



## CERGU Spring 2019 Newsletter

### Director's Letter



The European Parliament elections take place from Thursday to Sunday this week, marking the end of a [CERGU](#) spring semester with a particular focus on the EU and the elections. This spring we have had more events than ever before, as scholars in our network have much sought-after knowledge about the EU and current European affairs. Our European Research Day this year, held on April 2, had the theme '[Contested Community](#)', and we organised two public events during the [Science festival](#). We have also jointly organised other public seminars this spring: with [Reväst](#) about how the EU influences Western Sweden, and vice versa, on April 25; and a public workshop together with the [European Election Monitoring Center](#) (EEMC), the [European Parliament](#) and [Brännpunkt Europa](#) about the 2019 EU election campaigns, on May 6.

We are also trying to disseminate knowledge in new ways. Together with [the Swedish National Election Studies programme](#) we have created a number of [fact sheets](#), focusing particularly on the European Parliament elections. We would not have been able to produce these fact sheets without the help of our interns this spring: Kajsa Evertsson, Maja Sörebro and Dimitrios Pantakidis. Our interns have also participated in coding answers to voting advice devices (election compasses), writing reports and book chapters, providing facts and translation of the European Election Surveys, and they have participated in public events to inform the public about the election. Many thanks for all your amazing help and good luck with your continued studies and future careers! Several scholars in the network have also been active in media, sharing their knowledge about the EU and the European Parliament Elections (see more below). Thanks to everyone who has contributed to increased societal knowledge!

Many other interesting European research projects have been ongoing this spring, supported by multi-disciplinary research seminars and workshops. One example is the [European Borderlands Workshop](#), organised by Mats Andrén on May 9. In addition, we had very good research presentations and discussions about new inter-disciplinary research applications during our internal conference on May 13 (see below). The programme for the

autumn is also filled with research seminars and can be found in our [calendar](#). Make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)! Do not miss the public October Workshop, to be held on October 11, co-organised with the [Centre for European studies \(CES\)](#) –part of the [20 year Anniversary](#) at the University of Gothenburg, October 11-12.

This is my final Director's Letter. It has been a privilege to work together with such a dedicated, knowledgeable and generous network of scholars! Together we have been incredibly productive these past six years. It is especially impressive to me how the collective has welcomed and helped in the 'talent development' process regarding all the young, gifted scholars we have recruited as PhD-students or postdocs these past years. Many thanks to the steering group, and a very special thanks to the other members of the [management team](#), Birgitta Jännebring, Angie Sohlberg and Andreas Moberg!

I am very pleased to announce that CERGU's new director will be Associate Professor [Klas Grinell](#)! Klas combines his research at the [Department of Literature, History of Ideas and Religion](#), with a part-time position as cultural strategist at the City of Gothenburg. He has previously also worked part-time at the Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg. He will begin his position as the director of CERGU from July 1, and will present himself in the next CERGU newsletter. With a strong background in interdisciplinary European research, project management and strong ties to actors outside academia, Klas is very much the right person to lead CERGU forward during the coming years. Most welcome Klas!

Linda Berg

## **European Research Day: Contested Community**

The theme of this year's annual European Research Day was Contested Community. We had an excellent turn out for the event, held at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg.

One of CERGU's three interns for the spring of 2019 has been Dimitrios Pantakidis, who has written a summary of the event, previously published on the CERGU website:

The annual [CERGU European Research Day](#) (Europaforskardagen), based on the theme of [Contested Community](#) this year, took place on the 2nd of April Handelshögskolan, at the University of Gothenburg. The seminar included a keynote speech and featured two panels.

After a short introduction by Professor Lisbeth Aggestam, Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary General at the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union, made a keynote speech on the "EU Foreign Policy in a populist context", outlining facts and general aims of the EU Foreign policy.

The first panel, focusing on the Independence-Community conundrum, was moderated by Professor Adrian Hyde-Price, featured a presentation by Professor Ingmar Söhrman on examples of demands of independence within the EU (Catalonia, Scotland, Bosnia and Transylvania), followed by a presentation by Associate Senior Lecturer Anna Wallerman on Euroscepticism and its forms in Europe. The panel concluded with doctoral student from History of Ideas, Jens Norrby, and his presentation "United Kingdom: a member that never found its role in Europe" on the problematic relationship between the UK and the EU.

After a short coffee break, the second panel, moderated by CERGU Deputy Director Andreas Moberg, focused more on Electoral Contest. It featured a more in-depth approach on the Spanish and Catalonian political discourse surrounding the EP elections by doctoral student Eva Hoxha, followed by a detailed presentation on voting behaviour in EP elections by CERGU Director Linda Berg. The final speaker, Professor Bengt Johansson, spoke on political campaigning in Europe, focusing particularly on election posters used by political parties and groups during the 2014 EP elections.

