

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES

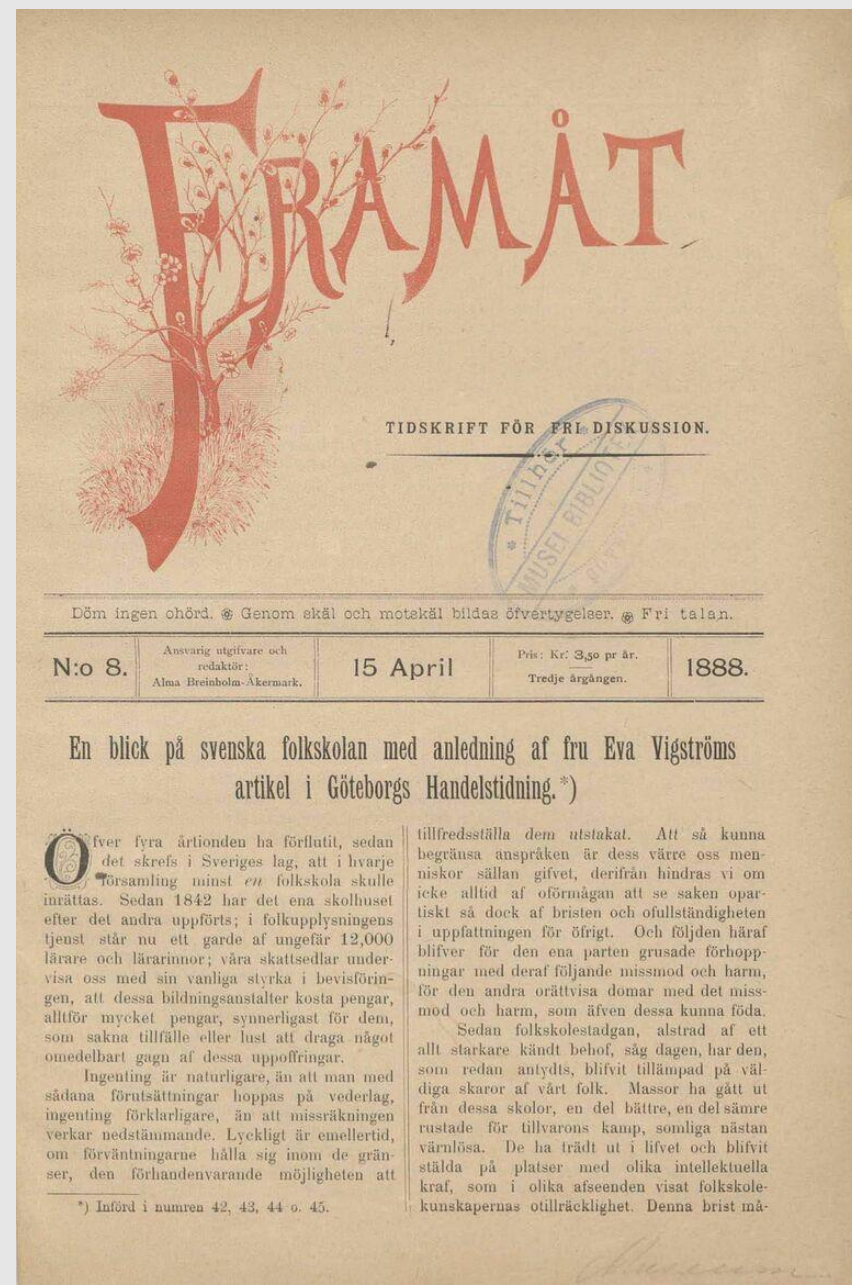
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# DISENTANGLING THE FRENCH CONNECTION: TRANSNATIONAL SWEDISH FEMINISM IN ALMA ÅKERMARK'S PERIODICAL *FRAMÅT* (1886 – 1889)

