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EDITORIAL POLICY

At a conference in Fredrikshavn in 1997 a new network - Nordic Network on Disability Research - was established. One of the purposes of this network is to establish a journal in English about social research on disability: Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research. Its main purpose is to disseminate results from social research on disability. "Social research" is - in this context - understood as a cross-disciplinary field including for example educational, sociological, socio-psychological, historical legal, economical, socio-medical research. Its defining characteristic is a focus on the relation between persons with disabilities and their environments in a broad sense. Although the ambition primarily is to encourage Scandinavian researchers to submit articles for publication, the Journal welcomes articles from all over the world.

I had the honour of being appointed as editor for the Journal. An editorial committee with one representative for each of the Nordic countries has also been established.

We are proud to be able to present the first issue of the Journal. The initial ambition was to have two issues published already in 1998. This optimistic plan was built on the recognition that social research on disability is quite an active field - as shown in the numbers and quality of papers presented at the yearly NNDR conferences - as well as on an explicit

wish among members of the network for an arena to publish that clearly addresses cross- disciplinary issues on disability. The optimistic enthusiasm tended however to underestimate the time it takes to produce articles. It is my experience that we also underestimated the time it takes to find referees, administer and co-ordinate their work, discuss changes in submitted articles with the authors and for authors to revise their manuscripts.

Throughout this work there has been a constant ambition of the editorial committee to uphold two criteria. The first one concerns quality. The articles accepted in the journal should fulfil basic scientific standards as well as being relevant to the present state of art in social disability research. This means that we have been careful in our selection of referees in order to have all manuscripts reviewed by persons familiar with the approach applied in the manuscript as well as with present developments in the field of international disability research. The

second criterion concerns the width of the journal. It has been important to us that it captures the prevailing different perspectives, methods and disciplines in social research on disability.

We feel convinced that this first issue - with its blend of empirical and theoretical research, quantitative and qualitative research, different theoretical perspectives, historical, ethical and political reflections - fulfils the criteria we have established for the journal.

We also hope that now when the first issue of the Journal has materialised, this will stimulate researchers to consider this Journal as an appropriate arena for publishing their research, as well as teachers, students, professionals and disabled persons and their organisations to realise the worth of this channel for disseminating research.

Mårten Söder
Editor