



CERGU Spring 2017 Newsletter



Director's Letter

Spring is here again, and summer is on its way! I hope you have some time to enjoy it in the midst of ending another academic year. We have had an exciting spring at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#). There have been a number of public CERGU events where our researchers have met and interacted with the general public. These events have focused on current themes such as the [Cultural borders of Europe](#) and [Trust in the EU at a crossroads](#) (you can read more about these events below). In May, CERGU participated in [The Science Festival](#), which takes place annually in Gothenburg. This year's event was a collaboration between CERGU, the Centre for European Studies - [CES](#) (which organises the European Studies educational programmes) and the student organisation [Brännpunkt Europa](#). Speaking of [Brännpunkt Europa](#), they celebrated five years as an organisation this May. Together with CES we want to congratulate all students who have been involved in the activities these years. We are extremely proud of what they have achieved and look forward to many more exciting public events in the future! Check out their website for more information about up-coming events.

More collaborative public events are planned for this autumn. In September there will be an EU-day. In October our annual public October Workshop will take place on the afternoon of 20 October, just before the Graduation Ceremony of the European Studies Programmes. CERGU is also involved in events in conjunction with the EU summit in Gothenburg 17 November, including hosting an international workshop on 'Social Europe'. More information will be available online and in the next Newsletter.

We have had several international research workshops this spring, centring on themes such as the future of EU Environmental Policy, Hate crime in Europe and the New Politics of EU trade policy. In the autumn there will be several more. First out is the [Workshop on Think Tanks in Europe, 20-22 September 2017](#) (organised by Katarzyna Jezierska). Check out our website and social media for more information about the international research workshops coming up at the end of the year, arranged by CERGU postdocs Christina Reimann and Sune Bechmann-Pedersen, respectively.

Finally I am very pleased to report that CERGU will soon have a new co-director! Andreas Moberg is an Associate Professor (Docent) in Law and will start his position at CERGU on 1 July. He will be in charge of coordinating the coming programmes of events and activities, among other duties. You can read more about Andreas in the Profile below. We welcome Andreas to the CERGU management team! Throughout this spring there has been extra pressure on the CERGU management team, and I want to end by expressing my deep gratitude to the most efficient, hardworking and loyal co-workers there are; thank you so much to Birgitta Jännebring, Angie Sohlberg, Lena Caspers, Adrian Hyde-Price and Rutger Lindahl for all the hard work you have done for CERGU this spring!

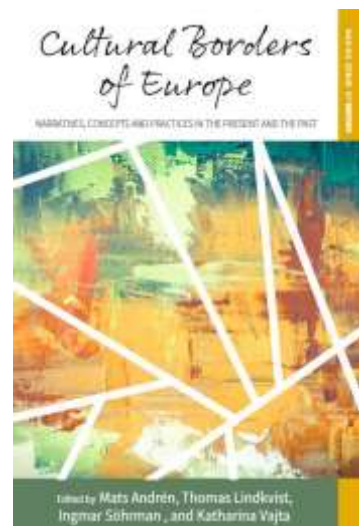
Linda Berg

Europaperspektiv and Europaforskardagen

This year's Europaperspektiv took place on 21 February and included presentations from Bo Petersson, Linda Berg, Andreas Bergh, and Joakim Nergelius. This year's book was entitled [Tilliten i EU vid ett vägskäl](#). The event was moderated by Katarina Leppänen and held in the lecture hall Dragonen at the University of Gothenburg.



[Europaforskardagen](#), The European Research Day, is an annual event arranged by CERGU, and this year the public seminar focused on *Cultural Borders of Europe*. The keynote speech was delivered by Johan Fornäs from Södertörn University on the topic of A Cultural Perspective on European Borders. Many CERGU researchers were involved in this event including Katarina Leppänen, Sune Bechmann Pedersen, Per Cornell, Karolina Enquist Källgren, Ingmar Söhrman, Angela Kölling, Klas Grinell, and Bengt Larsson. The moderators Mats Andrén and Ann Ighe offered insightful comments.



