

CERGU Spring 2016 Newsletter



Director's Letter

Early summer is probably the most beautiful time of the year in Sweden. For us in academia it is also the end of the academic year, final grading and seminars. We have had a very intense spring at CERGU. You can read more about some of the exciting things we have done in this newsletter, e.g. the management team's visit to Fudan University, [Europaperspektiv](#) about the new security threats, the [International Workshop on Men and Migration](#), and the big [TTIP conference](#) in March, including among other things a public debate with Commissioner Cecilia Malmström. Many thanks to all within the CERGU network who have participated and made these and other events possible!

The European challenges continue, and thus the need for good expert evaluation and explanation. Many within the CERGU network continuously share their knowledge on everything from Brexit to the refugee situation, and for that we thank you! One of these scholars is Andrea Spehar, who you can read more about below.

It has also been a spring of welcoming new people. Firstly, our two new postdocs, [Sune Bechmann-Pedersen](#) and [Christina Reimann](#), presented their research projects at the internal conference. Secondly, CERGU had a call for two PhD-students this spring. The process was finalized in May and we are very happy to welcome [Alexandra Bousiou and Louise Floman](#) in September! Thirdly, our excellent Research Administrator Angie Sohlberg will be on maternity leave until March. During her absence, [Lena Caspers](#) will fill in for Angie. Lena recently graduated from the Master's Programme of European Studies in Gothenburg; most welcome Lena!

Finally, we look forward to the results of the external evaluation and CERGU's long-term strategy planning this autumn. Also, we have many fascinating events ahead as you can see in our calendar; you are always invited! But before that, I wish you all a very well-deserved summer vacation!

Linda Berg

Meet the New CERGU PhD Students!

Of the 113 who applied and nine called for interviews, CERGU's steering group has made a decision regarding the employment of two new doctoral students:

Alexandra Bousiou (Law degree from the National Kapodistrian University and Master's Degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies, Panteion University, Athens) with a research project entitled Governance Responses to externalization of the European Asylum policy across the Southeastern European Border: the case of the Greek Islands and the Turkish Coast. Alexandra will be employed by and carry out her studies at the School of Global Studies.

Louise Floman (Masters in European Studies, University of Gothenburg) with a research project entitled EU foreign policy in a multilateral organization. Louise will be employed at and carry out her studies at the Department of Political Science.



Both positions will begin on September 1, 2016.
Congratulations to Alexandra and Louise!

CES Note from Director Urban Strandberg

We are living in challenging times, both within Europe and globally. Because of this, we are asked to manage complex issues like migration, sustainability, safety, diversity, digitalization, global trade, etc. But, we also have to create new hopes and visions for the future. We believe that European Studies can contribute with the knowledge, resourcefulness, and bravery of energetic people in European universities, companies, bureaucracies, and organizations.



This Spring our international trio, Jonathan Polk in Gothenburg, Lenka Rovna in Prague, and Jan Rovny at Sciences Po in Paris, was awarded the Faculty of Social Science's Pedagogical Prize for their project "Rebuilding Europe". The project is an elective for MA-students in European Studies, and gives students the chance to creatively consider the various institutional relationships in the EU with respect to principles which sometimes come into conflict with one another. We have also seen the student-led group, [Brännpunkt Europa](#), organize some very impressive lunch lectures. With the support of CERGU and CES, Brännpunkt has organized four full lunch lectures which attract around 55 people each time! At Brännpunkt's annual meeting in late May, a new chair and co-chair were appointed for the academic year 2016-2017: Rebecca Timm, a second year student in the MA-programme, and Niklas Lönn, a second year student in the BA-programme.

During the autumn semester, our new international master's programme, the [EMAES – Executive Master in European Studies](#), will begin- mainly online and part-time. We look forward to welcoming a group of twenty students from a mix of people in mid-career who are working with a variety of issues. We also look forward to the beginning of our double degree collaboration with SIRPA – The School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University, Shanghai. Three SIRPA-students will come to Gothenburg for one year of their studies, with their living costs paid for thanks to a five-year scholarship programme sponsored by The Sten A Olsson Foundation for Research and Culture. In addition to this, the autumn will also mark the beginning of a new two-year period for members who serve on the Council of European Studies (REGU) as well as the planning start of a humanities track of the Master of European Studies programme

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming dates: European Studies Annual Graduation Ceremony, October 14; Workshop in Shanghai organized by CES: Developing strategic Sino-Nordic Partnerships: The Nordic Centre as a venue supporting Double Degree MA-programmes, internship, and research outreach Nordic Centre, Fudan University, Shanghai, October 17.

Urban Strandberg, Director of European Studies

Laying the Foundation for Collaboration with Fudan University, Shanghai

In April CERGU Director Linda Berg, Research Coordinator Birgitta Jännebring, and Research Administrator Angie Sohlberg visited Shanghai, China with the purpose of creating new research opportunities between CERGU and Fudan University. The trip, partly paid for by the University of Gothenburg's generous administrative mobility grant, consisted of 10 days in Shanghai, a city of 23 million people.

