



## CERGU Winter 2019 Newsletter

### Director's Letter



After a fairly mild winter we are now looking forward to a very intense spring with a lot of activities for everyone involved in the Centre for European Research ([CERGU](#)). European issues seem to be higher on the agenda than ever before, with uncertainties about Brexit, questioning of common values and not least the upcoming European Parliament elections at the end of May.

Since one of the important tasks in CERGU's so called 'mission statement', is to serve as a knowledge hub stimulating multidisciplinary and policy-relevant debate and information about European challenges, we are always organising and

participating in public events. This spring we have more events than usual, as scholars in our network hold particular knowledge about current European affairs. We have already held one fully booked public event, '[EU and the Return of the Nation-State](#)', which you can read more about below. Additional public events are presented in more detail below, but include the European Research Day, April 2, which this year has the theme '[Contested Community](#)', a joint public seminar with [Reväst](#) about how the EU influences Western Sweden, and vice versa, on April 25, and a public workshop with [JMG](#) about the 2019 EU election campaign, on May 6. CERGU will also have two public events during the [Science Festival](#). See our [calendar](#) for more information and details. Our excellent students involved in [Brännpunkt Europa](#) are also very busy planning several public events in relation to the European Parliament elections. Individual scholars in the network have been active in the media, e.g. [Jens Norrby](#) whose historical perspective on UK-Europe relations has been highly appreciated. Thanks to everyone who takes the time to contribute to our societal knowledge!

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. The fact sheets are mainly produced by our excellent interns, Kajsa Evertsson and Maja Sörebro. The team will be reinforced with a third intern, Dimitrios Pantakidis, beginning on April 1. Moreover, CERGU network member Olof Larsson and I have both been filmed, in order to produce two short films about the EU and the upcoming elections. The films and the fact sheets will be available via CERGU's website, and we will disseminate the links broadly. Follow CERGU on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) – and now also on [Instagram](#)!

Another of CERGU's main tasks is to stimulate and produce high quality multidisciplinary research on European challenges. We are happy to report that Katarzyna Wojnicka was very successful in her research applications and will be returning to CERGU and the [Department of Sociology and Work Science](#) in the autumn. Read more about her projects below. Several other scholars in the network, who presented drafts at the CERGU research application seminars last year, have also been successful in receiving funding. Congratulations to all! CERGU will host a research workshop called '[European Borderlands](#)', organised by Mats Andrén on May 9. All the other interesting research seminars this spring can be found in our [calendar](#).

Linda Berg

## **Europaperspektiv: EU and the Return of the Nation State**

The theme of this year's Swedish book seminar [Europaperspektiv](#) was "[EU och nationalstatens återkomst](#)" ([EU and the Return of the Nation State](#)). On Tuesday 19 February, CERGU hosted 100 eager guests from the local Gothenburg community, as well as university professors and students, to the annual book seminar held in the lecture hall Dragonen.

Director of CERGU, Linda Berg, served as moderator and gave the introductory comments to begin the afternoon's presentations. Jane Reichel (Stockholm University) presented her chapter, "Rättsstatsprincipen och sanktioner mot enskilda – kan medlemsstaterna låta EU bestämma?" (The Rule of Law and Sanctions Against Individuals- can the Member States Allow the EU to Decide?), which was commented on by Jonas Arvidsson (Prosecutor in the National Division Against International and Organized Crime). Malin Stegmann McCallion (Karlstad University) presented next, discussing her chapter "Nationalstatens återkomst ur ett europeiseringssperspektiv – Att lappa och lagla europeisk integration?" (The Nation State's Return from the Perspective of Europeanisation- To Mend European Integration?). Her chapter was commented on by Andreas Magnusson (high school teacher in Swedish, religion and ethics). The next chapter presentation was given by Sten Nyberg (Stockholm University) and commented on by Jesper Öhrn (Manager of International Business Development at the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce). Nyberg's chapter was entitled "Brexit och EU:s fortbestånd" (Brexit and the EU's Survival). The final presentation of the afternoon was given by CERGU Deputy Director Andreas Moberg. His chapter, "Vad gör EU om nationalstatens återkomst sker på rättsstatsprincipens bekostnad?" (What Does the EU do if the Nation State's Return Comes at the Cost of the Rule of Law?), was commented on by Katarzyna Jezierska (University West).

