



# CERGU Autumn 2020 Newsletter

## Director's Letter



Dear CERGUites!

If an effort to survive the physical lockdown and feelings of wait-and-see that dominated the spring, it has now become clearer each month that we are facing a new future. More and more predictions say that we will live and work under some sort of restrictions at least until next summer. The pandemic has also become a driver of structural changes. In the recent [State of the Union Address](#), President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen spoke about how we in the face of the pandemic “have shaken off the old excuses and home comforts that have always held us back” and that we should now head “towards a new vitality.” The presentation of a European Union that has a transformative vision, plan, and investment points to many interesting topics for European Research.

Von der Leyen’s words can also be interpreted as a call for all of us to reflect on what excuses and home comforts have held us back from realizing new vitalities, on personal as well as professional levels. I will not probe your personal excuses or vitalities, but I do think the call applies to CERGU, as well. The green transformation, as well as the accompanying digital one, “can only be achieved if we all do it together”, von der Leyen stressed.

What can CERGU do to become a more resilient research center? We have all been forced to work through digital tools. This offers new possibilities for international collaborations that do not require travel. [CERGU postdoc Marcus Johansson](#) has already held a conference online, where we sent a conference package to all participants. Our September Internal Conference is another example. We will continue to evaluate our digital efforts, and pursue better solutions. We are also reviewing CERGU's policy documents to make sure they are up to date and compatible with the future. We will take measures to reduce our reliance on long-distance flying, which will have to be reduced even after the current Covid19-related restrictions are lifted.

Still, as Aristotle stressed, man is a social being. We need to meet face to face to connect and flourish. Even if our Zoom-breakfast meetings are pleasant, they cannot fully replace the basic human ritual of sitting down together to eat. We must therefore develop new standards for how and when digital platforms serve our needs, and when and how we shall continue to create opportunities for physical meetings. Not everything needs to change. Some things should also continue. I am therefore very happy to invite you to welcome yet another pair of CERGU postdocs that will join us in 2021: Maja Hultman, with a PhD in history from the University of Southampton, and Annika Lindberg, with a PhD in sociology from the University of Bern.

Klas Grinell, Director of CERGU

## **CERGU Welcomes Two New Postdoctoral Researchers**



In September, [CERGU's Steering Committee](#) decided which candidates would be the newest postdoctoral researchers in the CERGU network. CERGU is very glad to welcome two new postdoctoral researchers to our network!

Maja Hultman received her PhD in History from the University of Southampton, England. Maja will be working on a project entitled "The Impact of Shoah on European Jewish Business Networks and Cultural Mobility."

CERGU would also like to welcome Annika Lindberg, who received her PhD in Sociology from Bern University, Switzerland. Annika will be working on a project entitled "Towards a Harmonized European Deportation Regime? The Role of EU Technocrats."

Nearly 90 people applied to the CERGU postdoctoral positions. The deadline to apply was in May. Read more about these two new postdocs in our profile below.

## **Markus Johansson Arranges a Successful Online Conference**

CERGU arranged its first all-digital conference during the second week of September, and we are proud to say it was a success! Markus Johansson, CERGU postdoc and political scientist, welcomed over 20 scholars and academics from all over Europe, and even several

residing in the US, to an online conference entitled [Non-Compliance in the European Union: Patterns, Explanations, and Remedies](#). This lunch-to-lunch conference was held entirely over Zoom, and was part of the fulfillment of Johansson's postdoctoral project at CERGU. Several members of the CERGU network of researchers took part including former postdoc Andreas Hofmann, former deputy director Andreas Moberg, Olof Larsson, Allison Östlund, and IAB member Tanja Börzel.



