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Linda Berg

True or False? The Annual CERGU October Workshop

The theme of this year's October Workshop was "[True or False? On News Reporting in the EU Today.](#)" This timely topic was structured into a lively series of presentations by distinguished scholars and a journalist over the course of an afternoon. The presentations were followed by a question-answer session with the over 100 audience members in attendance.

Jan Andersson, journalist and former Brussels correspondent for Swedish Radio presented on "Disinformation as a political weapon" while Johan Farkas, PhD Fellow in Media and Communications Studies from Malmö University discussed "Hitting the wall: How social media companies inhibit the struggle against political deception." The afternoon's presentations concluded with Elsa Hedling, Doctoral Candidate at the Department of Political Science at Lund University. Hedling held a presentation entitled "EU vs. disinfo? The East StratCom Task Force and the EU's efforts to counter disinformation."

The event was moderated by Ann Ighe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economy and Society, Deputy Director CES, University of Gothenburg. The concept for the workshop was developed jointly by Urban Strandberg and Andreas Moberg.





Lucie Buttkus Wins 2018 Rutger Lindahl Award

This year's winner of The Rutger Lindahl Award for Best Master's Thesis in European Studies is Lucie Buttkus. She has been awarded for her master's thesis entitled "The European Union and China in the Economic Security Challenge. How the dynamic development of trust alters trade cooperation." Lucie has received a Double Degree, a joint master's degree from both the University of Gothenburg and Fudan University in Shanghai, China. Lucie studied in Gothenburg last year, and then in Shanghai this year. Winners of the Rutger Lindahl Award receive 10 000 Swedish crowns and the opportunity to have their thesis published in the Centre for European Research (CERGU's) online [Working Paper Series](#).



CERGU Welcomed Two Interns

During a two-week period in October, two high school students from [Jensen Education](#) in Gothenburg, Emma de Blanche Johansson and Ronja Jännebring, both 17 years old, joined CERGU as interns. While interning, Emma and Ronja were able to attend seminars, classes, and an event at Brännpunkt Europa, as well as carry out various administrative tasks. They registered CERGU publications in GUP (the system for reporting publications at the University of Gothenburg), learned how to scan receipts in the electronic economy system, and even opened a [CERGU account on Instagram!](#) Below, you can read about their conversations with CERGU PhD students. Emma is a second-year student in the Economy program at Jensen Education, and Ronja is a second-year student in the Social Science program at the same school. We wish them lots of luck in their future studies!



A Conversation With Alexandra Bousiou and Kristina Wejstål

In 2016, after receiving many applications from qualified candidates all over the world, two very talented and inquisitive researchers were awarded funding from CERGU to complete their PhDs at the University of Gothenburg. Alexandra Bousiou (School of Global Studies) and Kristina Wejstål (Department of Law) are now in their second year of a four year doctoral program, and have kindly shared their experiences with two visiting interns, Emma de Blanche Johansson and Ronja

Jännebring. Emma and Ronja sat down with Alexandra and Kristina to ask them about life as CERGU doctoral candidates, and their interviews have been included below.

Emma and Ronja: Alexandra, what made you choose Global Studies and why did you decide to move to Sweden?

Alexandra: The School of Global Studies is a multidisciplinary department with a well-developed PhD program. It offers a lot of courses and a rich research environment with many seminars and workshops. The reason why I chose Sweden was because I was already living and working here and had a positive impression of the University of Gothenburg. I knew that the academic environment in Sweden was vigorous.



Emma and Ronja: What is the goal with your work?

Alexandra: The goal with my work is multi-faceted. The first goal is for me to gain a better understanding of my topic -the governance of asylum- that will allow me to write a good thesis. The other goal is to make an impact by communicating the acquired knowledge with students, colleagues, and the wider society if possible.

Emma and Ronja: Kristina, why did you choose to study law?



Kristina: I started studying law when I was about 26 years old, and before that I was working as an actress and with a teaching project on gender equality at high schools in Gothenburg. Questions about justice and gender equality have been an interest for me since high school, which is why studying law was of great interest for me.

Emma and Ronja: Why do you think it's important to get involved in international migration and children's rights?

Kristina: I'm not currently focusing explicitly on children's rights in my PhD project, but I have earlier, during my law studies, worked with UNICEF looking at issues related to unaccompanied girls and children's rights.