The CERGU team met first with Magnus Jorem, Director of the Nordic Centre, an organization with cooperation from 25 universities from the Nordic countries, including the University of Gothenburg, among others. The Nordic Centre's main focus is providing a 'home base' for visiting guest researchers and PhD students, and assisting in practical matters involved in moving to China for shorter periods of time. The centre also organizes cultural, academic, and social events designed to integrate visiting scholars in the university environment at Fudan.



From left: Magnus Jorem, Director of Nordic Centre, Linda Berg, Director of CERGU, Birgitta Jännebring, Research Coordinator, Angie Sohlberg, Research Administrator, Eva Coratella, Guest Researcher, and Lin Engdahl, Swedish language teacher

Next, the CERGU administrative team met with representatives from the Centre for European Studies at Fudan University. These included Professor of Economics and Director of the centre,



From left: Birgitta Jännebring, Research Coordinator, Angie Sohlberg, Research Administrator, Linda Berg, Director of CERGU, Chun Ding, Director of Centre for European Studies, Lin Yixing, Assistant and Student

Chun Ding, and his assistant, Lin Yixing. Professor Ding, who also serves as a member of the CERGU International Advisory Board, explained how the Centre for European Studies allows those researchers involved in the network to utilize the centre's name for grant applications, which helps to spread word of the centre and to attract new scholars and funding opportunities. Among other topics, the team discussed collaboration on a workshop or conference related to EU-China relations, welfare states, migration, trade, etc. PhD students connected to European Studies also showed interest in visiting CERGU and Gothenburg in order to further develop research topics related to Europe.

The final two days of official visits consisted of meetings with scholars from SIRPA, The School of International Relations and Public Affairs. The CERGU team managed to meet with all levels of scholars, from bachelor's students, to master's and PhD students, to assistant professors, directors of various centres, and even the Dean of SIRPA, Zhimin Chen. Many of those who met with the team showed a genuine interest in attending and participating in a possible future joint conference between Fudan University and CERGU. While the topics discussed ranged from cyber security, public diplomacy, the environment, migration, and the flow of information over borders, no particular topic was yet decided. Everyone was in agreement that the most



The CERGU team with two PhD students researching European issues

important factor would be that these conferences should exhibit the multidisciplinary that CERGU prides itself on. The CERGU team also met with Dr. Bo Yan, a researcher

focused on environmental concerns and climate change.

After many meetings and discussions regarding the kinds of research being done at Fudan University and the University of Gothenburg, CERGU Director, Linda Berg, Research Coordinator, Birgitta



From left: Mr. Yao, Coordinator for Social Activities at SIRPA, Songmao Fu, Professor of Public Management at SIRPA, the CERGU team, Quinje Liu, Program Coordinator at SIRPA, and Ms. Tang, potential double-degree candidate between Fudan and GU

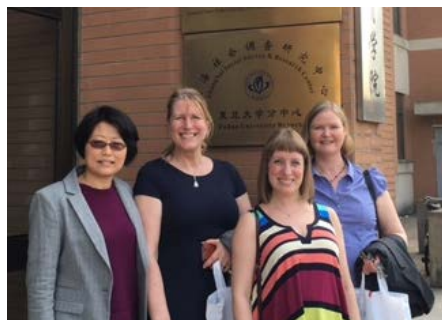


The CERGU team with Zhongqi Pan, Professor of International Relations at SIRPA

Jännebring, and Research Administrator, Angie Sohlberg, felt that the potential for ongoing collaboration in the form of researcher exchange and joint conferences is definitely something which both sides are interested in fostering. The next step is determining several conference topics that would suit both researchers within the CERGU network, and those in China. The hope is to begin investigating funding options and dates that would work for an upcoming joint conference, in the spirit of expanding the CERGU network of researchers all the way to Shanghai! We look forward to new collaborations, interesting conversations, and exciting research between CERGU and China.



From left: Zhimin Chen, Dean of SIRPA, the CERGU team, and Dr. Jian Junbo



From left: Bo Yan, Professor of International Studies at SIRPA along with the CERGU team



Profile of Andrea Spehar

Andrea Spehar is a political scientist and member of the CERG network of researchers. She was kind enough to answer some questions about her busy spring and upcoming plans for the autumn recently.



With the migration and refugee crisis still very much on people's minds here in Sweden and Europe, how has this informed your recent research? Have you been busier than usual?

Refugee and migration-related issues have had a great influence on my work since September. In the beginning there was a great interest among Swedish and foreign journalists who wanted answers to various questions connected to the ongoing crisis. Next, I have frequently been invited to lecture on the refugee crisis and integration issues in many different contexts, ranging from smaller lectures for university and high school students to large lectures with up to 500 in attendance. These lectures have given me the opportunity to share the results of my research with a wider audience beyond the academic world, which is always rewarding and fun.

As you say, you've been active outside of the university, as well, discussing migration with the general public. How does this kind of format differ from university-related lectures and seminars?

