



continue to organise open events to disseminate research and contribute to current debate. We are extremely pleased to also be able to inform you that there will be another call for new CERGU post-docs this winter! As always, these are cross-disciplinary calls, open to anyone with a PhD in the humanities or social sciences (including economy and law). More details to come. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Linda Berg

### **CERGU Kicks off a Busy Autumn!**

In early September, CERGU researchers and staff joined forces at Star Bowling in Gothenburg for a fun evening of friendly competition followed by a relaxed dinner and conversation. The CERGU Steering Group will soon be deciding on new [thematic areas](#), and welcomed suggestions from individual researchers within the network. Check out some of our photos of the fun evening!



### **Successful Conference on Think Tanks in Europe**

Katarzyna Jezierska, CERGU post-doc, organized a very well-received conference together with CERGU on 20-22 September 2017 ([Think Tanks in Europe](#)), thanks to funding from the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. The focus of the three-day conference was on a relatively unexplored political actor – namely, think tanks. Think tanks attempt to be independent organizations that conduct social analysis in order to influence political decision making. Sometimes they are geared toward politicians and officials, sometimes toward society at large (for example, via the media) hoping to change opinions on a particular issue and to indirectly affect politics. They are rather under the radar, even though they can have quite a lot of influence. Especially in times when the experts' role is being questioned, it is important to study these organizations. From the early planning stages of the conference, it was quite clear that there would be great interest in the subject of think tanks, based on the number of researchers who applied to participate. From the outset, a shorter lunch-to-lunch workshop was planned, but even with strict selective criteria, the conference organizer decided to extend the conference to three days, so that a larger number of researchers would be able to present their interesting contributions.



Over three days in Gothenburg, 23 researchers from 11 European countries gathered to discuss research findings from different projects involving think tanks in their respective countries, as well as international think tanks. A total of [16 papers](#) were presented with different theoretical and methodological starting points. Both senior and junior researchers were invited, and because the topic was limited to a concise theme, the discussions were very rewarding. The conference ended with a discussion about continued cooperation. Meanwhile, researchers will continue to produce relevant texts, based on the comments made, and at least two special issues on international journals are planned. The conference was very successful!



### New Book with CERGU Connection Released



Edited by Mats Andrén, Thomas Lindkvist, Ingmar Söhrman, and Katharina Vajta, *Cultural Borders of Europe: Narratives, Concepts and Practices in the Present and the Past* was recently published by Berghahn Books. The list of authors who contributed chapters reads like a who's who of CERGU. Several of the researchers who presented at the 2017 October Workshop, Klas Grinell and Göran Larsson, were involved, as were CERGU steering group members, Katharina Vajta and Per Cornell. Johan Järlehed, who previously served as deputy director of CERGU has a chapter, as do Katarina Leppänen and Ingmar Söhrman, both active in the CERGU network. Jon Wittrock, who was a former post-doc at CERGU is a contributor, and even CERGU's own director, Linda Berg, is among the chapter authors. Congratulations to all of the authors and editors!

### Big News this Winter!

The CERGU steering group has decided to begin preparation to issue a new call for CERGU post-docs, with one-two positions to be advertised this winter. The call for applications will open on **5 January**, with a deadline in March. Further information will be coming soon, so stay tuned to the CERGU website and social media channels. We hope to spread the word far and wide in order to find the best researchers to join our community of scholars here in Gothenburg.



### Profile on Christina Reimann

Christina Reimann is a researcher in the Department of Historical Studies and post-doc here at CERGU. She joined us here in Gothenburg in 2016 and will organize a significant international conference in a month! The conference, [Port Cities and Migration in the Modern Era](#), will take place 23-24 November at Viktoriagatan, at the School of Business, Economics and Law.



*Thanks for agreeing to be interviewed, Christina! Especially since you are nearing the midpoint of your post-doc with CERGU. Where were you before you moved to Gothenburg and what were you doing?*

After I had finished my PhD at Humboldt-University Berlin in autumn 2014, I received a short-term postdoc position at the French-German research institute Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin, to which I am still affiliated. After that, I had two six-month research contracts, first in Marburg and then in Mainz. In Marburg, I was a visiting fellow at the Collaborative Research Centre “Dynamics of Security. Types of Securitization from a Historical Perspective”. In Mainz I was a post-doc fellow at the Institute for European History. During that time, while starting my new research project, I was also busy with publishing my PhD thesis as a book, which came out at Waxmann publishers in summer 2016.

*You have a big conference coming up (Port Cities and Migration in the Modern Era) in a month! Could you tell us a bit about who will be joining and what the conference will focus on?*

Port cities allow for a localized insight into past and present globalization processes. Throughout the modern era, port cities have served as hubs of global transfers and exchange, while also representing gateways for cultural change within (national) societies. They functioned as catalysts for global phenomena such as colonialism, trade, or mass emigration. At the same time, different forms of mobility of people and commodities shaped these urban spaces and cultures. This interdisciplinary conference scrutinizes this double role of port cities by asking how far migration accounts for port cities' global connectedness and for their specific cultures. The focus on migration phenomena, ranging from transit migration over (post-) colonial migration to dockworkers' mobility, allows for fruitfully integrating two research perspectives on port cities: the global (history) and the cultural (history) studies perspective. Encompassing different forms of agency, this approach shall permit a better appraisal of port cities' part as “portals of globalization”.

