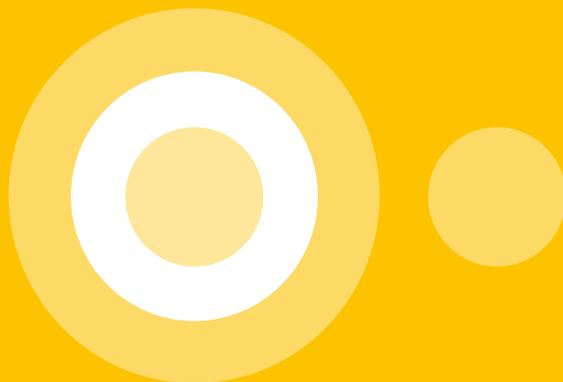


Baltic and
East
European
Graduate
School

20TH

ANNIVERSARY 2020



Preface

We are proud to celebrate BEEGS' twentieth anniversary with this publication. We have updated and expanded the information collected from all alumni since the anniversary celebrations of 2015.

We have included all the doctoral alumni to have presented their thesis over these 20 years, the first being from 2004. They represent different subjects and countries, but share the BEEGS' experience and the focus on area studies. The broad spectra covered by BEEGS' alumni is striking, and following their different paths through the years is exciting. They are presented in chronological order.

We have also asked randomly selected alumni to tell us about their own memories and reflections on BEEGS and area studies, and to provide advice for current doctoral students. Naturally, we are also delighted to share their individual experiences and grateful for their inspirational words.

OUR CURRENT doctoral students, have not been forgotten and are also listed. We have invited Södertörn University's four research areas for doctoral studies to introduce how their BEEGS' doctoral students contribute to the research conducted in their area.

In 2020, BEEGS not only celebrates its twentieth year, but also our alumni number 100, Eva Karlberg. On 15 December 2020, she and the other 2020 doctoral graduates will receive the very special BEEGS pen at our annual pen ceremony. Congratulations!

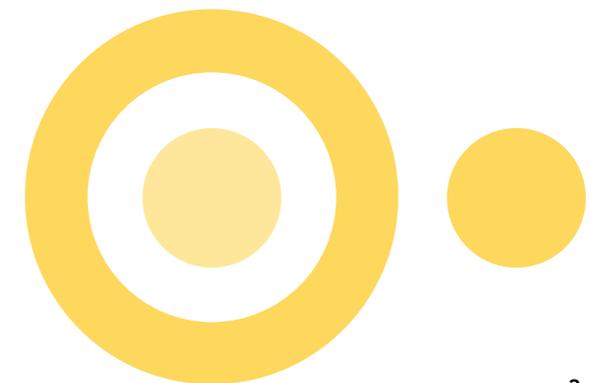
The pen club is as exclusive as the circle of

BEEGS' alumni, though fortunately both are growing in number every year. Each year, doctoral students receive their degree and the pen and, each year, new doctoral students from varied backgrounds arrive at BEEGS and study their first year at CBEES. We welcome continued applications.

WE ARE ALSO honoured to publish a statement from our financier and sponsor, the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

We hope that you enjoy reading this anniversary text and its presentation of BEEGS' journey through the first 20 years. ●

Florence Fröhlig, Director of Studies, BEEGS



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2004

JOLANTA AIDUKAITE

Sociology, 15 November 2004 (no. 1)

Thesis: *The Emergence of the Post-Socialist Welfare State. The Case of the Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*

After receiving her doctoral degree, Jolanta Aidukaite worked at Södertörn University for four years (2005–2008), in the Sociology Department. Since 2009, she has worked at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Vilnius University and Mykolas Romeris University. She currently holds a chief researcher position at the Lithuanian Social Research Centre. She also held visiting fellow positions at Hokkaido University in Sapporo (Japan, 2016), the European University in Florence (Italy, 2018), the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands, 2020), and the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University (Sweden, 2019). She has been involved in numerous international and national research projects and is currently engaged in a Horizon 2020 project, ‘The Future of European Social Citizenship’ (Eusocialcit). Jolanta has also been an active member of various international research associations, an elected board member of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 19 “Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy” and board member of the European Network for Social Policy Analysis (EspaNet).

2005

XAVIER FRAUDET

History, 20 May 2005 (no. 2)

Thesis: *French Foreign Policy in the Baltic Sea Region, 1871–1914. The Strategy in the Baltic Sea Region through the French Materials*

PIOTR WAWRZENIUK

History, 16 December 2005 (no. 3)

Thesis: *Confessional Civilising in Ukraine. The Bishop Iosyf Shumliansky and the Introduction of Reforms in the Diocese of Lviv 1668–1708*

Piotr Wawrzeniuk has participated in four research projects, all sponsored by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, and been teaching at Södertörn University. He has also contributed to commissioned research assignments for the Swedish Army Museum. In 2012, he moved to the Swedish Defence University, and the Department of Military History, where he is currently teaching at military and civilian courses.

2006

KRISTIAN PETROV

History of Ideas/Intellectual History, 2 June 2006 (no. 4)

Thesis: *Back to the Future: Modernity, Postmodernity and Generational Identity in Gorbachev's Glasnost and Perestroika (Tillbaka till framtiden: Modernitet, postmodernitet och generationsidentitet i Gorbachevs glasnost och perestrojka)*

Kristian Petrov is reader in the History of Ideas and, since 2015, senior lecturer and subject representative for Cultural Studies at Karlstad University. After receiving his doctorate in 2006, he has worked as a lecturer, public inquirer and researcher at the University of Gothenburg, the University of Borås, the Public Health Committee of Region Västra Götaland and Södertörn University. In 2010, he received a postdoc position at CBEES in the research theme of Cultural Theory: Cosmopolis, Technologies of Culture and Cultural Public Spheres, and later continued working on the research project East of

Cosmopolis. Petrov's research interests are broad and include problems within political philosophy, medical humanities, cultural history, aesthetics and the philosophy of science.

KARIN SÖDERHOLM LINDELÖF

Ethnology, 9 June 2006 (no. 5)

Thesis: *“If we now are going to be like Europe” – The Creation of Gender and Normality Among Young Women in Poland (Om vi nu ska bli som Europa. Könsskapande och normalitet bland unga kvinnor i transitionens Polen)*

After receiving her doctorate in 2006, Karin S. Lindelöf worked first as a teacher in Gender Studies and at Demos/the European Programme at Södertörn University. She subsequently worked as a consultant on gender equality issues, with investigations for SIDA and the Swedish Transport Administration. In 2010–2012, she held a postdoc position at Stockholm University's Department of Ethnology and, from 2012, she has taught and conducted research at Uppsala University, in both Ethnology and Gender Studies. She is currently Docent/Associate Professor in Gender Studies and has held a permanent position as senior lecturer at the Centre for Gender Research in Uppsala since 2016. Her research interests remain femininities and gender relations, like her doctoral thesis, but now primarily within a Swedish context and in relation to recreational sports and outdoor life.

ANDREJ KOTLJARCHUK

History, 10 June 2006 (no. 6)

Thesis: *In the Shadows of Poland and Russia. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Sweden in the European Crisis of the mid–17th Century*

Andrej Kotljarchuk is currently working as a senior researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History, Södertörn University. His research fo-

cuses on ethnic minorities, experts and memory politics. His most recent publications include the edited anthologies *Sámi Educational History in a Comparative International Perspective* (Palgrave 2019), *Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Stalin's Soviet Union. New Dimensions of Research* (Södertörn Academic Studies, 2017) and the article “State, experts and Roma. Allan Etzler and the pseudo-scientific racism in Sweden”, *Scandinavian Journal of History* (2019)

JOHNNY RODIN

Political Science, 15 September 2006 (no. 7)

Thesis: *Rethinking Russian Federalism: The Politics of Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Reforms at the Turn of the Millennium*

After being awarded his doctorate, Johnny Rodin held various postdoc positions at Södertörn University, focusing on research into discourses of demography, health and parenthood in Russia. During some periods his work also involved teaching and educational projects financed by the university. Johnny Rodin has worked at the Swedish Police Authorities, since 2013, on development issues in continuing and further professional education for staff at a national level.

ARNE EK

Sociology, 22 September 2006 (no. 8)

Thesis: *To Construct an Adaptation to the Only Way (Att konstruera en uppslutning kring den enda vägen. Om folkrörelsers modernisering i skuggan av det östeuropeiska systemskiftet)*

After completing his doctorate, Arne Ek continued to work at Södertörn University as a senior lecturer, mainly in teaching or the administration of undergraduate education. He has focused on starting and developing the subject of Social Work, which is now offered at Södertörn University.