## Background & Introduction

*Framåt* was a Swedish feminist periodical that played a pivotal role in diversifying the landscape of Swedish feminism in the late 19th century. Edited by Alma Åkermark, it became a platform for challenging the dominant liberal feminist ideology, offering space for radical perspectives and controversial narratives that ultimately led to its closure. While *Framåt* is traditionally regarded by Swedish scholars as a niche yet significant voice in the feminist movement, my research reveals that beneath its radical facade, Åkermark strategically advanced transnational alliances and fostered recognition of the emerging Scandinavian

feminist movement

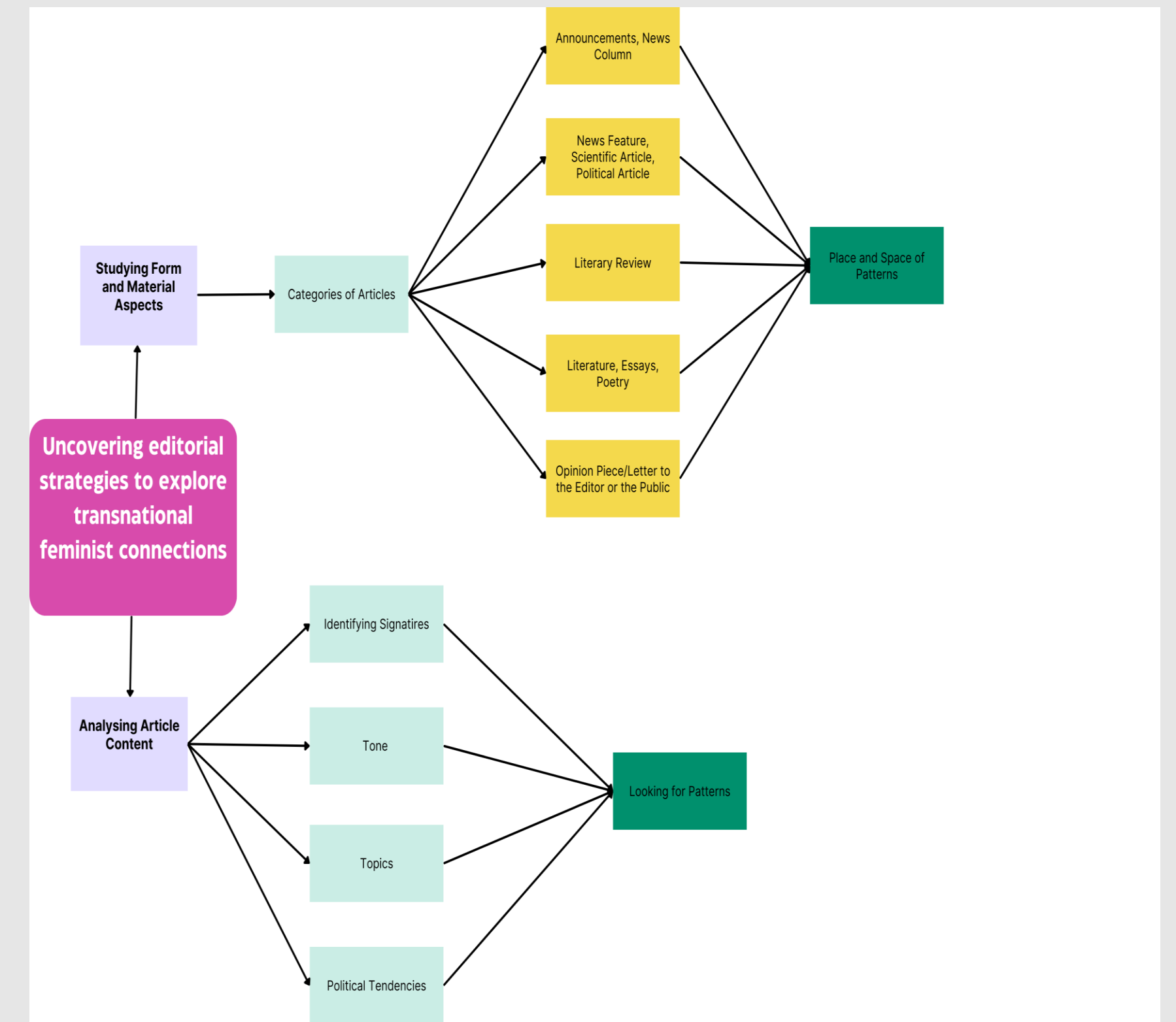


*Framåt* (1886 – 1889)



Alma Åkermark (1853 – 1933)

