



CERGU Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Director's Letter



8 000 000 000 people on earth. The first figure I remember learning regarding how many people we were on the planet was 4 billion. According to [UN estimates](#), the speed of the increase – which has been about 1 billion in 11-13 years since 1974 – will now decrease and from around 2060 it will stay around 10-10,5 billion for the foreseeable future.

Unless of course something happens. We live in a time of global warming, pandemic and war. Expecting the next crisis, big or small, to wait around the corner seems to be our new normal. Fortunately, so is the next great invention, story or piece of art. One

important question for the future is “which ones of the eight billion people will help out with the challenges we face together?”

Perhaps no one? Just the other day I was creating images online using (what I think of as) an AI, and the other week a friend told me about how AIs are already able to generate scientific texts advanced enough that we are unable to distinguish them from texts written by human scientists. So, maybe we should just sit back and let the AIs take control? We could even program them to disregard all the flaws we keep pointing out in our fellow passengers on this water covered rock circling a hydrogen fusion bomb.

Perhaps us? I confess, I am a true believer. I believe in education. I believe that education is the key that allows us to better handle and avoid the constant sorrows we keep reinventing for ourselves. I also believe that education needs science, and that science is the product of research. So, this is why I am so happy, and proud, to have been appointed as Director of the Centre for European Research, at the University of Gothenburg.

Part of why I am proud is because of the results of the external evaluation we underwent during the spring. Thanks to all of you, the evaluators found that CERGU is a well-established network that provides a good environment for talent development in a disciplinary cross-section, creating a strong community that clearly fulfills its assignment of being a knowledge hub for the world outside academia. This autumn, we will start the process of recruiting new post doc researchers to add to our ever-growing network and during the spring we will welcome two interns from the Master Program in European Studies.

The external evaluators also highlighted the impressive number of events organized by the CERGU-network, and this autumn has not been any different! This past week, we welcomed you all to our ninth seminar in ten weeks. As is our custom, the seminars have covered a very wide range of topics and approaches and as usual the seminars keep pointing out the roads not taken, the places not visited, and the spots not yet uncovered. The fresh perspectives offered by colleagues from other disciplines can sometimes make all the difference, which is why we have launched the CERGU project on Non-unidisciplinary Research Methods in European Studies. This project has gathered researchers interested in presenting and discussing their perspectives and experiences of working in multi-, pluri-, inter-, cross-, trans-, or as I prefer to think of it; non-unidisciplinary, research projects and our ambition is to collaborate on one or more publications making the complex and complicated realm of interdisciplinary research in European studies ever stronger. We still have a few upcoming events scheduled before it is time to gather for the traditional Glögg-breakfast, and I wish to see you all there.

Thinking about the Glögg-breakfast, it is impossible not to think about Birgitta Jännebring. Birgitta was one of the founders of this tradition, and this year we will honor it for the 15th time. However, we will, for what I dare say is the first time, have to make do with Birgitta in absentia. Birgitta has recently left her position at the University of Gothenburg, to seek new challenges. I cannot think of any person who has devoted more of their time, more of their professional career to the development of CERGU, than Birgitta. It is my honor to, on behalf of CERGU and all of us who form part of the CERGU-family, extend our sincere gratitude for all her hard work, and maybe even more for having done it with so much warmth and kindness. Thank you, Birgitta!



Andreas Moberg, Director of CERGU

CES News Autumn 2022

The autumn semester is now fully on the way at the [Centre for European Studies \(CES\)](#). We are back on campus, and it is great to meet our students in person in class, study areas and corridors. The vibrant energy that students bring has been missed and we are happy to have them back. A huge thank you to our students in [SG Europa](#) for an excellent welcoming programme for the new students in the beginning of the semester (at both bachelor's and master's level)!





We are very happy to welcome Vendela Lundskog as substitute study administrator! Vendela has first-hand experience of our programmes as she first studied the bachelor's programme (*Europaprogrammet*) with a profile in sociology and then continued with the Master's Programme in European Studies – social science track. Starting right at the beginning of a new academic year is extremely challenging, but Vendela has proven her ability to handle stress, quickly learn new tasks and competently support teachers and students. Thank you Vendela!