The event received very positive feedback from those who attended. This year marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Europaperspektiv book seminar.



## Next Up: European Research Day

On 2 April, CERGU will arrange the annual [European Research Day](#), this year under the title of “Contested Community.” The event will feature two panels of speakers addressing topics related to Independence Vs. Community (Panel 1) and Electoral Contest (Panel 2). All are welcome to attend! This event will be held in English.



Where: Room B32, The School of Business, Economics and Law, Vasagatan 1

When: 2 April, 13.15-17.00

More information coming soon!

## **Focus on the European Parliament Elections**

With the upcoming European Parliament elections, researchers associated with CERGU have been and will continue to be busy in the media, as well as in the local, national and international European community spreading knowledge about the elections, answering questions, and giving their expert opinions on what to expect. CERGU is organizing and participating in several events focusing particularly on the European Parliament Elections this spring.

April will be a busy month at CERGU, as we are arranging the European Research Day (see above). The theme of “Contested Community” will include presentations that relate the upcoming elections to the individual countries and societal challenges being faced throughout Europe.

CERGU will contribute two separate events to the annual [Science Festival \(Vetenskapsfestivalen\)](#). One has a particular focus on the European Parliament elections, and will be held in Swedish, April 7, entitled “Europaparlamentsval - hur tänker vi?” (The European Parliament Elections – how are we thinking?), this event includes Henrik Oscarsson (SOM-Institute at GU), Linda Berg (Director of CERGU), Kajsa Evertsson (MAES student at GU), and Maja Sörebro (European Studies Program student at GU). The other event, “Why Spend Our Taxes on Space Travel?” features a collaboration between researchers Maria Massaro and Anwesha Chakraborty from Chalmers University of Technology and CERGU Deputy Director Andreas Moberg and postdoc Ettore Costa from the University of Gothenburg.

Together with [Reväst](#), CERGU will organize a public event (in Swedish) on April 25 about how the EU influences Western Sweden, and vice versa. And on May 6 there will be a public workshop with the [Department of Journalism, Media and Communication](#) about the 2019 EU election campaign.

CERGU network members Olof Larsson and Linda Berg have both been filmed, in order to produce two short films about the EU and the upcoming elections. In addition to this, a special student group, called Fokus Europa, will work to actively promote voting participation in areas with low turnout. Brännpunkt Europa will also offer several public events in relation to the European Parliament elections. The two CERGU/SNES interns, Kajsa Evertsson and Maja Sörebro have been busy creating fact sheets and taking part in the development of a questionnaire that focuses directly on the elections. Finally, CERGU researchers will be doing their part in the media, offering predictions, their opinions, and informed analysis on the European Parliament elections.

## **Update from the CERGU Interns**



Our names are Kajsa and Maja and we are this semester's interns for CERGU, in collaboration with Swedish National Election Studies (SNES). We have now been here for 6 weeks and our tasks are very diverse. Our main responsibility is to produce and publish fact sheets regarding the European Parliament Election. The fact sheets

we have so far are about, among other things, voting behavior, party groups and the varying attitudes people have about the EU. We have also been involved in creating the artwork and design for the fact sheets. Our hopes are that the first fact sheets will be published this week.

We have also been working on the upcoming questionnaire about the European Parliament Election. This has entailed coming up with suggestions for new questions and formulations. Besides that, we have attended a conference with the SOM Institute to evaluate the survey from 2018. We held a presentation about EU opinions. We have assisted at different events such as the book seminar *Europaperspektiv*. During our remaining time, we will try to help the researchers from both CERGU and SNES with a variety of different tasks.

We look forward to the remaining part of this internship!

