modell. Vägval på arbetsmarknaden: sönderfall, omreglering, avreglering eller modernisering?* Stockholm: Norstedts Akademisk Förlag. (English translation: *A New Swedish Model*)

Karlson, N., Grönback, J. and Joyce, P. (2017). *Kompetenspusslet. Den viktigaste framtidsfrågan*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *The Competence Puzzle. The Most Important Questions for the Future*)

Karlson, N. and Larsson, A.-S. (2016). *Kritiska villkor för företagandet*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *Critical Conditions for Enterprise*)

Karlson, N. (2015). *Respekt för företagande. Entreprenörskapets etik, villkor och samhällsroll*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *Respect for Business. The Ethics, Conditions and Role of Entrepreneurship in Society*)

Karlson, N., Bergström, H. and Wallenberg, J. (1988). *Vad väljarna ville – och de valda beslutade*. Stockholm: Timbro. (English translation: *What the Voters Wanted – and the Elected Decided*)

Edited Books with Introductions

Karlson, N., Wennberg, K. and Norek, M. (2015). *Virtues in Entrepreneurship*. Stockholm: Ratio och Publit förlag

- Karlson, N. (2014). *Vilket EU vill vi ha?* Stockholm: Ratio och Publit förlag (English translation: *What Kind of EU Do We Want?*)
- Karlson, N. and Lindberg, H. (2012). *Labour Markets at a Crossroads*. Cambridge Academic Publishers
- Karlson, N. and Thorstensson, A. (2011). *Lönebildning för utvecklingskraft*. Stockholm: Norstedts. (English translation: *Wage Formation for Growth*)
- Karlson, N. (2009). *Eight Prizes that Changed the World. The Sveriges Riksbanks Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel to Members of the Mont Pelerin Society*. Stockholm: The Ratio Institute
- Karlson, N., Berggren, N., Bergh, N., Erlingsson, G. and Lindberg, H. (2008). *Institutionell konkurrens*. Underlagsrapport 4. Globaliseringsrådet. Stockholm: Regeringskansliet. (English translation: *Institutional Competition*)
- Karlson, N. (2007). *Den fria akademien*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *The Free Academy*)
- Karlson, N., Storm, P., Johansson, D. and Mölleryd, B. (2007). *Erik Dahmén och det industriella företagandet* (2007). Stockholm Ratio and Kungliga Ingenjörsvetenskapsakademien (IVA). (English translation: *Erik Dahmén and the Industrial Enterprise*)
- Karlson, N. and Nergelius, J. (2007). *Federalism på svenska*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *Federalism in Swedish*)
- Karlson, N. and Johanson, D. (2006). *Svensk utvecklingskraft*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *Swedish Development Power*)
- Karlson, N. and Berggren, N. (2005). *Äganderättens konsekvenser och grunder*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *The Foundations and Consequences of Property Rights*)
- Karlson, N., Johansson, D. And Johnsson, R. (2004). *Skatter & värdighet*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *Taxes and Dignity*)
- Karlson, N. and Johansson, D. (2002). *Den svenska tillväxtskolan - Om den ekonomiska utvecklingens kreativa förstörelse*. Stockholm: Ratio. (English translation: *The Swedish Growth School*)
- Karlson, N. and Nergelius, J. (2001). *EU-skvadern – Om den Europeiska Unionens konstitutionella framtid*. Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: *The EU Skvader*)
- Karlson, N., Berggren, N. and Nergelius, J. (2001). *Demokratins konstitutionella val*. Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: *The Constitutional Choice of Democracy*)
- Karlson, N. (2000). *Why Constitutions Matter*. Stockholm: City University Press. (Also published by Transaction Press, New Brunswick & London, 2002)
- Karlson, N., Berggren, N. and Nergelius, J. (1999). *Makt utan motvikt: Om demokrati och konstitutionalism*. Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: *Power without Counter Balance*)
- Karlson, N. and Elisasson, G. (1998). *The Limits of Government: On Policy Competence and Economic Growth*. Papers from the Sixth International Joseph A Schumpeter Society in Stockholm. Stockholm: City University Press. (Also published by Transaction Press, New Brunswick & London, 2001)
- Karlson, N. (1995). *Can The Present Problems of Mature Welfare States Such as Sweden Be Solved?* Stockholm: City University Press.
- Karlson, N. (1995). *Sveriges framtida socialförsäkringssystem* (1995). Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: *The Future Social Security System of Sweden*)

