



CERGU Winter 2016 Newsletter



Director's Letter

Welcome back to a new year at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#)! We are looking forward to all the exciting new events and research activities that 2016 will hold. First of all, do not miss the **7 February** application deadline for our [two fully funded four year PhD-student positions in European Research](#). More information and links are provided below in this newsletter. Please help us spread the word to potentially interested candidates. In addition, do not miss the interview below with one of our current PhD students, [Anton Jansson](#).

Secondly, we have two main public events coming up this spring. We start with the annual 'Europaperspektiv' seminar (in Swedish), which takes place on 10 February. This year's theme is [EU and the New Security Threats](#). Sign up for the event in advance and pick up a free copy of this year's book at the seminar. On 15 March we will devote an afternoon to the contested EU-US free trade agreement [TTIP](#), featuring among others the EU Commissioner of Trade, Cecilia Malmström. More information on these events can be found below. For continuous updates on all our events, see our website [calendar](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#). Furthermore, the student organisation [Brännpunkt Europa](#) now also has its own [website](#) in addition to their Facebook page. Check both out for more information on their popular public lunch seminars.

2015 was a hard and challenging year in many ways and for a lot of people. Thanks to all members of the CERGU network who offered their expert knowledge. Hopefully 2016 will bring more positive developments and opportunities for us to share our knowledge!

Linda Berg

CERGU Announces Call for Two PhD Positions

CERGU has announced the call for two fully funded 4-year CERGU PhD student positions within European Research. PhD students will have a double affiliation with both CERGU and a department at The School of Business, Economics and Law, The Faculty of Arts or The Faculty of Social Sciences. The application can only be submitted electronically here: [Call for Two PhD Positions in European Research](#).

**Job Opportunity:
Two PhD Positions
in European Research**

More information and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on [CERGU's website](#). Application Deadline: **7 February, 2016**. Starting date: 1 September, 2016.

Please help us spread the information to anyone who might be a good fit at CERGU!

Europaperspektiv 2016: EU and the New Security Threats

This year's [Europaperspektiv](#) (European Perspective) will focus on the new security threats facing Europe. The book, entitled *EU och de nya säkerhetshoten*, is comprised of ten individual authors' contributions with chapters on topics ranging from sanctions to migration, and crisis-management to the protection of personal data. The public book seminar will take place on 10 February, 14.30-17.00 (fika 14.30-15.00) at SEB-salen at the School of Business, Economics, and Law. CERGU researcher and political scientist Lisbeth Aggestam will moderate and four authors will be presenting their chapters.



This seminar will be held in Swedish. [RSVP by 5 February!](#)



New Executive Master's Programme in European Studies Launched

Late in 2015, a new academic programme was launched with the aim of equipping students with specialized knowledge to address our challenging and changing society. The Executive Master's Programme in European Studies (EMAES) is unique in that it is designed to fit students who wish to remain professionally active while studying, with a reduced speed of study.

The cross-disciplinary programme is taught mostly online meaning that students will not need to relocate to Gothenburg in order to enroll. EMAES is a one year degree programme which is taught part-time over two years to allow students to remain professionally active. Director of the Centre for European Studies, Urban Strandberg, says that the official launch of the programme will be in September 2016. To read more about this new programme, visit the [website for EMAES](#).

TTIP Conference Set for March 2016

CERGU will be organising an [Interdisciplinary Conference on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) in Gothenburg 14-15 March, 2016.

Bringing together internationally renowned researchers and policy makers, such as EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, it is aimed at enabling a dialogue between research and policy on pertinent issues for a Swedish, European and international community. The conference facilitates the cooperation and sharing of experiences amongst between 50-100 scholars in law, political science and economics with a common research interest in EU-US transatlantic relations. The afternoon 15 March will be public (and function as the [CERGU 'European Research Day' of 2016](#)), with panel discussions and a speech by Commissioner Cecilia Malmström.



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 Researchers on the Recent Migration Crisis and Hate Crime Debate

Researchers in the CERGU network are often taking part in conferences, seminars, debates, and media appearances on current hot topics. This autumn was no exception as many CERGU researchers contributed their expertise to some of the most pressing issues facing Europe and the wider world at this time.