## Visit from TCO January 16

One aspect of CERGU's role to serve as a knowledge hub regarding European challenges, is that we often meet, participate in and share knowledge with local, regional, national and international societal actors. On January 16 CERGU was visited by [TCO \(The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees\)](#). The TCO delegation included the chair Eva Nordmark, as well as both local and national representatives from the greater TCO organisation. On the agenda was experience exchange and presentations of ongoing research by CERGU Steering Group member Bengt Larsson, Director Linda Berg, Deputy Director Andreas Moberg and previous Steering Group chair Claes Alvstam. The meeting encompassed fruitful discussions about European developments, Brexit, and the upcoming European Parliament elections on May 26 2019.



## Researcher Profile: Thomas Erhag



*Thomas Erhag became the chair of the CERGU Steering Committee in 2018 after being actively involved in CERGU for many years. We recently had the chance to ask him about his new role, interests, and background.*

AS. While you have been a member of the CERGU research community for some time now, you recently (2018) stepped into the role of CERGU Steering Committee Chair. What does this new role entail for you?

TE. I just left the role of Head of the Department of Law and honestly I am still struggling a little to get on top of my own research and teaching again. Chairing the Steering Committee is an inspiring way for me to be a part of the dynamic research community in European Studies. I would also like to believe that my experience from GU management can help CERGU in some matters.

AS. Have you noticed any ways in particular that CERGU has changed over the years you've been involved?

TE. My first and very positive contact with CERGU was during its early years in the late 90s when I followed a joint cross-faculty PhD course. At that time, CERGU was not much more than a series of seminars but still an important meeting point for those of us interested in cross-disciplinary European research and run by true academic entrepreneurs like Rutger Lindahl, Per Cramér and Claes Alvstam. Today CERGU is so much more, not least due to many years of a successful post doc program. Just take a look at what earlier post docs are doing today! I would also claim that the activities at CERGU, together with CES, are a "complete academic environment". CERGU, as perhaps the most important hub for European research in the Nordic countries is not only facilitating a research environment for PhD-students and post docs, but is also connected to successful education (CES) at all levels and has a strong network for cooperation with other actors throughout, and even outside of Europe.

AS. Are you currently involved in any exciting research projects? Are these interdisciplinary or are you working with others within your own department?

TE. I am just finishing a book on the theme "The different faces of equal treatment". It is a joint project with colleagues from the law faculties in Stockholm and Uppsala where we look at different legal aspects (social security, tax and labour law) on the posting of workers from other EU member states to Sweden. I do not know how exciting it is ... but it shows some of the very complex and structural legal difficulties that meet service providers and workers in the construction sector.

AS. Could you tell us a bit about your own background- where you're from, what you do outside of work, and how you feel about semlor, räksmörgåsar, Slottskogen, or perhaps your best Göteborgsskämt?

TE.. I grew up in Kungsbacka on the Swedish west coast, studied in Lund, but moved to Gothenburg in 1996 to do my PhD, and have been living in the city and working at GU since then. You could say that I belong to the generation of Swedes who grew up in the 80s and were extremely surprised when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 (30 years in November!). In many ways this is still an important event for me and has made me a strong believer in an open, liberal and welcoming society and that Europe and the EU is the way forward.

When I am not working, I can be seen walking the streets of Gothenburg with a baby-stroller and a pug that is wearing a bow tie. And yes, I am a strong supporter of Blåvitt, even after the fireworks.

## News from the Centre for European Studies



2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the [European Studies Programs](#) at the University of Gothenburg. The celebration of this occasion will take place on October 11-12 with four major events to which we will invite alumni, students, past and present teachers and administrators, and external partners. The annual October Workshop will be held in the early afternoon on October 11; the European Studies Annual Graduation Ceremony in the late afternoon on October 11; key-note addresses in the lecture hall Dragonen alongside a mingling fair with exhibiting employers in the entrance hall of Sprängkullsgatan in the early afternoon of October 12; and finally a grand party in the Congress Hall of Svenska Mässan on October 12. [The City of Gothenburg](#) will be contributing as a sponsor for the party.