## Internal Conference Encourages Creative New Project Ideas

The CERGU internal conference, originally scheduled to take place in May was held digitally via Zoom in September 2020. Previous internal conferences have been jumping off points for new project ideas and this year was no different. Despite the conference being held online, researchers from all of [CERGU's research areas](#) showed up to present quick, five minute research presentations over the course of nearly eight hours. These presentations were grouped by theme into the following sub-areas: law, sociology, history, political science, and migration/democracy. We were also able to 'meet' the newest members of the CERGU network, Maja Hultman and Annika Lindberg, who Zoomed in to present their research and answer some questions from other members of the network. Although we miss gathering in-person, it was wonderful to hear everyone's ideas and to get some creative collaborations underway.



## Interested in Being a Visible Part of the CERGU Network?

The University of Gothenburg has launched a new website, after months of preparation! We now have 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 (in Swedish and English):

- 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

Here are examples in Swedish: <https://www.gu.se/europaforskning/om-oss/cergu-forskarpresentationer>

And English: <https://www.gu.se/en/european-research/about-us/cergu-researcher-presentations>

## Researcher Profiles: Maja Hultman and Annika Lindberg



The two newest members of CERGU are postdoctoral researchers Maja Hultman and Annika Lindberg. Since we are not able to physically meet them until they officially begin working at CERGU, research administrator Angie Sohlberg asked them to answer a few questions in a creative way. Check out how they responded below.

**Angie Sohlberg:** Welcome to CERGU and congratulations! We had nearly 90 applicants send in qualified applications to be a CERGU postdoc, and you made the final cut! How did you hear about CERGU and what made you apply for a postdoc here?

**Maja Hultman:** [https://play.gu.se/media/Question+1+Maja+Hultman/0\\_ehmi53s2](https://play.gu.se/media/Question+1+Maja+Hultman/0_ehmi53s2)

**AS:** The CERGU network is very international and multidisciplinary. What do you hope to contribute to and gain from being a part of a centre with a large, international group of researchers from lots of different disciplines?

**MH:** [https://play.gu.se/media/Question+2+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0\\_xv2m7xgx](https://play.gu.se/media/Question+2+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0_xv2m7xgx)

**AS:** Onto your postdoc project. Tell us briefly what your plan is for your two years as a CERGU postdoc.

**MH:** [https://play.gu.se/media/Question+3+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0\\_ii54smjv](https://play.gu.se/media/Question+3+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0_ii54smjv)

**AS:** Where have you been working/studying previously?

**MH:** [https://play.gu.se/media/Question+4+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0\\_peoxg8zl](https://play.gu.se/media/Question+4+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0_peoxg8zl)

**AS:** And finally, what do you like to do in your free time?

**MH:** [https://play.gu.se/media/Question+5+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0\\_h9fwkjuc](https://play.gu.se/media/Question+5+Maja+Hultman.MOV/0_h9fwkjuc)

**Annika Lindberg** chose to answer the interview questions in a sound recording, and included the photo below to give you a better idea of where she is today.

**Link to**

**recording:** [https://play.gu.se/media/CERGU+Presentation+Annika+Lindberg/0\\_zi5ukhwc](https://play.gu.se/media/CERGU+Presentation+Annika+Lindberg/0_zi5ukhwc)



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## Upcoming CERGU Events

The University of Gothenburg has recommended that most events, seminars, and conferences be held online, so CERGU is following these recommendations. Contact Angie Sohlberg ([angie.sohlberg@gu.se](mailto:angie.sohlberg@gu.se)) for more information and the Zoom links to events you are interested in attending.

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|-------------------|---|
| 20/10, 9.15-10.45 | <a href="#">Research Initiation Workshop</a> , via Zoom   |
| 10/11, 9.15-10.45 | <a href="#">Working Seminar: Maja Hultman</a> 'The Impact of Shoah on European Jewish Business and Cultural Mobility', via Zoom   |
| 24/11, 9.15-10.45 | <a href="#">Guest Seminar: Michele Di Donato (University of Pisa)</a> 'Social Democracy, Globalisation, and the Ambiguities of 'Europeanisation': Revisiting the Southern European Crises of the 1970s', via Zoom |
| 1/12, 9.15-10.45  | <a href="#">Working Seminar: Andreas Moberg et al</a> 'Law in the Time of Crisis', via Zoom   |

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