With the end of the panel presentations, there was time for questions and discussion with all panelists, which brought the seminar to a successful close.



## CERGU in the Media: European Parliament Elections

CERGU researchers have been very active in the media this spring, thanks to the upcoming European Parliament elections. Below is a list we have compiled of some of the media engagements made by those in the CERGU network.

**Mats Andrén** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://www.la-croix.com/Monde/Europe/A-travers-lhistoire-fierte-suedoise-curiosite-europeenne-2019-05-03-1201019357>

**Linda Berg** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europblog/2019/05/22/european-parliament-elections-preview-sweden/>

<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=2054&artikel=7197152>  
<https://fof.se/tidning/2019/4/artikel/blir-det-ett-historiskt-val>  
<https://www.gp.se/nyheter/sverige/klimat-och-v%C3%A4rderingskamp-kan-lyfta-eu-val-1.14673656>  
<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/vast/partisympatierna-bryts-i-eu-valet>  
<https://www.svd.se/inget-swexit-pa-gang-i-opinionen>  
<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/gruppsida.aspx?programid=83&grupp=22890&artikel=7196815>  
<https://www.gp.se/statsvetare-d%C3%A4rf%C3%B6r-%C3%A4r-valet-till-europaparlamentet-viktigt-1.14176800>  
<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/vast/allt-fler-positiva-till-eu-men-dagens-samarbeten-racker>  
<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/uppsala/sa-rostade-lansborna-i-senaste-eu-valet>  
<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/avsnitt/1246239?programid=4941>

**Sofie Blombäck** (Mid Sweden University)

<https://www.europaportalen.se/2019/05/foraldralediga-eu-parlamentariker-missar-flest-omrostningar>  
<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/svagt-stod-for-fi-riskerar-att-aka-ur-parlamentet>  
<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=110&artikel=7214237>  
<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=125&artikel=7212337>  
<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=110&artikel=7156109>  
<https://www.dagenssamhalle.se/nyhet/fjantigt-prata-om-odesval-tycker-sd-27084>  
<https://www.svd.se/sifo-upp-for-kd-och-mp-infor-eu-valet>  
<https://www.sydsvenskan.se/2019-04-30/partierna-som-kan-komma-in-i-eu-parlamentet>

**Vanja Carlsson** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/a/Jo7XPm/strid-om-eus-roll-i-valfard-och-jobb>

**Ann Ighe** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://www.eurozine.com/pro-european-sentiment-vs-political-fragmentation/>

**Markus Johansson** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/fakta-i-fragan-hur-stor-makt-har-eu-i-sverige/>

**Olof Larsson** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpb0FAWhctU>

**Jonathan Polk** (University of Gothenburg)

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europablog/2019/05/22/european-parliament-elections-preview-sweden/>  
<https://www.svd.se/manga-partier-i-europa-ror-sig-mot-nationalismen>  
<https://www.svd.se/eu-valet-2019-har-ar-allt-du-behojer-veta>  
<https://www.europaportalen.se/2019/03/fidesz-avstangning-vacker-fragor>

## Internal Conference 2019

Over the course of a day in May 2019, 25 members of the CERGU community gathered at Glashuset, on the University of Gothenburg's campus, to discuss ongoing research projects,

project plans, and to propose new ideas on collaborative, multidisciplinary research. To say this day was an inspiration and a success would be an understatement!

The day began with research presentations by Klas Grinell (“The role of Islam in the EU’s European Heritage Framing”) and Anna Wallerman (“Unwelcome judgments from the EU Court of Justice”) followed by discussions on the [CERGU Working Paper Series](#) and Urban Strandberg’s new [International Youth Think Tank](#). After lunch Alexandra Bousiou (“The Implementation of the European Asylum Regime at the Southeastern European Border Islands”) and Allison Östlund (“Effective judicial protection – In the service of effectiveness or procedural protection?”) presented their research. The day continued with presentations by Katarzyna Wojnicka (“Research: past, present and future(s)”) and Sofie Blombäck (“Conceptualizing and measuring parliamentary conflict levels”). The final presentation of the day focused on multidisciplinary research applications, in which the researchers formed groups and developed research project proposals based on an actual call for applications from a previous year. The day concluded with a dinner at Familjen, a restaurant in Gothenburg.



## Researcher Profile: Ettore Costa

We were very glad to welcome Ettore Costa as a new post-doc researcher in 2018. He has been busy since starting at CERGU and was generous enough to share his impressions and thoughts about what he's been up to with us in this researcher profile.

Angie Sohlberg: Hi Ettore, could you tell us a bit about yourself? We know you are doing work on History of Ideas, but what exactly are you researching and where were you before joining CERGU in Gothenburg?



