



## CERGU Autumn 2015 Newsletter



### Director's Letter

Autumn is here in all its glory, and there are many things going on at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#). First of all, we are happy to welcome two new postdocs; [Christina Reimann](#) and [Sune Bechman-Pedersen](#), who will join us in the beginning of next year. You can read more about them below. Speaking of recruitment; CERGU will open a call for two new PhD-students in December.

The deadline will be in the end of January, so keep your eyes open for the call and please help us to spread the word to potential applicants.

This year's October Workshop (in cooperation with CES) focused on current challenges for minority languages. At the graduation ceremony which followed, the 2015 Rutger Lindahl Award for the best Master's thesis in European Studies was awarded to [Christina Schmahl: "Reconsidering the EU's 'Democratic Deficit'. A Deliberative Perspective"](#).

So far this year we have organised four international conferences of workshops where fruitful scientific exchange has taken place between local and international top scholars. More information and links can be found below. For one of the conferences all talks were filmed, allowing us to provide them 'on demand' here: "[Reconsidering Humanity: Big Data, the Scientific Method, and the Images of Humans](#)". Do not miss the opportunity to see these interesting talks again! For more information on up-coming events, see our [calendar](#) – and the public lunch seminars organised by [Brännpunkt Europa](#). For the broader public, do not miss the CERGU and [CES](#) panel on hate crime during the [Human Rights Days](#) in Gothenburg 10 November or when scholars in CERGU's network will talk about [Migration in the European Union: Possibilities and Challenges](#) during Global Week.

Issues of EU democracy, minority rights, hate crime and migration are all examples of challenging problems in Europe today. Thanks to all colleagues who share their knowledge on these issues!

Linda Berg

### Stay Tuned: **CERGU Announces Call for Two PhD Positions**

CERGU will offer two positions for prospective PhD students. Applications will be accepted starting in the beginning of December with a deadline in January/February. Exact dates will be determined soon. Prospective candidates should identify which faculty ([Faculty of Arts](#), [Faculty of Social Sciences](#), or [School of Business, Economics and Law](#)) and department they would ideally be placed at. Interested applicants should also motivate which of the [CERGU thematic areas](#) best suits their research. Check the [CERGU website](#) often with updates on the application process, and please spread the word to those who might be a good fit at CERGU!

## Christina Schmahl Wins Rutger Lindahl Award

This year's Rutger Lindahl Award for Best Master's Thesis in European Studies was presented to Christina Schmahl for her thesis "Reconsidering the EU's 'Democratic Deficit': A Deliberative Perspective". The award, which comes with a cash prize of 10 000 SEK, is awarded annually at the Centre for European Studies graduation ceremony, and this year was no different. Christina is originally from Kassel, Germany, and is currently interning at GIZ- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit in Frankfurt. Her thesis will be published in CERGU's digital [Working Paper Series](#). Christina's thesis supervisor was Katarzyna Jezierska, a postdoc and political scientist at CERGU.



## Two New Postdocs to Begin at CERGU

CERGU welcomes the addition of two new postdocs to our network of researchers. Of the eight candidates who were interviewed, CERGU has hired two new postdoctoral researchers who will join the network in 2016. In total, 70 applications were received for the postdoc-positions advertised during the spring.



The two researchers who will begin work at CERGU in 2016 are:

**Christina Reimann** (PhD from Humboldt University, Germany) has a postdoc project which is entitled *National integration, social security and foreign workers: The legal practice of migrants' insurance in Rotterdam and Antwerp in the late 19th and early 20th centuries*. Christina will be employed at the Department of Historical Studies at the Faculty of Arts.



**Sune Bechmann Pedersen** (PhD from Lund University) has planned a research project with the title of *Cold War Holidays: The Politics of Scandinavian Tourism to Communist Europe, 1955–1990*. Sune will be placed at the Department of Economy and Society within the School of Business, Economics and Law.

Both will begin in February-March, 2016.

## TTIP Conference Set for March 2016

CERGU will be organising an Interdisciplinary Conference on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in Gothenburg 14-16 March, 2016. Bringing together internationally renowned researchers and policy makers, such as EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, it is aimed at enabling a dialogue between research and policy on pertinent issues for a Swedish, European and international



community. The conference facilitates the cooperation and sharing of experiences amongst between 50-100 scholars in law, political science and economics with a common research interest in EU-US transatlantic relations. The afternoon 15 March will be public (and function as the CERG U 'European Research Day' of 2016), with panel discussions and a speech by Commissioner Cecilia Malmström.

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.



## Successful Conferences and Workshops

2015 has been a very busy year at CERGU with four international conferences and workshops taking place across a variety of disciplines. During June, CERGU co-hosted the [Reconsidering Humanity: Big Data, the Scientific Method, and the Images of Humans](#). This conference was held at Lindholmen Science Park on the island of Hisingen. It involved eleven keynote speakers who discussed the notion of big data, and how technology will change human identity, society, and culture. The conference was co-organized by CES Director and political scientist, Urban Strandberg, and Christian Munthe from the Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science. The keynote presentations can be viewed on the [CERGU website](#).



