

EDITOR'S NOTE

**This Special Issue on Nordic Self-Help has been
Initiated and Completed by the Guest Editors:**

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This special issue was developed through a process ideal from an Editor's point of view. Researchers studying self-help/mutual aid in the Nordic countries were invited to a Nordic Self-Help Research Workshop February 18-20, 2010 in Trondheim, Norway, funded by the Norwegian Directorate of Health. About 25 participants from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Norway, with guests from the UK and the United States, heard keynote addresses that considered major conceptual and methodological issues and presenters gave original papers of their current research which were reviewed and critiqued by their peers. Johan Barstad and Roar Stokken through their work at the Patient Education Resource Centre of the Møre and Romsdal Hospital Trust in Volda, Norway were major organizers and implementers of the Workshop. A second workshop, organized by Bodil Landstad and Marianne Hedlund was held in Levanger, Norway at the Nord-Trøndelag University College September 16-17th, 2010 for researchers with revised papers to present their work for review and critique. Authors who chose to submit their papers to the special issue then had their papers blind peer reviewed by another set of reviewers (both a Nordic social scientist and a second from the United States, UK, or Germany familiar with self-help/mutual aid). Authors whose papers were accepted made the suggested revisions and the language of

their final copy was vetted by Howard Medland, Assistant Professor/Language Consultant, Volda University College, Volda, Norway who specializes in smoothing Nordic writers' professional English-language papers. We are especially grateful to Howard for his language work with the papers. Hopefully, this long process has not only resulted in a special issue of superior quality but has also created new networks of Nordic researchers who will benefit from the stimulation of novel ideas and colleagues.

Thomasina Borkman
Editor