



CERGU Winter 2018 Newsletter



Director's Letter

I am very happy to announce that our call for two new postdocs at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#) is now open! You can find more information about the call and how to apply [here](#). CERGU is multi-disciplinary and we are thus welcoming applications from a wide range of academic backgrounds, e.g. humanities, economy, law and social sciences. The deadline for applications is March 25.

After a very intensive autumn (see more below), we are now happy to look forward to the many exciting events that are happening this spring at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#)! In February we will arrange the ['Europaperspektiv 2018'](#) public seminar (in Swedish). This year's topic is about trust in the EU in a changing world order. This event on February 20th is open to everyone, and pre-registered participants will receive a free copy of the book! CERGU will continue to be publicly active throughout the spring. On March 27th, we will hold this year's European Research Day (in English). The topic this year is ['European Disintegration'](#) and everyone is welcome to attend! And CERGU is of course taking part in [the Science festival](#) in Gothenburg in May.

For even more public seminars on current affairs: do not miss the popular lunch seminars organised by the student organisation [Brännpunkt Europa](#), which CERGU supports in cooperation with the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#), which organises the European Studies educational programs. 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. Check out the interesting profiles of Urban Strandberg and Karolina Enquist Källgren below. They are the director and co-director of CES, and they are also very much involved in European research.

Linda Berg

New Thematic Areas of Research

During autumn 2017, the CERGU steering group discussed and revised the thematic areas of research. These are the updated thematic areas in which CERGU researchers have particular strengths:

Cultural Borders
Mobility and Migration in Europe
Institutions, Parties, and Movements
External Relations, Security, and Trade



You can read in-depth descriptions of the thematic areas on the [CERGU website](#).



Two CERGU Postdocs Hold Conferences in Autumn 2017

Both Christina Reimann (Department of Historical Studies) and Sune Bechmann Pedersen (Unit for Economic History at the Department of Economy and Society) arranged conferences during November and December 2017. Every postdoctoral researcher employed at CERGU must hold some sort of roundtable, workshop, symposium or conference before they finish their two years at the



centre. In late November, Christina Reimann organized an interesting conference entitled [Port Cities and Migration in the Modern Era](#). This two day conference brought together 25 scholars from many diverse sub-fields to discuss how port cities' urban cultures - as shaped by migratory movements – can become catalysts of globalization processes. A keynote address featured scholars Brad Beaven (University of Portsmouth), who presented “Liminal Communities and Civic Fears: Port Towns and Urban Cultures in the Nineteenth Century,” and Leos Müller (University

of Stockholm) who gave a presentation entitled “Port Cities in Global History: Some Examples of Eighteenth-Century Globalization.” The keynote was moderated by CERGU researcher and Director of the Centre on Global Migration, Andrea Spehar.

In December, Sune Bechmann Pedersen (Economic History at the Department of Economy and Society) welcomed 18 guests and colleagues to the conference [Mobility and Leisure Travel in the Cold War](#). This conference was a continuation of a workshop held in April 2017 at the University of Amsterdam as part of the European Travel Cultures and Mobilities research network. Over two days in Gothenburg, scholars met to discuss a variety of topics related to tourism and the Iron Curtain. According to Bechmann Pedersen’s conference description, “This conference set out to deepen our understanding of the gradual integration of East and West during the Cold War by concentrating on the transnational circulation of individuals, idea, and goods facilitated by leisure travel.”



CERGU facilitates and arranges logistics for two-five international conferences per year, bringing together world-class researchers and scholars from all over the globe. Since 2015 we have archived all CERGU-related conference programs and information on the [CERGU website](#).



Busy EU-Related Autumn for CERGU Researchers

During autumn 2017, Gothenburg and Western Sweden were inundated with a variety of EU-related activities, many of which involved researchers connected with CERGU. Most notably among these was the [EU Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth](#) (a meeting with EU Heads of State and Government) which took place on 17 November. In addition to this meeting, many other events,

both large- and small-scale, were held throughout the autumn.

The [Centre for European Research](#) (CERGU), [Centre for European Studies](#) (CES), and the student-led group [Brännpunkt Europa](#) (financed by both CERGU and CES) contributed to and participated in various ways at a number of these events in autumn 2017:

21 September: EU Day at the University of Gothenburg: Adrian Hyde-Price (Researcher in CERGU's network) served as commentator on a panel 'Germany and France - Is the European Motor Back on Track? Macron and Merkel Announce 'Deep Revolution' Plans for Europe'. Participants included H.E. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Ambassador of Germany and H.E. Mr David Cvach, Ambassador of France. Read more [here](#).



