



CERGU Autumn 2021 Newsletter

Director's Letter



Dear friends of Circle, at the University of Gotham, I am Client Green Lim (Klas Grinell), director of Thurgood/Circle/Saga/Sirigus (CERGU).

In our efforts to enhance the quality of our digital output, CERGU has begun to use the automatic subtitling tool in the University of Gothenburg's video archiving system, GU Play. With the help of this fantastic AI-machine, we are now very happy to have the [European Graduation Seminar](#) online, with interesting contributions from Old Man Arambarri/Boston. Somebody (Urban Strandberg), And Christine Union (Ann-Kristin Jonasson), Quarters in a very niche gap/Kasha when need shall (Katarzyna Wojnicka), A quotation a year ago/The this Yes Yes Can (Katarzyna Jerzierska), And res USMLE Bay (Andreas Moberg), with

input from the student organization Rampant Aruba/Everything to Ripa ([Brännpunkt Europa](#)).

Each day at the CERGU office is different, and fun in its own way. One of our ongoing tasks is to find ways to support more multidisciplinary European research. The [CERGU steering committee](#) has now decided on a three-year strategic investment towards strengthening the complete academic milieu at the University of Gothenburg. The first step we will take towards this is aimed at PhD students. Beginning next semester, PhD students at the University of Gothenburg will be able to apply for grants to cover expenses related to fieldwork, conference participation, and inviting a commentator or research collaborator. We will also offer to cover costs connected to research visits for external PhD students, hosted by a researcher from the CERGU network. Thirdly, we will offer to cover expenses for CERGU affiliates writing applications for research projects which include PhD positions. For the autumn 2022 semester, we plan to arrange a PhD conference on European Research.

The coming year will also include an external evaluation of CERGU as well as the recruitment of additional post-docs. Of course, we will also follow our regular cycle and arrange the [European Research Day](#), take part in the [Science Festival](#), and more.

During the spring of 2023, Sweden will hold the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#), leading around 2000 meetings in Brussels and Luxembourg, as well as a planned 150 meetings and conferences in Sweden. How should CERGU make the most out of this

period of intensified European-Swedish interaction? We are looking forward to suggestions, applications, initiatives and cooperation.

Klas Grinell

Information from CES



The autumn semester is now underway at the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#), and our courses are mainly taught on campus again. However, the benefits of the new technology that have become accustomed to throughout the pandemic can sometimes be very useful as a complement. It will be interesting to see how this will influence our teaching in the future. A huge thank you to our students in [SG Europa](#) for an excellent welcoming programme for our new students in the beginning of the semester!

On October 8, we had the annual CES European Graduation Ceremony. We were fortunate to be able to hold it on campus, and to be able to invite our graduates from 2020 and 2021 to receive their diploma. Via streaming, graduates, families and friends who were restricted from attending in person could still participate. We are particularly happy to be able to deliver not only one but two different awards for the best theses in European studies at the graduation ceremonies (see the winners below). Many thanks to all who helped organising, as well as gave speeches and participated in this event!

The Rutger Lindahl Awards for Best Master's Theses in European Studies 2021

Finja Lübben: "European Migration Policy. The new Pact on Asylum and Migration through the lens of human rights compliance and solidarity"

Clara Lundén: "Welfare chauvinism, a privilege of the wealthy? A cross-country study on the effect of socioeconomic status and social spending on welfare chauvinism"

The Henrik and Karolina von Mentzer Thesis Award 2021 (Master)

Kajsa Urge: "Protesting During a Global Pandemic: Motivations and choices made in the abortion law protests in Poland 2020"

The Henrik and Karolina von Mentzer Thesis Award 2021 (Bachelor)

Jonathan Giedraitis: "Euroscepticism in the Western Balkans: a cause for concern? A micro-level analysis using cross-sectional data of Euroscepticism in the Western Balkan EU candidate countries."

Linda Berg

CERGU Returns to Live Events

CERGU hosted its first post-pandemic live event on 8 October, the rebranded European Graduation Seminar, formerly known as the October Workshop. This seminar was co-organised with the Centre for European Studies CES European Graduation Ceremony. For the first time ever the event was livestreamed, [recorded](#), and offered onsite! It was a major



undertaking to adjust to the lack of restrictions following the university's decision just two weeks prior to the seminar. Presentations were given by Ann-Kristin Jonasson, Urban Strandberg, Katarzyna Wojnicka, Katarzyna Jezierska, and Andreas Moberg on the theme Engaging European Democracy. The event was moderated by Klas Grinell. Next year's European Graduation Day will be held on 14 October, 2022 in Torgny Segerstadtsalen in Vasaparken.