Jolanta Aidukaite 2004 (no. 1)

“I made friends for life and experienced Swedish culture”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– BEEGS offered a multidisciplinary environment, exceptionally good working conditions and excellent supervisors. At BEEGS, I learnt to work independently and as a part of the team. I met wonderful people, made friends for life, experienced Swedish culture and Swedish work ethics.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– Studies of the Baltic Sea region and Central and Eastern Europe have progressed greatly since I was a BEEGS student in 2000-2004. Nevertheless, there is still a lack of knowledge and deeper

understanding regarding many societal processes that are taking place in this part of the world. For instance, in my field of study – social policy, the welfare state – there is a lack of comparative studies focusing on outward migration and its consequences for social policy development in the CEE countries; the ageing population has been an important issue in many CEE countries and is still under-researched; family policy and gender equality issues are important topics that need to be addressed in the CEE. The recent Covid-19 crisis and its consequences for social policy have to be investigated, as well as climate change and its impact on social policy in the Baltic Sea region and Central and Eastern Europe. ●

Piotr Wawrzeniuk 2005 (no. 3)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– I worked at BEEGS during its building-up years of 2000-2005, so I recall a dynamic and growing institution that was separate to the academic schools, a milieu with rich and real international contacts. The sky was the limit :)

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– I believe there has been a backlash towards BEEGS and area studies, the academic schools



are using BEEGS' cash to stuff the holes in their budgets. There has been a tendency towards “studies” in which Sweden and another country in the Baltic region is included in the study when applying, and then the other country somehow gets “lost” in the process, once funding has been obtained.

– I believe these studies suffer due to Södertörn University's monopolisation of funding from the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies – why make an effort? At the same time, there is plenty of talent around the country. The situation is unlikely to change, but the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies should challenge it somehow, and refuse funding. ●

Agnes Ers 2006 (no. 6)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– I was accepted as a doctoral student at BEEGS in 2000, the first year. I remember a feeling that everything was possible, a feeling of freedom from old conservative structures that I had previously experienced at university. But there was also a feeling of insecurity – what was BEEGS going to be about...? I really appreciated the opportunity to discover a whole new country (Romania) through the research I did, and new perspectives and knowledge about



Europe. I also appreciated being in an interdisciplinary, international environment, although it was not always properly appreciated by the university. I took all that with me, and felt strengthened in my identity as an ethnologist and researcher used to discovering and appreciating perspectives from different disciplines. I also took with me the certainty that I could perform fieldwork in extremely varied circumstances, which made me confident.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Don't be afraid to ask senior researchers and others for advice. Participate in seminars. Embrace the opportunity for intellectual exchange. Embrace the opportunity for adventure. ●

AGNES ERS**Ethnology, 27 October 2006 (no. 9)**

Thesis: *In the Name of Humanity: An Ethnological Study of a Swedish Development Aid Project in Romania (I mänsklighetens namn. En etnologisk studie av ett svenskt biståndprojekt i Rumänien)*

Agnes Ers started work as an investigator and evaluator at the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education in 2007. Stationed at the Swedish Agency for Cultural Policy Analysis, Ers primarily worked as an investigator in charge of cultural policy analyses. She currently works as an operational strategist at the Director General's Office at the Swedish Higher Education Authority.

ANDREW STICKLEY**Sociology, 24 November 2006 (no. 10)**

Thesis: *On Interpersonal Violence in Russia in the Present and the Past. A Sociological Study*

After receiving his doctorate, Andrew Stickley worked at the Stockholm Centre for Health and Social Change at Södertörn University, before undertaking a postdoc at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is currently working and conducting research in Japan, both at the University of Tokyo and the National Centre of Neurology and Psychiatry. The main focus of his research is mental health with an emphasis on ADHD, ASD, psychosis and suicidal behaviour.

2007**PETER BÖTKER****Sociology, 19 April 2007 (no. 11)**

Thesis: *Leviathan in the Archipelago: State, Administration, and Society: The Case of Estonia (Leviatan i arkipelagen. Staten, förvaltningen och samhället. Fallet Estland)*

MATILDA DAHL**Business Administration, 25 May 2007 (no. 12)**

Thesis: *States under Scrutiny: International Organizations, Transformation and the Construction of Progress*

After her doctorate, Matilda Dahl was awarded a research grant by Handelsbanken and continued examining issues that focused on how international organisations monitor and rank states. She is currently employed at Uppsala University as assistant professor in Business Administration.

MARGRETHE B. SØVIK**Slavic Languages, 2 June 2007 (no. 13)**

Thesis: *Support, Resistance and Pragmatism: An Examination of Motivation in Language Policy in Kharkiv, Ukraine*

After her doctorate, Margrethe B. Søvik participated in research projects with colleagues from Södertörn University. In August 2012, she started working at the public library in Bergen, Norway, and in 2013 she completed a Master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Borås. This has led her into health sciences, working as a research librarian in an institution where nurses are educated, and to a stay at the Health Sciences Library at the University of Washington in Seattle, US, as a Fulbright scholar, 2017–2018. After returning from the US, she took a new path and is currently working as an international coordinator and research advisor at VID Specialized University in Bergen, Norway.

RENATA INGBRANT**Slavic Languages / Literature, 15 September 2007 (no. 14)**

Thesis: *From Her Point of View: Woman's Anti-World in the Poetry of Anna Swirszczynska*

Renata Ingbrant is currently employed as senior lecturer in the Department of Slavic and Baltic



Renata Ingbrant 2007 (no. 14)

“An inspiring and exciting research environment”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the international community of doctoral students at BEEGS. It was an inspiring and exciting research environment because we specialised in so many different areas, not to mention all social interaction that took place both at the campus and outside, during our study trips, conferences and meetings. Some of us made friends for life and I think many of us still engage in different research projects and maintain professional contact in one way or another, or at least meet occasionally at conferences, in the corridors of different educational institutions and universities or follow one another on social media.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– My research has involved interdisciplinary studies with a focus on gender issues, but as a researcher I have moved within different areas (literature, culture, history, politics) and fields (women's history, masculinity studies or Holocaust studies). This is undoubtedly linked to my previous doctoral education at BEEGS, which encouraged interdisciplinary perspectives. Despite my specialisation I still enjoy and find it enormously valuable to attend conferences and meetings at CBEES and venture into subject areas outside my own.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Remember that the friends you make there may become your research associates in the future. ●

Languages, Finnish, Dutch and German at Stockholm University. She is the author of the monograph *From Her Point of View: Woman's Anti-World in the Poetry of Anna Świrszczyńska* (Stockholm, 2007) and a book on gender issues in Polish culture and politics after 1989, *Kvinnligt och manligt i Polen. Två studier om genus, kultur och politik* [Femininity and Masculinity in Poland. Two studies on Gender, Culture and Politics] (Stockholm, 2013). Her research interests include modern Polish literature and culture, women's studies, cultural and masculinity studies, and Holocaust studies.

YULIA GRADSKOVA

History, 24 September 2007 (no. 15)

Thesis: *Soviet People with Female Bodies. Performing Beauty and Maternity in Soviet Russia in the mid 1930–1960s*

After being awarded her doctorate, Yulia Gradska has worked on several research projects as a postdoctoral researcher at CBEES and as co-researcher for the project on “traveling” gender equality at Stockholm University's Department of History. She is currently associate professor in History and working on a Swedish Research Council project about the Women's International Democratic Federation, based at Stockholm University. She is also a lecturer in Gender Studies at Mid-Sweden University and teaches Gender Studies at Södertörn University.

JOHAN EELLEND

History, 28 September 2007 (no. 16)

Thesis: *Cultivating the Rural Citizen. Modernity, Agrarianism and Citizenship in Late Tsarist Estonia*

After receiving his doctorate, Johan Eellend worked at the Institute of Contemporary History at Södertörn University on a research project that

focused on political populism in the Baltic region, and on security policy on the theme of the emergence of a multipolar security complex in the Baltic region during the interwar period. Eellend is currently a researcher at the Swedish Defence Research Agency.