Papers in Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals and in Edited Academic Books

- Gustavsson, A., Stephan, A., Hallman, A. and Karlson, N. (2016). "The "sugar rush" from innovation subsidies: a robust political economy perspective". *Empirica*, 1-28.
- Karlson, N. and Fergin, E. (2015). "Virtue as Competence in the Entrepreneurial Society", in Eds. Nils Karlson et al *Virtues and Entrepreneurship*. Stockholm: Ratio and Publit förlag.
- Karlson, N. (2014). "EU:s Janusansikte", in Ed. Nils Karlson *Vilket EU vill vi ha?* Stockholm: Ratio och Publit förlag. (English translation: "The Janus Face of the European Union")
- Heshmati, A., Karlson, N. and Box, M. (2013), "Generality, State Neutrality and Unemployment in the OECD". *Global Economy Journal*. Volume 13, Issue 3.
- Karlson, N. (2013). "The Limits of Pragmatism in Institutional Change", in Ed. Lindberg, H. *Knowledge and Reforms*. Cambridge Academic Publishing.
- Karlson, N. and Lindberg, H. (2012). "Corporate Cartels and Challenges to European Labour Market Models", *Revista Internacional de Organizaciones. The International Journal of Organizations* 2012:9.
- Karlson, N. (2011). "Varför decentraliseras inte svensk lönebildning?" in Eds. Karlson, N. and Throstensson, A. *Lönebildning för utvecklingskraft*. Stockholm: Norstedts. (English translation: "Why does not Swedish wage-bargaining decentralize?")
- Karlson, N. and Lindberg, H. (2012). "The Decentralization of Wage Bargaining: Four Cases", in Eds. Karlson, N. et al *Labour Markets at a Crossroads*. Cambridge Academic Publishers.
- Karlson, N. (2010). "Human Dignity, Globalization and the Welfare State" (2010). *Proceedings from the Conference Values & 21st Century*, European Academy of Science and Montenegrin Academy of Science in November 2009.
- Karlson, N. (2009). "Lagrådet roll — idag och i morgon. Ett rättsekonomiskt perspektiv på Grundlagsutredningens förslag". *Svensk Juristidning 2009:1* (English translation: "The legal council – today and tomorrow. A law and economics perspective on the proposal from the constitutional commission")
- Berggren, N. and Karlson, N. (2003). "Constitutionalism, Division of Power and Transaction Costs". *Public Choice*, 117, 99-124.
- Karlson, N. (2001). "Mångfald i enheten – om ett federalt Europa", in Eds. Karlson, N. and Nergelius, J. *EU-skvadern – Om den Europeiska Unionens konstitutionella framtid*. Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: "Pluralism in unity – about a federal Europe")
- Karlson, N. (2001). "Demokratins konstitutionella legitimitet" in Eds. Karlson, N., Berggren, N. and Nergelius, J. *Demokratins konstitutionella val*. Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: "The constitutional legitimacy of democracy")
- Karlson, N. (1999). "Grundlagen, demokratin och tidsandan – om bakgrunden till 1974 års regeringsform, Sveriges konstitution", in *Makt utan motvikt: Om demokrati och konstitutionalism*, ed. Berggren, N., Karlson, N. & Nergelius, J., Stockholm: City University Press. (English translation: "The constitution, democracy and the *zeit geist* – on the background of the Swedish constitution of 1974")
- Karlson, N. (1992). "Bringing Social Norms Back In" (1992), *Scandinavian Political Studies*, Vol. 15 - No. 3.