During September, CERGU co-hosted three different conferences and workshops. The first was the Industrial Relations in Europe Conference- IREC 2015 held on 10-11 September. This year's theme was [Converging or Diverging Industrial Relations in Europe?](#) Keynote speakers included Richard Hyman from the London School of Economics, Susanne Pernicka from Universität Linz, and Walter Korpi from Stockholm University. The conference was organized by

CERGU Steering Group Chairman and sociologist Bengt Larsson, Bengt Furåker, Kristina Lovén Seldén, Tomas Berglund, and Mattias Bengtsson.

[The Gothenburg Workshop on Intra-Party Politics](#) took place on 17-18 September. This two day workshop gathered together researchers from seven different countries, and fourteen different institutions. The workshop was funded by the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science. It was organized by CERGU researchers Jon Polk and Sofie Blombäck, as well as Marie Demker and Jonas Hinnfors, all political scientists.

With a focus on translation studies and book fairs, the [Translational Checkpoints in the Creative Industries conference](#) was held on 28-30 September. CERGU co-organized this conference together with the Department of Languages and Literatures (SPL) and the Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion (LIR). The conference organizer, CERGU postdoc Angela Kölling, invited New Zealand poet, performer and professor, Selina Tusitala Marsh, to serve as keynote speaker. The conference was held at the Faculty of Arts, University of Gothenburg.



## Profile of Katarzyna Wojnicka

AS: First of all, welcome to CERGU! Kasia, could you give us a feel for your research interests, and any current projects you're involved in?

KW: I studied sociology and gender studies, primarily at the Jagiellonian University, but also at the University of Barcelona, Free University Berlin, Rutgers - the State University of New Jersey and European University Viadrina and my academic interests are mirrored in these two disciplines. For almost ten years my main research fields have been critical studies on men and masculinities. Among others, I've worked on issues like: men and gender equality, intersections between violence and masculinity, identity of Polish men etc. in many national and European projects e.g.: *Study on the role of men in gender equality* (PROGRESS 2010-2012), *Evaluation of European Perpetrators Programmes* (Daphne III 2013-2014), *Work with Perpetrators – European Network* (Daphne III 2013-2015). On the other hand, as a dedicated sociologist, I'm strongly interested in the social movement research which has reflected in my engagement in research projects on the Polish feminist movement, LGBTQ and prolife movements in the project *L'Europe Rebelle – the Rebellious Europe* (2009) and last, but not least, in a multi-level research on men's social movements in Poland and Europe, which I have conducted since 2009.



AS: What is your CERGU postdoc project?

KW: The main goal of my CERGU project entitled “Transnational European fathers’ rights movement(s): between European and national dimensions” is to analyse the character of European fathers’ rights movement(s) belonging to the wider group of men’s social movements. Despite the fact that the fathers’ rights movement is one of the most recognizable men’s movements in Europe, there are no comparative analyses of the phenomenon and only fragmentary analysis of the national groups and organisations can be singled out. In order to obtain well-founded background knowledge about the movement I’ve been conducting qualitative social research in 4 European countries (Poland, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom) which represents 4 different European gender regimes. At the moment, the research in Poland is complete, and I’ve also started conducting interviews with German activists. My stay at CERGU however, is dedicated to conducting my research in Sweden (already started) and United Kingdom in late 2016. During my fieldwork I conduct in-depth interviews with leaders and members of fathers’ rights organisations, networks and informal groups from Gothenburg and Stockholm and take part in their meetings which is a bit challenging here in Sweden since my Swedish is not perfect yet! Nevertheless, my plan is to analyse the state of the movements in each country and eventually write a book on the European fathers’ rights movement(s).

AS: As a new postdoc here, there must be quite a bit to get used to. How have you found the research/academic environment so far?

KW: Well, I came to Sweden almost 9 months ago so I already feel like a real Gothenburger! But in fact, the way I feel here is strongly connected to the warm and welcoming ambience here at CERGU. Therefore, it hasn't taken me long to get use to the new environment and to develop the feeling of belonging. It was especially easy since quite quickly, I realized that both CERGU and the University of Gothenburg have a lot to offer in terms of vibrant and inspiring research/academics. From the very beginning I started to take part in a number of seminars, workshops and other events which not only helped me in my academic development but also gave me a chance to network with colleagues and become a part of the university “family”.

**Dates to Remember: Spring 2016**



12/1, 8:30-12:00 [First breakfast and research application seminar](#)

14/1, Guest seminar with Seth Jolly

10/2, 14:30-17:00 [Europaperspektiv book seminar: EU och de nya säkerhetshoten](#) (Sappören)

16/2, 9:15-11:00 Docent Lecture: Andrea Spehar

14-16/3, [TTIP Conference](#) (Handelshögskolan)

15/3, 13:15-17:00 [TTIP Public Event/Europaforskardagen](#) with Commissioner Cecilia Malmström



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