PETRA GARBERDING

Ethnology, 23 November 2007 (no. 17)

Thesis: *Music and Politics in the Shadow of Nazism: Kurt Atterberg and Swedish-German Musical Relations (Musik och politik i skuggan av nazismen. Kurt Atterberg och de svensk-tyska musikrelationerna)*

After receiving her doctorate, Petra Garberding was funded by the Swedish Research Council for postdoctoral work on the project “Scholarship and politics: Connections between Swedish and German ethnology and folklore 1930–1960”, based at Uppsala University, 2009–2011. This project resulted in Garberding publishing several articles in Swedish, German and English, and a monograph in Swedish. Her research focuses on the relationship between politics and the scholarship of Folklife Studies/Ethnology, that is, how knowledge is produced and influenced by the political environment in different national and international contexts. Since 2011, she has been employed as a lecturer in European Ethnology at the Institute for History and Contemporary Studies at Södertörn University, and is also responsible for the European Programme.

ALEKSEI SEMENENKO

Slavic Languages, 15 December 2007 (no. 18)

Thesis: *Hamlet the Sign: Russian Translations of Hamlet and Literary Canon Formation*

After being awarded his doctorate, Aleksei Semenenko participated in two research projects, “Avant-garde Critic and Engineer Ivan Aksenov

(1884–1935)” and “Textuality of culture: Yuri Lotman's semiotic theory in the interdisciplinary research”, both at Södertörn University. From 2010–2012, Semenenko was involved in post-doctoral research on the project, “The Power of Myth: Mikhail Zhvanetskii's Texts as a Guide to Soviet Reality” at Stockholm University. He is currently finishing the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies-funded project, “Yuri Lotman's Semiotic Theory in the Study of Cognition” and is associate professor in Russian at Umeå University.

VYTAUTAS PETRONIS

History, 21 December 2007 (no. 19)

Thesis: *Constructing Lithuania. Ethnic Mapping in Tsarist Russia, ca. 1800–1914*

After receiving his doctorate, Vytautas Petronis was employed as an ESRC postdoctoral fellow in Central and East European Studies at the University of Glasgow. Petronis then moved on to work as a DFG postdoctoral researcher at the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, at the Institute of the Leibniz Association in Marburg, Germany. He has worked as a researcher at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius since 2013, and is also editor-in-chief of an English-language academic journal “Lithuanian Historical Studies”.

2008

AKVILE MOTIEJUNAITE

Sociology, 7 March 2008 (no. 20)

Thesis: *Female Employment, Gender Roles, and Attitudes: The Baltic Countries in a Broader Context*

On completing her doctorate, Akvile Motiejunaite started work as an analyst for the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. She studies

education systems and provides European-level comparative information for evidence-based policy making. She coordinates all reports and inquiries related to early childhood education and care. Akvile has co-authored numerous reports on general education topics, including reading literacy, teaching languages, mathematics, science education, teachers, gender differences in educational outcomes, situation of young people in Europe, etc.

TOVE LINDÉN

Political Science, 21 April 2008 (no. 21)

Thesis: *Explaining Civil Society Core Activism in Post-Soviet Latvia*

Tove Lindén has combined her education in journalism with her doctorate in political psychology to pursue her own business. She combines research projects, investigative journalism, and analyst consulting with work as an educator and therapist. Her research initially focused on the Soviet Union, post-Soviet Russia and the Baltic States from a combined political, financial, sociological and behavioural perspective. Her dissertation focused on civil society core activism in post-Soviet Latvia and the role of gender, positive role-models, self-confidence and having the knowledge of how to organise activity and change. These results later lay the ground for her work as a therapist and coach. Her current research focus on violence in close relationships with an inter-perspective approach: how the perpetrator structures violence; how violence effects the survivor's psychological and physical health; and the most efficient treatment methods. She also studies alternative sexual identity, explaining different BDSM practices as a combination of coping mechanisms.



Egle Rindzeviciute 2008 (no. 27)

“I remember my studies as a time of multidisciplinary learning”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– I remember my studies at BEEGS as a time of multidisciplinary learning, attending seminars that ranged from the philosophy of science to linguistics and economic history, vivid intellectual exchanges with fellow BEEGS doctoral students, enriching expeditions to Baltic and East European cities, such as Vilnius, Moscow, Helsinki, and Lviv – these are just a few places among many others. What I took from this experience are lasting friendships and love for Sweden.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– One of the most exciting developments in East European area studies is the “globalisation turn”. Researchers have begun to treat East European

developments as a genuinely integral part of global history. The explorations of East-East relations and the links between the state socialist countries and the global south have brought significant new insights into the complex configurations of power and the social, going beyond the nation-centred frame that dominated much of the earlier research. In addition to this, environmental humanities is another extremely important addition to area studies that speaks directly to the concerns of the present.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– My advice would be: aim to finish your thesis on time, keep writing from day one, develop your national and international networks by attending summer schools, conferences and workshops and, last but not least, enjoy, as this is a fabulous opportunity to develop your own original research. ●

ZHANNA KRAVCHENKO
Sociology, 20 May 2008 (no. 22)

Thesis: *Family (versus) Policy. Combining Work and Care in Russia and Sweden*

Zhanna Kravchenko completed a postdoctoral project at Lund University’s School of Social Work (2009-2012) and a research project on transition to adulthood supported by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies (2009-2015). Since 2013, Kravchenko has worked as a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Uppsala University, teaching courses in sociology, social policy and social work at undergraduate level. She also participates in several research projects at Södertörn University, including the project “The impact of civil society organisations on the educational achievements of young people in marginalised urban areas of Stockholm and St Petersburg”, financed by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies. She is currently project leader for the project “Supporting democracy and human rights in illiberal regimes – a case study of a ‘closing space’ for civil society in Russia”, financed by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies. Kravchenko’s research interests include sociological theory, comparative methodology, social policies (including housing and education), transition to adulthood, civil society, and social mobilisation. She has been associate professor in Sociology at the School of Social Sciences at Södertörn University since 2016.

PELLE ÅBERG
Political Science, 30 May 2008 (no. 23)

Thesis: *Translating Popular Education: Civil Society Cooperation between Sweden and Estonia*

Since receiving his doctorate, Pelle Åberg has worked at Ersta Sköndal University College in

Stockholm, as part of a multidisciplinary research group focusing on the study of civil society and voluntary work. In 2015, he was appointed associate professor at Ersta Sköndal University College, but continued teaching and participating in research projects at Södertörn University and Lund university. He has worked on research projects about Swedish popular education, civil society engagement with the EU, and discourses on fatherhood in Russia, among other things. Most recently, he has worked on a research project focusing on Swedish thinktanks, and is now starting a new project that dealing with rural civil societies.

ANDERS NORDSTRÖM
Political Science, 3 June 2008 (no. 24)

Thesis: *The Interactive Dynamics of Regulation. Exploring the Council of Europe’s Monitoring of Ukraine*

After receiving his doctorate, Anders Nordström stayed on at Södertörn University working on research projects and held a postdoc position at CBEES. He continued and expanded the same research theme and was involved in several multidisciplinary projects. He studied the inter-municipal cooperation in the Baltic Sea region as a partially organised area, European monitoring in the South Caucasus as a form of institutionalised cosmopolitanism and emerging forms of external auditing of the Swedish police after the latest police reform. He has been active in Police Education at Södertörn University since 2015, and is currently working full time with teaching and organising police work as an academic subject, including the development of a research environment.



Rein Jürjado 2008 (no. 26)

“Being part of BEEGS broadened my perspectives”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– From a professional point of view, I recall that the interdisciplinary seminars at BEEGS were both a challenge and a revelation. Prior to BEEGS, I had not experienced such a variety of academic disciplines in a single setting. Not surprisingly, it showed that linguists, sociologists and historians have very different views on what kind of research methods could be applied, for example. Being part of BEEGS, as diverse a group as it is, certainly broadened my perspectives on my own field of research.

– From a more personal point of view, most of

the foreign doctoral students lived in Flemingsberg during our first years at BEEGS. This meant that we met up in the evenings for board games and even took some daytrips at the weekends. I have stayed in touch with some of my fellow doctoral students from the BEEGS years.

What did you do after receiving your doctorate and what is your current occupation?

– After getting my PhD, I started a postdoc position in Uppsala, but got an offer to work in Brussels shortly after that. I decided to take this unique opportunity, moved to Belgium and worked for a number of years with transport research at the European Commission. In 2012, I returned to Stockholm and joined Sweden’s innovation agency,

Vinnova. About four years ago, I switched to the Swedish Transport Administration, where I now work as chief strategist in the field of research and innovation.

