

Call for Papers

Baltic Bloodbaths
The Use of Political Violence in the Baltic Sea Region 1400–1600

A conference at Stockholm University, April 23–24, 2026

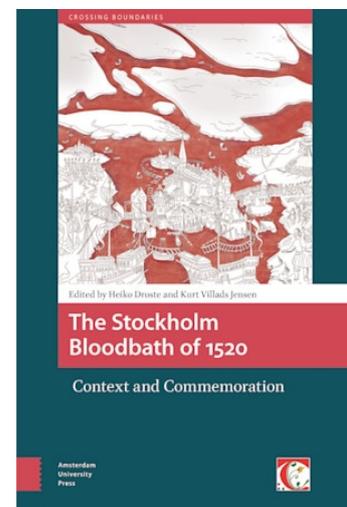
The Stockholm Bloodbath of November 1520 takes up an iconic status in Sweden and Scandinavia as a decisive turning point in Scandinavian history. However, it has mostly been researched as a singular event, despite different other bloodbaths taking place in Sweden between 1400 and 1600. With the present conference, we intend to broaden the perspective by applying a comparative approach to the use of political violence in the Baltic Sea Region from roughly 1400–1600.

We are especially interested in comparative approaches on acts of political violence, both within a certain realm as well as between different realms. How were these acts of violence legitimized in their times? How are they explained by contemporary and modern historians? What is the role of religious dissent, dynastic conflicts and social uprisings? How can violence be explained as a political instrument?

Papers should be 20 minutes long and in English. The number of presenters is limited to 20. We hope to be able to cover travel and accommodation expenses for all invited speakers.

This conference serves as a sequel to the conference *The Stockholm Bloodbath 1520 – context and commemoration*, which in 2021 commemorated the Stockholm Bloodbath. That conference was particularly interested in the European connections and responses. Stockholm Bloodbath was exceptional by way of the sheer number of executions. It was, otherwise, a rather typical example for the use of political violence in its times. The conference was published in 2025 by Amsterdam University Press

<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463724197/the-stockholm-bloodbath-of-1520>



Are you interested in participating in the conference, please send a paper proposal, no later than 29 September 2025 to the conference secretary sekreterare@medeltid.su.se

Organizers: Professor Heiko Droste heiko.droste@historia.su.se, and Professor Kurt Villads Jensen kurt.villads.jensen@historia.su.se