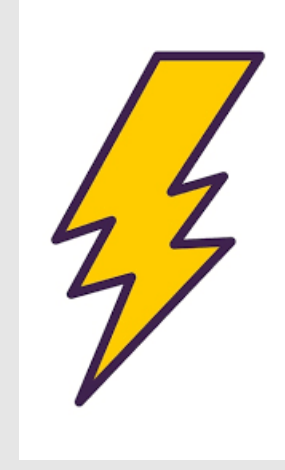
## Mission & Methodology



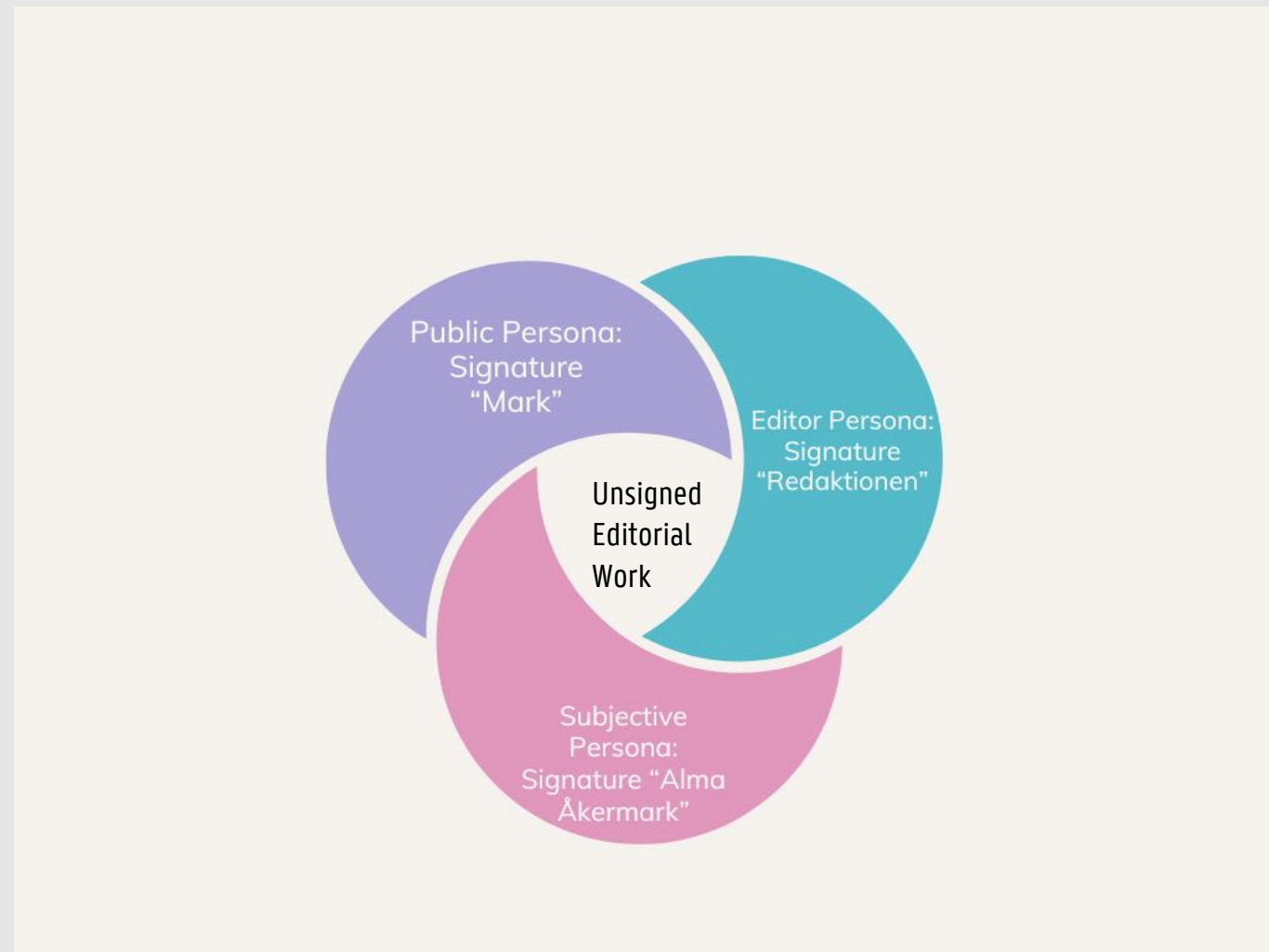
## Pattern 1: Strategies of Conflict

### Editorial Stance

- Building on previous scholarship: *Framåt* was a platform for **radical thought & Marxist ideas** that were quite new in the debate on women's rights in Scandinavia
- **Attack against dominant Feminist Liberal School**



