

## We Never Checked If Gillberg Had Cheated

Ove Lundgren, Birgitta Strandvik, Torbjörn Tännsjö, Lotta Westerhäll

No investigation has been done regarding scientific fraud in Christopher Gillberg's research, write the members of the Ethics Committee at the Sahlgrenska Academy

In the article signed by Per Gunnar Holmgren in *Dagens Medicin* on the 6th of April it is already mentioned in the heading of the article that Christopher Gillberg has been acquitted of the allegations of scientific fraud. The citation of the text you find in the heading. The text continues: two documents have been scrutinized according to the regulations when dealing with allegations of scientific fraud ... both have been scrutinized and dealt with by the Ethics Committee at the Sahlgrenska Academy (corresponding to a common faculty for medicine, odontology and medical care). The verdict has been confirmed by Göran Bondjers in his position as head of the academy ... this means that Christopher Gillberg as well as his colleague Peder Rasmussen have been acquitted of scientific fraud.

This is not only an incomplete statement: it never expressed what the Ethics Committee has officially announced and thus what Göran Bondjers could have confirmed.

The truth is that the Ethics Committee has never acquitted Gillberg of the allegations. What we have done is that we, after having studied the allegations [from Elinder/Kärfve] have chosen not to proceed further; by this we meant that the allegations did not make such an action motivated. In this matter the Ethics Committee did not agree. Birgitta Strandvik stated that the allegations should have been handed over to the Swedish Research Council to make an independent investigation.

We chose not to do this. It is correct that the chairman of the Ethics Committee, Ove Lundgren, as a private person, was invited by the research team, for a short period of time, to inspect the material (despite the promises given by the research team never to hand over the material to any other person—as the researchers, according to their own statements, had given the participants of the study).

Lundgren inspected the material for a short period of time, after having declared that such a kind of an inspection never could lead forward to solving the real problem. He also declared, after having made some casual checks on the material, that it was impossible, based on such superficial checks, to make any firm statements on whether there had been fraud. This statement he also made clear to the head of the academy and this statement he has made clear in all his statements ever since. Thus the truth is that the question about scientific fraud never has been investigated. If the research group tell the truth, when the group announce that they have destroyed all the research material, the question [of fraud] never will be investigated. This is the main tragedy of this affair.

Professor Emeritus Ove Lundgren, Professor Birgitta Strandvik, Professor Torbjörn Tännsjö, and Professor Lotta Westerhäll were all previous members of the Ethics Committee at the Sahlgrenska Academy [University of Gothenburg].

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