



CERGU Winter 2022 Newsletter

Director's Letter



A new semester has begun. Again, we had hopes of a return to campus life. Again, we are back working from home. With every turn back and forth, we have inevitably taken permanent steps towards a deepened digital transformation. We continuously try to evaluate how CERGU can adapt and take advantage of these changes. As always, CERGU is the sum of its network components. The more we know about the needs and ideas of the researchers in our network, the more effectively we can collectively fulfil our role in advancing European Research at the University of Gothenburg.

Again, we hope that this time the end of restrictions is near. However, CERGU activities are planned in hybrid formats, so that we do not have to change it all even if attendance might be restricted. We can thereby offer global access to another semester of interesting [seminars](#) and conferences.

We will soon be celebrating the 25th anniversary of [Europaperspektiv](#) (in Swedish). This year's topic is the EU between federalism and flexible integration. This event, on the 22 February, is open to anyone, and [preregistered participants](#) (both onsite and online) will receive a free copy of the accompanying book!

On March 22nd, we will hold this year's [European Research Day](#) (in English). The topic is *European Judiciaries*, and it is open for all (keep your eyes open for more info, coming soon). CERGU will, of course, also take part in the [International Science Festival](#) in May, with a program on "The Unknown Europe."

In addition to these events, we are eagerly preparing for when the CERGU Tuesday breakfasts will return in full physical format. The hope for lifted restrictions also entails a hope that the popular lunch seminars organised by the student organisation Brännpunkt Europa will reappear, which CERGU supports in cooperation with the Centre for European Studies (CES).

On the administrative side, we are also busy. Our intern Edwina Beckanovic (featured below) is already at work on our external evaluation held every third year. Edwina will be with us throughout the semester, as will three more European Studies interns (also featured below) attached to the CERGU network. Murray Webster is at the Department for

Literature, History of Ideas and Religion working with Mats Andrén on developing a research project, Simon Johansson and Lara John are at the Department of Sociology and Work Science, following and assisting Katarzyna Wojnicka in her research. We are very happy to have this opportunity to strengthen the ties between CERGU and CES, to provide insights into the everyday workings of European research and get valuable input from talented and ambitious students.

CERGU's research coordinator Birgitta Jännebring has had her leave of absence due to work at The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth in Östersund extended for a year, and we are now busy finding a substitute for her. More on this will be communicated in due time.

This newsletter commemorates the loss of one of CERGU's most senior and active members, Professor Claes G. Alvstam who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly during the Christmas holidays. We dedicate the research profile to him and remember with appreciation the invaluable contributions Claes made to CERGU. As the current director, I am just one of the many who benefited from his generous mentorship, quiet humor, and always-constructive mindset. Savoring a Fisherman's Friend lozenge will from now on always be in his memory.

Klas Grinell, Director of CERGU

Information from CES



We have some news regarding the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#). All CES educational programmes will be externally evaluated during 2022. This is very exciting, providing an excellent opportunity to assess and discuss our programmes with external reviewers. The reviewers will be recruited during spring. This will also entail quite some work to prepare and organise all the relevant documentation that might be useful for the reviewers. Kajsa Evertsson, CES study administrator, will be especially busy making sure we have all relevant documents in the right place. The reviewers will visit us in the autumn, and a report is expected at the beginning of next year.

The spring semester has started, and like last spring, we begin with mainly online teaching. However, we are optimistic that the combination of vaccinations and milder symptoms means that we will be able to return to campus teaching relatively soon.

Another new feature this spring is that we can now offer a full semester of EU courses, where our undergraduate students at [Europaprogrammet](#) can choose to study together with international exchange students during their final elective semester. The courses are also open to apply for as freestanding courses. The courses are: [EU1400 Practical EU knowledge](#) (15 credits), [EU1141 Democracy and the European Union](#) (7,5 credits) and the new course [EU1145 The European Union's role in International Affairs](#) (7,5 credits). The last one is also connected to the European Commission financed prestige project called '[EUTOPIA – European University](#)'. The course '[Europe in the World](#)', in the Master's Programme in European Studies (MAES), is the first so-called 'learning unit' within EUTOPIA

at the University of Gothenburg. Together with the now ten partner universities in Europe, we have developed a larger European 'learning community' around this course, sharing resources and opportunities for students to interact. This new course, as it is available for undergraduate students and taught in spring, will facilitate even further cooperation in the future.

Linda Berg, Director of Centre for European Studies CES

CERGU to Host Annual Book Seminar

The annual Swedish-language book seminar, [Europaperspektiv](#), will be held on 22 February in the lecture hall Dragonen, Sprängkullsgatan 19 in Gothenburg. This popular event is held every year, arranged around a common theme. Last year's seminar was livestreamed from Stockholm, but this year it is back in Gothenburg! This year's topic is *EU mellan federalism och flexibel integration* (EU Between Federalism and Flexible Integration) and the Gothenburg book launch event will include five authors from this year's book. Anna Södersten, Fredrik N.G. Andersson, and Malena Britz will present onsite, while Jörgen Hettne and Jacob Öberg will present via Zoom. Whether you would like to attend onsite or [join via Zoom](#), we hope you make time to support this excellent event. More specific information is below:

When: 22 February, 14.30-17.00 (Fika 14.30-15.00)

Where: Dragonen, Sprängkullsgatan 19 and online via Zoom

All are welcome to join! Those who register to attend will receive a free copy of this year's book!

