



CERGU Spring/Summer 2023 Newsletter

Director's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

Summer is here and the academic year is over. Vacation is looming, with a promise of change. A change of tempo perhaps, of daily habits. Perhaps of scenery, and perhaps of interests. *Work* and *vacation* are like *oxys* and *mōros*, not meant for combination.

The transition from work to vacation, although so highly anticipated, is often difficult. It can take a while, and perhaps it should? Reflecting on the past is sometimes helpful, as it helps us put things to rest.



During the past semester, CERGU organized seminars on average every two weeks. Together, we worked on improving our common understanding of our current European realities regarding matters connected to vastly diverging issues such as the war in Ukraine and *Planetary politics*, as scenario methodology and seasonal workers rights. We participated in Gothenburg's International Science Festival (more below), and we devoted special attention to bringing the intricacies of the Swedish presidency of the Council of the European Union closer to the CERGU audience (read more below) – both on the web and in the seminar halls of our university.

CERGU is a network and a platform. We exist because we cooperate with each other. Our strong cross disciplinary cooperation is what makes us stand out as a European studies environment. During the past semester, CERGU's cooperation with other European studies organisations has also grown stronger. We have increased our collaboration with Europe Direkt Halland, Europe Direct Sjuhärad and the Swedish Institute of European Policy Studies (SIEPS), and we will continue working together when we return to our mission in August.

When we transition back, from *vacation* to *work*, in August, the CERGU management team will be composed of Kristina Gurok as program coordinator, Markus Johansson as deputy director and Andreas Moberg as director. Our research administrator Angie Sohlberg will go on full leave of absence for the autumn semester and our current deputy director Ann-Kristin Jonasson, will step down. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my fantastic colleagues for all the great work you have done for CERGU and extend a warm welcome to Markus Johansson.

Most of you are probably wrapping up a semester's worth of hard work, thinking about having time off with family and friends. Perhaps some of you travel, and some of you stay put. Some of you fill your days with activities, and some of you focus on doing the exact opposite – nothing at all. Please remember that work and vacation is an oxymoron – it is literally pointedly foolish – and that change is necessary to understand our lived reality.

Andreas Moberg, Director of the Centre for European Research at the University of Gothenburg CERGU

Fancy a Ride on the Ocean Bus?

Join us for an adventure by land and by sea! CERGU kicks off a new term with a guided tour of Gothenburg on the Ocean Bus. Spots are limited, so sign up! We will head to a restaurant after the ride for an AB ("After Bus") where you can buy something to eat or drink. All are welcome to join! Feel free to invite a colleague who might be curious about CERGU or who might be a good addition to our network!

When: Tuesday August 29th, 16.00-?

Where: The bus departs from Stora Teatern (Kungsparken 1)

[Register to attend](#)



Recruitment of New CERGU Postdocs

On 15 May we launched a call for applications for 1-3 postdoctoral positions at one of the three CERGU faculties, financed by CERGU. We received applications from Europe, Asia,

Africa and North America. From a pool of very qualified applicants our evaluation committee selected ten candidates whom we invited to interviews. The interviews will be conducted in August and we aim to secure the employment of three new CERGU postdocs by the second half of the autumn semester. We are very excited by the high quality of the applications received, and it was quite a difficult task to choose only ten projects. The evaluation committee surely has its work cut out for them. The interviews and the final decisions will be very tough indeed.

Busy Spring at CERGU

Swedish EU Presidency

In March, CERGU organised a panel event, [“Välkommen till det svenska ordförandeskapet i EU – Möjligheter och begränsningar?”](#) on the Swedish EU presidency, moderated by CERGU deputy directors (past and present!) and political scientists, Ann-Kristin Jonasson and Markus Johansson. The event began with Per Cramér discussing security, followed by Christer Ljungwall who presented on the topic of competition. Rikard Warlenius held a presentation on green energy, and the event ended with Andreas Moberg’s presentation on the value of democracy and the rule of law. The event was held at the School of Business, Economics, and Law. It was just one of the program points this spring which focused on the Swedish EU Presidency.



Fact Sheets

Throughout the spring, the CERGU interns Emma Heck and Albin Sundberg, created a [series of fact sheets](#) in Swedish and English to mark the Swedish EU Presidency. The fact sheets address a number of important topics related to the presidency, and can be read and downloaded from the CERGU website.



Rule of Law Conference

In April, CERGU co-organized a conference on the topic of [“The Rule of Law in the EU: Crisis and Solutions”](#) together with the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies SIEPS, and the Swedish Network for European Legal Studies. While the conference was held in Stockholm, CERGU was well-represented on the program. Andreas Moberg, Cecilia Malmström, and Per Cramér, among others were presenters, while other CERGUites were in attendance.

New Working Papers

[Two new working papers](#) have been published rather recently! We have an ongoing working paper series on the CERGU website. If you are interested in having your work-in-progress published on the CERGU website, get in touch with the CERGU deputy director Markus Johansson, who also happens to coordinate the Working Paper Series.

Researcher Profile: Marius Hentea

Marius Hentea is a professor of English Literature at the Department of Languages and Literatures, and an active member of the CERGU network of researchers. Recently Marius was kind enough to answer some questions about his current research and involvement at CERGU.

Angie Sohlberg: Marius, could you tell us about your connection to GU (department, position, research groups, etc.)? How long have you been in Sweden and what brought you here?

Marius Hentea: I'm a professor of English Literature, in the Department of Languages and Literatures. I've been in Sweden since 2015, having previously taught at universities in France, Belgium, and the UK, and having previously studied in the US!



