

Curriculum Vitae – Fredrik Nilsson

Born 13 August 1965

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Short CV and research profile

Fredrik Nilsson, architect SAR/MSA, PhD, Professor of Architectural Theory, and Head of the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at Chalmers University of Technology. He was Head of Research in Practice at Älvstranden Utveckling AB 2017-2018, and has a background as Partner at White Arkitekter, where he worked 2000-2017 and was Head of Research and Development 2007-2014. Nilsson's research profile is directed to contemporary architecture, architectural theory, methodology and practice, with a special interest in the epistemology of architecture and the interaction between conceptual thinking, theory and practical design work, aiming to reinforced exchange between research and architectural practice. He was director of Chalmers Architectural Research Initiative 2017-2018, and was director of the strong research environment in architectural theories and methods "Architecture in the Making: Architecture as a Making Discipline and Material Practice" funded by the Swedish research council Formas 2011-2017. Nilsson has been engaged as opponent and external evaluator of PhD and senior research internationally. He is author and editor of several books and frequently publishes in academic and professional contexts.

Present employment

Professor of Architectural Theory, Chalmers University of Technology, 2009 –
Head of Department, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Chalmers, 2018 –

Degrees and education

Docent (associate professor) in Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, 2008.
PhD in Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, 2002.
Licentiate of Technology in Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, 1997.
MArch/MSc in Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, 1993.
Science of Art, Gothenburg university, 1990-1991.
Gymnasieingenjör, 4-årig teknisk linje (upper secondary technical school), Polhemsgymnasiet, 1985.

Positions and professional experience

Full professor of Architectural Theory, Chalmers. 2009-present.
Head of Research in Practice, Älvstranden Utveckling AB, Gothenburg (part-time). 2017-2018.
Head of Department of Architecture, Chalmers. 2013-2017.
Chief Research Strategist, White Arkitekter AB (part-time). 2014-2017.
Head of Research and Development, White Arkitekter AB (part-time). 2007-2014.
Architect, White Arkitekter AB (part-time). 2000-2007.
Deputy Head of Department of Architecture, Chalmers. 2009-2011.
Adjunct professor in Architecture, Chalmers. 2008-2009.
Senior Professor in Research Design, Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Brussels. 2007-2009.
Researcher, Chalmers. 2002-2008.
PhD student, Chalmers. 1998-2002.
Architect, Husbygget/Bygghyttan Arkitekter, Fengersfors. 1993-1996.
Own architectural practice. 1993-1998.
Architect, Ellsinger Arkitektkontor AB, Göteborg. 1989-1992.

Commissions of trust, boards, etc.

Member of Board for Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures, 2020 –
Member of Board for Johanneberg Science Park AB, 2019 –
Member of Committee for Education and Research of Swedish Association of Architects, 2017 –2019
Member of Board for Artistic Research and Education at University of Borås, 2017 –
Member of Chalmers Faculty Senate, 2017–2018
Member of Course Advisory Committee, School of Design, Swinburne University, Melbourne, 2017 –
Member of Board for Chalmers Professional Education AB, 2016 –
Member of Board for Mistra Centre for Urban Futures, 2016–2017, 2018–2019
Member of Steering Committee for ResArc – Swedish Research School in Architecture, 2011–2017.
Member of Steering Group for Arkitekturakademin / Swedish Schools of Architecture, 2013–2017.
Founding member of ARENA – Architectural Research European Network Association, 2013 –
Member of Board for CMB – Centre for Management of the Built Environment, 2013–2017, 2018 –
Member of Board for Centre for Healthcare Architecture, Chalmers, 2010–2012; 2013–2017; 2018 –
Chair of Steering Group for Arkitekturakademin / Swedish Schools of Architecture, 2014–2015.
Member of Board for OCEAN Design Research Association, 2013–2014.
Member of Board for Bygginnovationen, 2011–2013.
Member of Research Committee for IQ Samhällsbyggnad / “Swedish Center for Innovation and Quality in the Built Environment”, 2011–2012.
Member of working group for Chalmers Areas of Advance Built Environment, 2010.
Chairman of Research Committee, Chalmers Architecture, 2009–2011.
Member of Board for BIC – Byggsektorns Innovationscentrum AB / Swedish Construction Sector Innovation Centre, 2008–2011.
Member of Evaluation Panel for Artistic research and development, The Swedish Research Council, 2007–2010.
Chairman of the Department Faculty Assembly at Chalmers Architecture, 2007–2009.
Member of jury for Swedish Association of Architects’ prize to critics, 2007–2009.
Member of board of The Nordic Association of Architectural Research, 2007–2011.
Member of board for local division Västra Götaland of Swedish Association of Architects, 2006–2008.
Member of competition committee for local division Västra Götaland of Swedish Association of Architects, 2005–2006.
Architect SAR/MSA, member of Swedish Association of Architects, 1999 –

Memberships in scientific committees, review commissions, etc.