News at CERGU

We understand that the pandemic and working from home have made it difficult to keep up with what researchers within the CERGU network have been up to. Below is just a brief overview of news and updates from a few of our researchers. If you have news you would like to share, please email the CERGU research administrator angie.sohlberg@gu.se.

- **Katarzyna Jezierska** (PI) was awarded funding from the Swedish Research Council for her project "Civil Society Organizations as Diplomatic Actors? How Civil Society Influences Feminist and Anti-gender Foreign Policy in an Era of Polarization"
- **Gabriella Elgenius** was awarded funding from the Swedish Research Council for a project that she is part of entitled "Why Do Working Class Voters Support the Populist Radical Right? A Mixed-Methods Study of a Changing Political Landscape in Sweden"
- **Bengt Larsson** (PI) was awarded funding from the Swedish Research Council for his project "Välfärdsprofessionellt beslutsfattande – diskretion, principer och program"
- **Lisbeth Aggestam** is on a research sabbatical (funded by RJ) during 2021-2022 and is currently an Academic Visitor at St Antony's College, UK; Lisbeth (PI) was awarded funding from the Swedish Research Council on her project "Transnational civil society and foreign policy: The role of diasporas in comparative perspective"
- **Katarzyna Wojnicka** was promoted to associate professor and held her 'docent' lecture in October 2021



- **Annika Lindberg** officially began her position as postdoctoral researcher at CERGU (based at School of Global Studies) on 1 August
- **Anna Wallerman Ghavanini** is now the Assistant Head of Department for the Department of Law at GU
- **Alexandra Bousiou** recently welcomed baby Hector to her family, born on 7 November
- **Jonathan Polk** has begun a new job at Lund University
- **Hannes Lenk** is a senior researcher at SIEPS, the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

Two New Winners of the Rutger Lindahl Award

Major congratulations to Finja Lübben and Clara Lundén who won the 2021 Rutger Lindahl Award for the best master theses in European Studies. Finja Lübben (MAES) was awarded for her thesis entitled “European Migration Policy: The New Pact on Asylum and Migration through the lens of Human Rights Compliance and Solidarity.” Clara Lundén (Double Degree- Chapel Hill) won for her thesis “Welfare Chauvinism, A Privilege of the Wealthy? A Cross-Country Study on the Effect of Socioeconomic Status and Social Spending on Welfare Chauvinism.” The [Rutger Lindahl Award](#) winners receive a substantial monetary prize and the honor of having their theses published in the [CERGU Working Paper Series](#). Grattis, Finja och Clara!



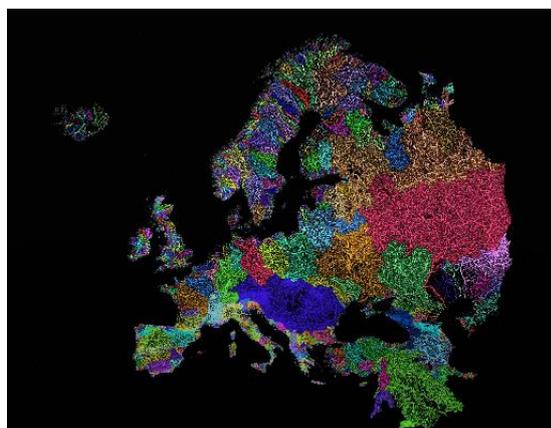
CERGU Internal Conference Brings Network Together

After more than a year apart, the CERGU network gathered at the newly renovated and reopened humanities building on the University of Gothenburg campus for an afternoon of getting acquainted and fruitful discussions on the future direction of CERGU. 18 researchers from many different disciplines and departments spoke about new ideas regarding the complete academic environment that both the [Centre for European Studies CES](#) and the Centre for European Research CERGU contribute to at the University of Gothenburg. In addition to



brainstorming future plans, researchers were able to reflect on the thematic areas of CERGU and determine whether these need to be updated. The internal conference concluded in a dinner together at the French restaurant Levantine.

Europa i litteraturen- Literature in Europe



In November 2021, UNESCO made the exciting decision to designate Gothenburg as a [UNESCO City of Literature](#), the first in Sweden. With the aim of strengthening CERGU's connections with the literary side of Gothenburg, we have taken the initiative to hold a series of conversations about Europe in literature, and European literature, in cooperation with [Göteborgs Litteraturhus](#) and the magazine Dixikon.se. The first conversation was held in late October at Göteborgs Litteraturhus and was led by CERGU

Steering Committee chair Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt, who presented the German novels *Schwager in Bordeaux* by Yoko Tawada and *Herkunft* by Sasa Stanisic. The focus of the conversation was on rivers as a vehicle for discussing migration, the self, and borders. CERGU postdoc Annika Lindberg added perspectives from migration studies, and professor emeritus of economic geography Claes Alvstam spoke about geographical perspectives and the importance of rivers for European cultures. We are looking forward to organizing more conversations on literature which helps us understand Europe, from different languages, perspectives, and contexts.