– Even though I did not remain in academia, I still work with research and innovation. The Swedish Transport Administration provides funding to research projects in a wide range of topics, from traffic modelling to self-driving vehicles. I have discussions with researchers, innovative companies and public authorities on emerging trends and possible new projects on a regular basis. The transport sector is undergoing a transition to the digital era and it is exciting to take part in this process.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– The life of a doctoral student can be both rewarding and intimidating: there will be moments of feeling lost and alone, as well as those of joy and achievement. Doing a PhD requires a considerable amount of self-discipline and long-term determination, so genuine interest in your research topic makes it easier to stay on track. It is also about perspective: doctoral students have four years of a reasonably flexible and free life, without too many deadlines, and they can spend most of their time studying a subject that is of great interest to them. Having a positive attitude helps you get through the difficult times.

– I guess most doctoral students also find that they become highly specialised in their field of research, which could make it harder to receive detailed comments from their peers. So, one piece of advice would be to build a network of fellow doctoral students and other researchers with whom you can discuss, share drafts and perhaps even collaborate on journal articles.

A specific piece of advice to the non-Swedish doctoral students is to learn as much Swedish as you can. It will help you integrate better in society and increase your chances of finding employment in Sweden after your studies. ●

Jenny Svensson 2009 (no. 31)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– Mostly positive memories come to mind: new colleagues who became friends, challenging theoretical and methodological discussions, new ideas and perspectives etc.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Have fun! Which means, taking the time to be social and choosing courses, conferences and the like that you really want to attend (rather than ones you “should” or “ought to”).



Carl Cederberg 2010 (no. 35)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– We were a fun group of doctoral students, brought together by the strange notion of area studies. The bonds between us were more social than scientific in character.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Enjoy these years – it is an extreme luxury to be allowed to pursue a research project so thoroughly.



FREDRIK DOESER**Political Science, 10 June 2008 (no. 25)****Thesis:** *In Search of Security after the Collapse of the Soviet Union: Foreign Policy Change in Denmark, Finland and Sweden, 1988–1993*

After completing his doctorate, Fredrik Doeser has worked as a lecturer in Political Science at Södertörn University (2008-2012) and as a lecturer in International Relations at Stockholm University (2012-2014). Between 2010-2014, he also worked as a researcher at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs. Since then, he has been associate professor in War Studies at the Swedish Defence University. Currently, his main research interest is in the relationship between culture and foreign policy.

REIN JÜRIADO**Business Administration, 11 June 2008 (no. 26)****Thesis:** *Learning Within and Between Public-Private Partnerships*

Rein Jüriado joined the University of Agricultural Sciences as a postdoctoral researcher, but left to work at the European Commission's Directorate General for Mobility and Transport. In 2012, he started work at VINNOVA, the Swedish innovation agency, as a programme manager in the Division of Societal Development – Transport, Environment and Regions. About four years ago, he switched to the Swedish Transport Administration, where he is currently working as chief strategist in the field of research and innovation. Rein has also been the chair of the Estonian Choir in Stockholm and a member of the Estonian Swedish Chamber of Commerce.

EGLE RINDZEVICIUTE**Studies of Social Change and Culture, 29 August 2008 (no. 27)****Thesis:** *Constructing Soviet Cultural Policy: Cybernetics and Governance in Lithuania after World War II*

Since receiving her doctoral degree, Egle Rindzeviciute has taught cultural policy at De Montfort University in Leicester (UK) and has completed postdoctoral research into the history of national museums in the Baltic States at Tema Q, Linköping University (2008-2011). In 2009-2012, Rindzeviciute received a BROWALD scholarship and was affiliated as a researcher at Gothenburg Research Institute (GRI), University of Gothenburg. In 2012, Rindzeviciute was awarded the title of Associate Professor (Docent) in Culture Studies by Linköping University. Rindzeviciute was appointed *chargée de recherche* at Centre d'études européennes at Sciences Po in Paris, where she was a member of the Futurepol project, funded by the European Research Council (2012-2015). Since 2015 she has taken up a position as a lecturer and later associate professor, in Criminology and Sociology at Kingston University. Rindzeviciute is also an associate editor of *Culture Unbound*, an international, open access peer-reviewed academic journal that promotes novel, interdisciplinary cultural research in Sweden.

JOAKIM PHILIPSON**Slavic Languages, 5 December 2008 (no. 28)****Thesis:** *The Purpose of Evolution: "Struggle for Existence" in the Russian Jewish Press 1860–1900*

Joakim Philipson began work as a librarian at the National Library of Sweden in 2008, at the department of Foreign Literature. In 2013, Philipson was named a meta-data librarian, respon-

sible for meta-data specifications, xml-schema, XSLT, contacts with developers and deliverers, and digital preservation. Since October 2016 he has been working as a research data analyst at Stockholm University Library, advising researchers and curating/managing their research data. For the last three years (2018–2020), he has given a lecture on the History of Science in Russia at a course run by the Department of Slavic and Baltic Studies, Stockholm University. His lecture builds upon previous work in his thesis from BEEGS.

2009**SOFIE BEDFORD****Political Science, 27 February 2009 (no. 29)****Thesis:** *Islamic Activism in Azerbaijan: Repression and Mobilization in a Post-Soviet Context*

After obtaining her doctorate on Islamic activism in Azerbaijan, Sofie Bedford continued empirical and theoretical research that overlapped with her thesis work, first as a postdoc and then as a researcher at the Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala University. Her main research project, funded by the Swedish Research Council, problematised the concept and phenomenon of 'opposition' in authoritarian states, focusing on Azerbaijan and Belarus. At the same time, she was contributing to another project related to threat perceptions and the protracted conflicts in South Caucasus. Thanks to the projects, she had the opportunity to work as a visiting researcher at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, as well as the Institute for Humanities (IWM) in Vienna. She is currently teaching East European Studies at the Department of Political Science, Vienna University and writing a book about opposition in post-Soviet authoritarian states.

TOMMY LARSSON**Seegerlind Business Administration, 29 May 2009 (no. 30)****Thesis:** *Team Entrepreneurship: A Process Analysis of the Venture Team and the Venture Team Roles in Relation to the Innovation Process*

After being awarded his doctorate in 2009, Tommy Larsson Seegerlind worked as a lecturer in Business Administration at Södertörn University. He has also held positions such as subject coordinator, deputy head of school, head of department. He is currently programme coordinator for the multidisciplinary Bachelor's in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Markets. He still works as a lecturer on several courses at all levels, and is assistant supervisor for a doctoral student at BEEGS. His research is still mainly related to the same topics as his thesis – team entrepreneurship and management of innovation.

JENNY SVENSSON**Business Administration, 5 June 2009 (no. 31)****Thesis:** *The Regulation of Rule Following. Imitation and Soft Regulation in the European Union*

Until recently, Jenny Svensson worked in Business Administration and Management at Södertörn University. She started out in a postdoctoral position and has worked as a lecturer since 2015. Svensson has been teaching and researching within broadly the same area as her doctoral thesis: public administration and governance. She is currently conducting research on cultural policy and cultural policy change, as well as the challenges currently facing the Swedish school sector. She also works as a performance auditor for Region Stockholm.

CHARLOTTA HILLERDAL**Archaeology, 4 December 2009 (no. 32)****Thesis:** *People in Between. Ethnicity and Material Identity, a New Approach to Deconstructed Concepts*

During her doctoral studies, Charlotta Hillerdal worked as a field archaeologist in Alberta, Canada. In 2010, Hillerdal was appointed to the position of lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Aberdeen's School of Geosciences.

MAKIKO KANEMATSU**Ethnology, 11 December 2009 (no. 33)****Thesis:** *Fairytales and Reality: Production of Children's Books in Post-Soviet Latvia (Saga och verklighet. Bamboksproduktion i det postsovetjetiska Lettland)*

After being awarded her doctorate and completing a course in archival science, Makiko Kanematsu has worked as an archivist for several organisations and authorities on a temporary basis. She is currently employed as an archivist and registrar at Karolinska Institutet.

2010**DANIEL LINDVALL****Sociology, 15 January 2010 (no. 34)****Thesis:** *The Limits of the European Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina. An Analysis of the Police Reform Negotiations*

After receiving his doctorate, Daniel Lindvall was employed by the Government Offices of Sweden. In 2013, he became deputy director at the Ministry of Justice, in charge of the drafting process of the government communication on democratic policy and the action plan on preventing violent extremism. From 2014 to 2016, he worked as the principal inquiry secretary for the

Democracy Commission and was subsequently the principal inquiry secretary for the government inquiry tasked with presenting new legislation to regulate public funding for faith communities, and the inquiry on public funding for civil society organisations (SOU 2019:39). In 2019 he worked on a research project at Chalmers on climate denial. In 2020, he started work as the principal inquiry secretary for the national Campaign for Media Literacy.