September 29: Brännpunkt Europa: Ann Linde – The Situation in the EU (held in Swedish). Read more [here](#).

September 29th: EU Handshake in Western Sweden: The Swedish government (EU Minister Ann Linde) made an EU pledge with the City of Gothenburg, the The Göteborg Region Association of Local Authorities (GR) and the Region Västra Götaland. CERGU contributed with an informative seminar on the topic of Current European Challenges. Among the speakers were CERGU senior advisor Rutger Lindahl, former CERGU postdoc Andrea Spehar, CERGU's deputy director Andreas Moberg and CERGU's director Linda Berg. Read more [here](#).



October 19: Brännpunkt Europa: EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmström: Wind in the Sails for the EU Again. Read more [here](#).

November 9: 'Research Potentials of the Historical Archives of the EU'. CERGU senior advisor Rutger Lindahl moderated a discussion following an initial presentation by Dieter Schlenker, director of the historical archives of the EU. Co-organizers: CES and The International Centre.

November 16: 'Top Income Shares: Political and Economic Determinants' public lecture by Professor

John D. Stephens (Chapel Hill, USA). Chair: Brännpunkt Europa.

November 16: EU's EU: Lisbeth Aggestam, political scientist and researcher in CERGU's network, participated in an interactive conversation with Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade, Jonas Sjöstedt, Party Leader Left Party, and Ann Linde, EU Minister, as well as representatives from Sweden's youth organizations, business world and universities Read more [here](#).



November 16-17: Workshop on Welfare, Inequality and the Social Dimension in Europe. Read more [here](#).

November 17: A selection of students from Brännpunkt Europa was invited to attend the EU summit and listen to the discussions.



Call for Two New Postdocs: Now Open!

Do you know a scholar who would make a great addition to our multifaceted, interdisciplinary European research environment? If so, please let them know that we are now accepting applications for 1-2 postdoctoral positions in European Research. We hope to find the best researchers to join our community of scholars here in Gothenburg, so we are thankful if you can help us spread the word! Deadline to apply is March 25th. Apply here:

https://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university/job-opportunities/vacancies-details/?id=1843



Profile on Urban Strandberg and Karolina Enquist Källgren

Karolina Enquist Källgren is a senior lecturer in the Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion at GU, as well as the Director of Studies at the Centre for European Studies (Humanities track). Urban Strandberg is a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science, as well as the Director of Studies for the Centre for European Studies (CES). I recently had the chance to hear about the exciting developments and new programmes over at CES.

A: Urban and Karolina, thank you for agreeing to this interview! As both researchers and directors of study, I know your plates are very full these days, but I think our CERGU network might find your current work very interesting to read about. You've both been recently spearheading new master's programmes, Karolina within the Humanities, and Urban over in Social Sciences. Could you each tell us a bit about these new initiatives?



K: The New Master of European Studies, Humanities Track is a new track within the already existing Master of European Studies. The motivation for starting the programme came from several sources. First of all, we have felt that there was an imbalance in our multi-disciplinary milieu since not all of the disciplines involved in the Centre for European Studies, were actually represented at all levels of education. We believe that a good multi-disciplinary environment should have disciplines integrated for students at all levels (bachelor, master, and research, of course). The timing for developing the new track had not been right, however, but then we were approached by representatives from History and History of Ideas at the Faculty of Arts, who were willing to support and engage with the necessary groundwork for developing a new programme. Without them, it wouldn't have been possible to create the new track. They have supported the Centre for European Studies with subject specific competence as well as with support in the negotiations between faculties. It has, of course, helped that all representatives, at the department level, as well those at the faculty level, have been positive towards the new programme. We can also see that the programme comes at the right time, since we already have a lot of international students applying for the first cohort. Students on this new track will partially study track-specific courses, such as one on European Borderlands, and one on European Secret, Public and Private Spaces, while also participating with students from a social science background. This has led to the adaptation and development of a completely new qualitative methods-course, which will cater to both social science and humanities students. We are really excited to see the programme start this autumn!