### Editorial Signature Usage



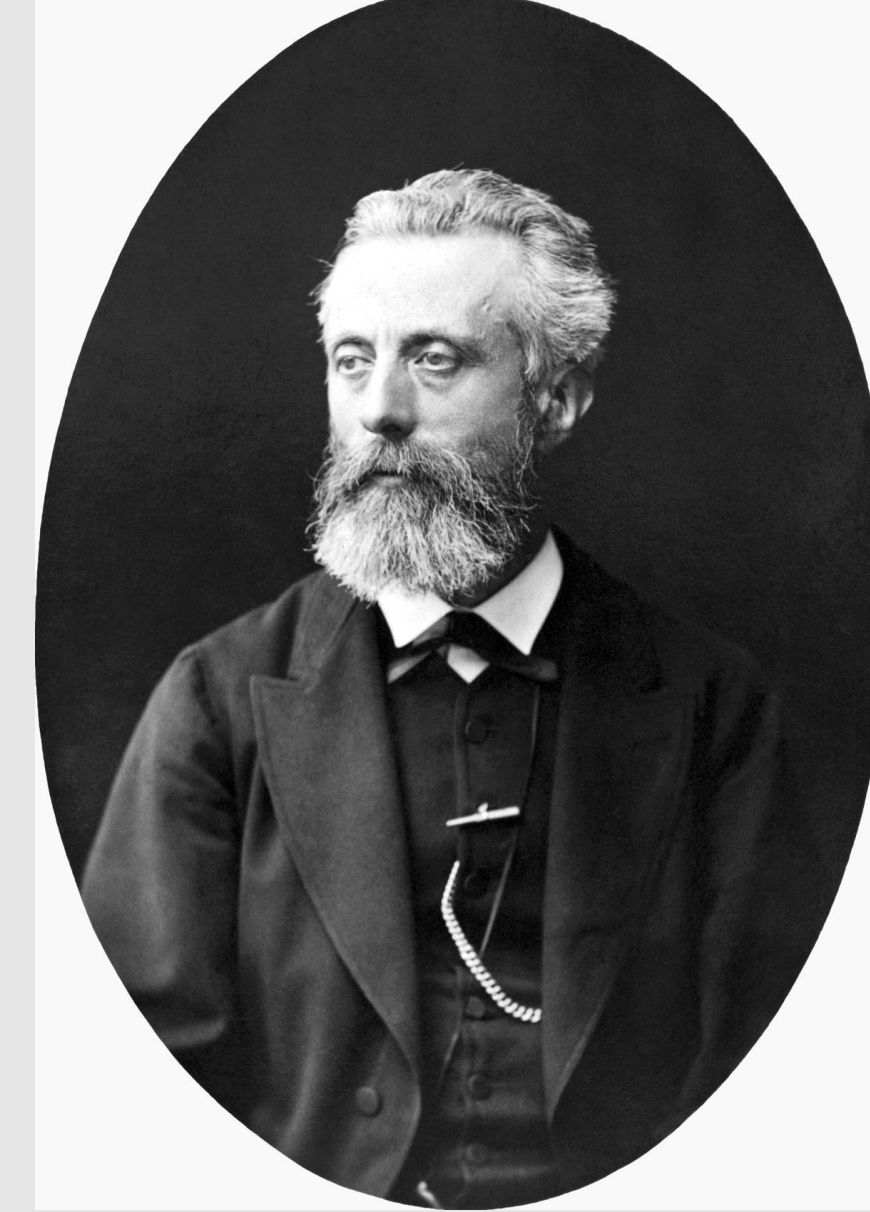
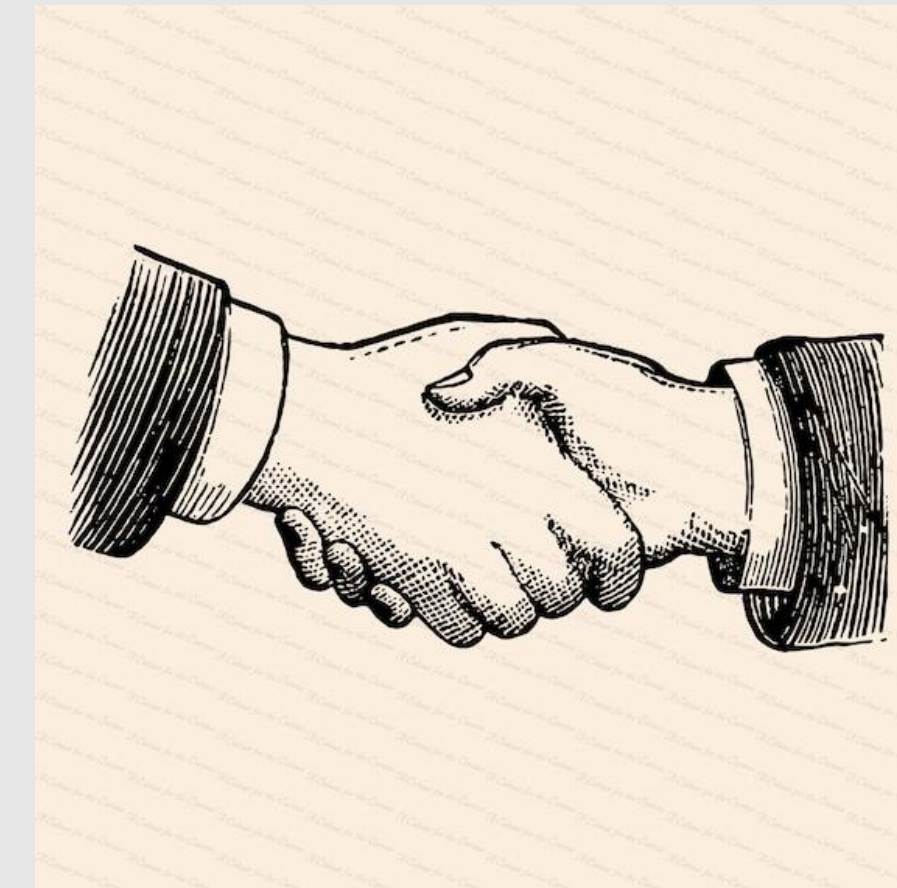
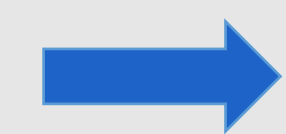
"Mark": Criticism of liberal feminism (15/01/86), criticism of conservative ideas (01/10/86)  
 "Alma Åkermark": defense of *Framåt's* legitimacy & independence of thought (15/06, 15/07, 15/08 1888)