CARL CEDERBERG**Philosophy, 18 December 2010 (no. 35)****Thesis:** *Resaying the Human. Levinas Beyond Humanism and Anti-humanism*

Carl Cederberg is a lecturer and associate professor at the Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge at Södertörn University. He has worked on a research project funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies called "Narratives of Europe".

2011**BARBARA KUNZ****Political Science, 14 January 2011 (no. 36)****Thesis:** *Kind Words, Cruise Missiles and Everything In Between. A Neoclassical Realist Study of the Use of Power Resources in U.S. policies towards Poland, Ukraine and Belarus 1989–2008*

Barbara Kunz is currently a senior researcher at the University of Hamburg after four years as research fellow with the French Institute of International Affairs in Paris, where she works on Franco-German relations and, more specifically, on France and Germany within the European security architecture. This includes France and Germany and the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, as well as NATO. Moreover,

Kunz works on Nordic security, closely following, notably, the Swedish debate and developments in the Baltic Sea region. Finally, the Weimar Triangle (France, Germany and Poland) is important to Kunz's work, as well as current Russian foreign policy and its repercussions on European security.

ANDERS BARTONEK**Philosophy, 21 January 2011 (no. 37)****Thesis:** *Subjunctive Philosophy. Nonidentity as the Place for the Possibility of the Utopian in the Negative Dialectics of Theodor W. Adorno (Philosophie im Konjunktiv. Nichtidentität als Ort der Möglichkeit des Utopischen in der negativen Dialektik Theodor W. Adornos)*

Anders Bartonek has worked at Södertörn University since 2011, teaching courses in Philosophy and on both the Teacher Education Programme and the European Programme. Bartonek worked on the research project, "Hegelian Marxism" (with Anders Burman) from the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

SOFI GERBER,**Ethnology, 11 March 2011 (no. 38)****Thesis:** *East is West but West is Best. East German Identity Formation in Unified Germany (Öst är Väst men Väst är bäst. Östtysk identitetsformering i det förenade Tyskland)*

After receiving her doctorate in 2011, Sofi Gerber taught at Södertörn university, mainly on the Bachelor's level European Programme, which she also coordinated for a year. In 2012, she had the opportunity to work in the EU Baltic Sea Region project, BERAS Implementation. The project's aim was to reduce eutrophication of the Baltic Sea by recirculating nutrients in agriculture and changing food habits in the Baltic Sea countries. Since then, she has continued to work with sustainability in relation to food and agriculture.

She currently works with research, education and development at Skillebyholm educational centre in Järna, Sweden. Among other things, she conducts research into tacit knowledge among organic/biodynamic farmers and coordinates a project called "2000m² Baltic – Co-creating Food Culture and Innovation" with partners in Poland, Estonia and Sweden.

SUSANNA SJÖDIN LINDENSKOUG**History, 20 May 2011 (no. 39)****Thesis:** *The Outer Border of Masculinity. Trials for Bestiality in Livonia, 1685–1709 (Manlighetens bortre gräns. Tidlagsrättegångar i Livland åren 1685–1709)*

Susanna Lindenskough has worked as a project manager at the Swedish Higher Education Authority and is currently senior research officer at the Swedish Defence Research Agency.

DOMINIKA V. POLANSKA**Sociology, 20 May 2011 (no. 40)****Thesis:** *The Emergence of Enclaves of Wealth and Poverty. A Sociological Study of Residential Differentiation in Post-communist Poland*

After receiving her doctorate, Dominika Polanska began a two-year postdoctoral position at CBEES, working for a year at the University of Gothenburg in a research project. Polanska has worked as a research fellow at the Institute for Housing and Urban Research in Uppsala and has recently been appointed to a position at Södertörn University. Her research interests encompass urban social movements, extra-parliamentary activism, radicalism, squatting, informal organisation, and non-traditional forms of civic engagement.



Dominika V. Polanska 2011 (no. 40)

“It was fantastic to be part of the BEEGS collective”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– It was fantastic to become part of the BEEGS collective, and that welcoming feeling that came from the administrators who worked like spiders in a web and had the answers to all our questions. I am particularly thinking of Lena Arvidson, Nina Cajhamre and Ewa Rogström.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– It depends on what research field we are talking about. If it is studies in the Baltic Sea region, I think it has evolved since I first became a

doctoral student. For instance, my thesis revolved around what was then a rather “new” phenomenon in CEE countries – gated communities – and I am sure that research dealing with gated communities in the area has since developed significantly.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Enjoy your time as a doctoral researcher and take this fantastic opportunity to learn something about the world outside and inside academia. Don't forget that there is life outside of work and after your doctorate! ●

Barbara Kunz 2011 (no. 36)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– What was most rewarding to me at BEEGS was gaining insights into the Baltic Sea region and more broadly Central and Eastern Europe. I am also very grateful for the thorough methodological training I went through, even though that what hard for me, as I came from a school where all the focus was on empirical knowledge. As a non-Swede, I also discovered Sweden and Northern Europe -- and I became fluent in Swedish, which is something I would not want to miss.



Steffen Werther 2012 (no. 44)

– A week after my disputation I made a long trip to Indonesia for leisure, but I was invited to join a research application and ended up writing my part in a bungalow on Java. The Swedish Research Council financed the project, on the Moral Economy of Famine Relief, and I continued working as researcher and lecturer at Södertörn University. Afterwards, other research applications were also successful, so this is what I have been doing ever since. Despite some hardships, I have the privilege of doing work that I love (at least most of the time). I have recently spent some periods as a guest researcher in other countries, but I never considered leaving Sweden for good, as it has become my Heimat, and that of my children, in the best meaning of this German word. ●



Linus Andersson 2012 (no. 48)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– My main impression is that BEEGS was a generous and diverse, multidisciplinary research environment. I remember the social events: backgammon nights, academic Friday wine, Christmas parties and field trips, spontaneously arranged reading groups. I also recall two-hour lunches engaged in discussions about research, politics, and culture. I remember a supportive staff of administrators who always had the doctoral students' best interests in mind. In 2006 there was a pioneering spirit, and the doctoral students participated in building the research environment. I visited tons of doctoral defences, and ate a considerable amount of cake.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– First of all, understand that you are part of what makes up the research environment and that your contribution to it is as important as anyone else's. Doing a PhD is a process that involves periods of doubt and loss of confidence, so it is important to remember that you are an asset to the environment. Secondly, accept that multidisciplinary work can be time-consuming and sometimes challenging. But it is rewarding as well, at BEEGS you will meet colleagues and make friends that you probably would not meet at a homogeneous uni-discipline department. Finally, have fun and enjoy the benefits of a fully funded doctorate at one of Sweden's most vibrant universities. ●

EMELIE LILLIEFELDT

Political Science, 9 December 2011 (no. 41)

Thesis: *European Party Politics and Gender. Configuring Gender Balanced Parliamentary Presence*

Political Science graduate Emelie Lilliefeldt currently works as an investigator at Saco, the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations, where she is responsible for education and research issues.

ANDREAS JOHANSSON

Political Science, 15 December 2011 (no. 42)

Thesis: *Dissenting Democrats. Nation and Democracy in the Republic of Moldova*

In 2011 Johansson started to work at Sida's Eastern Europe Unit and defended his doctoral thesis later the same year. His thesis has been translated into Romanian. In addition to a strong geographical focus on Eastern Europe, Johansson has worked for more than six years at the Swedish Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He is currently employed as senior advisor at the Asia Unit, Sida, Stockholm.

OLA SVENONIUS

Political Science, 16 December 2011 (no. 43)

Thesis: *Sensitising Urban Transport Security. Surveillance and Policing in Berlin, Stockholm, and Warsaw*

After receiving his doctorate, Ola Svenonius remained at Södertörn University as a researcher, and has been coordinating the research project, "Like fish in water: Surveillance in post-communist societies", funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies. After a postdoc position at Stockholm University, he has been employed as a senior researcher at the Swedish Defence Research Agency.

