



CERGU Spring 2022 Newsletter

Director's Letter



“Cowslip, meadow saxifrage, catfoot and blue viola”, is the traditional refrain for early Swedish summer. A metonymy for a world beginning to blossom. This season Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Luhansk, Mariupol, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Rivne, Vinnytsia and Zhytomyr drown out the nostalgic song, and are becoming familiar names all over Europe.

Russia's invasion and war in Ukraine have cost thousands of lives, and ruined cities and lives for decades to come. They have also shaken our naive assumptions about the relative stability of Europe. In light of this, our own petty struggles with hybrid seminars and lectures can feel insignificant - but also more important than ever. As we wrote in our statement against the invasion CERGU is determined to do our share to contribute with multi-disciplinary perspectives on European politics and history, rule of law, migration, and other topics. There are many in the CERGU group who can contribute to a better understanding of the parameters of this crisis. European researchers are in high demand, and multi-disciplinary perspectives are vital in the analysis of the short- and long-term implications of what is now taking place. Here CERGU has a unique position at the University of Gothenburg to provide both researchers, politicians, administrators and the public with better knowledge and preparedness for the future.

The last years have shown that normal does not mean predictable or stable. The war silenced any belief that we were returning to a pre-pandemic world. The effects on energy, food and other trade have a large impact on transition politics and climate crisis responses, as well. Not to mention NATO expansion.

We must also do what we can to support and make heard the researchers and citizens in and from both Ukraine and Russia who despite the dangers they face stand up for reason and humanitarian ideals. Independent research, open information and public discourse are key to democratic dialogue.

Although the war in Ukraine and all the effects it has already had on the military, political and economic terms demand a lot of our attention, it should not overshadow all the other important areas of interest. This spring semester CERGU has organised 16 events, from the [25th annual Europaperspektiv](#), via hybrid working seminars, to a Science Festival program on

the [Unknown Europe](#), to a conference on [A Jewish Europe](#). We have had help from fantastic interns, hosted research applications and welcomed international guest researchers: we have moved into our new headquarters at Pilgatan 19A, and eventually gotten the new signage up. We have also provided the triannual external evaluation team with data, background, and analysis to secure an evaluation report that will be helpful in the future developments for CERGU.

It has now, after three years, become time for me to hand the baton over to the next director of CERGU. Andreas Moberg is an excellent choice to continue the development of the European research milieu at University of Gothenburg. I will instead return full-time to the museum world – at Gothenburg Museums and Kunsthalle. I have learned so much at CERGU, on so many levels. From more people than I can name. Still, I would especially like to thank Angie, Ann-Kristin, Birgitta and Kristina for their daily commitment and support!

Klas Grinell, Director of Centre for European Research CERGU

Information from CES

It has been wonderful to finally have students back on campus! The energy is higher, and students and teachers alike feel more engaged. Congratulations to all students who have finished their studies at the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#)! We are happy to invite you all to celebrate on our [European Graduation Day](#), October 14!



A big congratulations also to [Brännpunkt Europa](#) for winning the 2022 [study environment prize at the Faculty of Social Sciences!](#) This also coincided with Brännpunkt Europa's 10 year anniversary and the creation of a new logo. Thanks to all students who have been engaged in Brännpunkt over the years, and especially to Hanan and Alanah, for all your hard work during the academic year 2021-2022. To all students: don't miss

your chance to get involved for the next academic year, see more information on the [Brännpunkt Europa Facebook page](#).

A huge thank you also to our students in [SG Europa](#) for their hard work to get involved in the education, as well as organising fun and social events for our students! Student representatives in SG Europa have also been part of our process to prepare for the upcoming external evaluation of CES educational programmes (bachelor and master) during the autumn of 2022. Our study administrator Kajsa Evertsson has been amazing in creating and organising the vast amount of needed documentation – on top of her other important work. Many thanks Kajsa!