Working Papers

- Karlson, N. & Persson, K. (2015): “Effects of work-based learning on companies involved in VET education”, Ratio Working Paper No. 258
- Karlson, N., Andreasson, H. and Elert, N. (2015) “Does Social Cohesion Really Promote Reforms? ”, Ratio Working Paper No. 211.

Major Research-Projects Grants – Director or Co-director

1. *Rules of Industrial Conflict* (financed by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise). 2015-
2. *Occupation, qualification, mobility* (financed by the European Social Fund). 2015-2016
3. *Financing of Innovations* (financed by the Swedish Innovation Agency). 2013-
4. *Skills for Growth* (financed by the Swedish Innovation Agency, the KK Foundation, the Swedish Growth Agency and private industry). 2012-2017
5. *Entrepreneurship and Human Flourishing* (financed by the Ax:son Johnson Foundation). 2012-2015
6. *Wage Formation and Bargaining Systems* (financed by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise and others). 2010-2014
7. *Property Rights, Conditions of Enterprise and Growth* (financed by the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Memorial Fund Foundation). 2010 – 2013
8. *Economic-Political Reforms in Welfare States* (financed by Torsten och Ragnar Söderberg Foundation). 2008 – 2013
9. *Family Enterprise, Taxation of Owners and Economic Development* (financed by the Sparbank Foundation Alfa and CeFEO). 2006-2009
10. *Markets, Morality, Trust and Growth* (financed by the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Memorial Fund Foundation). 2005-2008
11. *The Government and the Labour Market: On Rules of Conflict and Development Dynamics* (financed by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise). 2005-2008
12. *Institutional Competition and the Outcomes of Politics* (financed by the Torsten och Ragnar Söderberg Foundation). 2005-2007
13. *Swedish Development Dynamics* (financed by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise). 2005-2006
14. *Creative Destruction and Social Dynamics – on the Role of Bankruptcies in Growth and Crises* (financed by the Nödfor foundation). 2002-2006
15. *Institutions for Economic Dynamics and Growth* (financed by the Torsten and Ragnar Söderberg Foundations). 2002-2004
16. *Democracy and Constitutionalism* (financed by the Torsten och Ragnar Söderberg Foundation). 1998-2000

Other Grants and Research Projects

Work, Welfare and Wealth for Europe, organized by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research in Vienna WIFO (financed by the European Union). 2012-2016

Conferences and Presentations

American Public Choice Society, European Public Choice Society, European Law and Economics Association, Southern Economic Association, European Consortium for Political Research, Liberty Fund, Mont Pelerin Society, Swedish

Political Science Association, European Association of Labour Economics, IREC, OECD/LEED etc.

Organizer, Director or Co-director of International Conferences and Lectures

Major conferences

Mont Pelerin Society Special Meeting: “The Populist Threats to the Free Society and the Reconstruction of the Liberal Project”, Stockholm Nov. 2-5, 2017

European Law and Economics Society, Stockholm, 2012

Mont Pelerin Society Regional Meeting: “The Market Economy in the Welfare State”, Stockholm 2009

Sixth International *Joseph A Schumpeter Society*, Stockholm, 1998

Liberty Fund conferences

“Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Liberty”, Stockholm, August 2017

”Behavioral Economics and the Role of the State”, Stockholm, 2016

“The Institutional Underpinnings of a Free Society in the Works of Vincent and Elinor Ostrom”, Stockholm, 2015

“Liberty and Bioethics”, Stockholm, 2014

”Liberty, Immigration, and Community”, Stockholm, 2013

“The Legacy of Gordon Tullock”, Stockholm, 2011

“Liberty and the Challenges of Neutrality”, Stockholm, 2010

“Liberty in the Works of MPS Nobel Laureates”, Stockholm, 2009

“Ideas and Interests in Institutional Change”, Stockholm, 2008

“Liberty in the Works of James Buchanan”, Stockholm, 2007

“The Limits of Rationality”, Stockholm, 2006

“Liberty and Entrepreneurship”, Stockholm, 2004

“Liberty and Property Rights”, Stockholm, 2003

“Liberty and Constitutional Choice”, Stockholm, 2002

Other Research Conference s

”Skills for Growth”, Ratio Colloquium for Young Social Scientists Stockholm. Ratio. 2015

