



## CERGU Summer 2018 Newsletter



### Director's Letter

It is summertime again. In Sweden it has been unusually warm and sunny, with record high temperatures in May, making us all long for the holidays. Before then, we are pleased to announce that the decision has now been made regarding our two new postdocs at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#). Ettore Costa (University of Rome) and Markus Johansson (University of Gothenburg/Antwerp) will start their postdoc positions September 1, and we want to welcome them

both to CERGU! You can read more about them below.

We have had a great spring with several well-visited public events, such as the '[Europaperspektiv 2018](#)' public seminar (in Swedish) in February, and the European Research Day in March about '[European Disintegration](#)'. At the International Science Festival in April we cooperated with the excellent students in [Brännpunkt Europa](#), to discuss [what happens after Brexit](#). The audience could use their mobile phones to vote and guess in response to questions, a fun way to increase interaction. CERGU also cooperated with the Department of Political Science to bring two prominent scholars as keynotes to the [SNES Spring Conference](#) in Gothenburg 18-20 April: [Catherine de Vries and Frank Schimmelfennig](#). Read more about these and other events below, and do not miss the upcoming public event about Fake News in Europe, October 12, 13.00-15.00!

This spring, the legal agreement between the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the University of Gothenburg was finalized, making it one of the first [Double Degree](#) transatlantic masters' programmes in European Studies between Europe and the US. Many congratulations to CERGU members Jonathan Polk, Urban Strandberg and Rutger Lindahl for all the hard work you have put in! The double degree is administrated via the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#), which organises the European Studies educational programmes. It is important for the academic milieu that we have both research and teaching about European issues, and many CERGU researchers are also participating in teaching in the European Studies programmes. This has always been one of the aims of CERGU architect, Senior Professor Rutger Lindahl, who will now be stepping down from his formal position as Senior Advisor to CERGU. We are immensely thankful for everything Professor Lindahl has done, not only for CERGU, but also for the broad European academic environment at the University of Gothenburg. His generosity in sharing knowledge and his willingness to advise and mentor younger scholars has been invaluable. We are very happy that he will still be a part of the research network, albeit not in a formal role. Do not miss the profile of Rutger Lindahl below!

Last but not least, many thanks to all members of the CERGU network for all the great work you do in conducting high quality research, writing proposals and publications, teaching and participating in the broader societal debate to provide science based information about European issues!

Have a wonderful summer!

Linda Berg

### **CERGU Welcomes Two New Postdoc Researchers**

On 25 March, 2018 the application deadline passed, and the team at CERGU began to sift through the worthy work of 87 applicants from all over the globe. 42 women and 45 men applied to join the CERGU team of researchers here in Gothenburg for a two-year postdoc position. The CERGU Steering Group narrowed down the applicants based on their research plans, thematic areas of interest, publications, and other factors, until a final group of nine candidates were interviewed in late May. We are very pleased to finally announce the two gifted researchers who will begin their postdoc positions this autumn!

**Ettore Costa** received his PhD in Contemporary History from the University of Rome (2016). With a project entitled “From Sputnik to Chernobyl, from optimism to fear: socialists and communists facing science (1957-1986)” Costa will research Western European attitude evolution from the late 1950s to the 1980s. He will analyze how communist and socialist parties in Europe assessed the role of science in their policies and how this affected their subsequent decisions.



**Markus Johansson** joins us after receiving his PhD in Political Science from the University of Gothenburg/University of Antwerp (2015). His postdoc project is entitled “Non-Compliance and Collective Action in the European Union” and will focus on non-compliance and the negotiation processes between representatives of EU member states. His project will utilize telephone surveys and comparative case studies.



Both postdoc researchers are expected to begin work in August 2018 after the summer holidays. We hope to welcome them at our CERGU kickoff event on 11 September and learn more about their backgrounds, project ideas, research, and plans for collaboration. Congratulations, Ettore and Markus!

### **Internal Conference With a Focus on Big Projects**

Nearly 30 researchers gathered on a sunny May morning to listen to research presentations, toss around ideas for the future, and gain inspiration from junior and senior members of the CERGU network.

The day began with an elevator ride up to the 21<sup>st</sup> floor of the “[Lipstick Building](#)” in Gothenburg, an iconic landmark with stunning views over the city and its harbor. Ragnar Nilsson from the Grants and Innovation Office at the University of Gothenburg started off a day of presentations with very useful information on applying for research funding. Her presentation was followed by stimulating discussions and questions from researchers interested in applying for program and project funding.