With all the uncertainties in the world around us and the war in Ukraine, it has been very hard to focus on work and studies, not least for those who have family and friends directly affected by the war. Hence, we are thankful for the great support offered to staff and

students by our excellent administrative staff, and all those involved in different projects and working to help how and where we can. One example is sharing knowledge, which is something Adrian Hyde-Price has done in abundance this spring, thank you! We know that there is a high demand for further knowledge, something we have noticed a huge increase in applications to several different relevant courses. One example is the record number of applications for our online evening course [Russia between Past and Future](#). We have seen an overall increase in applications to our programmes and look very much forward to meet new and returning students again in the autumn. But before that, I wish everyone a well-deserved break!

Linda Berg, Director of Studies CES

CERGU Welcomes New Director



The Centre for European Research CERGU is very pleased to welcome a new director as of 1 July, 2022. Andreas Moberg will step up as director of CERGU after previously serving as deputy director under then-director, Linda Berg. Andreas is a senior lecturer at the Department of Law and a long-time member of the CERGU network of researchers. He has a storied history of working in an interdisciplinary manner, as well as teaching, on the subjects of EU law, the European Court of Justice, and on public international law. Although many of us know Andreas from his involvement with CERGU over the years, we look forward to having him at the helm of the network. Welcome, Andreas!

New Research Coordinator Joins the Team

Kristina Gurok joined the CERGU administrative team as the temporary research coordinator earlier this spring, and we are so happy to have her with us. Kristina has previously served as an intern and research assistant for the [GenDip: Gender in Diplomacy Program](#) at the Department of Political Science. She holds an MS degree in European Studies, Humanities track from the University of Gothenburg. Her spring has been busy with many different training programs in administrative systems, as well as learning many new names and faces. Welcome to the team, Kristina!



Kickoff and Internal Conference Dates Set

Mark your calendars for the CERGU kickoff event with [EatGot](#) on August 23rd and the CERGU internal conference October 13th! The kickoff will be a walking food tour of Gothenburg led by Monica Hunsberger (Department of Public Health Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Gothenburg).

CERGU hosts an internal conference every year and 2022 is no different! We will gather at [Quality Hotel Waterfront](#) in Klippan for a half-day conference followed by dinner at [Porter Pelle's](#) on the water. All active members or prospective members of the CERGU network are welcome to join in these events- register by emailing Angie (angie.sohlberg@gu.se) or Kristina (Kristina.gurok@gu.se).



CERGU Arranges Europaperspektiv, European Research Day- Onsite and Online

The beginning of 2022 was a confusing time with Covid-19 restrictions ending in Sweden. Many institutes and university sub-groups have experienced declines in onsite attendance of live events, and CERGU is no exception. However, we have managed to make the best of an uncertain situation and hosted all of the events during the spring both onsite and online! The annual Swedish-language event, Europaperspektiv, took as its theme this year [‘The EU Between Federalism and Flexible Integration’](#). Several presenters joined the event onsite, and others presented and commented via Zoom. Hosted just days before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, this timely event utilized scholars who have been very much in the spotlight since then, including Anna Södersten (SIEPS), Fredrik NG Andersson (Lund University), Jacob Öberg (Örebro University), Malena Britz (Swedish Defence University), and Jörgen Hettne (Lund University). The entire event was recorded and can be viewed by following this link:

https://play.gu.se/media/Europaperspektiv+2022A+EU+mellan+federalism+och+flexibel+integration+NY/0_lgd04c9v



In mid-March, CERGU held [European Research Day: European Judiciaries](#). The hybrid event featured all presenters onsite, but nearly all audience participants joined from afar- via

Zoom! The keynote address was given by Christina Eckes (University of Amsterdam). Other presenters from the CERGU network included Olof Larsson, Allison Östlund, Klas Grinell, and the main organizer, Anna Wallerman Ghavanini. In case you missed the live event in March, you can check it out here, complete with subtitles in English!

https://play.gu.se/media/European+Research+Day+2022A+European+Judiciaries/0_k60liz0s



