



Director's Letter

January marks the beginning of a new year, and there are many exciting events this spring at the [Centre for European Research \(CERGU\)](#)! We have already had the first of several international workshops, about the future of EU Environmental Policy. The prospects to work with these important issues in the future are more challenging than ever, and cross-disciplinary research can definitely make a contribution. Thanks to CERGU postdoc [Andreas Hofmann](#) for organising it! More up to date themes will be covered in the international workshop on [Hate crime in Europe](#) (organised by CERGU postdoc David Brax) 9-10 February, and about [the new politics of EU trade policy](#) (organised by CERGU guest postdoc Guri Rosén).



In February we will also arrange the [‘Europaperspektiv 2017’](#) public seminar (in Swedish). This year's topic is about trust in the EU at a crossroad. This event, the 21 February, is open to anyone, and preregistered participants will receive a free copy of the year book! CERGU will continue to be publicly active throughout spring. At March 28 we are arranging this year's European Research Day (in English). The topic is [‘Cultural Borders in Europe’](#), and it is open to anyone! And CERGU is of course taking part in [the Science festival](#) in Gothenburg in May.

For even more public seminars on current affairs: do not miss the well-visited lunch seminars organised by the student organisation [Brännpunkt Europa](#), which CERGU supports in cooperation with the Centre for European Studies ([CES](#)). CES has an improved webpage, with great information about all the various possibilities there are for those who are interested in continuing or broadening their studies; anything from introductory evening courses to advanced double degree and executive master's programmes.

In a stimulating academic environment there is an exchange of not only ideas,

but also scholars. We are happy to continue to grow our international academic network with the help of previous CERGU scholars. This spring and summer we are proud to have our previous colleagues moving on to new exciting positions in: Leiden ([Brian Shaev](#)), Amsterdam ([Sune Bechmann-Pedersen](#)) and the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence ([Anna Wallerman](#)). Many congratulations and we look forward to continue to work on joint research interests in new forms in the future! Moreover, don't miss the profile of Anna Wallerman below.

Linda Berg

CERGU researchers awarded Pedagogical Prize

Jan Rovny and Jonathan Polk, researchers in CERGU's network, together with Lenka Rovna, who is a member of the International Advisory Board, have been



awarded the 2016 pedagogical team prize of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The prize was awarded for the teaching project “[Rebuilding Europe](#)”, and an award ceremony was held at the Faculty on the 13th of December, during which Jonathan Polk accepted the prize on behalf of the team. Congratulations!



Visit from Fudan University

During the 13th-16th of December 2016, a group of researchers and teachers from SIRPA (The School of International Relations and Public Affairs) at Fudan University in Shanghai, China visited the University of Gothenburg. Besides meeting with exchange students from Fudan University, our visitors discussed



future collaboration in both teaching and research with representatives from CES (The Centre for European Studies) and CERGU. Furthermore, a report on the joint workshop on double degree cooperation that CES took part in at Nordic Centre in Shanghai last October is now available [here](#).

Publications

New CERGU Working Papers

There have been two new contributions to the working paper series during the past months:

Wojtek Jezierski (Docent at the Department of Historical Studies) has written a working paper entitled “Forms of Social Capital in the European Middle Ages”. Click [here](#) to read it!



Furthermore, Julian Dederke's Master's thesis, which won the Rutger Lindahl Award for Best Master's Thesis in European Studies earlier this autumn, has now been published as Working Paper 2016:10 in CERGU's Working Paper Series. Click [here](#) to read the paper with the title "Not indicted, and yet they do care. Why EU Governments file Observations to Cases before the ECJ".



Other Publications by researchers in CERGU's network

Berg, Linda (2017) "[Medborgarnas tillit till EU som politiskt system](#)", in Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, A., Michalski, A. & Oxelheim, L. (eds.) *Tilliten i EU vid ett vägsjäl*. Stockholm: Santérus Förlag.

Blombäck, Sofie (2017) "[INTOLERANTA PLATSER? Rasideologisk aktivitet i svenska kommuner 2008-2015](#)". Göteborg: Segerstedtsinstitutet.

Kölln, Ann-Kristin & Polk, Jonathan (Eds.)(2017). [The lives of the party: Contemporary approaches to the study of intraparty politics in Europe](#) [Special issue]. *Party Politics*, 23(1)

Polk, Jonathan; Rovny, Jan; Bakker, Ryan; Edwards, Erica; Hooghe, Liesbet; Jolly, Seth; Koedam, Jelle; Kostelka, Filip; Marks, Gary; Schumacher, Gijs; Steenbergen, Marco; Vachudova, Milada & Zilovic, Marko (2017). "[Explaining the salience of anti-elitism and reducing political corruption for political parties in Europe with the 2014 Chapel Hill Expert Survey Data](#)", *Research & Politics*, 4(1)

Rovny, Allison & Rovny, Jan (2017). "[Outsiders at the ballot box: operationalizations and political consequences of the insider-outsider dualism](#)", *Socio-Economic Review*

Coming up at CERGU

Public Events

21 February, 2017
Europaperspektiv 2017:
Bokseminarium ”Tilliten i Europa
vid ett vägskäl” (In Swedish)

29 March , 2017
European Research Day:
“Cultural Borders of Europe”

10-14 May, 2017
CERGU at Vetenskapsfestivalen
(The Science Festival)

Workshops and Conferences

9-10 February, 2017
Workshop “Hate Crime in Europe”

9-10 March, 2017
Workshop “The new politics of EU
Trade Policy”

Please see our [calendar](#) for the full seminar programme.