2012

STEFFEN WERTHER

History, 17 February 2012 (no. 44)

Thesis: *SS Visions and Borderland Realities. The Fate of the "Greater Germanic" Ideology in South Jutland, (SS-Vision und Grenzland-Realität – Vom Umgang dänischer und „volksdeutscher" Nationalsozialisten in Sønderjylland mit der „großgermanischen" Ideologie der SS)*

Steffen Werther currently works as a senior lecturer at Södertörn University's School of Contemporary History and has been involved as a researcher in the project, "The Moral Economy of Global Civil Society: A History of Private Transnational Food Aid", funded by the Swedish Research Council. Werther has also published on environmentalism within the contemporary German far right and on SS-veteran organisations' memory work in the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe after 1990. He has been involved in the research project "Police, Experts and Race – Handling the 'Gypsy Plague' in Denmark, Sweden and Latvia 1930–1945" since 2016, studying "Danish 'Gypsy Experts' 1920–1950 – A Sonderweg?"

ANNA TESSMANN

Study of Religions, 16 May 2012 (no. 45)

Thesis: *On the Good Faith. A Fourfold Discursive Construction of Zoroastrianism in Contemporary Russia*

Since 2012, Anna Tessmann has worked as a lecturer at the Institute for Islamic Studies at Heidelberg University, where she has been responsible for courses in Persian language and various seminars in History of Religions in Iran. In 2015, she collaborated with Michael Stausberg and Yuhan. S.-D. Vevaina on the Wiley-Blackwell *Companion to the Study of Zoroastrianism*. She

has been a postdoctoral researcher in the international project on "New Religious Cultures in late Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia" based at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz since 2018. Within this project, she also founded the New Age in Russia blog, dedicated to research on esoteric movements in Russia since the 1960s.

KRISTIN ILVES

Archaeology, 25 May 2012 (no. 46)

Thesis: *Seaward Landward. Investigations on the Archaeological Source Value of the Landing Site Category in the Baltic Sea Region*

After receiving her doctorate in 2012, Kristin Ilves spent a year as a lecturer in archaeology at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Thereafter, she worked for five years as an antiquarian at the Cultural History Museum on the island of Åland. She then moved to Norway where she had "one of the most creative and fun jobs ever", working with archaeological film within development-led archaeology at the University Museum of Bergen. In 2018, she received a tenure-track professorship in maritime archaeology at the University of Helsinki, and therefore sees her academic future as tightly bound with the city of Helsinki in Finland.

ANNE KAUN

Media and Communication Studies,

1 June 2012 (no. 47)

Thesis: *Civic Experiences and Public Connection. Media and Young People in Estonia*

After receiving her doctorate, Anne Kaun worked as research fellow in Media and Communication Studies at Södertörn University. After seven months, she received a VR international postdoc grant and moved to the US, more specifically Philadelphia, to work on a project on media practices within protest movements. Since returning to Sweden in January 2015, Kaun has held a lec-

tuership in Media and Communication Studies at Södertörn University and continues to research and teach on questions of democracy and media technologies. Anne Kaun has also been director of studies at BEEGS.

LINUS ANDERSSON

Media and Communication Studies,

5 October 2012 (no. 48)

Thesis: *Alternative Television: Forms of Critique in Television Produced by Artists (Alternativ television. Former av kritik i konstnärlig TV-produktion)*

Immediately after completing his doctorate, Linus Andersson started working for the Swedish Media Council on a report that came out in 2013, "Pro-violent and Anti-democratic Messages on the Internet". At the same time, Andersson remained at Södertörn University to teach Media and Communication Studies. In 2014, Andersson also started teaching at Konstfack University College of Crafts and Design, where he taught Media and Visual Communication. In July 2015, Andersson started his current position as lecturer in Media and Communication Studies, at Halmstad University.

2013

FREDRIK STIERNSTEDT

Media and Communication Studies,

18 January 2013 (no. 49)

Thesis: *From Radio Factory to Media House (Från radiofabrik till mediehus. Medieförändring och medieproduktion på MTG-radio)*

After being awarded his doctorate, Fredrik Stiernstedt received a lectureship in Media and Communication Studies at Jönköping University, where he worked 2013-2015. As of September 2015, Fredrik is again at Södertörn University, as a lecturer in Media and Communication Studies. In addition to teaching, Stiernstedt leads two research

projects: one on the practice and practitioners of media industries (financed by FORTE 2015-2018), and one on social class and media (financed by the Swedish Research Council 2015-2018).

ELISABETH HEMBY

Art History, 1 March 2013 (no. 50)

Thesis: *History Painting and Pictures from Everyday Life. The Artistry of Tatyana Nazarenko in the Soviet Union during the 1970s (Historiemåleri och bilder av vardag. Tatjana Nazarenkos konstnärskap i 1970-talets Sovjet)*

Elisabeth Hemby continues conducting research, maintaining contact with the Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies, and applying for funding for further projects. She also cultivates contact with museums, and her doctoral thesis was particularly relevant to a recent exhibition at Sweden's Nationalmuseum. Hemby participated in the CBEES' 2014 annual conference (*Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe: A new generation on the move*), with the presentation, "Stories of Kinship. Tatyana Nazarenko and the Image of Loss and Memory."

TANYA JUJKALA

Sociology, 12 April 2013 (no. 51)

Thesis: *Suicide in Russia. A Macro-sociological Study*

After receiving her doctorate, Tanya Jukkala had research funding from the SCOHOST project, "Health and population developments in Eastern Europe in the conditions of economic crisis" and taught Sociology at Södertörn University. From 2014 to 2015, Jukkala worked as a lecturer in Social Psychology at the University of Skövde. Recently, she has worked on a large multidisciplinary research project on marginalised areas in Stockholm, funded by the Knowledge Foundation, with a focus on meeting places, social capital and wellbeing. In her cur-

rent research project, based at Södertörn University and funded by the Swedish Research Council, she is studying young women's experiences of living in marginalised areas in Stockholm with the aim of understanding how more equal and sustainable cities can be built. She is also currently involved in an international survey about stress and coping with stress during the coronavirus pandemic, which includes countries such as Sweden, Bulgaria, China and Brazil.

BEATE FELDMANN EELLEND

Ethnology, 24 May 2013 (no. 52)

Thesis: *Visionary Plans and Everyday Practices. Post-military Landscape in the Baltic Sea Area (Visionära planer och vardagliga praktiker. Post-militära landskap i Östersjöområdet)*

Beate Feldman Eellend has worked as a research administrator for Formas Research Council and is currently a handling officer at the National Library of Sweden, responsible for issues concerning publishing and Open Access.

NIKOLAY ZAKHAROV

Sociology, 14 June 2013 (no. 53)

Thesis: *Attaining Whiteness. A Sociological Study of Race and Racialization in Russia*

After receiving his doctorate in 2013, Nikolay Zakharov has published the highly acclaimed book *Race and Racism in Russia* (2015), followed by *Post-Soviet Racisms* (2017, with Ian Law). In 2017, he joined the Department of Social Sciences at Södertörn University on a tenured position as a senior lecturer in Sociology. He currently leads two research projects: on anti-racism in Brazil, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (financed by Swedish Research Council), and on religion and nation-building in Belarus (financed by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies)

Anna Kharkina 2013 (no. 54)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– BEEGS was an island, where those who were interested in studying Baltic region could find support and build a research community. I found both teachers and students highly dedicated to area studies. It was also a place where we could speak so many languages, a real international place for young researchers.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– I was researching the Nordic and Nordic-Baltic cultural cooperation. Not so much has been written in this field since, but I know that my thesis provided inspiration for several related studies in art history and gender studies. ●



Fredrik Jörgensen, 2014 (no. 57)

– My firm has two lawyers and is expanding. The research I did on law and economics and legal sociology has given me a far greater understanding of how law works. I am the only PhD in Business Administration that I know how who regularly litigates in Sweden.



– I miss research somewhat, and will launch my thesis "The Law Businessman" in Swedish. I will present my thesis online, in videos. I think all researchers should make an online resume of their doctoral research online – it would be more personal and accessible than in writing. It surprises me that not every researcher makes a clip online about their publications to make them more accessible to everyone. ●

Anna Danielsson 2014 (no. 58)

What do you remember from your time as BEEGS-student? What did you take with you from that experience?

– A great and rewarding international and multidisciplinary environment. Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– I would advise them to simply spend time at BEEGS, go to the seminars, and try to find a good balance between being involved in BEEGS and in your 'home' department. ●



ANNA KHARKINA**History, 23 September 2013 (no. 54)****Thesis:** *From Kinship to Global Brand: The Discourse on Culture in Nordic Cooperation after World War II*

After her doctorate, Anna Kharkina chose to complement her academic background with a vocational education in Archival Science at Stockholm University. She is currently working as an archivist and records manager.

