

# NOP-HS

Nordisk publiceringsnævn for humanistiske og samfundsvidenskabelige  
tidsskrifter

Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Rhetorica Scandinavica  
Att.: Peter Strøm-Søeberg  
Rhetor förlag  
Vallbogatan 7  
26531 ÅSTORP  
Sverige

## Partshøring

Som tidligere oplyst får NOP-HS regelmæssigt evalueret de tidsskrifter, som modtager støtte af nævnet, og i 2007 skal Rhetorica Scandinavica evalueres. Hermed fremsendes udtalelser fra to eksterne bedømmere:

- Professor Jyrki Kalliokoski, Helsingfors Universitet, Finland

Eventuelle kommentarer hertil på maks. ½ A4-side bedes fremsendt på e-mail til [tva@fi.dk](mailto:tva@fi.dk) og være nævnet i hænde senest **fredag den 9. november 2007 kl. 10.00.**

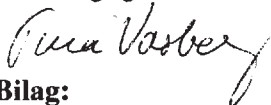
Nævnet ønsker i den forbindelse særligt at gøre opmærksom på, at:

- De eksterne bedømmelser tjener som en del af nævnets beslutningsgrundlag til at opretholde bevillinger. Da nævnet er det beslutningsdygtige organ, er udtalelserne udelukkende vejledende.
- Partshøringen skal udelukkende betragtes som et tilbud. De har derfor ikke pligt til at vende tilbage.

Nævnet vil som tidligere oplyst træffe afgørelse vedrørende evalueringen på sit møde den 29. november 2007.

Med venlig hilsen

Tina Varberg  
Fuldmægtig



### Bilag:

- Evaluering fra ekstern bedømmer

30. oktober 2007

### NOS-HS sekretariatet

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Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Evaluation of scientific periodicals		
Name of periodical	<i>Rhetorica Scandinavica</i>	
Editor-in-Chief	<i>Jens E. Kjeldsen</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodical has previously received financial assistance from NOP-HS	<input type="checkbox"/> Periodical has not previously received financial assistance from NOP-HS	<input type="checkbox"/> New periodical
<b>Quality and significance of periodical</b> Where applicable, answer the questions below by rating 1 (lowest) -5 (highest)		
Scientific quality of articles		1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Motivation:	<i>High, but some variation, some outstanding articles.</i>	
2. Scientific standing of the editors and editorial board		1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Motivation:	<i>To my (limited) knowledge, relatively representative, though variation (geographically) in the ed. board</i>	
<b>Overall evaluation - text (approx. 2 pages of length)</b> On a separate sheet, please address the following questions:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate the academic profile and scientific quality of the periodical</li><li>• Which international periodicals publish in the same area?</li><li>• How do you rate the quality of articles published in this periodical compared with those published in the periodicals you mention in the previous question?</li><li>• Does the periodical overlap with other periodicals?</li><li>• Describe the readers and popularity of the journal in the country of origin/Nordic countries/abroad?</li><li>• Recommendations for the improvement of the periodical</li><li>• For new proposals: Please comment on the need for the new periodical and its likely impact in the relevant research area.</li><li>• Overall evaluation - Conclusion</li></ul>		

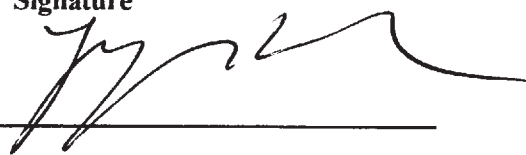
Date

Name (print), title, institution

Signature

*26.9.2007*

*JYRKI KALLIOKOSKI  
PROFESSOR  
Dept. of Finnish Language and  
Literature, Helsingin yliopisto*



The Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOP-HS) is a joint committee of research councils operating within the disciplines of humanities and social sciences in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. NOP-HS provides financial assistance for the publication of Nordic scientific periodicals within these disciplines. NOP-HS regularly evaluates the quality of periodicals receiving financial assistance. **In accordance with NOP-HS regulations, the review is sent to the editor of the periodical, including the name of the reviewer.**

NOP-HS

Evaluation of *Rhetorica Scandinavica*

Jyrki Kalliokoski  
Department of Finnish language and literature  
Helsingin yliopisto

Academic profile & scientific quality of *Rhetorica Scandinavica*

*Rhetorica Scandinavica* (henceforth: *RS*) is an interdisciplinary and multilingual journal. Rhetoric is presently an interdisciplinary field, and furthermore, each academic contexts for the study of rhetoric has developed various theoretical frameworks and methodological tool for the study of rhetoric. Classical rhetoric forms a common basis for present-day traditions. The 20<sup>th</sup> century tradition of the New Rhetoric represents another common basis for contemporary rhetoric. *RS* manages to combine both the classical tradition and the variation in the contemporary research on rhetoric in culture and media studies, (linguistic) discourse analysis, literary criticism, pedagogy, and social sciences. Commented translations of classics into Scandinavian languages in *RS* represent a concrete example of this dialogue between classical and contemporary rhetoric. This dialogue is also present in the two volumes of *RS* which I received for evaluation. Generally the articles in *RS* represent good (international) academic level.