### Conclusions:

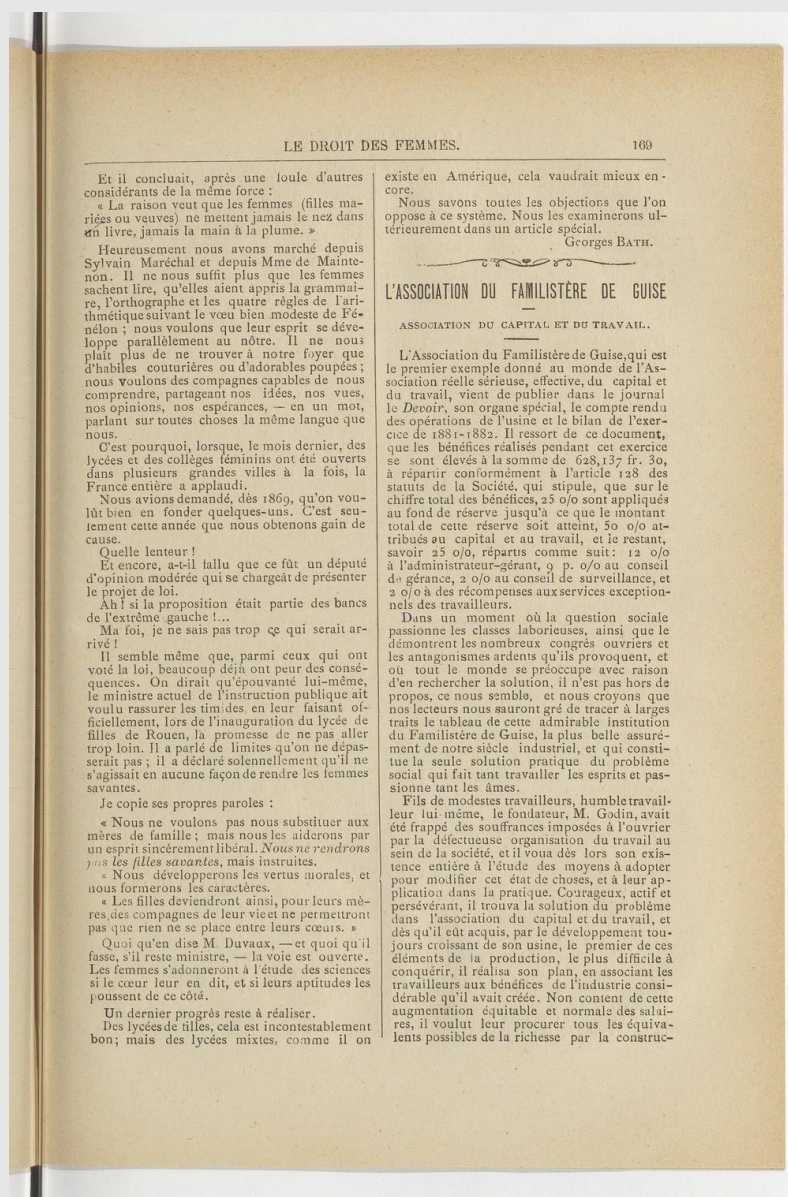
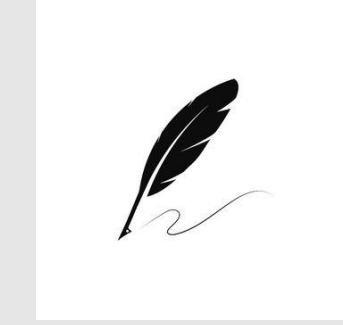
- Signature strategies as a multi-faceted editorial tool
- **Advancement through a strategy of conflict**
- Socialist orientation under radical facade

### Finding:

- Léon Richer's name and work appears exclusively under "Redaktionen" (15/08/86), or in unsigned editorial announcements (15/05/86, 01/09/86, 01/10/86, 15/03/87, 15/04/87, 15/09/87, 31/10/87, 15/03/88, 12/88)



Léon Richer (1824 – 1911)



*Le Droit des femmes* (1869 – 1891)

### Mentions of Richer or his work in *Framåt*:

1886: 4 mentions  
 1887: 4 mentions  
 1888: 2 mentions

**Action Point:** Comparative analysis of *Le Droit des femmes*, a widely recognized French feminist periodical edited by Richer

**Finding:** Recognition of the Scandinavian women's movement from beginning of 1888

**Conclusion:** From 1888 Åkermark did not need to report Richer's comments on Nordic women activism. She probably felt that an international recognition of the Scandinavian movement was on its way towards full achievement

## Conclusion:

This research has yielded two major results:

- 1) a new understanding of Alma Åkermark's editorial strategies, which clarifies the history of the periodical *Framåt*
- 2) The link she endeavoured to make with Léon Richer's socialist feminism, which may elucidate her own true inclinations, but more certainly her deeper desire to strengthen the Scandinavian feminist movement through international recognition and collaboration – something her periodical also achieved by fueling debate and controversy i.e. publicizing the Scandinavian feminist movement

### Scientific Output:

- **Monograph:** *Transnational Feminism in Nineteenth-century Swedish Literature and Periodical Culture: Entangled Dreams and Cross-Cultural Encounters* (Chapter 3) (Brill, 2024)
- **Article:** "Les origines françaises d'un féminisme 'anti-bourgeois': la stratégie éditoriale de *Framåt* (1886–1889)" *Nordic Journal of Francophone Studies/Revue nordique des études francophones* (Nov. 2023). 6(1). pp. 91–102. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16993/njef.105>

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