Joakim Ruist, economist and former CERGU postdoc, wrote for the newspaper [Svenska Dagbladet](#) (in Swedish) about the need to take pride in Sweden's history of receiving a large share of refugees, as opposed to complaining about it. CERGU researcher and political scientist, **Jan Rovny**, wrote a piece in September for *The Washington Post's* blog [The Monkey Cage](#) on why some Eastern European countries are taking in refugees, while others are not. **David Brax**, philosopher and CERGU postdoc, responded to interviews by [The New York Times](#) and *BBC Radio 4* regarding the hate crime which took place in Trollhättan in October. In November, many in the CERGU network participated in [Global Week](#). **Anja Franck**, School of Global Studies and former CERGU postdoc, participated in a panel entitled "The People that Migrate and the Migration Industry." **Joakim Ruist** discussed "Economic Effects and Diverse Positions in the Swedish Job Market," and CERGU researchers **Oksana Schmulyar Gréen**, **Thomas Erhag**, and **Karin Zelano** discussed "Migration in the European Union: Possibilities and Challenges." Researchers **Andrea Spehar** and **Alexandra Bousiou** shared their expertise on the refugee crisis with students at a [Brännpunkt Europa](#) lunch lecture during December. Intellectual Historian and member of the CERGU Steering Group, **Mats Andrén**, appeared on [Vetenskapsradion](#) (in Swedish). Andrén helped us contextualize the idea of Europe by looking at history in order to grapple with the rise of nationalism today.



Profile of Anton Jansson

I recently spoke with Anton Jansson about his experiences and impressions from being a CERGU PhD student in light of the current call for new PhD students. He was kind enough to chat with me (Angie Sohlberg) about his research, background, and thoughts on being a part of a multidisciplinary network.



AS: Thanks for agreeing to talk with me, Anton! So, are you originally from Gothenburg? What is your background?

AJ: I grew up outside of Gothenburg, in a town called Vårgårda. My university studies commenced with studying History of Ideas in Lund, before I moved to Gothenburg and enrolled in the European Studies Programme in 2005. Since then I have stayed here on the west coast, apart from a few visits abroad.

AS: You're a CERGU PhD student and employed by the Department of History of Ideas and Science. What do you think CERGU adds to your experience as a PhD student compared to those around you in your department who are not affiliated with the CERGU network?

AJ: I think it is very fruitful for anyone in the university world to remain open in their outlook. Being part of an interdisciplinary network means that you better understand academia at large, and, by contrasting and comparing, your own specific discipline and field. The international milieu

at CERGU has also been of great advantage. From the start it has been natural for me to be a part of an English-speaking and internationally oriented environment, which has made it easier for me to integrate myself into international research communities than it would have been otherwise.

AS: *What is the focus of your dissertation? Could you tell us a bit about the stage you're at, and what's coming up for you in 2016?*

AJ: My dissertation, shortly, is about the intersection between religion and politics in the early evolution of the modern political ideologies in Germany in the 1830s and 1840s. The modern ideologies are often taken to be secular, non-religious phenomena, but they developed in times and societies which were thoroughly Christian, and I try to show how they intersected with Christian theology in different ways. Right now, I am trying to finish as much as possible of the text before my final seminar, which will take place in May, and then I will probably defend my thesis and end my PhD period in December 2016.

AS: *Have you taught any courses while a PhD student?*

AJ: Yes. I have taught in the Teacher Education Programme and in History of Ideas, but the bulk of my teaching has been in the European Studies Programme, mainly in the historical introductory course, which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Meeting students is really fun and also keeps you sharp.

AS: *What kind of advice or words of wisdom do you have to pass on to those hoping to be the next CERGU PhD students?*

AJ: Well, I don't know how much wisdom I possess, but maybe it is good advice to make an effort from the start to integrate yourself both in your home department and in the CERGU environment (the latter of course can be done easily by attending the Tuesday breakfasts). And, well, work hard, have fun!



CERGU Congratulations from Autumn 2015

Weddings and Births

Research Coordinator **Birgitta Jännebring** celebrated her marriage to husband Bengt in August
CERGU postdoc **Katarzyna Wojnicka** celebrated her marriage to husband Martin in September
CERGU postdoc **Allison Rovny** and CERGU researcher **Jan Rovny** welcomed their daughter Julia in September

PhD student **Emily Xu** welcomed her son Thomas in September

CERGU researcher **Jonathan Polk** and wife Emily welcomed their daughter Ada in November

Promotions

CERGU researcher and political scientist, **Lisbeth Aggestam**, was promoted to Associate Professor in September

CERGU researcher and political scientist, **Andrea Spehar**, was promoted to Associate Professor in October

CERGU researcher and political scientist, **Jan Rovny**, was promoted to Associate Professor in December



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