*RS* and other Periodicals in the same areas

There are several journals publishing articles in the field of rhetoric. However, *RS* is unique among them, due to the wide thematic and methodological range of its papers. *RS* also has a Nordic dimension: many of the articles discuss Nordic issues, texts by Nordic authors, journalists, the position of rhetoric in the Nordic educational system, Nordic research traditions etc.

Compared to journals like *Argumentation* or *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, *RS* covers a wider field and many of its articles are devoted to empirical studies, which I personally consider a great merit. If one takes journals like *Human Studies* or *Social Semiotics* as points of comparison, these have a much wider scope than *RS*, and rhetoric is just one (relatively small) topic area in these periodicals. Studies on rhetoric of education are occasionally published in e.g. *Journal of Philosophy and Education*, but again, rhetoric represents a marginal field of study in this journal. There are periodicals devoted to literary studies where rhetoric has a prominent position (*Philosophy & Literature*, *Textual Practice*) but these journals are strictly limited to literary criticism. As to linguistic study of rhetoric and discourse, two journals stand out as points of comparison to *RS*, namely: *Discourse & Society* and *Discourse Studies*. Both journals, especially *Discourse & Society*, publish articles in rhetoric in the media, as does *RS*.

The quality of the articles published in *RS* varies – within one volume, from volume to volume. In this respect I, however, see no substantial difference between *RS* and its “peer” journals.

In all, *RS* has a very distinct profile of its own combining various academic fields, and contemporary and classical research traditions. The Nordic issues are an additional distinctive feature of this journal. To my knowledge, no other journal in the fields of rhetoric, discourse analysis, philosophy, literary & cultural studies has the same mission.

### Readers and popularity

Some of the articles in *RS* are clearly designed for a Nordic (Scandinavian) reader (eg. the theme number on Rhetorics and pedagogy or articles using Nordic media texts as data) but also these studies offer new insights for those readers who are not so versed with “local” topics. I assume that potential readers outside Nordic countries consist of scholars with reading skills in Scandinavian languages, people affiliated to academic institutes of Nordic studies (= representatives of philology, cultural, historical & social studies in academic institutions), especially in the Baltic countries, Germany and in North America.

Within the Nordic countries the audience for this journal consists of scholars from various academic fields. (For instance, the library at my own university orders copies of *RS* to three different geographical locations and for three different academic environments: faculty of behavioural sciences, department of Nordic languages and literatures and department Finnish language and literature). Universities in Denmark, Sweden and Norway include *RS* in their reading lists for courses in various academic subjects (a quick google-search), whereas universities in Finland or Iceland do not refer to *RS* (apart from library catalogues).

### Recommendations

*RS* publishes articles exclusively in the three Scandinavian languages. Furthermore, the authors seem to be (exclusively) Danish, Norwegian or Swedish. The academic community of Swedish-speaking Finland is not represented among the authors, not to speak of Finnish-speaking scholars (who could be potential authors of articles in Swedish!) or Icelandic or Faroese research on rhetoric. In the Nordic context, scholars representing the Sami might have valuable contribution to offer to *RS*, as well. This expansion of the circle of potential authors need not imply giving up the principle of publishing articles in the three languages. (One of the strengths of *RS* is the fact that it does not compete with monolingual journals using English.) More effort - both by the editors and the members of the editorial board - would be needed to encourage scholars from all the Nordic countries and language communities, to submit their articles to *RS*. Obviously, this would increase the range of topics and the size of the reading audience for the journal, as well.

### Overall evaluation & conclusion

As already mentioned, *RS* has a distinctive brand of its own, successfully combining various academic disciplines and scholars sharing an interest in rhetoric. This is a valuable and unique feature of *RS*. Individual volumes are carefully edited. There is a balance between thematically compiled volumes and volumes consisting of studies addressing more varying research questions. My overall evaluation of *Rhetorica Scandinavica* is that it represents a high academic level. I appreciate its language policy and the variety of topics and methodological approaches which it offers to its readers.

Helsinki, September 26, 2007