Ettore Costa: I trained as a historian at the University of Rome, La Sapienza, where I focused on archival research and an interest with European socialism from a comparative point of view. These are difficult to reconcile, because you need to learn languages and travel a lot — I am not saying these things are bad, just that you need time and money. For my Master and Doctoral dissertations, I studied the Socialist International in the Cold War, particularly the British Labour Party. I wrote half of my dissertation at the University of Exeter. After the defence, I expanded my research at the Institute for Social Movements at the Ruhr University Bochum. The research was very successful: I received the Spadolini Nuova Antologia Award — twice — and Medal of the Speaker of the Senate, in addition to the Minerva Award from Fondazione La Sapienza. This culminated last year in the publication of my book with Palgrave Macmillan — [\*The Labour Party, Denis Healey and the International Socialist Movement: rebuilding the socialist international during the Cold War, 1945-1951.\*](#)

Coming to Gothenburg has been the first step in my new research on the attitude of the European social democrats and communists (Britain, West Germany, France, Italy) towards science and technology, especially how it changed from the optimism of the early Cold War — the era of Atoms for Peace and the Space Race — to the pessimism, scepticism and fear of the 1980s — Chernobyl, Reagan's Star Wars and pollution. I think the title sums it up well: “From Sputnik to Chernobyl, from optimism to fear”. What I have learned by reading party literature, press and speeches is that science was regularly debated, although not systematically. Subtly and constantly, it shaped their policies (economics, education, health), electoral strategy and culture.

AS: Now that you've been with CERGU as a post-doc for a year already, what would you say you've experienced in terms of multidisciplinary research?

EC: I see multidisciplinarity done right at CERGU: not just creating a big institution, but creating opportunities (seminars and informal meetings) for researchers to dialogue with each other. The judgement of outsiders is essential: when you are deep into a subfield, you often miss the problematic areas in your articles, especially the obvious ones. The people deciding on your funding applications are not experts in your field, so CERGU researchers have helped me preparing applications. I am very grateful and I only hope that other researchers have found my comments to their research useful as well!

AS: You recently collaborated with researchers and PhD students at Chalmers for a presentation at the [Science Festival](#). Could you tell us about this? How was it to work together?

EC: This year we celebrate the fifty-year jubilee of the moon landing, but scientific denialism and hostility to research funding are rampant. I found that Anwesha Chakraborty and Maria Massaro shared my passion for space technology. Independently, we had studied the Space Race in the 1960s, the Indian Mars Mission in the 2010s and legislation about communication satellites. The public is indifferent and sometimes hostile, always with the same argument: taxpayers' money should be spent on more urgent problems on Earth. However, if citizens do not get involved, others will make the decisions and they will serve their own interests, not ours. The Science Festival gave us a great opportunity to find ways to make the concepts digestible and get a response from the public. We used music,

cartoons, photographs and quizzes. Maintaining a dialogue with the large public is something I want to keep doing.

AS: As a part of your post-doc employment, you will be arranging a workshop or conference. Can you give us some insight into what you might be thinking of organizing?

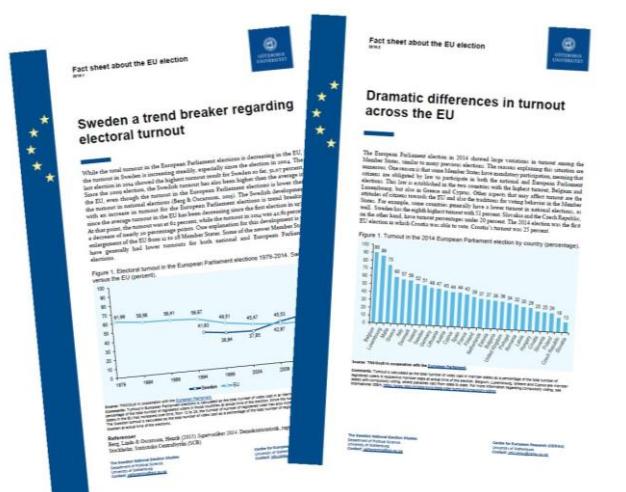
EC: My field of research has not been systematically explored, but researchers around Europe have already covered this or that aspect, a particular debate or a policy, a scientist here and a politician there. I have already identified a few interesting researchers — and hope to get more. The conference will be the opportunity to collect these dispersed people in the same room. I will propose writing a special issue from the proceedings, to attempt a tentative synthesis. What is important in the long term is building a new invisible college and involving some of these researchers in a collective research project.

AS. Where is your research taking you next? Any exciting or interesting travels coming up?