With regards to the audience outside academia, one must think about a more diverse group of people in terms of age and professional experience. I find it more challenging to prepare a lecture for such a broad group of people and the audience usually asks unexpected questions, which can be both relevant and for the sake of provocation. Migration is a sensitive topic and, as a lecturer, one must learn to handle a certain level of provocation or aggressive questions from the audience.

You are working in political science and part of the CERG network. Does the multidisciplinary environment change anything for you as a researcher?

My home department is political science. But in my daily academic work I work largely with researchers and teachers from other disciplines. CERG is one example of interdisciplinary cooperation, and CES (The Centre for European Studies) is another- where I am currently teaching. I am also involved in several international collaborations which are interdisciplinary in character.

Do you have any interesting plans for this summer?

A large part of my summer will be spent in Croatia, mostly north of the Adriatic Sea in a beautiful little town called Rovinj. I vacation there every summer. For some people, that might sound boring, but I like it so much there that all my holiday needs are satisfied to the max!

You have a 'docent' lecture coming up in a few weeks, on June 17th. Congratulations on the promotion! Could you talk a bit about the topic?

Thanks! I will lecture on how we can theorize and analyze the design and implementation of gender equality in politics in various states, with a particular focus on Eastern and Central European countries. Really looking forward to this!

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



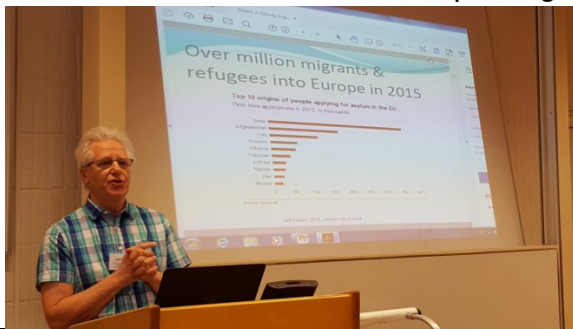
Successful TTIP Conference

From the 14th to 15th of March, 2016, CERGU hosted an [Interdisciplinary Conference on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) between the EU and the US. Organized by CERGU researchers Guri Rosén (Guest Postdoc) and Hannes Lenk (PhD Student), the conference successfully brought together scholars, policy-makers and business representatives to discuss the economic, legal and political aspects of TTIP. The conference was rounded off with a Public Debate featuring EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström which attracted an audience of more than 250 and led to lively and interesting discussions between the audience and the panelists.



Successful International Workshop on Men and Migration

The [International Workshop on Men and Migration](#), organized by CERGU postdoc Katarzyna Wojnicka, took place from the 9th to 10th of June, 2016 and gathered an international group of scholars within the fields of masculinity studies and migration. The workshop started with well-received keynote speeches by Jeff Hearn and Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and continued with four sessions of research presentations and discussions on the theoretical and methodological challenges of studying men and migration. The workshop ended with a broader discussion on workshop findings and publication strategies.



CERGU Internal Conference

CERGU had an internal conference 19-20 April at Säröhus. During these two days we discussed draft articles and other forms of ongoing research, with a special emphasis on postdoctoral projects. We mixed business with pleasure in the form of a team completion to come up with the best research proposal posters and ended the conference with suggestions regarding future strategic developments for CERGU. These ideas will feed into the discussions about CERGU's long-term strategic development plan, to be developed in more detailed during the autumn.



Some upcoming Conferences and Workshops: Autumn 2016

- 12-13/9** Research workshop "*Reconsidering Humanity: Big Data, the Scientific Method, and Images of Humans and Humanity*" (**Urban Strandberg**)
- 13/9** Public seminar: Presentation of SIEPS report "*See You in Luxembourg? EU Governments' Observations Under the Preliminary Reference Procedure*" (**Andreas Moberg, Daniel Naurin, Per Cramér, Olof Larsson**)
- 14/10, 13-15** **Public October Workshop**, "Images of refugees in Europe", Vasaparken
- 17-18/11** Research Conference "*A Hundred Years of Social Democracy and Cartels, Concentrations, and Competition in Europe*" (**Brian Shaev**)

For a more detailed and updated calendar, see [our website](#)

CERGU Congratulations from Spring 2016

CERGU postdoc **David Brax** and wife Alice welcomed their son in May. CERGU research administrator **Angie Sohlberg** and husband Jacob are expecting a new baby in June.

Maria Oskarson, member of the CERGU Steering Group, was promoted to Professor of Political Science by the Vice Chancellor in March!

Mats Andrén, member of the CERGU Steering Group and Professor of Intellectual history, was recognized for his 30 years of service to the university in February!

Claes Alvstam, chairman of CERGU International Advisory Board, was surprised with a '[friends' book](#)' at the CERGU TTIP conference in March. The book, written in honour of Claes many achievements and contributions – not least to CERGU – marked the occasion of his new title as Professor Emeritus of Economic Geography.

CERGU researchers **Jonathan Polk** and **Jan Rovny**, together with **Lenka Rovna**, member of the CERGU International Advisory Board, were awarded the University of Gothenburg, faculty of Social Sciences' pedagogical team prize for the project '[Rebuilding Europe](#)', a voluntary activity with the first course of the Master of European Studies program.



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