Opponent at PhD defences by:

Birgitte Louise Hansen, Delft University of Technology, September 2018.
Inger-Marie Hølmebak, AHO – Oslo School of Architecture and Design, March 2018.
Barbro Grude Eikseth, AHO – Oslo School of Architecture and Design, August 2017.
Isak Worre Fored, Aalborg University, June 2015.
Terri Peters, Aarhus School of Architecture, May 2015.
Eli Hatleskog, NTNU – Norwegian University of Science and Technology, December 2014.
Ovgu Pelen Karelse, The University of Manchester, November 2014.
Lene Basma, AHO, December 2012.
Anne Mette Manelius, School of Architecture, Royal Danish Academy of Art, July 2012.
Anne Kirkegaard Bejder, Aalborg University, April 2012.
Christina Pech, KTH Architecture, Stockholm, November 2011.
Ida Wraber, Aalborg University, October 2009.
Annette Svaneklink Jakobsen, Aarhus School of Architecture, October 2008.
Louise Kjær Christoffersen, Aarhus School of Architecture, November 2007.

Member in grading committee at PhD defences by:

Paulina Prieto de la Fuente, LTH Architecture and Built Environment, Lund, March 2018.
Hanna Erixon Aalto, KTH Architecture, Stockholm, December 2017.
Marwa Dabaieh, LTH Architecture, Lund, December 2011.

Henric Benesch, HDK, Gothenburg University, February 2010.
Pål Castell, Chalmers Architecture, June 2010.
Barbara Rubino, Chalmers Architecture, 2009.
Gertrud Olsson, KTH Architecture, Stockholm, March 2009.
Inge-Mette Kirkeby, KTH Architecture, Stockholm, August 2007.
Kaja Tooming, HDK, Gothenburg University, June 2007.
Marie Elf, Chalmers Architecture, February 2007.
Konstantinos Ionidis, Aarhus School of Architecture, 2005.

Expert reviewer for appointments of:

Professor in Epistemology of Design Driven Research, KU Leuven, Belgium, 2019.
Promotion to Professor at Queen's University, Belfast, 2019.
Promotion to Associate Professor (førsteamanuensis) at Oslo School of Architecture and Design, 2018.
Promotion to Professor at Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, 2018.
Promotion to Reader in Architecture at The University of Sheffield, 2017.
Professor in Digital Design and Advanced Fabrication Techniques, Aalborg University, 2017.
Promotion to Professor at RMIT University, Melbourne, 2016.
Professor and Director of Research & Innovation, RMIT Europe, Barcelona, 2014.
Professor in the Theory and History of Architecture, Aarhus School of Architecture, 2014.
Professor in Information Technology in Construction, KTH, 2011.
Professor in Architectural Theory at the School of Architecture Umeå University, 2010.
Artistic Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture at Faculty of Landscape Planning, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Ultuna, 2010.
Assistant professorships at Aarhus Arkitektsskole, Århus, 2007.

Expert reviewer in:

International panel for Mid-term Evaluation of Research, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft, the Netherlands, January 2020.
Panel for evaluation of Architectural education at Aalborg University, August 2016.
International panel for Review of the Design Research Institute, RMIT, Melbourne, May 2013.
International panel for Assessment of Scientific and Artistic Research at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, Copenhagen, February 2013.
Member of Evaluation Panel for Artistic research and development, The Swedish Research Council VR, 2007–2010.

Expert reviewer of grant applications for:

Swiss National Science Foundation, Switzerland, June 2018.
FWO Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek [Research Foundation Flanders], Belgium, August 2017.
VELUX Foundation, Denmark, August 2013.
Sverige-Amerika stiftelsen, October 2013.
Austrian Science Fund, September 2012.
Danish Council for Independent Research, May 2010.
The Swedish Research Council Formas, January 2009.