EC. Professor Mats Andrén and I are traveling to Zaragoza in July, where we have organised a workshop for the [16th Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas](#). We and our talented paper-givers — including Jens Norrby and Brian Shaev — will present a special issue we have prepared about [Transnationalism in the 1950s](#). I am already thinking ahead on how to continue my current research. I intend to switch from a macro, long-term perspective to a focused micro-analysis of the individual scientists who were involved at the intersection of science, politics and culture. When we think of intellectuals, we mostly think of artists and social scientists, but natural scientists influence policies and public opinion as opinion-makers and confidential advisors. A central concern for democracy is how we make public decisions concerning science. I have already identified six left-wing scientists who have played these different roles from Sweden, West Germany and Italy. The new project — for which I am currently applying for funding — will allow me to return to archival research and to approach Swedish history directly, which is essential for any researcher of social democracy and the European left — I am busy learning Swedish for this reason. I think that any ambitious historical research on Europe must unite archival research and comparison to be truly ground-breaking and truly European.

## Fact Sheets – European Parliament Elections

Two of the CERGU interns, Kajsa Evertsson and Maja Sörebro, have been creating fact sheets in Swedish and English over the months leading up to the European Parliament elections, to be held 23-26 May, 2019. Twice a week these talented interns have researched and written concise and informative one-page texts aimed at the general public. Now the fact sheets can be read on the CERGU website, in both Swedish and English!



Faktablad på svenska: <https://cergu.gu.se/Publikationer/faktablad-om-eu-valet>

Fact sheets in English: <https://cergu.gu.se/english/publications/fact-sheets->

## News from the Centre for European Studies



A unique feature of CES is that we are blessed with such active students. The students' extra-curricular activities this spring semester may very well be unprecedented! [SGE-Student Group Europa](#) has organized countless social activities such as pubs, dinners, and gaming evenings; nominated students to participate in CES activities such as our spring educational conference and the planning for this year's 20th anniversary of the [European Studies Programmes](#); and carried out an amazingly successful study visit trip to Brussels in April. [Brännpunkt Europa](#) has organized 14 full lunch events encompassing a total of 1040 participants; organized additional collaborative and public activities; planned and produced a European Studies students' promotional video; and organized a study visit trip

to Berlin in

April. The students are our pride, since they not only perform well in class but also engage so willingly in extra-curricular activities.

Together with our American double degree-partner, [the Centre for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#), and its TAM-Transatlantic Masters Programs, CES participated in [Politico's European Studies Fair](#) in Brussels on February 8. MAES-alumni Clemens Schubert and Louise Warenius joined me in our booth at the fair, where we met hundreds of potential students. It was a fascinating and straining experience, and maybe the most rewarding thing was that I could bring with me a list of almost 50 names and e-mail addresses from fair attendees who wanted me to contact them with additional information about MAES. It remains to be seen during coming years if this fair participation leads to an increase in applicants.

Our American double degree-partner the Centre for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and its TAM-Transatlantic Masters Programs, will organize a meeting in London on June 14 inviting us and the other European partners to the annual TAM-meeting.

The spring of 2019 also brings changes to the management of CES. As planned, by the end of June Linda Berg will step down as Director for CERGU, and from January 2020, she will replace me entirely as Director for CES and the European Studies Programmes. During the fall semester Linda, will begin part-time at CES, together with me. I could not think about a better-suited CES Director than Linda: firmly rooted in European research, very well structured, experienced and skillful in inter-departmental as well as inter-faculty collaboration, an excellent pedagogue, and an amazingly nice person with a deep regard for students, faculty members, and administrative staff. For my part, I look very much forward to devoting more time to my new future venture – the [International Youth Think Tank](#) project. Finally we are looking forward to the fall semester's festivities when we celebrate the [European Studies Programmes' 20th anniversary](#). We are inviting alumni and students,

as well as faculty members and administrative staff, and external Swedish and international partners. We have a program that includes, among others, the annual October Workshop 2019 on October 11 with the theme The Future of the Left and the Right in Future European Politics; the European Studies Graduation Ceremony on October 11, at which Vice-Chancellor Eva Wiberg will deliver diplomas, and the seminar Europe 20 Years Ahead, on October 12, with key-notes from EU-Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, and the Swedish Minister of EU-affairs Hans Dahlgren, as well as comments from a panel with nine European Studies faculty members.



Urban Strandberg

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## Coming up at CERGU in Autumn 2019

3/9, 8.30-9.30	First CERGU Breakfast (Internal event)
17/9	Guest Seminar: <b>Morten Rasmussen</b>
1/10, 9.15-10.45	<a href="#">Working Seminar: Kristina Wejstål</a> – Lilla Skansen
11/10	<a href="#">October Workshop</a> <i>The Future of the Left and the Right in Future European Politics</i> –Torgny Segerstedtsalen, Vasaparken <b>CES Graduation Ceremony</b>
15/10, 9.15-10.45	<a href="#">Guest Seminar: Michael Wintle</a> “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
12/11, 9.15-10.45	Working Seminar
26/11, 9.15-10.45	<a href="#">Guest Seminar: Andrea Iossa</a> – Stora Skansen

**10/12, 8.30-9.30**

Final CERGU Breakfast (Internal event)



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