FLORENCE FRÖHLIG**Ethnology, 27 September 2013 (no. 55)****Thesis:** *A Painful Legacy of World War II: Nazi Forced Enlistment: Alsatian/Mosellan Prisoners of War and the Soviet Prison Camp of Tambov*

After her thesis and a couple of years devoted to teaching, Florence Fröhlig has held postdoctoral positions, one on the NORFACE research programme about the future of welfare states in a transnational Europe (TRANSWEL) and the second in the research project “Nuclear Legacies: Negotiating radioactivity in France, Russia, and Sweden”. She is currently working in the “Atomic Heritage Goes Critical” research project. She has also been involved with the development of Romani Studies at Södertörn University and administrates the RJ research programme “Romani Language Repertoires in an Open World”. She is currently director of studies at BEEGS.

2014**ANNA MCWILLIAMS****Archaeology, 10 January 2014 (no. 56)****Thesis:** *An Archaeology of the Iron Curtain: Material and Metaphor*

Anna McWilliams has worked as a consultant and researcher for the Swedish Maritime Museums

and the county councils of Stockholm and Blekinge, amongst others. She has also carried out research on two submarine wrecks from World War II in the Sea of Åland, funded by a research grant from the Government of Åland. The results of this project are presented in the book, *Stalins ubåtar: En arkeologisk undersökning av vraken efter S7 och SC-305* [Stalin's Submarines: An Archaeological Investigation of the Wrecks of S7 and SC-305], published by Södertörn University in September 2015.

FREDRIK JÖRGENSEN**Business Administration,****24 January 2014 (no. 57)****Thesis:** *The Law Businessman™: Five Essays on Legal Self-efficacy and Business Risk*

Fredrik Jörgensen works as a business and legal consultant and runs currently his own law firm, *Ekonomie Doktor Fredrik Jörgensen Rättsakuten AB*, in Stockholm. He mostly litigates business law for domestic and international clients.

ANNA DANIELSSON**Political Science, 30 January 2014 (no. 58)****Thesis:** *On the Power of Informal Economies and the Informal Economies of Power: Rethinking Informality, Resilience and Violence in Kosovo*

After receiving her doctorate, Anna Danielson remained at Södertörn University to teach. In late 2014 and early 2015, Danielson worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Tübingen, Germany. Danielson received a three-year postdoctoral position at the Department of Political Science at Uppsala University, financed by the Swedish Research Council. As part of the project, she spent two years in Aberystwyth, UK, and one year in Uppsala working on the epistemic conditions of peacebuilding. Danielson is currently an assistant professor in war studies at the Swedish Defence University.

CARINA GUYARD**Media and Communication Studies,****14 February 2014 (no. 59)****Thesis:** *Communication Work from a Distance (Kommunikationsarbete på distans)*

Carina Guyard received her doctorate in 2014, and has taught Media and Communication Studies at Södertörn University, where she is currently employed as senior lecturer.

MARKUS HUSS**Literature, 9 May 2014 (no. 60)****Thesis:** *The Acoustics of Resistance: On Language and Noise in the Works of Peter Weiss 1946–1960 (Motståndets akustik. Språk och (o)ljud hos Peter Weiss 1946–1960)*

After being awarded his doctorate in 2014, Markus Huss worked as a research coordinator and lecturer at Södertörn University. After six months as visiting lecturer in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Massachusetts, US, in the spring of 2017, followed by four months as lecturer in Comparative Literature at Karlstad University, in 2018 he was employed as assistant professor in German literature at Stockholm University's Department of Slavic and Baltic Studies, Finnish, Dutch and German. He is chair of the Scholarly Advisory Council for the *Baltic Worlds* journal.

ERIK LÖFMARCK**Sociology, 5 June 2014 (no. 61)****Thesis:** *The Hand that Feeds. A Study of Risk, Food and Motherhood in Sweden and Poland (Den hand som föder dig. En studie av risk, mat och moderskap i Sverige och Polen)*

After his doctorate, Erik Löfmarck has continued his research about risk and uncertainty in different realms of society, first as a postdoc and currently as associate professor and head of division at Örebro

University. This position, and a general longing for less stress, took his family to Nora, a picturesque town north of Örebro, where, according to Erik, you find the best ice cream in Sweden.

ERIKA LUNDELL**Ethnology, 10 June 2014 (no. 62)****Thesis:** *Embodied Fiction and Fictionalized Bodies. Live Action Role-playing in the Baltic Sea Region (Förkroppsligad fiktion och fiktioniserade kroppar – levande rollspel i Östersjöregionen)*

After receiving her doctorate, Erika Lundell has taught Gender Studies and Ethnology at Södertörn University and Linneaus University. She has also been involved in evaluating courses and teaching at the Department of Design at Linneaus University. She is currently working as a lecturer at Malmö University's Department of Childhood, Education and Society. Her current research project focuses on play-based education and conditions for play in a/symmetrical relationships.

NIKLAS ERIKSSON**Archaeology, 26 September 2014 (no. 63)****Thesis:** *Urbanism and Sail: An Archaeology of Fluit Ships in Early Modern Everyday Life*

After receiving his doctorate, Niklas Eriksson held a postdoc position on the “Ships at War” project at Södertörn University. He has been involved in several shipwreck studies and wrote the monograph *Riksäpplet: Arkeologiska perspektiv på ett bortglömt regalskepp*. During his second postdoc at the Centre for Maritime Studies at Stockholm University he wrote a book about Medieval and Early Modern sailing routes in the Stockholm archipelago from a maritime archaeological perspective (under publication). He has been associate professor and employed as a researcher at the Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies at Stockholm University since 2019.

HENRIETTE CEDERLÖF**Slavic Languages/Comparative Literature,
27 September 2014 (no. 64)****Thesis:** *Alien Places in Late Soviet Science Fiction: The “Unexpected Encounters” of Arkady and Boris Strugatsky as Novels and Films*

Henriette Cederlöf's thesis received the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities research award, *Björnestjernas pris*. Cederlöf has visited Japan several times since August 2015, when she participated in the IC-CEES IX World Congress in Makuhari, Japan. She currently works at a government agency and is involved in the formulation of a research project on popular culture and the new space age.

EKATERINA KALININA**Media and Communication Studies,
3 October 2014 (no. 65)****Thesis:** *Mediated Post-Soviet Nostalgia*

After her doctorate, Ekaterina Kalinina has worked at the Swedish Defence University, Örebro University and Stockholm University, teaching media and communication and researching Russian culture. In 2016, she received two postdoctoral grants (one from Swedish Institute and another one from Swedish Research Council) and moved to Denmark to work on digital archives. Since her return to Sweden she has been employed by Jönköping University and is developing cultural exchanges between Sweden and Russia, using a Swedish NGO's platform, Nordkonst.

LIUDMILA VORONOVA**Media and Communication Studies,
24 October 2014 (no. 66)****Thesis:** *Gendering in Political Journalism: A Comparative Study of Russia and Sweden*

Liudmila Voronova has continued working at Södertörn University after receiving her doctorate,

and is currently teaching future journalists and conducting research about documentary photography education in Russia and Sweden. Following her doctorate, she worked as a lecturer at various Swedish universities and on a research project about journalistic culture in Ukraine.

ANDERS BLOMQVIST**History, 15 November 2014 (no. 67)****Thesis:** *Economic Nationalizing in the Ethnic Borderlands of Hungary and Romania: Inclusion, Exclusion and Annihilation in Szatmár/Satu-Mare 1867–1944*

After his doctorate, Anders Blomqvist was a researcher on a project at Södertörn University, “Roma Holocaust in Ukraine”. He taught also history at Uppsala University and worked at Upplandsmuseet as an administrative manager. In 2019, he started work as a researcher at the Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University, working on the comparative project: “The Unwanted Citizens: The Holocaust and the Aryanization of Jewish Property in Romania and the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), 1940–1945”.

ANN-JUDITH RABENSCHLAG**History, 12 December 2014 (no. 68)****Thesis:** *Peoples' Friendship as Required: Foreign Workers in the Perception of GDR State and People (Völkerfreundschaft nach Bedarf: Ausländische Arbeitskräfte in der Wahrnehmung von Staat und Bevölkerung der DDR)*

After receiving her doctorate, Ann-Judith Rabenschlag worked for two years as a lecturer in History and research coordinator for Historical Studies at Södertörn University. In 2016, she started an international postdoc from the Swedish Research Council and has worked as a researcher at both Stockholm University and Freiburg university, Germany.

