



# CERGU Winter 2020 Newsletter

## Director's Letter



[The Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#) has now entered its fourth decade, and its 25<sup>th</sup> year, in operation. We are an institution with history and plans for the future. According to the evaluation that was conducted last year, CERGU “provides added value to the university as a whole. In a way, CERGU could be called an institute for advanced study - yet one without the high profile and high costs usually linked to such formations.” I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this fantastic achievement! We will do our best to add even more value to CERGU and the university.

I am happy to announce that we are preparing a call for two new postdocs at CERGU. The call will open later in the spring, but we can already start spreading the word. In 2018, 89 applications from 38 countries were received. CERGU is multi-disciplinary and we thus welcome applications from a wide range of academic backgrounds, e.g. humanities, economy, law and social sciences. It is time to start thinking about who you can share the call with.

The spring will be filled with a usual array of interesting activities. In February we will arrange the ‘[Europaperspektiv 2020](#)’ public seminar (in Swedish). This year’s topic is about EU and the technological shift, and the seminar will take place on February 18th in Hörsal Sappören. It is open to everyone, and [pre-registered](#) participants will receive a free copy of the book. On March 17th, we will hold this year’s [European Research Day](#) (in English). This is also an open seminar and the topic this year is ‘European Borderlands’. CERGU will also be taking part in the [International Science Festival](#) in Gothenburg in April 2020. We will continue to support the fantastic lunch seminars arranged by the student organization [Brännpunkt Europa](#). On the May 26th we will welcome [CERGU’s International Advisory Board](#) to our annual internal conference. Make a note of the date and join us to present your research interests.

The University of Gothenburg is soon launching a new web system, which will mean that the CERGU website will be updated and reviewed. We aim to make a presentation of all

affiliated CERGU researchers in service of both other researchers and journalists looking for expertise on European issues. Of course we want all expertise represented. If you know researchers working on Europe who are not yet involved with CERGU, we want to make it even clearer that CERGU is open for all, and that we can be helpful in developing new research ideas and applications. Did you know that you can register your interest in taking part in EU-funded projects? Every week CERGU's weekly email update informs about new funding opportunities. Do you have ideas about how we can involve more people in the development of multidisciplinary European research? Do you want to hear other people's ideas? Welcome to CERGU!

Klas Grinell, Director of CERGU

## Upcoming CERGU Seminars and Conferences



CERGU has arranged two seminars every spring, both of which are open to the public. These seminars, [Europaperspektiv](#) (European Perspective) and [European Research Day](#) have been popular with both academics and the general public. The first seminar, Europaperspektiv, will be held in Swedish on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Hörsal Dragonen. This seminar features three presentations by authors who have contributed to an annual book on a shared and timely theme. This year's theme is the EU and technological change. The authors who will present in Gothenburg are Lindy M. Newlove-Eriksson and Johan Eriksson (*EU och teknologiska megaskiftet*), Pernilla Rendahl (*Ny skatt på digitala tjänster*), and Staffan Jacobsson and Björn Sandén (*Teknikskiften och klimatomställning i Europa*). The event is moderated by CERGU Deputy Director Andreas Moberg, with commentators Tormod Otter Johansen, Yvonne Bertlin, and Valdemar Lönnroth. [Register to attend](#) and receive a free copy of this year's book!

The next seminar, [European Research Day](#), will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this seminar is 'European Borderlands', and all presentations will be held in English. Traditionally, this seminar has featured local academics affiliated with CERGU, and this year is no different. CERGU's Director, Klas Grinell, will serve as moderator, and the presenters will be Katarzyna Wojnicka, Ann Ighe, Katarina Leppänen, Ingmar Söhrman, Adrian Hyde-Price, and Andreas Moberg. This seminar will be held at the Humanities building, Renströmsgatan 6. We hope to see you at one or both of these exciting seminars!

Ettore Costa, CERGU postdoc in History of Ideas, will host a conference entitled "The Century of Sputnik and Chernobyl: Science and the European Left during the Twentieth Century". This conference will be held on April 21-22 in Gothenburg, and will include leading academics from all over Europe. We are very happy to have so many scholars

visiting CERGU this spring. More information will be sent out and published on the CERGU website as the conference date approaches.