“Property Rights, the Conditions for Enterprise and Economic Growth”. Ratio. Stockholm, 2011

Eli F. Heckscher Lectures

Professor Barry Weingast, Ward C. Krebs Family Professor, Department of Political Science, and a Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, September 2017

Professor Paul Romer, NYU, Stern School of Business, "Short-Run Shocks; Long-Run Pessimism", Stockholm School of Economics, 2016

Professor Naomi R. Lamoreaux, Yale University, "Corporations and Democracy: Beyond Cross-Country Regressions", Stockholm School of Economics, 2015

Professor Kenneth S Rogoff, Harvard University, "Lessons from Financial Crisis", Stockholm School of Economics, 2014

Professor James A. Robinson, Harvard University, "Why Nations Fail", Stockholm School of Economics, 2013

- Professor Randall Morck, University of Alberta, "Recycling Corporations: A Matter of Life and Death", Stockholm School of Economics, 2012
- Professor Joel Mokyr, Northwestern University, "Institutions, Technology and Culture: the Origins of Modern Economic Growth Reconsidered", Stockholm School of Economics, 2011
- Professor Deirdre McCloskey, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World", Stockholm School of Economics, 2010
- Professor Mark Casson, University of Reading, "Entrepreneurship: Theory, Institutions and History", Stockholm School of Economics, 2009
- Professor Youssef Cassis, University of Geneva, "Entrepreneurship and Big Business. The European Experience and the American Challenge", Stockholm School of Economics, 2008

Other Publications (selection)

- Karlson, N. (2017). "Det osedda och oförstådda: marknadsekonomins betydelse för och svensk välförståelse". Axel och Margret Ax:son Johnsons stiftelse. Forthcoming.
- Karlson, N. and Knudsen, I. (2017). "Kostnader och konsekvenser av en arbetsmarknadskonflikt. En fallstudie av Byggstrejken våren 2016". Stockholm: Ratio.
- Grönback, J. and Karlson, N. (2017). "Samhällsfarliga konflikter". Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. and Malm Lindberg, H. (2016). "Finansiellt deltagande. En undersökning om effekter av system för vinstdelning och aktiedelägarship". Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. and Kristine Persson (2016). "Praktik och integration – pilotprojektet Äntligen jobb". Rapport nr 22, *Kompetens för tillväxt*. Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. and Ronquist, F (2016). Yrkesutbildningens irrvägar. Rapport nr 20, *Kompetens för tillväxt*. Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. (2016). *Svenska modellen 4.0. Ratioakademiens reformagenda*. Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. (2015) *Respekt för företagande: Entreprenörskapets etik, villkor och samhällsroll*. Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. (2015). "Äganderätten och det goda samhällets fyrenighet", in Eds.. K. Almqvist & L. Gröning, *Äganderätt*, Axel och Margret Ax:son Johnsons stiftelse för allmängiltiga ändamål. Stockholm.
- Karlson, N., Vogel, O., Larsson, A.-S., Malm Lindberg, H. (2015). "Samverkan – en utmaning. Lärdomar av KK-stiftelsens samverkansprogram". Rapport nr 17, *Kompetens för tillväxt*. Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N., Larsson, A.-S. and Blom, K. (2015) "Företagandets villkor i internationell belysning: En jämförelse av nio internationella index". Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. (2013). "Forskningsfabrik eller fri akademi?", in Eds. Almqvist, K. och Gröning, L. *Krävs en elitsatsning på utbildning för att klara världskonkurrensen?* Axel och Margret Ax:son Johnsons stiftelse för allmännyttiga ändamål. Stockholm.