On October 14, we had the annual CES European Graduation Ceremony directly after the European Graduation seminar. This time we were back in the beautiful University Main Building (Vasaparken), listening to encouraging speeches and wonderful music. It is a celebration of the achievements of our graduates, together with families and friends. Moreover, we have the good fortune to be able to deliver awards for the best theses in European studies at the graduation ceremonies (see this year's 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 2022

Katharina Pfeffer: Fit & Fair for 55. A frame analysis of fairness arguments on the EU's 2021 emission reduction proposals within the Council of the European Union.

The Henrik and Karolina von Mentzer Thesis Award 2022 (master)

Kathina Mehring: Protective Masculinity and the Populist Radical Right. Explaining the gender gap in populist radical right electoral support in Europe.



The Henrik and Karolina von Mentzer Thesis Award 2022 (bachelor)

Emily Nilsson: What is the problem with integration? A policy analysis of Swedish policy proposals.

Linda Berg, Director of Studies CES



Intense Autumn at CERGU

CERGU has been hard at work with planning guest seminars, an internal conference, working seminars, and a public event for the European Graduation Day. We continue our seminar series in hybrid-format as the research network has expressed a desire to continue to have the opportunity to attend events regardless of physical location. While the pandemic created uncertainty and chaos for most workplaces, it also offered the chance to try new modes of interacting. CERGU remains dedicated to holding hybrid events, and has invested in technical equipment to facilitate live-streaming our on-site events.

The CERGU leadership and management team put together a full autumn program of events, which began with a kickoff walking food tour through Gothenburg, which was a lot of fun! Led by Eat GOT, a local company focused on restaurant and food culture in Gothenburg, those who attended were treated to a tasting menu from three restaurants in the centre of town. In addition to the kickoff, our weekly Tuesday morning breakfast tradition continues, now in our new location at Pilgatan 19A! CERGU guests and network researchers are always welcome to join a breakfast and get to know us.



This autumn, breakfast guests from abroad have included Svitlana Rak, guest researcher from Poltava, Ukraine, Seweryn Rudnicki, assistant professor from the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, and Ivan Lo Giudice, Eutopia PhD candidate from Ca' Foscari University in Venice.

Leading up to the European Graduation Day (see more below), CERGU also welcomed three International Advisory Board IAB members to Gothenburg, Anders Ahnlied, Georgios Karyotis, and Barbara Löster. All three were able to participate in a joint meeting with the Centre for European Studies' advisory group, Council for European Studies REGU. Because of the pandemic, this exchange of knowledge and planning of future strategies for both CERGU and CES had not been possible since they last visited in 2017. The seminar series program and public events are currently being discussed and scheduled for spring 2023. Stay tuned!



Photos from the CERGU kickoff event in August 2022

Tell Us What You Think

CERGU network researchers gathered in early October to discuss the external evaluation examining the past three years of activities, and the topic of thematic areas of expertise came up, as well as the breadth of CERGU's researcher profiles. We are always interested in hearing what our network thinks about the kinds of research we conduct at CERGU, and how we hope to profile our centre in the greater context. Take a moment to fill out the linked form if you would like to be included in our list of researcher profiles on the CERGU website. Then let us know what you think about the current thematic areas, and whether you think we need to include additional areas!



Click here to participate: <https://forms.office.com/r/caFB460e7A>

Photos from Internal Conference and IAB/REGU Meeting



CERGU researchers gathered at Porter Pelle after the internal conference



Andreas Moberg, Georgios Karyotis, Anders Ahnliid, Mats Andrén, Lotta Lekvall, Barbara Löster, Ulf Hammarström, and Linda Berg gather for a meeting between International Advisory Board and The Council for European Studies

European Graduation Day

This annual event held in the beautiful main university building in Vasaparken was previously known as the October Workshop. Each year it showcases CERGU researchers who are able to comment on a wide variation of topics, but often anchored in current events. The [2022 European Graduation Seminar](#) included presentations by Mats Andrén from Intellectual History, Annika Lindberg from Global Studies, and Adrian Hyde-Price from Political Science. The event was moderated by CERGU deputy director, Ann-Kristin Jonasson, herself a political scientist.