## Workshop in Istanbul 24-25 February

CERGU's Research Coordinator, [Birgitta Jännebring](#), has been invited to participate in a workshop arranged by the [Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul](#). The purpose of the workshop is to discuss how Swedish institutes, universities, and public authorities can work together, with a particular focus placed on research collaborations. The workshop will feature representatives from Swedish universities and colleges, together with leaders from nine different institutes and research organizations: The Swedish Research Institute in Rome, Villa San Michele, The Swedish Research Institute in Athens, The Swedish House Kavalla, The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, The Swedish Theological Institute in Jerusalem, The Swedish Research Institute in Paris, The Swedish Dialogue Institute in the Middle East (former Alexandria), and The Swedish Institute Academia Arabesca in Marrakech.



## CERGU-Affiliated Researchers Online

The University of Gothenburg will launch a new website later this spring, which will make the CERGU website easier to navigate and utilize. We hope to create a list of our expert researchers in order to help the media and other contacts both outside of and within academia understand our breadth of knowledge related to all things European. If you would like to be included in our list of affiliated researchers, please contact [Angie Sohlberg](#), Research Administrator at CERGU, with the following information:

- Name
- Academic Title
- Department
- University or Institution
- [CERGU Thematic Area of Research](#) (choose one or more that relate best to your expertise)
- E-mail address, Phone Number, Social Media account (for example, Twitter handle)
- Research Interests or Specializations within European Research

## CERGU Welcomes Visiting Researcher



On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, CERGU welcomed a visiting researcher from Åbo Akademi University in Finland. [Thomas Karv](#), who defended his dissertation last year, will be a guest researcher at CERGU through the spring. Karv will present his research at a lunch seminar arranged by [Brännpunkt Europa](#) on February 14<sup>th</sup> entitled '[Public Attitudes Towards the European Union](#)' and at a CERGU guest seminar on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to hearing more about his research interests, and welcome him to the CERGU network! Below, he shares a bit about himself and his research:

"In my recently published PhD thesis, titled "Public Attitudes Towards the European Union", I set out to analyse how different types of EU attitudes are connected to different kinds of national level factors within and across the 28 member states over time. By connecting country levels of EU attitudes to a wide set of national level circumstances, I managed to find empirical evidence that supported the argument that EU attitudes are to a large extent determined by national level circumstances. Therefore, what the European public thinks about the EU does not appear to be directly related to what the EU is actually doing. Shortly after I defended my PhD thesis I became part of a research team at Åbo Akademi University (The Future of Democracy–Center of Excellence in Public Opinion Research) which focuses on studying "the current condition of democracy". Therefore, as a fresh post-doc, I intend to continue focusing on Europe but from a different perspective. Hence, my current research focus revolves around the concept of democratic backsliding generally, and more specifically within post-communist EU member states."

## A Note from the Centre for European Studies



The new decade starts with several changes at the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#). Since January 1st, Linda Berg has taken over the role as Director of Studies. The previous director, Urban Strandberg, has started an [international youth think tank](#), which is already underway and organised a large conference in November 2019. Urban will remain at the University of Gothenburg part-time, and he will continue to be responsible for our three successful [Double Degree programmes](#), with Konstanz, Shanghai and Chapel Hill. Urban's knowledge and dedication to the European Studies programmes is unprecedented, and we are grateful for his continued support and work.

Another change is that our fantastic study administrator Mimmie Håkansson has accepted a position at the University of Gothenburg's International Centre. It is a temporary position, so in the meantime, we are happy to welcome Kajsa Evertsson, alumnus to the European Studies programme, and the Master of European Studies, as new study administrator for CES!



The University of Gothenburg is one of six partners in a prestigious project financed by the European Commission called '[EUtopia – European University](#)'. One aspect of this project is to select a few excellent courses, so-called 'learning units', to be developed into 'learning communities'. The first of these five 'learning units' at the University of Gothenburg is the course '[Europe in the World](#)', a semi-elective course in the second year of the Master's Programme in European Studies.

Congratulations to the course instructors and CERGU researchers, Ann-Kristin Jonasson and Lisbeth Aggestam.

CES will be representing the University of Gothenburg at the [Politico European Studies fair](#) in Brussels 14-15 February. Urban Strandberg and two alumni will be there to talk to presumptive students about our master's programmes, double degree options and more.

