



CERGU Spring-Summer 2021 Newsletter

Director's Letter



Living is learning. This past year we have learned to use new words like ‘old hands’ and ‘overzoomed’, as well as maneuvering the difference between physical and social distancing. At CERGU, we have done our best to foster social connections despite physical distancing, with virtual breakfasts and seminars. Most of our regular program has been realized also this semester, sometimes in hybrid formats. It has been a learning experience, especially for our skillful research coordinator and research administrator, Birgitta and Angie. As always, they have done a fantastic job in creating an inviting atmosphere also under these circumstances.

This year's [Europaperspektiv](#) book launch was focused on one event, live streamed from Uppsala. Our own [European Research Day](#) was streamed from Gothenburg and is now available on [GU Play with subtitles](#) as the 2021 edition of the series *Forskning om Europafrågor*. The subtitling robot is quite helpful but not very well versed in our specialized language uses. What led Professor Katarina Leppänen to stress some 25 times that "I know Carlos"? Manually changing it into references to the Finnish-Estonian writer Aino Kallas made the presentation make much more sense.

So, even if it requires some extra work, we have now added more filmed material to our output. With the European Research Day and CERGU post-doc Ettore Costa's conference [The Century of Sputnik and Chernobyl](#) we have also developed our skills with hybrid formats and filmed presentations. The CERGU conference package sent by mail to give the participants a taste of Gothenburg was much appreciated.

It is obvious that many of the things we have learned during the pandemic will change the way we work in the future. [Göteborg & Co.](#) have launched a large project to make Gothenburg a leading city for hybrid events. This means that the [International Science Festival](#) – where we had a dedicated CERGU afternoon in April this year – will continue to be streamed and filmed for participants throughout the country and thereby also help CERGU reach further.

Hybrid will be the new standard, and we have already seen the benefits of being able to invite members of our [International Advisory Board](#) to hold guest seminars from their home institutions. In the future, we will have seminars and workshops with combined physical and

digital attendance. Even if it is efficient, convenient, and sustainable to be able to do more of our work remotely, physical gatherings remain a fundamental human need and we very much look forward to the return of actual CERGU breakfasts and social events.

They will as always be open to all researchers affiliated to CERGU. Are you unsure if you are affiliated or not? The new research plan decided at the last steering committee meeting makes it clearer what it means to be part of CERGU.

To be affiliated with CERGU, simply make your research profile available through CERGU's website and be open to collaborate via CERGU on issues related to your European research expertise. It is up to each individual researcher to decide if and how their research is related to Europe. For affiliated researchers, we are now developing a cooperation platform in Office 365 where you can access common resources and communicate with other affiliated researchers. Being affiliated also means having access to CERGU's professional research administration and support for project development, budget, and application writing. But most importantly, it means being part of a supportive and professional multidisciplinary network of European Research experts.

Please check the website to make sure you are listed as a [CERGU affiliate](#), and contact angie.sohlberg@gu.se if you are not. The coming academic year we will make a special effort to attract doctoral students to CERGU and further develop what CERGU can offer them. Do you know anyone who might be interested and could benefit from being part of CERGU? Do you have other input that could improve CERGU's work? Please mail me at klas.grinell@lir.gu.se

Before I wish you all a lovely summer, I want to welcome CERGU's new [steering group](#) chair Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt (who you will meet in this newsletter's researcher profile, below).

Summer Greetings,

Klas Grinell

Information from CES



Many congratulations to all students who have finished their studies at the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#)! It is an extra impressive achievement as we have only had online teaching this spring, for all our programmes and courses. We are happy to invite you all to our [European Graduation Day](#), October 8 in Gothenburg (and online)!

New and returning students this autumn will gradually return to campus. This means that during the first half of the autumn (until the end of October), there will be some teaching on campus (with social distancing) combined with other sessions online. If all goes according to plan, we will then have normal campus teaching from 2 November. More information [here](#).

During the academic year 2020-2021, most of our teaching has been online. This has also affected our student organisations. Events and study trips have been cancelled, and new

forms of outreach and events have been invented. A huge thank you to our students in [SG Europa](#) and [Brännpunkt Europa](#) for their hard work!



I would like to thank all teachers and administrative staff for their amazing work this past year! A special thank you to our study administrator Kajsa Evertsson, who now holds the permanent position – and congratulations to our previous study administrator Mimmie Håkansson, who has moved to a permanent position at the International Centre, at the University of Gothenburg!

Finally, many, many thanks to Co-Director of Studies Ann Ighe, who will step down from this position on 30 June, after many years of excellent service to CES! In addition, most welcome to Mats Andrén, professor of intellectual history, who will become Co-Director of Studies from 1 July 2021! We are very pleased to see the strong continuous connection between CERGU and CES, as Mats, like Ann, is part of the CERGU steering committee, and both have been and will continue to be highly engaged teachers in our European Studies programmes.



Happy summer everyone!

Linda Berg, Director of Studies CES

Ettore Costa Arranges CERGU Conference on Sputnik and Chernobyl

CERGU postdoctoral researcher Ettore Costa had originally planned a traditional conference as part of his position at CERGU, but in spring 2020, as the restrictions tightened, and travel became practically impossible throughout most of Europe, the conference was postponed. A year after the original conference date, in mid-April 2021, 16 international scholars gathered via Zoom to present papers and discuss topics related to the theme "[The Century of Sputnik and Chernobyl: Science and the European Left During the Twentieth Century](#)." The conference was a resounding success and is now available to view on the [CERGU website](#). Costa plans to arrange for a publication based on the conference presentations and papers.



