



# WOKE

*Engelsbergs Ironworks*  
*23 february 2023*





*I was blind but now I see.*

The term "Woke" has been used in various contexts to describe the act of *seeing the world as it truly is*, both religiously and ideologically. More recently, it has been assigned as a label for a political force that is difficult to define but easy to recognize.

This seminar seeks to bring together interdisciplinary perspectives on Wokeness, exploring how old questions are taking a new form, and how we can gain a comprehensive understanding of its narratives, beliefs, and goals.

Are there similarities with religious movements and practices? What are its historical, theoretical, and ideological roots in Marxism, Critical Theory, and Social Justice? How can we analyze the political, psychological, and sociological implications of how Wokeness operates today?

These ideas are influencing our institutions, academia, the media, and corporations, and the cultural sphere, and there are potentially harsh consequences for those who do not comply.

Is this the inevitable march of history, or is it something that has been tried before?

## PROGRAMME

11:00 Kurt Almqvist, President, Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit

11:05 Moderator: Ulf Wickbom

### *Old Ideas*

11:10 Andrei Znamenski – The quest for Eden

11:25 Svante Nordin – Christianity and Slave Morality

11:40 James Patterson – The Theology of Wokeness

11:55 Panel discussion

12:10 Lunch

### *The New Left*

13:10 Stephen Hicks – The New Left and the Four Wokes

13:25 Marc Sidwell – The Long March Through the Institutions

13:40 Fredrik Segerfeldt – Post-Colonialism

13:55 Panel discussion

14:10 Coffee break

### *Woke Institutions*

14:40 Matthew Goodwin – Academia in Peril

14:55 Stephen R Soukup – Woke Capitalism

15:10 Nina Solomin – Woke Journalism

13:55 Panel discussion

15:40 Coffee break

### *Woke Mentality*

16:10 Adrian Wooldridge – The Aristocracy of Wokeness

16:25 Gustaf Lindblad – Group Psychology and Wokeness

16:40 Eric Kaumann – Identity

16:55 Adam Cwejman – Utopia

17:10 Panel discussion

17:30 Drink

19:00 Dinner

# SPEAKERS

Andrei Znamenski

*Professor of History at University of Memphis.*

Svante Nordin

*Professor of History of Ideas at Lund University.*

James Patterson

*Chair of the Politics Department,  
Associate Professor of Politics,  
Ave Maria University*

Stephen Hicks

*Professor of Philosophy at Rockford University,  
Illinois, USA, Executive Director of the  
Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship,  
and Senior Scholar at The Atlas Society.*

Marc Sidwell

*Senior Fellow at the New Culture Forum*

Fredrik Segerfeldt

*Author*

Matthew Goodwin

*Professor of Politics in the School of Politics and  
International Relations at the University of Kent*

Stephen R Soukup

*Vice President, The Political Forum*

Nina Solomin

*Culture Editor, Fokus*

Adrian Wooldridge

*Global Business Columnist at Bloomberg Opinion*

Gustaf Lindblad

*PhD Student, Gothenburg University*

Eric Kaufmann

*Professor of Politics, Birkbeck,  
University of London*

Adam Cwejman

*Political Editor, Göteborgsposten*

## ORGANISATION

*President: Kurt Almqvist*

*Project Leader: Frans Sporsén*

*Staff: Anna-Paula Jonsson, Elias Lindén, Cornelia Hallberg, Karin-Sofia Johansson,  
Adrian Gissberg Flamme, Lovisa Gröning, Gabriel Lagerström*



AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION

STUREPLAN 3, 103 75 STOCKHOLM

TEL: 08 788 50 50 | FAX: 08 788 50 60 | WWW.AXSONJOHNSONFOUNDATION.ORG