Congratulations to Initial CERGU Grant Recipients

- 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 Nadalutti. Apart from a future project application involving PhD-positions, the seminar aims to result in a journal special issue to advance the theme.
- Martin Westlund, PhD candidate in law, who is part of the project [Separation of Powers for 21st Century Europe \(SepaRope\)](#). CERGU covered some of his accommodation costs in Amsterdam so he could establish research contacts with project partners and others working in similar legal fields.
- Adea Gafuri, PhD candidate in political science, has been awarded a CERGU grant to cover expenses related to her travel and accommodations in connection with a research visit at [William & Mary's Global Research Institute](#) in Williamsburg, Virginia in the United States. In Adea's own words, "I plan to analyze the effect of aid from both democratic and autocratic donors on democratization processes (1) focusing on the European Union's democracy assistance abroad and (2) authoritarian donors' impact on citizens' perceptions of democracy, studying Serbia, a representative case of authoritarian donors' influence in Europe."
- [Anne Schumacher](#), PhD candidate in languages and literatures, has been granted funding from CERGU to cover travel and accommodation-related costs for archival

visits in Berlin. Her research will contribute to her dissertation, entitled “Deserters in Postwar German Literature (1949-1961).”

Each researcher granted funding is expected to hold a seminar open to the CERGU network, where their work is presented and discussed. 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>

Ukraine Statement

On March 3rd 2022 CERGU issued a joint statement on the situation in Ukraine:

The Centre for European Research at the University of Gothenburg CERGU stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine in the face of a brutal, illegal and unprovoked invasion by the Russian Federation. In particular, we underline our support for university students and staff in Ukraine, with whom we share the values of open debate and academic freedom.



We stress the importance of supporting and giving voice to all those – academics and citizens – from both Ukraine and Russia who, despite the dangers they face, stand up for reason and humanitarian ideals, and speak out against this threat to the peace and stability of Europe. Independent research, open information and public discourse are key to democratic dialogue.

CERGU will continue to contribute to an open debate on shaping a more peaceful, cooperative and democratic Europe, offering multi-disciplinary perspectives on European politics and history, the rule of law, migration, and other topics. We urge European and international powers to do their utmost to support Ukraine in their hour of need; to welcome and support refugees; and to work towards a return to a peaceful and cooperative Europe ‘whole and free’.

CERGU Welcomes International Conference Guests

During May and June, CERGU organized two international conferences on very divergent topics. First was CERGU postdoctoral researcher Maja Hultman's conference entitled "[A Jewish Europe? Virtual and Real-Life Spaces in the 21st Century](#)". The conference was held at Humanisten on the University of Gothenburg campus over three days in early May, and included 25 participants from all over Europe and the United States. Maja coordinated the [conference](#) with the University of Southampton in the UK, and received funding from several different foundations including The Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations, the European Association for Jewish Studies EAJS, The Wenner-Gren Foundations, and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. The conference included two keynote addresses, which are available for viewing online.



The second conference was held recently and arranged by Jonas Hinnfors from the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. This conference was also a three-day event focusing on the topic of "[Practical Social Democracy](#)". 20 international scholars gathered in Gothenburg to discuss social democracy and practical implications. The conference also included two keynote presentations by Marika Lindgren-Åsbrink and Ania Skrzypek entitled "Contemporary Challenges to Social Democracy" and by Andrew Adonis, entitled "The Social Democratic Experience". The keynotes will be available online once they have been edited and captioned.



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!



CERGU has moved! Our new offices are located at Pilgatan 19A, on the first floor in rooms K111 and K112. This also means that the weekly Tuesday morning CERGU breakfasts are now located in the first floor kitchen at Pilgatan 19A. We hope you can stop by!

Upcoming CERGU Events

23/8 **CERGU Kickoff Event!** Walking food tour (register to attend with Kristina, Kristina.gurok@gu.se)

6/9, 8.30-9.30 First Breakfast, Pilgatan 19A first floor kitchen

13/9, 9.15-10.45 **Working Seminar:** Martin Westlund "Separation of Powers in EU Migration Case Law", Conference Room Pilen K309

27/9, 9.15-10.45 **Guest Seminar:** Svitlana Rak and Marianna Lyubchenko (Visiting Researchers from Poltava, Ukraine), Title TBA, Conference Room Pilen K309

13/10 **CERGU Internal Conference**, Quality Hotel Waterfront, dinner follows at Porter Pelle's (register to attend with Kristina, Kristina.gurok@gu.se)

14/10 **European Graduation Seminar**, Vasaparken





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