Book and seminar are in Swedish.

Registration **required** and proof of Covid vaccination/ID for onsite attendance (50 people max due to FHM regulations): <https://www.gu.se/eventang/europaperspektiv-2022-eu-mellan-federalism-och-flexibel-integration>

No registration necessary to attend the online Zoom webinar: <https://gu-se.zoom.us/j/61185816297?pwd=emNFZGthMFO4QVVGa0FrWVFNwSW5UQT09>
Passcode: 879075

Do you know the history of CERGU?

In the spring of 1995, the vice-chancellor of the University of Gothenburg decided to establish a Centre for European Research. This centre was the first of its kind in Sweden. Thanks to the efforts of Birgitta Jännebring, Rutger Lindahl, and Claes Alvstam, we now have



a more thorough written history of CERGU's beginnings. Via the link below you can read about the changes in Swedish society and the political debate that led to the establishment of CERGU. Find out how much work was put into making CERGU the successful centre it is today. The early years of CERGU: <https://www.gu.se/en/european-research/cergus-beginnings>

CERGU Welcomes Four New Interns

Nearly every year CERGU is contacted by a few bright and ambitious university students who are interested in investigating the possibility of interning. And almost every year we answer the same way, "No, CERGU doesn't *usually* offer internships, but thanks for contacting us!" We have had a few exceptions over the years, beginning with the esteemed Lena Caspers, and continuing with both Kajsa Evertsson and Maja Sörebro. This year we are pleased to announce that we have four interns who are connected to CERGU or CERGU network projects/researchers! Please welcome Edwina Beckanovic, Simon Johansson, Lara John, and Murray Webster.



My name is **Edwina Beckanovic**, and I am 22 years old. Originally, I am from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but I have lived in Gothenburg, Sweden, almost my whole life. I am a master's student in European Studies, on the Social Science track and will also be interning at CERGU during the spring semester. After the internship, I plan to finish my master's degree and, in some way or another, work with questions regarding Europe and the EU.

I'm **Simon Johansson** and I grew up about an hour north of Gothenburg. I completed my bachelor's in political science and European studies. Currently I'm studying towards a master's in European studies with a focus on political science. The project I'm interning for is a father's rights project lead by Katarzyna Wojnicka. I expect to be interning during the whole semester from winter until summer break. After my internship I plan on finishing my master's, first and foremost. After that, I will look at continuing studying towards becoming a researcher. I'm an avid board-gamer and role-player, and you're likely to find me strategizing and discussing games with friends during my spare time!





I am **Lara John** and I'm from Germany, which is where I did my BA in International Relations: Politics and History at the Jacobs University Bremen. Right now, I am pursuing the master's in European Studies: Humanities track at the University of Gothenburg. My field of interest is still very big and includes Eurocentrism, Islamophobia, and Gender Studies just to name a few. Currently, I am interning at CERGU under Katarzyna Wojnicka, where we collect data (through research and surveys) about different fathers' rights groups in EU member states. My internship will last for 20 weeks, and I am looking forward to learning and researching this topic. After the internship, I will continue my master's and hopefully graduate in 2023. Fun fact about me: When I moved to Sweden last year, I had to bring my Kitchen Aid mixer because I love baking. I previously lived in Sweden for a year when I was 15/16 as an exchange student in Stockholm.

My name is **Murray Webster** and I am from Glasgow, Scotland. I hold an MA (Hons) in English Literature and Philosophy from the University of Glasgow. I came to Sweden in the summer of 2020 and studied mathematical logic for a year at GU. I'm currently working towards an MA in Theoretical Philosophy and an MSc in European Studies. This semester I'm working with Mats Andrén and Klas Grinell on their project 'When the Margins became European'. My focus as a research assistant is on examining the status of Scotland as a European margin from 1800 onwards. I'll be with the CERGU officially until the end of this semester, but depending on whether there is still work to be done, I might be here slightly longer. I have a year left of the MSc programme, and I'm currently applying for doctoral positions, with a research focus on the interactions between planetary-scale computational systems and socio-political structures. Fun fact: I'm a qualified rugby referee and regularly referee the Allsvenskan.



New Initiative to Strengthen CERGU Connection to Doctoral Candidates

During the most recent CERGU administration and management team retreat in August 2021, a new idea was launched. In order to provide the best possible support and utilize the CERGU network of researchers best, it was decided that CERGU should offer grants to stimulate and facilitate the involvement of doctoral students in projects. This idea was proposed to the CERGU Steering Committee in the autumn of 2021 and approved in late 2021. A few weeks ago, two researchers applied for and were awarded the first ever CERGU grants specifically aimed at creating a more complete European academic environment for doctoral students! The first grant will cover expenses in relation to a project development seminar organized in Bochum, Germany in cooperation between CERGU Steering Committee member Mats Andrén and International Advisory Board member Stefan Berger. The theme is *Europe from the Margins*. CERGU will also facilitate the participation of former postdoc Ettore Costa and Eutopia affiliate Elisabetta Narutti. Apart

from a future project application involving PhD-positions, the seminar aims to result in a journal special issue to advance the theme.