We heard from Katarzyna Jezierska, who recently began a new job at University West in Trollhättan. Jezierska described her newest project on Swedish feminist foreign policy in Central Europe. Andreas Moberg, Deputy Director of CERGU senior lecturer at the Department of Law also presented his ongoing research. Jonathan Polk, political scientist and former CERGU postdoc, gave an overview of his project, as did Sune Bechmann Pedersen from the Department of Economy and Society and Christina Reimann from the Department of History.



The day-long conference wrapped up with an exciting exercise on future project ideas. Stressing the strengths of the CERGU network- namely, the great group of interdisciplinary researchers who are ambitious and well-connected to experts in a variety of fields, we were asked to come up with guest seminar suggestions and creative events that could appeal to a broad public and utilize the many research interests of the CERGU community.

### **Europaperspektiv 2018: The EU in a Changing World Order**

On February 20th CERGU organized an afternoon event for the annual [Europaperspektiv 2018: EU i en världsordning under omvandling](#) (the EU in a Changing World Order). After CERGU Director Linda Berg welcomed the full room, an introduction was given by moderator Per Cramér, Professor of International Law and member of the [CERGU Steering Group](#).



Sofie Blombäck, researcher and university lecturer in Political Science at Mid-Sweden University (and member of CERGU's research network) was the first to present. Sofie presented her chapter "Populist Parties and the Challenge to the EU's Liberal Value Base", followed by an interesting conversation with Adam Cwejman, lead writer for the newspaper Göteborgs Posten, about the concept of populism.



The next chapter "Climate Policy in an Economic World Order" was written by Thomas Sterner, Sverker Jagers & Frida Nilsson, economists and political scientists at the University of Gothenburg. Sverker Jagers, who presented on behalf of his co-authors, is also the director of CeCar, the Centre for Collective Action Research. The commentator was Christina Olsen Lundh, Vänersborg District Court. Olsen Lundh was previously a CERGU postdoc at the Department of Law.



After the first half, the focus shifted to the EU's trade agreements. Karolina Zurek, a researcher in Law at Stockholm University, spoke about sustainable development in the EU's future trade agreement in the light of the EU Court's ruling on the Singapore trade agreement. David Langlet, Professor of Maritime Administration at the University of Gothenburg was the

commentator for this chapter.

The fourth and final chapter also focused on trade agreements. "The Threat to Global Free Trade: The EU in a World Order with Bilateral Trade Agreements" was written by Claes G. Alvstam, Senior Professor of Economic Geography and former chairman of the CERGU International Advisory Board and Lena Lindberg, First Ambassador to the Swedish Representation in Brussels (and former CERGU Postdoc in Economics). Claes' presentation was commented on by Guri Rosén, Political Scientist at ARENA Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo, and former guest postdoc at CERGU.



## European Research Day: European Disintegration

The annual European Research Day was held in March 2018 at The School of Business, Economics and Law. This year's theme, [European Disintegration](#), was divided into two panels with experts offering insights and commenting on the state of Europe from a variety of perspectives. The first panel entitled Ideological Disintegration, included Katarzyna Jezierska, Andreas Moberg, and Andreas Önnersfors. Each presenter discussed the disintegration of the idea of Europe, but focused on different countries- mainly Hungary, Poland, and right-leaning Europe, in general.

The second panel entitled Structural Disintegration, included presentations by Lisbeth Aggestam, Karolina Enquist-Källgren, Mats Hellström, and Joakim Nergelius. This part of the afternoon was dedicated to an exploration of the breakup of the UK post-Brexit, as well as legal issues and foreign policy. All presentations were held in English and the presentations will be turned into chapters for the annual book from the series [Research on European Issues](#).



## Keynote Presentations at SNES Conference



Two internationally recognized researchers were recently invited to serve as keynote speakers for the [Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science \(SNES\)](#) conference which was held in Gothenburg in April. Professor Catherine de Vries, University of Essex, spoke on "Euro-scepticism and the Future of European Integration", while Professor Frank Schimmelfennig, ETH Zurich, discussed "EU enlargement: still the most successful foreign policy of the EU?". Both presentations were well-attended and followed by engaging feedback from the audience. While Catherine raised a warning flag for potentially growing

euro-scepticism, not least in Sweden, Frank highlighted a more positive picture of the EU's eastern expansion, compared with how it is often



perceived. CERGU co-financed their travel to and from Sweden for the conference, which was organized by Jonathan Polk, Linda Berg, and Adrian Hyde-Price, all researchers in the CERGU network.