The event was attended by students from the European Studies programmes, whose graduation followed shortly afterward. The European Graduation Seminar could not have been more pertinent in its choice of theme, "European Solidarity: Who are the Europeans in a New Security Order?" Many students and others in attendance wondered how things like Sweden's application to join NATO, the war in Ukraine, and the threat of Russian invasion in other European and non-European territories affect potential future security issues. The three CERGU researchers shared their own unique perspectives on the current state of Europe, discussing topics like nuclear warfare, Brexit, EU membership, and what we currently consider to be part of Europe, as opposed to what has historically been considered 'European'. We thank all who attended, and of course the researchers who presented!



Adrian Hyde-Price, Mats Andrén, Ann-Kristin Jonasson, and Annika Lindberg

External Evaluation

We recently received the report of the external evaluators Associate Professor [Guri Rosén](#), Oslo Metropolitan University, and Academy of Finland Professor [Pasi Ihalainen](#). The evaluation concludes that CERGU, with its thirty-year history, is a well-established network and points specifically to the fact that “talent development in a disciplinary cross-section is something unique that CERGU can offer”. According to the evaluators, CERGU creates a good environment which builds a strong community for researchers to interact within through the organization of, and participation in, an impressive number of activities. The impression of the evaluators is that CERGU clearly fulfills its assignment of being a knowledge hub for the world outside of academia.

CERGU Launches Research Handbook Idea

Are you interested in multi-disciplinary research? Or would it be better to classify your interest as 'non-unidisciplinary' research? Regardless of what you call it, CERGU has a new and exciting project idea, and



you are invited to participate! The "CERGU project on Non-Unidisciplinary Research Methods in European Studies" has just been launched and had initial meetings, so it's not too late to jump on board and get involved. For more information, contact CERGU director Andreas Moberg: andreas.moberg@law.gu.se.

Congratulations to the CERGU Grant Recipients, Autumn 2022

- [Andreas Lundstedt](#), PhD candidate at the School of Public Administration (University of Gothenburg) received funding towards his travel to Oslo for the 2022 IMISCOE conference, where he presented a paper on the panel “The Future of Resettlement”. The conference theme was “Migration and Time: Temporalities of Mobility, Governance, and Resistance.”
- [Ivan Lo Giudice](#), PhD candidate at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona (Spain) and Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (Italy), applied for and received funding towards a research visit at CERGU, in connection with his PhD project. Ivan is also part of the Eutopia Doctoral Mobility programme, and CERGU funding allowed him to visit Sweden for five weeks this autumn.
- [Katarzyna Wojnicka](#), associate professor of sociology (University of Gothenburg) and co-applicant [Seweryn Rudnicki](#), assistant professor (AGH University of Science and Technology, Poland) were awarded the CERGU Application Writer’s Grant for their project “From Social Research to Policy Recommendations.” The grant covers research stays, transcriptions and interview costs related to a pilot study, as well as language editing.
- [Jens Norrby](#), PhD candidate in intellectual history (University of Gothenburg) and [Emilia Lakka](#), PhD candidate in general history (University of Jyväskylä, Finland) received a travel grant to facilitate a research visit to Gothenburg for the purpose of knowledge exchange and strengthening the bonds between CERGU and the research cluster Comparative Study of Political Cultures at the Department of History and Ethnology, University of Jyväskylä. Emilia will visit CERGU in the spring of 2023 and participate in seminars and other activities while she is here.
- [Monika de Silva](#), PhD candidate in political science (University of Gothenburg) has been granted CERGU funding for a research stay in Brussels during 2023. Monika plans to conduct interviews over a three-week period in order to collect data for her dissertation, which explores the role that diplomats play in the implementation of foreign policies and the promotion of international gender norms.
- [Oksana Shmulyar Gréen](#), associate professor of sociology (University of Gothenburg) was awarded the Research Initiation Grant for her proposed project “Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe- Between Personal Agency, Civil Society and the State: A Case of the Swedish Reception.” Oksana plans to use the CERGU funding towards costs related to travel, data collection and interviews, transcription, translation, and securing ethical approval.



Andreas Lundstedt, Ivan Lo Giudice, Adea Gafuri, and Martin Westlund

Researcher Profile: Lisbeth Aggestam



Angie Sohlberg: First of all, welcome back to Sweden! You recently spent time abroad as part of a sabbatical financed by RJ. Could you explain what you were doing and where you were?