In this first round of evaluation and decisions, CERGU will also help fund a research visit to Amsterdam for PhD-candidate in law, Martin Westlund, who is part of the project *Separation of Powers for 21st Century Europe* (SepaRope). CERGU will cover some of his accommodation costs and thereby make it possible for him to establish research contacts with project partners and others working in similar legal fields.

This new strategic initiative will strengthen European-related research activities involving PhD-students. Applications are welcome throughout the year and decisions are made on a rolling basis, or until the funds for the year are exhausted. Read more about the different kinds of support below, and we look forward to your application. CERGU Grant Opportunities: <https://www.gu.se/.../research/cergu-grant-opportunities>

Coming Up: European Research Day

Join us for the upcoming English-language seminar, [European Research Day](#)! This seminar is a celebration of the talent and expertise that our local CERGU network members offer. Each year a theme is determined, and a main organizer is chosen among the distinguished scholars right here in Gothenburg. The title of this year's seminar is *European Judiciaries*, and will be organized by Anna Wallerman Ghavanini. Please mark your calendars for a full afternoon of presentations and discussion to be held on 22 March at the School of Business, Economics, and Law. More information will be released soon!

CERGU Remembers Claes G. Alvstam



I sincerely hope that CERGU can keep and maintain its role as a research-led network...and to keep its spirit of a generous attitude between different disciplines and research traditions.

-Claes Alvstam, 2014

Claes Alvstam (1949-2021) was a long-time supporter of CERGU and multidisciplinary research and collaboration. Claes was an active and energetic part of the CERGU network of researchers for more than 25 years, and he will be sorely missed. Below is an excerpt from an interview from the spring 2014 CERGU newsletter, profiling Claes and his connection to CERGU, the Steering Group, and the newly formed International Advisory Board. His obituary can be found [here](#) (in English) and [here](#) (på svenska).

(From the 2014 CERGU newsletter) This year will see one of our most senior members of CERGU, or one of our “founding fathers” as we call him, Claes-Göran Alvstam move from his role serving on the Steering Committee to a new role on our International Advisory board. Recently he answered a few questions about his different roles at CERGU and his thoughts on the future.

Q: How will your role at CERGU change with this move?

A: Well, there will actually not be too many changes regarding my relations with CERGU. The role of the steering group is to represent the mother faculty and to maintain the delicate balance between the different disciplines under the common canopy, while the assignment to coordinate the International Advisory Board (IAB) is more focused on one particular issue, i.e. how to further improve the international network.

Q: What are some points of pride for CERGU in recent years?

A: The financial support from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond was of course one of the major achievements during recent years, since it confirmed CERGU’s role as one of the leading nodes for European research in Sweden. I have also been very pleased to watch the vigorous development of the CERGU community, particularly when it comes to attracting young non-Swedish scholars. The launch of the weekly breakfast was obviously one of the best decisions that we took, since it gave us a solid platform for establishing good informal contacts between people who otherwise wouldn’t have had a chance to meet and to exchange views.

Q: What are your hopes for the future of CERGU?

A: I sincerely hope that CERGU can keep and maintain its role as a research-led network with a small and flexible common administration, and to keep its spirit of a generous attitude between different disciplines and research traditions. The pitfall in an organization like CERGU is always to become set in a fixed mold, dominated by one single discipline and where the administrative routines become the main purpose. Personally, I would very much like to see a higher emphasis on European languages and literatures, the understanding of which are often keys to comprehend national history, culture and politics. The results of the recent EP elections show that the European project – if there exists such a creature – still has a long way to go, and that there is an almost eternal and inexhaustible need for deeper multidisciplinary based interpretations of national versus European identities. The sad events in the “Eastern Neighbourhood” do also call for a higher emphasis on Russia – particularly how to better understand contemporary Russian views on “The Western society” and Russian geopolitical perceptions - in CERGU’s future activities.

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

7/2, 15.00-16.00 [Fika with the New Interns! da Matteo Magasinsgatan](#), Magasinsgatan 17A Gothenburg

8/2, 9.15-10.45 [Working Seminar: Johan Karlsson Schaffer and Peter Johansson](#) "Sámi Legal Mobilization in Nordic Countries" (co-arranged with the International Law Seminar) via [Zoom](#)

22/2, 14.30-17.00 [Europaperspektiv 2022: EU mellan federalism och flexibel integration \(IN SWEDISH\)](#), Lecture hall Dragonen Sprängkullsgatan 19, Limited seating! [Registration required to attend onsite](#) and via [Zoom](#)

8/3, 9.15-10.45 [Guest Seminar: Safaa Alhamaydeh](#) "Social Enterprises" via Zoom

22/3, 13.00-15.30 **European Research Day: European Judiciaries**, The School of Business, Economics, and Law, Room E44



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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