Europaperspektiv 2017



This year’s Europaperspektiv book seminar will take place on the 21st of February. The topic will be “Tilliten I EU vid ett vägskäl” (“Trust in the European Union at a crossroads”), and several CERGU researchers will be involved in the seminar program. Click [here](#) to read more and to sign up. (NB. the seminar will be held in Swedish).

Europaforskardagen (European Research Day) 2017

Europaforskardagen 2017 will revolve around the topic “**Cultural Borders of Europe**”, and it will take place on the 29th of March. Keep your eyes open for more information, which will be available on our website in February.



Profile of Anna Wallerman

Anna Wallerman is an associate senior lecturer at the Department of Law, and an active member of CERGU's network of researchers. This autumn, Anna will move to Florence to be a postdoctoral researcher at the European University Institute (EUI).



Congratulations on your new job, Anna! The competition for a postdoc position at a renowned institution such as the EUI must be very high.

What was your strategy when applying, and why do you think that you were offered the job?

Thank you! As far as strategy goes, I think mentorship was the basket I put my eggs in. All postdoctoral fellows are assigned a mentor among the EUI professors, and the availability of a suitable mentor is one of the factors in the selection process. I spent quite some time working my way through the bios and publications of the professors in order to see how my research project could fit into the research already going on at the Institute. This also helped me to improve my research proposal, as I discovered papers and perspectives that I had not been aware of before.

I also obsessed quite a lot over my cover letter, or “Academic Career Statement” as they call it. I have never been much good at cover letters (but I will become – it is on the EUI curriculum!), but in the end I decided to pour my heart out and wrote the most personal cover letter I have ever written. So I guess they just like me for who I am!

The research project that you will work on at the EUI is called "As you sow, so shall you reap? The influence of the referring court on the preliminary ruling of the ECJ". Could you say a few words about the new project and how it relates to your previous work?

Certainly! Broadly speaking, my research has focused on courts and judges. More specifically, I perceive judges as active, thinking, deciding, ultimately political actors, and I am especially interested in the interactions between judiciaries on national and European levels.

My new research project combines these perspectives. The study concerns the preliminary reference procedure, which allows courts in the EU Member States to address legal questions directly to the European Court of Justice (ECJ). The

hypothesis is that the person who asks the question has an impact on the answer. This would mean that national judges can influence the development of EU law by asking (or not asking) certain questions, or asking them in certain ways. I will study the orders for reference sent by national courts to the ECJ and the judgments sent back in response, and see if I can find signs of a strategic use of the preliminary ruling procedure on the part of the national courts, and if an actual influence on the ECJ can be detected.

Starting to work at the EUI does not only mean that you'll be working in a new professional environment, but also that you'll be living in Florence, Italy. What are your expectations, both professionally at the EUI, and about living in Tuscany?

This is the most amazing opportunity, and I have high expectations on the EUI as an intellectual environment. Above all I expect to learn A LOT. The aim of the Max Weber Programme, which I will be part of, is to equip the fellows with all the skills necessary for an academic career, so in addition to my research project there will also be seminars on teaching, grant application writing, presentation skills. Also, it will be a melting pot in terms of both nationalities and disciplines, and I hope for all kinds of interesting discussions – not only in the seminars, but also over a glass of wine in the sunset.

As for Tuscany, well, there's the wine, the food, the climate; art, history, scenery – need I say more?

You are an active member of CERGU's research network, and you participate in the social and research-related activities on a regular basis. How do you think that this involvement in CERGU has contributed to you being offered a position at a multidisciplinary and Europe-focused research institution such as the EUI?

CERGU is a brilliant way of broadening one's perspective and learning to think outside the box of one's own discipline. It has definitely helped make me dare the leap into questions and methods that are not so common in the legal community. In the end, though, I think the main CERGU contribution towards any success is the sheer enthusiasm of each and every one of its members, and the genuine interest they all take in our common field.

CERGU Tuesday breakfasts always make me remember why I choose academia. This helps to keep focused on the ultimate purpose of it all and brings energy even to, say, the umpteenth revision of a postdoc application. That kind of everyday joy constitutes, I think, my main debt of gratitude to CERGU and the CERGUites.

Congratulations!

Our warmest congratulations to Olof Larsson and Anton Jansson, who successfully defended their PhD theses during the past weeks!

Olof defended his dissertation "*Minoritarian Activism: Judicial Politics in the European Union*" on the 12th of December at the Department of Political Science. Anton's dissertation is titled "*Revolution and Revelation: Theology in the Political Thought of Friedrich Julius Stahl, Wilhelm Weitling, and Karl Theodor Welcker*", and he defended it at the Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion on the 13th of January.



Stay tuned for our next newsletter in spring 2017. In the meantime, like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), join our [LinkedIn](#) group, and check out our [website](#) where all the latest CERGU news and events will be posted!



**UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH**