



# CERGU Autumn 2019 Newsletter

## Director's Letter



CERGU had a busy, productive spring semester with lots of activities surrounding the European Parliament elections, an external evaluation of CERGU, on top of all the regular workshops, seminars and breakfast meetings. Applause to all who contributed to this! Linda Berg has now finished her term as director. Fortunately, as you can read below, she is not leaving CERGU, but will continue to be an important part of the milieu.

As incoming director, I am very happy about the stability and continuation of CERGU. So many people are taking responsibility for making things happen. During the spring, I intensified my longstanding, if loose, engagement with

CERGU. The supportive atmosphere I have met has impressed me, and I have felt very welcome.

Now I am doing my best to get into the administrative side of things and find out how I can best be of use for the centre. I am very interested in getting to know everyone and everything better and eagerly encourage you to contact me with any suggestions you have on how to get even more out of CERGU. As said, we now have a fresh evaluation to build on. There is a lot of praise in the report, and some challenges to take on. How can we become even more multidisciplinary and facilitate additional and larger projects? How can we best publish and communicate the research that CERGU makes possible? And, of course, there is the eternal question of funding...

What do I bring with me? I am associate professor in the history of ideas. I received my PhD from the University of Gothenburg in 2004 in another multidisciplinary context entitled [Museion](#). My dissertation was focused on the various stereotypes found in international tourism advertisements. Since then I have had one foot at GU, but most of the time in combination with other work. I have been a curator for contemporary global issues at the [Museum of World Culture](#), and later I was also a research coordinator there. Currently I spend half of my working time at the [City of Gothenburg](#), as a cultural strategist for the [Department for Cultural Affairs](#). I have always looked for ways to connect research and practice, mostly in the heritage and cultural sectors. I hope and believe that my experience





## Upcoming October Workshop

CERGU will host the annual [October Workshop](#) on Friday 11 October, 13.00-15.00 at the University Main Building, Vasaparken. This year's theme is '[The Future of the Right and the Left in European Politics](#)'. The afternoon seminar will consist of four presentations by scholars Ettore Costa (University of Gothenburg), Ann Ighe (University of Gothenburg), Jonathan Polk (University of Gothenburg), and John D. Stephens (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill USA). The presentations will be moderated by Sofie Blombäck (Mid Sweden University). This annual CERGU event has previously attracted members of CERGU and the University of Gothenburg community, as well as people from the city of Gothenburg. This year we are pleased to say that a month in advance of the seminar, **the event is already fully booked!** Thanks to the exciting events surrounding the commemoration of the European Studies programmes, happening the same weekend, this year's October Workshop has already received some well-deserved attention. Read more about the workshop in our next newsletter!



## A Note from the Centre for European Studies



The autumn of 2019 is indeed a bit special for CES. In conjunction with the political start-up in Brussels, which takes place every fourth year with newly elected members of the European Parliament, and an appointed European Commission, we at CES are in our twentieth year of European Studies programs, organizing events aimed at reflecting on our future. On October 11-12, presentations and discussions will be held about the contributions that the [European Studies Programmes](#), [MAES-Master of European Studies](#), and [EMAES-Executive Master of European Studies](#) can offer to the challenges facing Europe today. We are especially happy that our three double degree partners – [Konstanz University](#), [Fudan University](#), and [The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#)– will send representatives to these events.

One event in the program is this year's [October Workshop](#). Under the timely theme **The Future of the Left and the Right in European Politics**, this workshop promises to be a stimulating academic event, especially in light of the interesting titles that the four presenters have supplied us with: “Decline of the Left or Decline of Parties?” (Ettore Costa); “Left and Right (and East and West) in European Politics – A View from a European Cultural Journal’s Perspective” (Ann Ighe); “The Relationship between Party Positions on Left-Right Ideology and the European Union” (Jonathan Polk); and “The Crisis of European Social Democracy” (John D. Stephens).

Another promising event is **Europe 20 Years Ahead**, which will begin with keynote addresses from the EU-Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström, and the Swedish Minister for EU-Affairs Hans Dahlgren. This will be followed by a Q & A session with a panel of European Studies programme teachers representing nine different disciplines: Per Månson; Maria Oskarson; Anders Larsson; Ann Ighe; Mats Andrén; Heather Congdon Fors; Carl Holmberg; Per Cramér, and Claes Alvstam, moderated by Jonathan Polk & Oksana Shmulyar Gréen.

The full program of the events can be found on the [CES website](#).

As we mark [twenty years of the European Studies programmes](#), we are very happy, grateful, and proud to say that our students are more active than maybe ever before. In addition to studying, they have also been participating in a multitude of extracurricular activities with [Student Group Europa](#) and [Brännpunkt Europa](#).

This fall, students are enrolled and active in our three European Studies programmes. I must say that it is particularly gratifying that two of our legendary single courses, “Practical EU-knowledge” and “Russia between Past and Future”, have been revamped and offered in English, leading to an increase in enrollment.

The CES long-term strategic plan favors international double degree partnerships on three continents. This strategy has finally come to fruition this semester, when the six pioneering American and Swedish students enrolled in our third and latest double degree partnership,

the TAM-Transatlantic Master's Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, have arrived in Gothenburg to begin their second academic year after spending their first year in the US.

CES is unique in Europe for having succeeded in creating double degree collaboration with renowned academic partners on three continents – North America (Chapel Hill), Asia (Fudan University), and Europe (Konstanz University).

Finally, I am delighted that more than 40 graduates from the European Studies programmes and the MAES-Master of European Studies will receive their diplomas at the annual European Studies graduation ceremony on October 11. This event is a testament as to why the Centre for European Studies exists – to send out knowledgeable, independent thinking, daring individuals who can make a difference in the bettering of the future of humanity.

Urban Strandberg, Director of European Studies

## Researcher Profile: Linda Berg

*Linda Berg served as the director of CERGU for six years. We were so happy that she agreed to share her thoughts on her time as CERGU's director, and to more about her future plans.*



*Angie Sohlberg:* Welcome to the 'other side' of the [CERGU newsletter](#)! As you know, we always feature a researcher in a profile to discuss current projects, future plans, and a bit about themselves. But first,

welcome back from the summer holidays. Have you been vacationing or working or a bit of both?

*Linda Berg:* Thank you! I have had a very good summer, a lot of relaxation which was needed after a very intense spring with all that was going on with the European Parliament elections. But I have also been doing some reading, attended a conference and some other work.

AS: Now that you've finished six years as the director of CERGU, what is coming up next for you?

LB: The main thing is that I have started to work in tandem with Urban Strandberg, director of studies for the European Studies programmes organised under the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#). Urban will step down from his position at the end of this year, and beginning next year I will be the new director of studies. I am looking forward to continuing to work for the complete European academic environment here at the [University of Gothenburg](#), although this time focusing on the educational side. We have several great programmes,

bachelor and three different international Masters' programmes (including three different double degree programmes). Urban has done an amazing job in developing new programmes and I look forward to continuing this work. Moreover, it means I will be able to work in close cooperation with many of my colleagues from CERGU, as most of the teachers in the CES educational programmes are also involved in CERGU as researchers. Apart from this, I am also looking forward to meeting the new students in the courses I am teaching, and to building on the research from the European Parliament elections. The European Parliament election study has been ongoing throughout the summer and I look forward to analysing the data this winter.

AS: The European Parliament elections kept you busy during the spring. What did you think was the most interesting assignment? What was the most challenging?

LB: Yes, I was extremely busy, as per usual in spring every fifth year when there is a European Parliament election. I was very happy that we had great interns at CERGU and the [Swedish National Election Study](#) program this spring, meaning that we could produce high quality [fact sheets](#) leading up to the election. In addition we arranged and participated in several public events to raise awareness and share research based knowledge about the upcoming elections, which is always fun and rewarding. I was also part of the Swedish Radio election night broadcasting, live in Stockholm, which was fun. The most challenging part was handling all media requests, as I simply do not have enough time to talk to all of the journalists who contact me.

AS: What would you say were your most rewarding achievements during your time as the director of CERGU?

LB: That is a very difficult question! It has been six years with a lot of different things that we collectively have developed and organized, great seminars and conferences, an increased network of scholars, a lot of important research and much more. But, if I were to highlight something, it would be the international postdoc programme. We put a lot of emphasis into broadening our international recruitment and we were lucky to get excellent young scholars from many different places. Helping them to feel welcome and to thrive and develop as researchers during their stay in Gothenburg is something we should take pride in. It is great to follow them onwards in their future careers.

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. CERGU is now on [Instagram](#), too!



## Upcoming Events at CERGU

- 27/9**, 13.00-17.00      Workshop: European Borderlands – a transdisciplinary reinterpretation of difference, borders and belonging, Room H820 Humanisten
- 1/10**, 9.15-10.45      [Working Seminar: Kristina Wejstål](#) "Gendered Dimensions of Accessing Asylum in the European Union" Lilla Skansen
- 10/10**, 13.00-14.15      Guest Seminar: **Yijia Jing**, "Social Organization Policies in China: Effects and Prospects" Room E45 Handelshögskolan
- 11/10**, 13.00-15.00      [October Workshop](#) *The Future of the Left and the Right in European Politics* –Torgny Segerstedtsalen, Vasaparken  
**CES Graduation Ceremony**
- 12/10**, 14.00-15.00      **European Studies 1999-2019**, Malmstenssalen, Handelshögskolan
- 12/10**, 15.00-16.30      **Europe 20 Years Ahead**, Keynote EU-Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Swedish Minister for EU-Affairs Hans Dahlgren, Malmstenssalen
- 12/10**, 16.45-19.00      Reception, Hyllan, Handelsrätten, Handelshögskolan
- 15/10**, 9.15-10.45      [Guest Seminar: Michael Wintle](#) "Crisis, Recovery and European Identity in the twentieth century: the impact of recurring crises on Europe's self-image" Stora Skansen
- 29/10**, 9.15-10.45      Working Seminar: **Hannes Lenk** "Measuring the Impact of Outwards FDI for Sustainable Development" Lilla Skansen
- 26/11**, 9.15-10.45      [Guest Seminar: Andrea Iossa](#) "Labour on the Move: Logistics Work and Spatio-Legal Dynamics in the EU Internal Market" Stora Skansen
- 3/12**, 9.15-10.45      Working Seminar: **Ettore Costa** "A Big Step for Mankind... but now what? The 1969 Moon Landing and the Western European Left" Location TBA
- 10/12**, 8.30-9.30      Final CERGU Breakfast (Internal event)



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