Highlights of Spring 2017 for CES – Centre for European Studies

The spring of 2017 has brought several very productive developments of our strategic internationalization here at CES. In April Jonathan Polk was invited to Shanghai as a visiting scholar by our Chinese double degree partner SIRPA – The School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University. Thus, in parallel to the first three double degree students from SIRPA studying in Gothenburg, Jonathan contributed with presentations at research workshops and lectured at SIRPA, which strengthens and deepens the Gothenburg-Shanghai collaboration. In late May, the mayors of Gothenburg and Shanghai celebrated the renewal of the sister-city agreement. This included a workshop hosted by the Nordic Centre in Shanghai where the mayor of Gothenburg publicly proclaimed her pride in our double degree collaboration. Also in late May STINT – The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education – decided to award CES a grant for Double Degree Programmes, which render it possible for us to start double degree collaboration with The Center for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This collaboration will be a part of the so called TAM II – Transatlantic Master Track II, which includes participation by eight renowned universities in Europe and one in Turkey. To kick off our collaboration in this transatlantic network, Jonathan Polk and myself were invited to the annual TAM II partner meeting in Bremen on May 28-29.



On May 9 the student-led series of lunch-lectures *Brännpunkt Europa*, supported by CERGU and CES, celebrated its five-year anniversary. The anniversary event included four speeches focusing on developments in the Russian-Ukraine conflict; Europe and global migration as experienced at Lesbos; NATO and security challenges in Europe; and deadly consequences for civilians from drone warfare in Pakistan. Since the very first event on May 9, 2012, altogether 63 events attracting almost 5000 people in total have been organized, entailing on average of 76 participants per event. This is an unprecedented achievement by the students, and a great contribution for European studies to an eager, critical public. On May 3-5 two MAES-students, Rebecca Timm and Steffen Wamsler, as well as myself, represented Swedish European Studies at the Erasmus 30th anniversary conference on the topic of *The EU and Global Challenges- Twenty-Eight Ideas from the Erasmus Generation*, organized by Jean Monnet professor Valeria Fargion from the University of Florence. Two students from each EU member state contributed papers commenting on European developments, and Italian MPs from the European Parliament acted as commentators on the student papers.

Urban Strandberg, Director of Studies



Busy Conference and Workshop Season at CERGU

2017 has thus far been both busy and rewarding in terms of conferences and workshops at CERGU. In January, CERGU postdoc Andreas Hofmann held his conference entitled [The Future of Environmental Policy in Europe](#), which was held over two days and included scholars from all over Europe. The keynote event was a roundtable on Brexit and the future of environmental policy in Britain and beyond. Andreas' conference coincided with the conclusion of his postdoctoral position at CERGU.



David Brax, CERGU postdoc from the Department of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Theory of Science organized the next workshop, [Hate Crime in Europe](#), which took place in February. The international workshop included presentations by researchers mainly from the UK and Sweden, as well as several from Göteborgs stad. David concluded his postdoctoral position at CERGU with this very successful workshop.



The final conference of Spring 2017 was arranged by Guri Rosèn, guest postdoc from ARENA Centre for European Studies in Oslo. Guri's conference entitled [The New Politics of EU External Relations](#) included presentations by scholars from Scandinavia, Italy, the UK, Germany, Brazil, and Belgium. The conference was the conclusion of Guri's postdoctoral visit in Gothenburg.

Over the years CERGU postdoctoral researchers have organized everything from small roundtable discussions to large, international conferences. Past conferences have included guests from all around the world, but even more small-scale workshops have resulted in edited volumes or books that benefit not only the researchers' future work, but also the wider CERGU network.



Profile of Andreas Moberg

Andreas Moberg is a lawyer and has been a member of the CERGU network of researchers since 2002. Starting in July, Andreas will be CERGU's new Deputy Director, which we are really happy about! He kindly answered a few questions about his work and life.

Could you tell us a little about yourself, especially for those in the CERGU network who haven't yet met you?