Our students are more active than ever before. [Brännpunkt Europa](#) has been organizing many well-attended lunch events. They have planned a study visit trip to Berlin for April 3-5, and produced a video conveying students' views and perspectives on studying our [master's program MAES](#). The Student Group Europa (SGE) has organized many social activities such as pubs and dinners, and they have actively participated in CES development projects, as well as organizing a study visit trip to Brussels for April 10-12. A new group, Fokus Europa, was founded at the end of the fall semester of 2018 by six master's students in the second year of MAES. Their goal is to spread information and knowledge, and to mobilize voters for the upcoming European Parliament Elections.

On February 9 CES participated, in collaboration with our double degree partner [Chapel Hill TAM Transatlantic Master's Program](#), in the [EU Studies Fair in Brussels](#) which Politico has been organizing for the past twenty years. Our exhibition stand was manned by myself and the MAES alumni, Clemens Schubert, Policy Assistant at the DG Justice and Consumers, and Louise Warenius, Desk Officer for the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU. We will soon begin to schedule the fall semester courses, and are pleased to say that three courses in English will be offered during the afternoon at a reduced study pace. This makes it possible to enroll in them as extra-curricular courses on top of the mandatory program courses:

"EUI400 Practical EU-knowledge" and "EUI150 Russia Between the Past and the Future", are both 15 credits, and offered at



50% study pace. Both courses are open to BA and MA students; “EU2411 Rebuilding Europe”, is 7,5 credits, 25% study pace, and is open to MA students.

Urban Strandberg, Director of Studies for the Centre for European Studies

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 is now even on [Instagram](#)!



## Coming up at CERGU this Spring

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>5/3, 9.15-10.45</b>  | Working Seminar: <b>Alexandra Bousiou</b> “The Framing of ‘Refugee Crisis’ Cross-Nationally: From Problem Definition to Institutionalization (Or Not)” – Stora Skansen  |
| <b>19/3, 9.15-10.45</b> | Guest Seminar: <b>Tomas Weiss</b> “Facing the Pressures of Internationalisation and Securitisation: Germany, Czechia, and defence spending” – Stora Skansen   |
| <b>2/4, 13.15-17.00</b> | <b>European Research Day: Contested Community</b> – Handelshögskolan B32  |
| <b>1-12/4</b>           | <b>CERGU at The Science Festival</b><br>CERGU will hold two sessions during this year's Science Festival (Vetenskapsfestivalen):<br>4 April 17:00-18:10 "Space might be the final frontier, but is it made in Hollywood's basement? At the intersection of science, law and pop culture"<br>7 April 12:00-13:00 "Europaparlamentsval - hur tänker vi?" (in Swedish)<br>Pedagogen, Hus A, room AK2 137 |
| <b>9/4, 9.15-10.45</b>  | Working Seminar: <b>Oksana Shmulyar Gréen</b> and <b>Charlotte Melander</b> “Experiences of mobility, care and negotiation of belonging among children of East European EU workers' in Sweden”, Lilla Skansen   |
| <b>23/4, 9.15-10.45</b> | Working Seminar: <b>Khaled Ahmed</b> “Heritage, a right or a privilege?” Stora Skansen  |
| <b>9/5, 13.00-17.00</b> | <b>Borderlands Open Workshop</b> , Humanisten Room H820   |

## **Congratulations to Katarzyna Wojnicka on Research Funding**



In our previous CERGU newsletter, we mentioned that many CERGU-affiliated researchers had received funding for their research projects in 2018 from the [Swedish Research Council \(VR\)](#). What we neglected to mention was that one researcher, Katarzyna Wojnicka, received funding for two projects! Katarzyna is part of a project entitled "[Transnational Bachelorhood. An ethnography of singleness among migrant men in the European Union](#)" which was granted 4,27 million SEK. Wojnicka, together with P.I. Ulf Mellström (Karlstad University) and co-applicants Andreas Henriksson and Andrea

Priori, will work together on the three-year project, which will be administered by CERGU in Gothenburg.

In addition to that project, Wojnicka has her own project, "[Fathers' Rights Movement in Europe: national, comparative and transnational perspectives](#)" which will also be administered by CERGU. This four-year project received 3,5 million SEK in funding. We are very pleased that Katarzyna will be returning to Gothenburg, employed at the Department of Sociology and Work Science, starting in the autumn of 2019. Congratulations!



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