AS: Wow! That's a lot of moving, and now you've landed in Gothenburg and at the Faculty of Humanities. Speaking of which, the Humanities have had a strong presence in the CERGU network of researchers lately. What kind of feedback do you get from CERGU seminars as opposed to seminars held at your department or faculty?

MH: CERGU seminars are fantastic because people are coming at research problems from so many different angles. It's not just a question of methodologies unique to each discipline, but also what counts as an interesting research question or how to think about various problems. We all share a common thematic interest in European politics and culture, but CERGU seminars expose researchers to so many different ways of understanding how to pose a research problem and how to craft an argument.

AS: Are you involved in teaching or research projects at the moment? What's coming up for you after the summer holidays?

MH: I've been working for years on a book about authorship and treason after WWII, with most of the case studies focused on Europe (France, Great Britain, Ireland, Norway, and Romania; there is also one case study on the US). I had the good fortune of having Swedish Research Council funding for the project, so I was able to visit nearly thirty archives in half a

dozen countries. I'm trying to get the book finished in the coming 18 months, so everything is geared towards that.

AS: We look forward to reading it! Sounds super ambitious. At CERGU, we hope to welcome a new cohort of postdoctoral researchers to the network this autumn. What kind of advice would you pass along to these researchers?

MH: Make the most of research networks like CERGU -- talk to people, present your work, get feedback, submit articles to journals! CERGU is a great way to meet people across the university and to get really amazing feedback at seminars.

AS: Finally, how did you spend Midsummer? Have you embraced any of the Swedish traditions? Dancing like a frog?

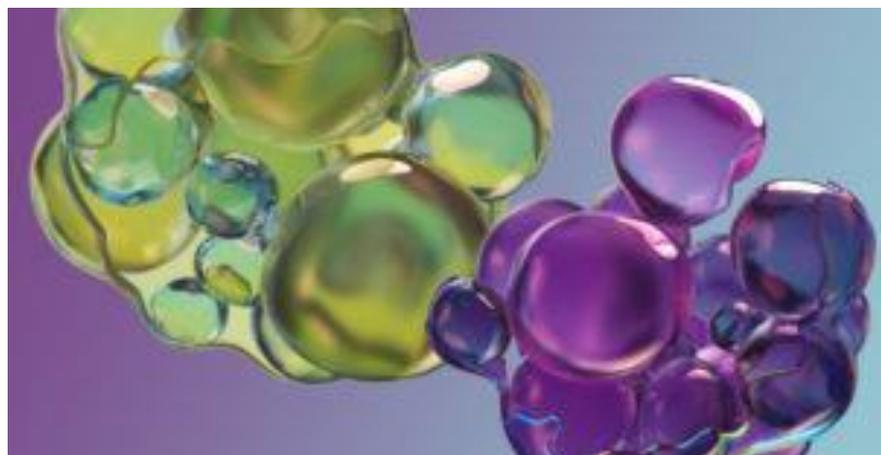
MH: Midsummer was spent with close friends - a BBQ and pool outing! We've been really lucky with the weather now, so it has been warm enough to swim. I'm not a big fan of open water swimming, so that's something I haven't embraced. But eating strawberries at Midsummer is definitely more to my liking!

CERGU Internal Conference

The CERGU internal conference is an annual gathering and an opportunity for network members to present research to the group in a positive, encouraging environment. This year's internal conference was held at Arken Hotel and Art Garden Spa on the island of Hisingen. 25 members of the network attended the lunch-to-lunch conference and dinner. While the previous internal conference in 2022 focused on strategic CERGU organizational issues, this year's format was more aimed at scholarly presentations. The list of those who presented their research included Annika Lindberg, Anna Missiaia, Thomas Rosén, Lina Carling and Greta Kundrotaitė, Markus Johansson, Amberlyn Sangmanee, John Vilhelm Schnell, Emma Klint Hansen, Felix Lehmann, Marius Hentea, and Albin Sundberg. The second day wrapped up with a discussion led by Andreas Moberg and a lunch.

The International Science Festival

In April CERGU network member and intellectual historian, Mats Andrén took responsibility for the [CERGU panel](#) at the annual International Science Festival. The theme of this year's panel was *Europe's Borders*, and it featured



presentations in Swedish from Annika Lindberg, Gabriella Elgenius, Björn Billing, Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt, and Mats Andrén. A [recap of the panel](#) has been written in Swedish, and is available on the CERGU website.

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

29/8, 16.00 CERGU Kick-off Event: Ocean Bus! ([Register to attend](#))

5/9, 8.30-9.30 **First Breakfast** (held at the Department of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of the Humanities)

12/9, 9.30-11.00 Working Seminar: **Anna Missiaia**, Senior Lecturer (Docent) in Economic History, "The more, the merrier? Urbanization and regional GDP growth in Europe over the 20th century", Conference Room Pilen, K309

26/9, 9.30-11.00 Guest Seminar: **Jonathan Polk**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Lund University, "Intra-party Politics in Europe and the Swedish Party Membership Survey" Co-arranged with the Party research seminar, Department of Political Science, Stora Skansen, Room B336

3/10, 9.30-11.00 Working Seminar: **Marius Hentea**, Professor of English Literature, "Black Lists and Free Expression: The PEN Stockholm Conference, 1946". Lilla Skansen, Room B340

13/10, 13.00-15.00 **European Graduation Seminar** (see separate program) Vasaparken, Torgny Segerstedtsalen

17/10, 9.30-11.00 Guest Seminar: **Maria Grahn-Farley**, Visiting Professor and Professor **Ester Herlin-Karnell**, Department of Law, Human Rights Justifications". In collaboration with The European and Comparative Law Research Cluster, The School of Business, Economics, and Law, Department of Law, Sjörettsbiblioteket (Building C, 6th floor)



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