Editorship and member of editorial boards:

Editor for ARENA Journal of Architectural Research, 2016–present.
Member of Editorial Board for FORMakademisk, 2012–present.
Member of Editorial Board for Nordic Journal of Architecture, 2011–present.
Member of Editorial Board of Nordic Journal of Architectural Research, 1997–2001.
Member of the board for book reviews of Arkitektur. The Swedish Review of Architecture 1999–2012.

Peer-reviewer of articles, papers and book proposals for:

Journal of Architecture; Nordic Journal of Architectural Research; FORMakademisk; Journal of Space Syntax; Nordic Journal of Architecture; Journal of Problem-based Learning; Book proposals for Routledge.

Supervision of doctoral students

Finished PhDs:

- Nel Janssens, "Utopia-driven Projective Research", 2012, Main supervisor.
- Laurens Luyten, "Structurally Informed Architectural Design", 2012, Main supervisor and Examiner (Examining supervisor).
- Heidi Norrström, "Balancing Energy Efficiency, Cultural and Architectural Values in Our Built Environment", 2015, Examiner.
- Karel Deckers, "An Inquiry into the (Re)Creative Workings of the Unheimliche in Interior Architecture", 2015, Main supervisor and Examiner.
- Nils Björling, "Key Urban Projects", 2016, Examiner.
- Stig Anton Nielsen, "Mixed Substrate Computation. Sensor Based Artificial Cognition for Architectural Design and Modification", 2017, Examiner.
- Anna Maria Orru, "Wild Poethics. Exploring relational and embodied practices in urban-making", 2017, Examiner.
- Chotima Ag-ukrikul, "Let's Eat Together: Methods and Tools for Inclusive City Design Practice", 2019, Examiner.
- Jane Bobkova, "Towards a theory of natural occupation: developing theoretical, methodological and empirical support for the relation between plot systems and urban processes", 2020, Examiner.
- Johan Liekens, "Architecture's Poetic Instrumentality. Developing the Critical, Political, and Ethical Capacities of Architectural Artifacts", 2020, Main supervisor.
- Jonathan Geib, "Critical indirectness as a design approach in participatory practice", 2020, Examiner.

Finished Licentiatees in Architecture:

- Stefan Lundin, "Healing Architecture. Evidence, Intuition, Dialogue", 2015, Main supervisor.
- Daniel Norell, "Taming the Erratic. Representation and materialization in post-digital architectural design practice", 2016, Supervisor.
- Jon Geib, "Separations in Multivocality. Reconfiguring Dialogue Through Design", 2017, Examiner.
- Frans Magnusson, "Realtime and Development. Modes of knowing design computation in architectural practice", 2017, Examiner.
- Marja Lundgren, "Performance in the Swedish Building Code: An Inquiry into the Consequences for Architectural Design of the Formulation and Assessment of Performance Requirements", 2019, co-supervisor.

Current PhD supervision:

- Thierry Berlemont, "Making is More", defence planned 2020, Main supervisor.
- Stefan Lundin, "Healing Architecture", defence planned 2021, Main supervisor.
- Daniel Norell, "Taming the Erratic. Representation and materialization in post-digital architectural design practice", defence planned 2022, Co-supervisor and Examiner.

Memberships of academic and professional associations

- Founding member of ARENA – Architectural Research European Network Association, 2013 –
- Member of OCEAN Design Research Association, 2012 –
- Member of Swedish Association of Art Critics, and international member AICA, 2003 –
- Member of The Nordic Association of Architectural Research, 1999 –
- Architect SAR/MSA, member of Swedish Association of Architects, 1999 –

Lectures, moderating, seminars and teaching

Nilsson has been invited as keynote speaker, to lecture, moderate discussions, chair conference sessions, hold seminars, teach etc in various academic and professional occasions at national and international level. He has been teacher at various theoretical and studio courses at Chalmers Architecture since 1994. He has been a tutor at Research Training Sessions at Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Brussels 2006–2015.

Besides regular lectures, seminars and teaching at Chalmers Architecture as well as internal seminars and lectures at White Arkitekter, he has lectured widely.

Communication of research

Nilsson has since 1996 published over 160 articles, architectural criticisms and reviews of books in scientific journals, edited books, professional magazines and daily press.