Researcher Profile: Tanja Börzel



Tanja Börzel is a professor of political science at the Otto-Suhr-Institute of Political Science of Freie Universität Berlin, director of the Center for European Integration, and a member of the CERGU International Advisory Board IAB. She recently presented her guest seminar, "Why Noncompliance. The Politics of Law in the European Union" for the CERGU network and agreed to speak with CERGU research administrator Angie Sohlberg about her upcoming and current projects.

Angie Sohlberg: Thank you for agreeing to be featured in this newsletter, Tanja! We had the privilege of Zooming you in to a guest seminar in the spring of this year, where you discussed your recent monograph, [Why Noncompliance. The Politics of Law in the European Union](#). How did the seminar go?

Tanja Börzel: The [seminar](#) was so much fun! I have presented my book on several occasions. I thought I had heard it all! I enjoyed and was inspired by the diversity of questions some of which made me think in new directions. This is certainly a tribute to the multidisciplinary environment of CERGU.

AS: You have a long history of working in multidisciplinary environments. At CERGU we tend to attract researchers who like to collaborate with others outside of their own discipline. What kind of benefits do you see in your own work from collaborating across disciplines?

TB: I enjoy working in a multidisciplinary environment because it produces “mutual irritations”. Different disciplines come with their own theoretical and methodological perspectives. These perspectives may not always be my cup of tea. Engaging with them pushes me out of my comfort zone and makes me rethink my own approach. This is a very effective way of producing new ideas.

AS: In pre-pandemic times, the members of CERGU's [International Advisory Board IAB](#) would meet in Gothenburg now and then to discuss the future of CERGU, hear from CERGU's current researchers, and to exchange ideas about European issues, in general. However, since the pandemic we have moved most gatherings online, even as we hope to return to 'normal' at some point soon! In your experience, what is it that makes a board of international advisors and scholars function? How would you like to see CERGU's IAB evolve?

TB: The pandemic has boosted the digitalization of academic work. This has opened up new opportunities for more regular and inclusive exchanges. And it has helped to reduce our carbon footprint. Still, face-to-face communication is important, particularly if people have not met each other before and are not too familiar with the institutional context they interact in. What I could envision for CERGU's IAB is an alteration of face-to-face and online meetings.

AS: Now that your monograph is finished, what is next for you? Could you tell us a bit about your current projects?

TB: In 2019, I became director of the cluster of excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Script”. [SCRIPTS](#) is a multidisciplinary research platform, which investigates challenges to liberal ideas and institutions in a global, comparative, and historical perspective. I spend a lot of time on engaging with and seeking to build bridges between different theoretical and methodological perspectives. And I just started my own project “[Science Friction](#)”, together with Mattias Kumm, who is a constitutional lawyer, and Katrin Kinzelbach, who is a human rights scholar. Combining the disciplinary perspectives of international relations and comparative politics with international and comparative constitutional law, we analyze patterns, causes, and effects of contestations of academic freedom, particularly in liberal societies. At the moment, I am working on a paper that focuses on the diffusion of academic freedom as a global norm. It traces the institutionalization of academic freedom at the international and regional level. When and how did academic freedom emerge and how did it spread? How global a norm is academic freedom?

AS: And finally, it's always fun to hear what you do in your free time! Have you taken up any new hobbies during the pandemic that you will continue to pursue now that things are returning to normal? Have you started to travel again, and if so, where have you gone?

TB: I have a second home in Wyoming. Thanks to the green card of my spouse, I have been able to enjoy quite a bit of the natural quarantine of the Rocky Mountains, hiking, biking and horseback riding. Now that we can travel again to different places, I am very much looking forward to spending a couple of weeks in Israel as a visiting professor.

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 NEW! [Facebook](#) page, and joining our [LinkedIn](#) group. CERGU is now on [Instagram](#), too!



Upcoming CERGU Events

- 18/11, 9.30-11.00 [Guest Seminar: Lenka Rovna](#) "Multilevel governance in Education: Europeanisation of European Universities" via Zoom
- 23/11, 10.30-11.30 [Open Keynote Discussion](#) with Gideon Reuveni "The Marketplace and the Jewish Experience: Integration, Rehabilitation, and Power" via Zoom
- 9/12, 9.15-10.45 [Working Seminar: Ida Östenberg](#) via Zoom
- 14/12, 8.30-10.00 Annual CERGU Glögg Breakfast (Internal Event)
- 11/1, 8.30-9.30 **First CERGU Breakfast and RJ Research Application Seminar** location TBA





Centre for European Research (CERGU)

University of Gothenburg

Box 115, SE 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden

+46 31 786 4286

<https://www.gu.se/en/european-research>

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