October Workshop is now European Graduation Seminar

The annual CERGU October Workshop has traditionally been held prior to the European Studies graduation ceremony in early October. While the timing will remain the same, the event will now be called European Graduation Seminar, and will be a part of the larger [European Graduation Day](#). As the University of Gothenburg eases restrictions on gatherings held in person, CERGU will begin to hold more hybrid events, and this is one of the first planned in autumn 2021. This year's theme is [Engaging European Democracy](#) and will feature six presentations. Following the seminar, guests will be able to have a coffee and something sweet before the afternoon continues with the annual graduation ceremony. We are looking forward to a busy and interesting day, so mark your calendars for October 8, 2021!

European Research Day Online

Did you miss [European Research Day: European Borderlands](#) when it was live streamed in March? Well, you are in luck! The entire seminar is now available online. This event usually results in a published book in the CERGU series *Forskning om Europafrågor* (*Research on European Issues*) but this year's edition will be the recorded seminar.



Researcher Profile: Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt

Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt is a senior lecturer in German at the University of Gothenburg. She has been involved in the CERGU network of researchers and will soon begin a three-year term as the steering committee chairperson representing the Faculty of Humanities. Linda recently spoke with CERGU research administrator Angie Sohlberg about her current projects and upcoming ideas about the steering group at CERGU, her favorite ice cream, and whether she prefers to swim in lakes or the sea (spoiler—she likes both!).

Angie Sohlberg: First of all, thank you for taking time to answer a few questions.

And congratulations on taking over as the [CERGU steering committee](#) chair! Do you have any plans on how you imagine working with the committee, any new thoughts or changes you foresee making in the coming year?

Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt: Thank you! I am looking forward to taking over as chair, and I will try to follow Thomas Erhag's example, he has been fantastic! This term, the steering group has amongst many other things discussed how CERGU can reach out to PhD students, by organizing events that are of interest to them. I am looking forward to being part of the process of realizing these ideas, and to the new assignments in general.

AS: I understand that your research interests include issues related to German and Swedish literature, depictions of migration and transculturality. How do your research interests align with CERGU and the centre's focus on multidisciplinary research?

LKH: My doctoral dissertation explored the literary representation of territorial, cultural, but also bodily borders in the works of a German author named Katja Lange-Müller. In my postdoctoral project, I studied forms and functions of water in literary texts depicting a hybrid self and processes of border crossing and migration. Therefore, I have always felt “at home” at CERGU, where two of the [thematic areas of research](#) revolve around borders and migration.

AS: CERGU's director, Klas Grinell, mentioned recently that you have an idea of involving CERGU in a project with [Litteraturhuset](#) in Gothenburg. Could you tell us more about what this might entail?

LKH: This is an exciting initiative, but I am not the one who should take credit – Klas has initiated this project on European literature in dialogue with [Dixikon](#) and Litteraturhuset. Anyway, I will participate in the first panel discussion, which will address the literary



depiction of migration in texts by Yoko Tawada and Saša Stanišić amongst others. Both authors explore different ways of mapping a self in motion and its history by means of narration.

AS: What has been the biggest challenge you have faced over the past 18 months of remote teaching and work?

LKH: Not to work on the sofa!! No, seriously, I miss meeting my students IRL. Teaching always takes energy, but when you meet your students for seminars and group discussions, you also gain new ideas and inspiration in return. I think that is what I have missed the most when working from home.

AS: Tell us a bit about your hobbies outside of the university world. Are you from Gothenburg originally? Are you more of a lake person, or do you prefer the sea? Where is the best fika spot in town, and what is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

LKH: I grew up in Karlstad and Jönköping, cities located by lakes, and I have always preferred to live near the water. I have lived close to the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, and the rivers Elbe and Inn – so I guess I am a lake, river, and sea person!

Having three relatively small children, I don't have much time for hobbies at the moment, most weekends are spent with my family, in the forest, at the playground etc. and that is also where I enjoy my fika nowadays, for instance in the beautiful nature area around the lake Finnsjön in Mölnlycke. My favorite ice cream flavor is saffron.

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 CERGU Events

CERGU will continue to hold events, conferences, seminars, and meetings remotely until 15 September 2021 when the University of Gothenburg plans to ease restrictions. Contact Angie Sohlberg (angie.sohlberg@gu.se) for more information and the Zoom links to events you are interested in attending.

- 7/9, 8.30-9.30 **First CERGU Breakfast** via Zoom
- 14/9, 9.15-10.45 **Guest Seminar: Benjamin Schütze** "Promoting Democracy, Reinforcing Authoritarianism" (co-organized with GLD) via Zoom
- 5/10, 9.15-10.45 **Working Seminar: Hannes Lenk** via Zoom and/or Stora Skansen
- 8/10, 13-15.30
15.30-16.00
16-17.30 **European Graduation Seminar: Engaging European Democracy**
Fika
Graduation Ceremony and Mingle
- 19/10, 9.15-10.45 **Guest Seminar: Barbara Loester** via Zoom and/or Stora Skansen
- 19/10 **CERGU Internal Conference**
- 20/10, 13.15-15.00 **Associate Professor Lecture: Katarzyna Wojnicka**



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