U: Five years ago we drafted our strategic plan. One of the overall goals has been to internationalize the European Studies programmes, mainly through organising double degree collaboration with partners in Europe and overseas. During spring 2018, one could say that these efforts will be culminating. The first cohort of students in our double degree collaboration with SIRPA, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University, Shanghai, will finalize their studies when presenting their master theses in Shanghai in June 2018. This spring we also hope to admit the first round of students within our third and latest double degree collaboration partner, TAM – Transatlantic Master's Program, Centre for European Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In our first double degree collaboration, with the Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz, which has been up and running since 2014, the third cohort of students will finish this spring semester when submitting their master theses. Another important part of our strategic developments is the implementation of our international and quite unique life-long learning program aimed at those who are mid-career: EMAES – Executive Master of European Studies. During the spring semester we will devote considerable time and energy to promoting this program, as well as select the third cohort of students who will start in early September 2018.



A: *How does working in a multidisciplinary network influence your work as a director of studies? And in your own research?*

K: I have nothing to compare with, since I have not previously been a director of study anywhere else. But, I think that we work on a much broader set of issues. We try to take in the overall milieu rather than specific courses, which we generally leave up to course coordinators to develop. Our work also entails a lot of collaboration between departments and faculties. This can be difficult, but also very rewarding. It makes one reflect upon one's own competencies, and assumptions, as well as on the ways to address and move beyond these assumptions. Personally, I'm someone who dislikes discussions like 'what is the true discipline of history of ideas?' to take an example from my own

disciplinary background. I find it liberating to think about the whole educational environment as continuously 'making' or 'creating' the field of European Studies. In part, we are making future experts, not through definite content, but through our continuous negotiation and development of cross-disciplinary content. I also think that multi-disciplinarity forces us to develop skills like self-reflection, on the part of students, teachers and directors of study. I find it very important.

U: Living in times when nationalism and populism are gaining ground in Europe and elsewhere in the world, listening to different perspectives from various academic disciplines engaged in the European Studies programmes contributes invaluable to the complex contexts of current political, social, economic, and cultural developments. This is also to say that the multidisciplinary organization of the European Studies programmes contributes to broadening my research agenda, as well.



A: It would be very interesting to hear something about your own research. Could you tell us what you will be working on during spring 2018?

K: During the spring I will be working on a project concerning exiles in the 20th century, and the way in which they turned to aesthetic and sometimes political image-theories to fight against totalitarianism, something many of them experienced personally.

This is a project within the discipline of History of Ideas, but in the autumn I will begin working on a project that looks at the circulation of knowledge in Europe and between the disciplines Theology and Physics, 1924-1934.

U: In June 2015, Philosophy professor Christian Munthe and I organized the international and multidisciplinary symposium 'Reconsidering Humanity: Big Data, the Scientific Method, and Images of Humans and Humanity.' The symposium was a success and we decided afterward to develop the ideas presented at the symposium and share them with more people. We have therefore begun to take some of the key-note presentations and make them into full papers, publishing them as a special issue in the Cambridge journal *European Review*. In our capacity as guest editors of the special issue, Christian and I have now finalized the peer review process of these papers. Throughout spring 2018, we will polish up the papers, and write our introductory article.



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Coming up at CERGU this Spring...

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| 20/2, 14:30-17:00 | Europaperspektiv 2018: EU i en världsordning under omvandling (in Swedish), Hörsal Dragonen, Sprängkullsgatan 19 |
| 13/3, 9:15-10:45 | Guest Seminar: Werner Jeanrond , <i>The EU and Hope</i> , room E322, Humanisten |
| 20/3, 9:15-10:45 | Working Seminar: Christina Reimann , <i>Receiving and Losing Citizenship Port Cities: Antwerp and Rotterdam in Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries</i> , Stora Skansen, Sprängkullsgatan 19, 3rd floor |

27/3 , 13:15-17:00	European Research Day : European Disintegration (?) , room E44, Handelshögskolan
17/4 , 9:15-10:45	Seminar: Johan Karlsson Schaffer , <i>The Scandinavian rights revolution: Courts, rights and legal mobilization</i> Location TBA
24/4	Guest Seminar: Steffen Hindelang , <i>The Court of Justice of the European Union and the Future of Investment Arbitration</i> (Arranged in cooperation with the Department of Law) Location TBA
5/2 , 10:15-12:00	Working Seminar: Ann-Kristin Jonasson , <i>The EU and Jordan: Aligning Discourse and Practice on Democracy Promotion?</i> Stora Skansen, Sprängkullsgatan 19, 3rd floor
28/5 , 13:15-15:00	Guest Seminar: Sonia Lucarelli , <i>Justice on the Move: Evaluating Migration Governance in the European Space</i> (Arranged in cooperation with the Centre for Global Migration), Stora Skansen, Sprängkullsgatan 19, 3rd floor



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