### **Profile on Rutger Lindahl**

*After years of work with the Centre for European Research, Rutger Lindahl will be stepping down as the Senior Advisor. Recently, he agreed to give some thoughts on his time with CERGU, how things have changed, and where the organization is heading. Read Rutger's own words, below:*



Research focusing on Europe and European integration has a long history in several disciplines, especially within the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg. When the debate on Sweden joining the European Union intensified in the early 1990s, a group of researchers got together and formed a working group aimed at stimulating interdisciplinary research on Europe. We received support from the Vice Chancellor's office and the Faculty of Social Sciences. A common feeling among us in the group was that the general debate as well as the media reports could benefit from research results and facts on European integration provided by researchers representing a wide range of academic disciplines. The response was positive among politicians, journalists, as well as among colleagues within the University of Gothenburg.

It took, however, ten years before we were ready to start working in a more elaborated organizational form as CERGU, supported by three faculties. By then CERGU had received external funding for research, organized international conferences, and courses for PhD-candidates. And the first of the present three European Studies programs, now efficiently run by Centre for European Studies, had been launched with a "flying start".

If I had to mention three special moments in my personal CERGU history I would first choose the appointment in 1998, thanks to the existence of CERGU, of the University of Gothenburg as a Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence. This helped to put CERGU on not only the international academic map, but also helped us to gain access to Swedish and EU institutions, as well as the media.

My second moment would be the first major external project funding CERGU received. It was for an interdisciplinary project on economic, legal, political and social developments in Eastern Europe in the 1990s. This project resulted in a number of books, reports, papers, articles and even PhD theses. CERGU also organized several well-attended international conferences on this theme. It was a great deal of work to coordinate this project, but also great fun and a constant source of new knowledge and ideas for research.

The third memorable moment was when CERGU received a 10 Mkr grant from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation in 2012. This provided funding over the following five years for more than ten additional CERGU postdoc positions. The international interest in these postdoc positions has been great and meant a lot of added value for CERGU research. Not least through the extension of the CERGU international network. I am also glad that some of the international postdocs have decided to stay in Gothenburg and contribute with both their research and teaching ideas and skills to the CERGU milieu. Others have stayed on as alumni and participated in CERGU organized conferences and workshops. It is wonderful to watch the CERGU family grow not only physically, but also with colleagues representing new fields in European research.

Even if I am now leaving my position as Senior Professor in Political Science and Senior Advisor to CERGU, I certainly plan to stay in touch. I still, together with Markus Johansson and Daniel Naurin, have an ongoing research project on negotiations in the EU Council of Ministers. This project began in 2003 and we are now conducting our sixth wave of interviews with national representatives in Coreper, committees and working parties. Hopefully we will attain enough reliable data for analysis and results that can contribute to the ongoing debate on Sweden in the EU and the developments of European integration, in general.

Finally, I would like to offer a recommendation especially to my younger colleagues. Always try to uphold an interdisciplinary ambition in your research. I am glad to find, when I look back on the past 25 CERGU-years, that discussing my research with colleagues from other disciplines has had a positive effect on my understanding of how to relate my research to other perspectives on historic and current developments in Europe.



Rutger Lindahl

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#### Coming up at CERGU this Autumn

<p><b>11/9,</b> 8:30-9:30 10:15-12:00 16:00-21:00</p>	<p><b>First Breakfast</b> – Department of Law Guest Seminar: <a href="#">Ester Herlin-Karnell</a> <i>The Constitutional Structure of the EU area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the Right to Justification</i>, Room F45 School of Business, Economics and Law <b>CERGU Kickoff</b> (INTERNAL EVENT)</p>
<p><b>12/10,</b> 13:00-15:00 16:00-17:30</p>	<p><a href="#">October Workshop</a>, Torgny Segerstedtsalen Vasaparken <b>CES Graduation Ceremony</b>, Aulan, Vasaparken</p>
<p><b>13/11,</b> 13:15-14:45</p>	<p>Guest Seminar: <a href="#">Soetkin Verhaegen</a> (co-arranged with Party Research Group), Title TBA, Stora Skansen</p>
<p><b>4/12,</b> 9:15–10:45</p>	<p>Guest Seminar: <a href="#">Pasi Ihalainen</a>, <i>The Swedish franchise reform 1917-19 in comparative perspective</i>, Stora Skansen</p>
<p><b>11/12,</b> 8:30-9:30</p>	<p><b>Glögg Breakfast</b> (INTERNAL EVENT)</p>





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