The conference involves six panels with seventeen presentations by young and established researchers from different European countries and disciplines, as well as [a public keynote](#). Some of the researchers who will be joining I know personally, others I know only from the literature and some other's work I discovered while doing research on the topic.

*As a historian, what do you think of the current events, elections, climate of Europe? Do you have insights on where we have been and where we are going? Does your ongoing research delve into any of these issues?*

It feels indeed like we are going through an epoch that one day might be called “an era of intensified change and uncertainty”, which brought about strong reactions towards ever more globalizing societies, reactions that are anti-liberal, nationalistic, populist, isolationist etc. It is elucidating and scary at the same time to see that there are quite some parallels with the period between the 1880s and 1930s, the so-called outbreak of ‘high-modernity’. Throughout a couple of decennia, the mobility of goods, people and information (telegraphs, telephones), the rapidity of traffic (think trains and steamboats), high industrialization in general that all fostered the development of social and political movements, changed the daily lives of most people on the world. Historical literature has it that these changes came all too fast and were so deep-going that societies did not have the time or the capacities to truly “deal with them” – the ideas and reactions they finally came up with are just too familiar to us as they led into the big catastrophes of the 20th century. My research actually deals with the period of ‘high modernity’ between 1880 and 1930 and I am particularly interested in the many tensions and interactions between ‘globalization’ (mobility, migration, transnational entanglements, etc.) and new forms of organizing social life on a local or national scale, for example, the introduction of general insurance schemes.

*Finally, as an active member of the CERGU network of researchers, could you reflect a bit on your time here – conferences, workshops, seminars, and conversations that have made an impact on you during your first full year in Gothenburg?*

I am enjoying my stay at CERGU very much, especially so as I have always worked in an interdisciplinary context. This allows me to change perspective and try to think differently. I like jumping into other fields of research and have received many useful comments from colleagues at CERGU when I have presented my work. I appreciate the atmosphere at the CERGU seminars, which is always friendly and constructive. And I really appreciate CERGU as a community to socialise and have a good time, because this, I think, is important, too.

Follow [CERGU](#) on social media! You can stay up-to-date with current seminars, events, and conferences, as well as the latest publications and news about CERGU by following us on [Twitter](#), liking our [Facebook](#) page, and joining our [LinkedIn](#) group.



### **October Workshop 2017**

This year’s October workshop was entitled ‘Inclusion and Exclusion of Islam in Europe,’ and took place on 20 October in Torngy Segerstedtsalen at the University Main Building. An engaged and attentive audience listened to distinguished scholars present on this very timely topic. The afternoon featured presentations by Klas Grinell, Karl Ågerup, Ann-Kristin Jonasson, with Linda Berg moderating.



### **Rutger Lindahl Award 2017**

This year’s winner of the [Rutger Lindahl Award for the Best Master Thesis in European Studies](#) is Louise Warenus. Louise received the prize for her thesis *Sustainable Capitalism in the Making? The*



*Marshallian Citizenship Conceptualisation Expanded in a European Circular Economy.*

The prize comes with an award of 10 000 Swedish kronor, and the winner's thesis will be published in the CERGU digital [Working Papers Series](#). Congratulations to Louise!



**Coming up at CERGU this Autumn...**

- 25/10**, 13:00-15:00      Dissertation Defense: **Emily Xu**, [The Internet of Things: Projects-Places-Policies](#), D32, Handelshögskolan
- 9/11**, 10:15-11:45      Research Potentials of the Historical Archives of the EU, Sprängkullsgatan 19, Stora Skansen
- 14/11**, 9:15-10:45      Working Seminar: **Alexandra Bousiou**, *The governance of Asylum in the Southeastern European island borders*, Stora Skansen
- 16/11**, 13:30-15:15      [Morgondagens EU](#) panel about the future of the EU with **Lisbeth Aggestam**, [in Swedish], Museum of World Culture
- 16-17/11**      Workshop: [Welfare, Inequality and the Social Dimension in Europe](#) (organised by Bengt Larsson and Urban Strandberg). Keynote speech: by [John D. Stephens](#) (UNC, Chapel Hill), SEB-Salen, Handelshögskolan. Event held during **EU summit in Gothenburg**
- 21/11**, 9:15-10:45      Guest Seminar: [Ulf Hedetoft](#) (Chair of the Centre for European Studies at Lund University, and Dean of Humanities at the University of Copenhagen), *A near-existential dilemma: the European national template, the accommodation of diversity and the nationalist backlash*, Stora Skansen
- 23-24/11**      Workshop: [Port Cities and Migration in the Modern Era](#), organised by **Christina Reimann**, location Viktoriagatan 13. Keynote speech: [Port Cities: Urban Cultures and Their Place in Global History](#), CG-Salen, Handelshögskolan
- 7-8/12**      Workshop: **Mobility and Leisure Travel in Cold War Europe**, organised by **Sune Bechmann Pedersen**, Pilen
- 12/12**, 8:30-9:30      **Glögg Breakfast INTERNAL EVENT**