I live in Gothenburg, which is also the town that I grew up in, with my daughter, who is soon to turn five, and my partner. I am 42, and even though I have lived most of my days right here I have also lived in France and Iceland. I used to travel a lot, basically because I really enjoy the experience, but since our daughter arrived, travelling is kept at a minimum. I am very



interested in music and languages, and I have a firm background in sports; playing football and handball for at least 30 years of my life.

I work as a lecturer in international law at the Department of Law. I started working there as a part time lecturer and project assistant in august 2002. Since then, I have had a number of functions within education, research and administration at the department.

What kinds of goals do you have in mind as you step into the role of Deputy Director of CERGU?

Well, obviously my first goal is to do make sure that nobody thinks that things used to work better under my predecessor's time! I am very happy to get a chance to carry on the work of so many great colleagues, and friends. My main priorities lie in contributing to the well-oiled machinery in place, in any way I can. There are a few tasks that have been associated with the role of the Deputy Director in the past, and I will work closely with the Director deciding which ones I should carry on performing, and which new tasks I should take on.

CERGU has grown in a remarkable way over the years I have been on board. I honestly cannot think of any other group within the University of Gothenburg that has the same kind of healthy, organic growth curve. I am pretty sure that it has to do with the combination of firm roots that stretch way back into the past, and curious branches that have been allowed to steadily reach for the not yet known, while remaining firmly attached to the bulk of the tree. The combination is vital, and as long as the process is kept at a steady pace, there is not much need for a gardener.

What skills from the Department of Law will you be bringing to CERGU?

Well, tough question. In terms of the administrative side of things, I do have a lot of experience from working as the Vice Head of Department, as Director of Studies, as a member of the Faculty board and perhaps my background in law shows through the perspectives I normally take on administrative work. Generally speaking, I do believe that there is a strong presence within the CERGU-family, although perhaps not in sheer numbers, from the Department of Law and I am thinking in particular about Anna Wallerman, Hannes Lenk and Kristina Wejstål. Given the fact that these researchers are devoted and enthusiastic about European Studies, I may not need to do much more, even though it would be great to include even more of my colleagues from the Department of Law in the CERGU research community.

What is the focus of your current research?

Right now, I am working on a piece that is a spin-off from a project that has been heavily associated with CERGU that focuses on studying how the Court of Justice of the EU is an arena for politics. The idea is to investigate a possible link between case law from the Court, including the respective observations in those cases made by the member states, in cases that concern freedom of movement of persons to the debate on such matters in the context of Brexit.

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.



Who's Who on the CERGU International Advisory Board?

With an expanding network of researchers from a diverse collection of disciplines, CERGU's steering committee decided to increase the number of members on the CERGU International Advisory Board (IAB). In addition to several long-serving members, some new faces have been added to the group. Read on to meet the IAB members, and find out more about them!



Claes Alvstam, professor emeritus of economic geography at the University of Gothenburg is the chairman of the International Advisory Board. His research interests include foreign trade, foreign direct investment and economic integration, among others. Alvstam has served as IAB chairman since 2012.



Anders Ahnlid, Sweden's ambassador to Finland. He was formerly the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU and Director General for Trade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ahnlid has served on the CERGU IAB for 5 years.



Stefan Berger, Director of the Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and professor of Social History at Ruhr University. His research has focused on the nationalization of history. Berger has been a part of the CERGU IAB since 2012.



Jan Beyers, Professor of Political Science at the University of Antwerp and Director of the Antwerp Centre for Institutions and Multilevel Politics (ACIM). His research covers multi-level venue-shopping, EU-level territorial lobbying as well as the population ecology of group politics. Beyers joined the CERGU IAB in 2012.



Tanja Börzel, Jean Monnet Chair and Director of the Center for European Integration and the Center of Excellence "The EU and its Citizens" at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focus and teaching experience lie in the field of institutional theory and Governance, European Integration, and Comparative Politics with a focus on Western and Southern Europe. Börzel joined the IAB in 2016.



