Gunnar Sivertsen

Internationalization in Nordic Sociology
and the relation to American Sociology
Overview of this presentation

1. Farewell to Scandinavism?
2. Internationalization of sociology in Web of Science coverage
3. The publishing patterns in sociology
4. The history of *Acta Sociologica*
5. Internationalization in Nordic sociology and the relation to American sociology
Farewell to Scandinavism?

- A study in 1990 of 128 Nordic scholarly journals in all fields
- Only joint Nordic journals were included, not the national journals in each of the countries
The Nordic level of publishing seemed to be dissappearing

- **Acta Medica Scandinavica** (since 1863) became **Journal of Internal Medicine** (since 1989)
- **Acta Chirurgica Scandinavica** became **European Journal of Surgery** (in 1992)
«Is there, indeed, a Scandinavian orthopaedic school? With the overwhelming plethora of international travel, meetings, and journals, it would seem meaningless to single out national or regional profiles in the commonwealth of orthopaedic knowledge. The arthritic hip, the herniated disc, the fractured tibia, the rheumatoid hand do not carry passports.»
«In 1924 Scandinavism was good enough. But because we feel that it is not in line with our concept of communication and cooperation, we have decided to become international and invite authors from all over the world to publish with us.»
Nordic articles in **Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology** as a percentage of all articles in the journal
Nordic articles in *Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology* as percentage of all Nordic articles in gastroenterology (in Web of Science)
Internationalization in scientific publishing patterns can (also) be observed in:

- The aims and contents of journals that formerly represented one country or region
- A deconcentration in the publishing pattern of a country or region – visible as a «migration» of articles to journals all over the world, along with a new concentration of articles in the highest impact international journals

Is the same true for the social science field of sociology?
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Country representation in sociology in Web of Science 1981-2012
All journals

- Nordics
- Other Europe
- USA & Canada
- Other

[Graph showing the percentage representation of countries in sociology from 1981 to 2012 across all journals.]
Country representation in sociology in Web of Science 1981-2012
Only journals indexed since 1981

Nordics Other Europe North America Other

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Percentage publications in the Norwegian language

- Law: 70%
- Gender Studies: 60%
- Educational Research: 60%
- Sociology: 60%
- Media and Communication: 50%
- Business & Finance: 40%
- Political Science: 40%
- Anthropology: 30%
- Geography: 20%
- Economics: 10%
- Library & Information Science: 5%
- Development Studies: 5%
Norwegian articles 2005-2010 per journal in sociology
Summing up so far

- Articles in international journals is only a part of the picture in sociology, because:
  - Book publishing (articles in books; books) is just as important
  - Scholarly publications in sociology are in both the native (societal relevance) and the international (scientific relevance) languages

- Domestic journal publishing is concentrated in a few journals, while international journal publishing is widespread in many journals (general and specialized)
  - Was it always so?
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Five national journals and a shared international journal

Published since 1955, indexed in WoS since 1975

Also indexed in WoS
Published since 1955:
«There was unanimity about the necessity to adopt central aims and methods of American sociology while still preserving some of the crucial contributions of old European sociology.»


Indexed in WoS since 1975:
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.


![Graph showing country representation from 1981 to 2012](image-url)
Number of articles from the Nordic countries in sociological journals indexed by WoS 1981-2012

- Acta Sociologica
- Other jnls (1981-2012)
- All other jnls

Yearly distribution of articles.
Number of sociological journals indexed by WoS 1981-2012 and number of them with Nordic articles
Summing up so far

- The relative importance of *Acta Sociologica* in the internationalization of Nordic sociology has been diminishing

- *Acta* publishes an increasing share of non-Nordic articles, however, among these articles, the share of American articles has been decreasing
  - What happened to the close relation between Nordic and American sociology? Is it visible in other journals?
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**Geographic origin of articles in 12 selected large and general journals in sociology**

Data from 1981-2012 (some journals were indexed from the start)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Nordics</th>
<th>Other Europe</th>
<th>USA &amp; Canada</th>
<th>Other countries</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>124</td>
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<tr>
<td>CURRENT SOCIOLOGY (indexed since 1982)</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>79</td>
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<td>EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW (indexed since 1993)</td>
<td>INT</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY (indexed since 1987)</td>
<td>INT</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY</td>
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<td>69</td>
<td>1281</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM (indexed since 1988)</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>621</td>
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<td>SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>707</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS &amp; RESEARCH</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOLOGICAL QUARTERLY</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of articles from the Nordic countries in the 12 selected journals 1981-2012

- European/International journals
- American journals
Co-authored articles with Nordic countries in sociology

![Graph showing the number of co-authored articles with Nordic countries in sociology from 1981 to 2012. The graph includes three categories: USA & Canada (yellow line), Europe (blue line), and Other (red line).]
Per cent articles from other countries than the largest country in the journal International journals
Per cent articles from other countries than the largest country in the journal
British journals

- Brit J Sociol
- Sociol Rev
- Sociology
Per cent articles from other countries than the largest country in the journal American journals
Per cent articles from other countries than the largest country in the journal American journals

39 per cent of the articles with addresses abroad also have addresses in the USA
Summing up at last

- The close relation between Nordic and American sociology has been replaced by a broader internationalization in Nordic sociology.
- American sociology continues to be almost solely American.
Hypotheses for further studies

- The close relation between Nordic and American sociology has been replaced by a broader internationalization in Nordic sociology
- American sociology continues to be almost solely American

Studied in:
- Orientation: The country origin of cited references
- Closeness/distance: co-citations