Linda Berg, Director of Centre for European Studies

## Researcher Profile: Markus Johansson

*Markus Johansson is a postdoctoral researcher at CERGU, and a political scientist. Markus graciously agreed to answer a few questions about his time at CERGU, his upcoming workshop, and his interdisciplinary research collaborations.*

*Angie Sohlberg: You are a postdoctoral researcher at CERGU within political science, but you aren't new to the University of Gothenburg. Could you tell us a bit about your background?*



Markus Johansson: I am a political scientist and started my doctoral studies in political science at the University of Gothenburg in 2009. I came to Gothenburg after finishing a European Affairs master's degree at Lund University. I grew up in Varberg, south of Gothenburg, so it was a bit of a homecoming moving to Gothenburg. I defended my doctoral thesis in 2015, and have since then worked in different research projects affiliated with CERGU and the Department of Political Science, and as a lecturer in political science and European studies.

*AS: What projects are you involved in right now? Are you collaborating with anyone else within the CERGU network?*

MJ: I am currently working on my [postdoc project](#), which deals with the effects of non-compliance in the EU, and in particular the effects on cooperation and negotiations within the Council. In tandem, I have a joint project with Olof Larsson, another CERGU affiliated political scientist. This project received funding from the [Swedish Research Council](#) in 2018, and deals with both the causes and effects of non-compliance in the EU. I am also collaborating with Lisbeth Aggestam on her project about leadership in EU foreign policy, and together with Daniel Naurin and Rutger Lindahl, I have been working on an EU Council survey for a number of years.

AS: *Wow! Sounds like you are very busy. As part of your postdoc here, you are responsible for organizing a conference or workshop. What will your conference/workshop be about? When will you arrange it?*

MJ: The planning for the workshop is ongoing, but the dates are set to 17-18 September, 2020. The workshop will focus mainly on the issue of non-compliance in the EU and its causes, but with the aim to also cover its effects on cooperation within the EU. In order to provide a comparative element to the workshop, and raise more general questions about compliance in international relations, I have also tried to get some contributions focusing on other international organizations as well. I hope the workshop will offer opportunities to improve ongoing work within this field, create new contacts and spur discussions about future research collaborations.

AS: *What do you hope to do once your postdoc time is finished? Do you plan to stay in Sweden?*

MJ: The project I have together with Olof Larsson will continue through 2021 as well, which means that I will stay in the CERGU environment and at the Department of Political Science at least until then. I will continue to apply for research funding, and hope to be able to continue to be a part of CERGU in the future, as well.

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 on [Instagram](#), too!



# Upcoming Events at CERGU

- 4/2, 9.15-10.45** **Guest Seminar:** Daniel Naurin (CERGU and PluriCourts, Oslo University) “*Selecting judges to the CJEU: Politics, performance and responsiveness*”, Stora Skansen
- 18/2, 14.30–17.00** **[Europaperspektiv, ”EU och teknologiskiftet”](#)**, Hörsal Sappören, Sprängkullsgatan 25
- 25/2, 9:15-10.45** **Working Seminar:** Lisbeth Aggestam, “Does Gender Matter? Women and Leadership in EU Foreign Policy” (CO-organized with International Politics), Stora Skansen
- 3/3, 9.15-10.45** **Working Seminar:** Markus Johansson and Olof Larsson, “*Improving the study of non-compliance in the European Union: New data, new explanations*”, Stora Skansen
- 9/3, 13.15-14.45** **Guest Seminar:** Mikael Holmgren (PluriCourts, Oslo University) “*Agenda Control and Coalition Bargaining in the European Court of Human Rights*” (CO-organized with OPF), Lilla Skansen
- 17/3, 13.00-17.00** **European Research Day: “European Borderlands”**, Humanisten C350
- 31/3, 9.15-10.45** **Guest Seminar:** Thomas Karv (Åbo Akademi University, Finland) Lilla Skansen
- 14/4, 13.15-14.45** **Guest Seminar:** Magdalena Nowicka (Humboldt University, Berlin) Lilla Skansen
- 20-29/4** **CERGU at the International Science Festival**
- 21-22/4** **Conference:** “*The Century of Sputnik and Chernobyl: Science and the European Left during the Twentieth Century*”, Ettore Costa, Humanisten
- 26/5** **CERGU Internal Conference (INTERNAL EVENT)**
- 2/6** **Final Breakfast (INTERNAL EVENT)**
- 8-9/6** **Conference:** “*Practical Social Democracy*”, Jonas Hinnfors, Magnus Feldmann, Mark Wickham Jones, The Faculty of Social Sciences



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