The question of migration and refugees has been more and more debated at the European level. In this debate refugees are often described as a threat to European society, rather than adults and children in need of international protection. As a lawyer, I think it's important to highlight the Human Rights and Refugee Rights dimensions of this debate - and as PhD student, I want to analyze the issue of access to asylum in the EU, and how EU asylum law operates within, and is constructed in a gendered context.

News From the Centre for European Studies



Our internationally unique effort to promote professionals' life-long learning and contribute to developments in working life, [EMAES – the Executive Master of European Studies](#), has produced its first four graduates, at the same time as we have enrolled the third cohort of 21 new students (which is a record number!).

CES' long-term strategic plan has been focused on international double degree partners on three continents, which has come to fruition this semester. In addition to our European partnership with the double degree at [Konstanz University](#) (2014-) in Germany, and our Asian partnership with [Fudan University](#), in Shanghai, China (2016-), we have now added a North American double degree collaboration with TAM-Transatlantic Master's Program, [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#). Three of our students from the [University of Gothenburg](#) (Kajsa, Klara and Simon) have been studying at the [Center for European Studies at Chapel Hill](#) since the beginning of the autumn semester. When they return to Gothenburg for their second year in 2019-2020, they will be joined by three American students (Cassie, Gray and Jessica). It may be the case that CES is unique in Europe in having succeeded in organizing a double degree collaboration with renowned academic partners on three continents.

This autumn semester also marks the first graduate from our Chinese double degree program: German student Lucie Buttkus, who successfully completed her second year at [SIRPA: The School of International Relations and Public Affairs](#), Fudan University, Shanghai, and graduated with a double degree this semester. Lucie also won The Rutger Lindahl Award for the best master thesis in European Studies (see more above), and held one of the two student speeches at the European Studies Annual Graduation Ceremony on October 12.

For the very first time ever, CES organized a recruiting and outreach event hosted by [Sweden's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels](#) on November 8. The event was organized in collaboration with TAM and CES Chapel Hill, and included a panel with three MAES alumni and two TAM alumni. EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström, Deputy Secretary-General of the EEAS Christian Leffler, Ambassador Åsa Webber, and Counsellor Nataša Bošković were also among the speakers. The event was very well received by the almost 40 attendees.

This autumn semester has seen many participants at [Brännpunkt Europa](#)'s events. One particularly promising development this semester is that Brännpunkt is planning to start a transatlantic collaboration with its sister-organization in Chapel Hill, North Carolina called [European Horizon](#), which would receive the same funding from CES as CERGU and



CES give to Brännpunkt Europa, currently.

CES was invited to the [Santander Group Conference](#) in Trieste on October 15-16 to present our experiences from our double degree collaboration with SIRPA: The School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University, in Shanghai, China.

The [Student Group Europa](#) started the autumn semester by organizing a very well received welcoming week for the new Bachelor's level-students. This was a very exciting start for very active student group. We are so proud to host what seems to be one of the most active student groups within the University of Gothenburg.

Urban Strandberg, Director of Studies for the Centre for European Studies

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Coming up at CERGU this Spring

8/1,	8.30-9.30	First Breakfast – Humanisten Room H821 9.30-12.00 Research Application Seminar
5/2,	9.15-10.45	Working Seminar: Jens Norrby “Against the Envy of Less Happier Lands: British Federalism and the Search for Britain’s Post-Imperial Role, 1884–1949” – Lilla Skansen
19/2,	14.30-17.00	Europaperspektiv , Lecture Hall Dragonen
5/3,	9.15-10.45	Working Seminar: Alexandra Bousiou – Stora Skansen
2/4,	13.00-17.00	European Research Day
9/5,	13.00-17.00	Borderlands Conference – Humanisten Room H820

Congratulations on Research Funding

Earlier this month, CERGU was happy to announce that so many researchers with a connection to CERGU and European research received funding on their applications to the Swedish Research Council (VR). Here is a selection of those in our network who had successful project applications awarded funding:

Johan Järlehed, 5.76 million SEK.
Olof Larsson och Markus Johansson, 4 million SEK.
Oksana Shmulyar Gréen, 4.25 million SEK.
Katarzyna Wojnicka, 3.5 million SEK.

Research environment grant
Daniel Naurin, 15.8 million SEK.

Research environment grant within migration and
integration
Andrea Spehar, 17.6 million SEK.



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