Marise Cremona, Professor of European Law at the European University Institute, Italy. Cremona's research interests are in the external relations law of the European Union, EU enlargement, the European internal market, and institutional and constitutional law of the EU. She is a co-director of the Academy of European Law. She has served on the IAB since 2012.



Chun Ding, Director of the Centre for European Studies at Fudan University, China. His research interests include international finance, social security economics, and European social policies and welfare systems. Professor Ding joined the IAB in 2012.



Georgios Karyotis, Senior Lecturer in international relations at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. His interests include securitization theory, austerity politics, and migration, as well as others. He is a new member of the IAB, joining in 2016.



Alexander Livshin, Professor of Public Administration at Moscow State University, Russia and Associate Dean in charge of international cooperation. Livshin's research focuses on Russian and Soviet social history, labor markets, and non-commercial sectors of the economy. Professor Livshin joined the IAB in 2016.



Barbara Loester, Senior Lecturer in English Linguistics at the University of Winchester, UK and Convener of the Centre for Research into Language. Her research expertise includes language variations in the British Isles and the German-speaking world, language attitudes and identity construction, and minority languages. Loester has been involved in the IAB since 2012.



Lenka Rovna, Vice Rector for European Affairs at Charles University, Prague. Rovna is also a Jean Monnet Chair Ad Personam and the bearer of the Centre of Excellence in European Studies at Charles University. Her research encompasses European integration within the EU, enlargement of the EU, the British political system, and the Canadian political system and history. Lenka joined the IAB in 2012.



Valeria Pulignano, Professor in Sociology of Labour and Industrial Relations, Centre for Sociological Research at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Research interests include comparative European industrial relations and European economic and political integration, as well as others. She is a new member of the IAB as of 2016.



Michael Wintle, Professor of Modern European History at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Amsterdam, Holland. His fields of expertise are European identity, the visual representation and the cartography of Europe, and European citizenship and civil society. Wintle joined the IAB in 2016.

International Advisory Board Meeting 2017

The IAB serves a vital role in the CERGU research community, allowing scholars to interact with experts from diverse and interdisciplinary fields from history to social science, and linguistics to law. The International Advisory Board convened for a meeting in May to discuss the previous year's external evaluation report which looked at how CERGU functions as a research center. Over the course of several hours, members of the IAB were able to hear presentations by CERGU scholars, both junior and senior, while also holding their own discussions on the inner workings of the CERGU organization. Several of the newest members of the IAB were present, some on their first trip to Gothenburg, so an extra special welcome to them, and to the returning members for their insightful comments and participation.

CERGU Internal Conference

The CERGU internal conference was held this year at Gothia Towers, in the heart of Gothenburg. Altogether some 30 researchers gathered for a series of presentations of ongoing, future, and past research, as well as lunch and dinner. With a research network as expansive as CERGU's, it can sometimes be difficult to find a time that suits everyone, but those who attended were able to hear very useful comments as well as thought-provoking questions from colleagues both in and out of their own disciplines. The day concluded with a panel discussion with a mix of researchers who were asked to discuss strategies for conducting collaborative research in European studies. A dinner at Heaven 23 with guests from the CERGU steering committee and International Advisory Board concluded the successful and stimulating day.



Photos from the CERGU Internal Conference and dinner, Gothia Towers





CERGU Congratulations from Spring 2017

We congratulate **Sune Bechmann Pedersen**, Postdoc at CERGU and the Department of Economy and Society, who has been awarded funding for a three-year [International Postdoc](#) by Vetenskapsrådet. Sune will spend two years at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and one year at the Department of History at Lund University. He has also been awarded funding by Vetenskapsrådet for arranging an international conference in Gothenburg 7-8 December 2017.

Congratulations to **Sofie Blombäck** on her new position at Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall **Lena Caspers** who is currently a Research Assistant at the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, and **Andrea Spehar** who is the new Director for the [Centre on Global Migration \(CGM\)](#).

CERGU Director, **Linda Berg**, together with her husband Kalle, recently welcomed a son Tsuen-shi to Sweden. Congratulations!





CERGU researchers at Gothia Towers, May 2017



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