- Karlson, N. (2013). "Trianguleringens tragedi", i red. Maria Eriksson *Sista försöket att socialisera Sverige? 30 år efter löntagarfondsstriden*. Stockholm: Svensk Tidskrift.
- Karlson, N. (2013). "Flygbussen till den fria akademien". Symposieantologi, *Kungliga Fysiografiska sällskapet*. Lund.
- Karlson, N. and Fergin, E. (2013). "Vad är kompetens", rapport nr 6 i projektet *Kompetens för tillväxt*. Stockholm: Ratio.
- Karlson, N. and Skånberg, O. (2012). "Matchning på den svenska arbetsmarknaden" (2012). Rapport nr 9, *Regeringens framtidskommission*. Stockholm: Fritzes.
- Karlson, N. and Eklund, J. (2010). "Regelbördans ekonomiska effekter. En teoretisk och empirisk analys". Dnr 2010/017. *Tillväxtanalys*. Stockholm.
- Karlson, N. and Lindberg, H. (2009). "Svenska modellen vid vägs ände?" *Ekonomisk Debatt 2009:3*. Stockholm.
- Karlson, N. (2007). "Om det officiella välfärdssystemets långsiktiga legitimitet" (2007). I *Plan B. Den dolda jakaten på välfärd*. Kenebenkaisegruppen. Stockholm: Ekerlids Förlag.
- Karlson, N. (2006). "En politik för 150 000 nya företag och 500 000 nya jobb", in *17 röster. Om hur 500 000 nya jobb kan skapas i Sverige*. Kris- och Framtidskommissionen. Stockholm: Svenskt Näringsliv.
- Karlson, N. and Berggren, N. (2006). "Makt utan motvikt". Dokumentation från forskarkonferens om grundlagen – andra delen, 18 april 2005: Behöver demokratin nya spelregler? *Grundlagsutredningen*. Stockholm.
- Karlson, N. (2001). *City-universitetet: det fria universitetet*. Stockholm: City University Press.
- Karlson, N. (1998). "Ge folket fler röster!", in *Demokratins räckvidd*, Demokratiutredningens skrift nr 1, SOU 1998:55, Stockholm.
- Karlson, N. and Erixon, F. (1996). "Hotet mot forskningsstiftelserna och mot svensk kunskapsutveckling". Kunskapsprojektet 1996:3. Stockholm: City-universitetet.
- Karlson, N. and Eriksson, H. (1994). *Agenda 2000: kunskap och kompetens för nästa århundrade*, with Håkan Eriksson, Ds departementsserien 1994:35, Stockholm: Fritzes, 1994
- Karlson, N. and Eriksson, H. (1992). *Forskningens utmaningar: en strategi inför 2000-talet*. Ds departementsserien, 1992:97, Stockholm: Fritzes.
- Karlson, N. (1990). "Det goda samhället – ett epifenomen", in H. Arvidsson et al, *Det civila samhället*. Stockholm: Timbro.
- Karlson, N. (1988). "Ett rättvisare Sverige", in T. Segerstedt (red.), *Det politiskt omöjliga*. Stockholm: Ratio.

Plus numerous introductions to academic books translated into Swedish and a large number of columns and articles in daily papers such as Svenska Dagbladet, Dagens Industri, Dagens Nyheter, Sydsvenska Dagbladet, Expressen, Göteborgsposten, Neue Züriche Zeitung etc.

Personal Prizes and Grants

2003 The Gösta Bohman Prize, 2001 The Ax:son Johnson Scholarship, 2003-1985: Torsten och Ragnar Söderberg's Foundation, The Staten och Rätten

Foundation, Siamon Foundation, Borbos Hansson's Fund, Jonas Nordensson's Fund, The Capitoleum Scholarship of Timbro Idé, Stockholms nations jubelfeststipendium.

Teaching and Lecturing

Extensive teaching experience at both graduate and undergraduate level at Uppsala University and the City University of Stockholm, in political science, market processes, entrepreneurship and law and economics. Around 50 popular lectures every year at different events for government ministries and agencies, business organisations, labor unions, politicians, training programs etc.