Lisbeth Aggestam: Thanks, good to be back! The RJ-sabbatical provided me with a wonderful opportunity to work on my forthcoming book – *The Quest for European Political Leadership: Foreign Policy in a Turbulent World* – and to present my work at two leading Centres for European studies research. I began my sabbatical as a visiting fellow at St Antony's, Oxford, and then moved to Harvard, Cambridge (USA) in the spring of 2022. Both places had just started to open up after the pandemic, so I was lucky that it all worked out.

AS: We have seen recent turmoil and upheaval in the political leadership in the UK of late. Given your expertise on foreign policy and experience in studying UK politics, how will this change in leadership affect Europe?

LA: Indeed, for a country that traditionally has taken pride in the virtues of stable government, the last few months have been extraordinary to say the least. While the new Conservative prime minister, Rishi Sunak, certainly is no European enthusiast and voted Leave in the EU referendum, he is also a pragmatist who realizes that a lot is at stake to address the severe economic challenges facing the UK. I think we will see a less confrontative style of leadership towards the EU with Sunak, which might ease the stalemate over the thorny issue of Northern Ireland that is currently blocking progress on many other issues of cooperation, including the Horizon research programmes.

AS: Recently at the CERGU internal conference, you mentioned the important and storied cooperation between CES Centre for European Studies and CERGU. What kind of benefits do you see for members of the CERGU network, and likewise, students at CES, by the close collaboration between these two centres?

LA: I am currently convening two master courses at the Centre for European Studies (CES) on 'Europe in the World' and 'European Integration: Current Research and Theory'. On both these courses, I can draw on a pool of multidisciplinary teachers that are active in the CERGU research network which is a privilege. It felt great to be able to tell students at the start of the semester that these two courses are based on truly research-led teaching in the Humboldt spirit.

AS: Tell us some about your current research (projects, books, articles, conferences).

LA: I am currently in the final stages of completing my research monograph on political leadership in European foreign policy that I mentioned before. The book investigates European leadership governance across a range of salient political issues, including Brexit, transatlantic relations, and European security. While I had not planned to do any new empirical research for the book during my sabbatical, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is such a pivotal moment in the history of Europe I decided to include the initial phase of this war and the European response to it in the book.

I am also very excited about a completely new research project I have just started as PI this autumn with funding from the Swedish Research Council. Together with two colleagues at the School of Global Studies, Professor Isabell Schierenbeck and Dr Arne Wackenhut, we are going to investigate the role of diaspora in Swedish and German foreign policy. We will present our first conference paper at the upcoming International Studies Association (ISA) in Montréal in March 2023 <https://www.gu.se/en/research/transnational-civil-society-and-foreign-policy-the-role-of-diasporas-in-comparative-perspective>.

AS: And, finally, when you're not working, what do you like to do? Did you do anything during the recent autumn break?

LA: I really enjoy physical exercise and try to go to the gym regularly as academic work is so static. I often process lots of thinking when I am there and some of my best ideas for research have often been conceived in the gym. I also love to be outdoors and to do something practical like gardening at our summer house on the island of Orust. Sadly, I no longer mark the autumn break in my calendar as both my daughters have now left school for university. So for me it was just work as usual!

CERGU has a new mailing box number! If you need to find us, we are now located at Pilgatan 19A, K-building, floor 1. If you need to send us something in the mail, use box number 714.

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

22/11, 9.15-10.45 **Working Seminar:** Anja Karlsson Franck and Annika Lindberg (School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg) “*Empty spectacles and absurd encounters of the European border regime*”, Lilla Skansen Room B340 and online via [Zoom](#)

23/11, 17.00 **After Work with Researchers** (featuring Linda Berg, Markus Johansson, and Andreas Moberg) “*Motvillig Europe? Sverige och EU*” (*Reluctant Europe? Sweden and the EU*). Read more here: <https://pustervik.nu/event/aw-med-forskare-motvillig-europe-sverige-och-eu/> (in Swedish), Pustervik

6/12, 9.15-10.45 **Guest Seminar:** Louise Schou Therkildsen (Senior Lecturer in Literature, Uppsala University) “*A European State of Mind: Rhetorical Formations of European Identity within the EU 1973–2014*” Lilla Skansen Room B340 and online via [Zoom](#)

13/12, 8.30-9.30 **Glögg Breakfast** (INTERNAL EVENT) Pilgatan 19A, K-building, floor 1



Centre for European Research (CERGU)

University of Gothenburg

Box 714, SE 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden

administration@cergu.gu.se

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

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