Internationalization in Nordic sociology and the relation to American Sociology

Gunnar Sivertsen

NIFU – Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, PO Box 5183 Majorstuen, NO-0302 Oslo. <u>gunnar.sivertsen@nifu.no</u>

ActaSociologica, the joint international publication channel for the Sociological Associations of the Nordic countries, was first published in 1955. At that time, the pioneers of Nordic sociologywould often go to the USA for their training as researchers. "There was unanimity about the necessity to adopt the central aims and methods of American sociology while still preserving some of the crucial contributions of the old European sociology" (Allard 1995).

Although the main aim of *Acta* was – and still is – to present Nordic sociology to the rest of the world, the journal has always also published non-Scandinavian contributions. Among these, articles from the USA dominated during the first two decades after which they almost disappeared in the mid-seventies and then reappeared in the early nineties (Mastekaasa 1995).

What has happened since then? Using longitudinal Web of Science data (*Acta* has been indexed since 1975) I will show how the journal has become even more international in contents while Nordic sociologists more often publish in other international sociological journals in *Europe*. At the other side of the Atlantic, however, American sociological journals seldom publish articles from abroad and American sociologists still prefer to publish in their own journals.

References

Allard, E. (1995). The Formative Years of Scandinavian Sociology: ActaSociologica 1955-1974. *ActaSociologica*, 38, 339-347.

Mastekaasa, A. (1995.) ActaSociologica 1955-1995: A Brief Statistical Overview. *ActaSociologica*, 38, 355-359.