“I appreciated the truly international profile”

Yuliya Yurchuk 2015 (no. 69)**What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?**

– As BEEGS student I appreciated the truly international profile of the students who were also doctoral students at that time, as well as multinational profile of the lecturers whose courses we took. Many of these students became my good friends. Interdisciplinarity was not only a word, it was the spirit of our doctoral programmes and I liked it a lot. For me, my years as a BEEGS student were the best introduction into the world of academia I could imagine as a student: I could attend all the conferences I was interested in, the library assisted in getting all books I needed, I did research travels to archives and conducted fieldwork as often as I needed. It was great time! I am working now on new projects with many of the people I met as BEEGS student, with some of them we have worked together on different projects in the past, co-authored articles, organised conferences, and arranged panels at big international conferences. I used my time as BEEGS student to the maximum and I really enjoyed it.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– Studies in this area are a vibrant field. On the one hand, we can see that the area itself has disintegrated. What area are we talking about? The situation in 1990s was quite different, for instance, from that what we have now. On the other hand, we can still see gaps in knowledge about the countries, regions, people that belong to the “area”. I think



now there is a better understanding of fluidity of the concepts we use to approach the Baltic and East European region and we are more aware of the situatedness of the knowledge we use and produce. I am convinced that studies in this area will be topical for years and decades to come, considering the gaps in the knowledge we have and the everchanging context we are living in.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– My advice for the new BEEGS doctoral students is very brief: use your time wisely, enjoy being a doctoral student in such a vibrant intellectual environment, try your most courageous ideas but, first of all, enjoy this unique opportunity to concentrate on something you truly love for four years, this time is precious. ●

YULIYA YURCHUK**History, 28 January 2015 (no. 69)****Thesis:** *Reordering Meaningful Worlds: Memory of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalist and Ukrainian Insurgent Army in Post-Soviet Ukraine*

Since receiving her doctorate, Yuliya Yurchuk has worked at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University, where she is responsible for organising the weekly advanced seminars. She held a research position in Media and Communication Studies on a project dedicated to the role of propaganda in the Ukrainian-Russian conflict. Her main fields of interest include memory politics in East European countries, the history of the Second World War, nationalism, and state- and nation-building in Ukraine. She is currently completing her postdoctoral project about the role of the church and religion in the formation of public representation of history and the applicability of post-colonial theory in the analysis of cultural memory in Ukraine.

JAAKKO TURUNEN**Political Science, 13 February 2015 (no. 70)****Thesis:** *Semiotics of Politics. Dialogicality of Parliamentary Talk*

After receiving his doctorate in 2015, Jaakko Turunen first taught political science at the Department of Political Science and then increasingly in the Department of Social Work, both at Södertörn University, where he successfully applied for a lectureship in 2019.

IVETA JURKANE HOBEIN**Sociology, 27 March 2015 (no. 71)****Thesis:** *I Imagine You Here Now. Relationship Maintenance Strategies in Long-Distance Intimate Relationships*

After completing her doctorate, Iveta participated in a research project at the University of Latvia on “Emigrant Communities of Latvia”, where her focus was on the national identity building of Russian-speaking Latvian migrants in Sweden and the UK. She then changed her research focus and joined the market insights team at the Carlsberg Group in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since the end of 2016, Iveta has worked at the RepTrak Company, previously known as Reputation Institute. Iveta is based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

KATHARINA WESOLOWSKI**Sociology, 17 April 2015 (no. 72)****Thesis:** *Maybe Baby? Reproductive Behaviour, Fertility Intentions, and Family Policies in Post-communist Countries with a Special Focus on Ukraine*

After receiving her doctorate, Katharina Wesolowski worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University, for around two years. From 2017 to 2019, she was a lecturer on courses in quantitative methods for the Department of Sociology at Uppsala University. From 2019 to 2020, she was director of studies for Bachelor’s and Master’s levels at the department. She has published several articles as the sole author, as well as working papers in cooperation with demographers from Stockholm University. In September 2020 she started a permanent position as a lecturer in Sociology at Örebro University.

NIKLAS NILSSON**Political Science, 18 September 2015 (no. 73)****Thesis:** *Beacon of Liberty: Role Conceptions, Crises and Stability in Georgia’s Foreign Policy, 2004-2012*

After his doctorate, Niklas Nilsson worked as a lecturer and research coordinator for the Swedish Network of European Studies at the Department of Government, Uppsala University. He has been employed as an assistant professor at the Swedish Defence University since 2017.

FRANCESCO ZAVATTI**History, May 20, 2016 (no. 74)****Thesis:** *Writing History in a Propaganda Institute. Political power and network dynamics in communist Romania*

After being awarded his doctorate, Francesco Zavatti has lectured at Stockholm University and at Roma Tre University. He has also been involved in several research projects. One project, “The moral economy of the global civil society”, led by Professor Norbert Götz at the Institute of Contemporary History at Södertörn University, led him to the Italian ecclesiastical archives. Currently, Zavatti is lecturer at Roma Tre University and is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History at Södertörn University, on the project “Memory Politics in Far Right Europe: Celebrating Nazi Collaborationists in Post-1989 Belarus, Romania, Flanders and Denmark”, financed by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, and led by former BEEGS student Andrej Kotljarchuk, with Madeleine Hurd and former BEEGS student, Steffen Werther.

MARCO NASE**History, May 27, 2016 (no. 75)****Thesis:** *Academics and Politics. Northern European Area Studies at Greifswald University, 1917-1991*

After his doctorate, Marco Nase began a postdoc project and spent a great deal of time teaching. As he says, “I never wanted to become a teacher, but it turns out I love it”.

JENNI RINNE**Ethnology, June 3, 2016 (no. 76)****Thesis:** *Searching for authentic living through native faith: The Maausk movement in Estonia*

After her doctoral studies, Jenni Rinne returned to Finland where she is working as a university lecturer in European Ethnology at the University of Helsinki. Besides writing peer-review articles, she has been editor-in-chief of the anthology *Emotions and Affects in Cultural Studies*. Jenni Rinne is currently vice-chair of the learned society *Ethnos Ry*, which connects ethnologists nationwide and publishes and organises seminars and conferences.

CECILIA ANNELL**Comparative Literature, June 8, 2016 (no. 77)****Thesis:** *Begärets politiska potential. Feministiska motståndsstrategier i Elin Wägners “Pennskaftet”, Gabriele Reuters “Aus guter Familie”, Hilma Angered-Strandbergs “Lydia Vik” och Grete Meisel-Hess “Die Intellektuellen”*

After receiving her doctorate, Cecilia Annell taught at Södertörn University for a few years, before moving to the University of Gävle.



Francesco Zavatti 2016 (no. 74)

“I was amazed by the truly international environment”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– I enrolled in BEEGS as doctoral student in 2011, together with 14 colleagues in history, sociology, political sciences, ethnology, and business administration. I came from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy, and more specifically from a Master’s that focused on conflict resolution, my education has involved history, sociology, anthropology, and linguistics, so I was not completely new to multidisciplinary encounters. However, in this regard I was amazed by two things: by the truly international scholarly environment that BEEGS had put together and was developing through

doctoral courses, seminars, and conferences with a focus on Baltic and East European Studies, and the wide horizon of research interests, theories and methods that were discussed. I am convinced that learning is a never-ending process and the time at BEEGS was very inspiring (and pleasant) in this sense.

– This was on a general level. More specifically, the focus on Baltic and East European countries has shown me new ways of thinking that I internalised and used in my doctoral thesis. So, beside being inspiring and pleasant, this experience has also been rewarding. As well as theories and methods, I also remember that the professors at CBEEES helped me to network with colleagues in Romania,

whose help later became pivotal for my fieldwork. It was a pleasure to meet them all at the last CBEEES conference in 2019!

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– I would say that the multidisciplinary approach of Baltic and East European Studies is a necessity in order to analyse complex scholarly matters. I can tell you about my present experience, in order to make my point. In my present postdoctoral project, I am focusing on the memory politics of the Romanian far right after 1989. The theoretical and methodological tools that I have acquired during my graduate studies mainly from history, and ethnology, sociology, but also from Mark Bassin’s BEEGS doctoral course on nationalism, are now essential for exploring memory studies and analysing the subject matter. I think that without a proper training in East European Studies, and without previous knowledge of the region’s history and culture, this task would have been difficult – if not impossible. The most recent CBEEES conference, on 1989, was particularly inspiring, having granted me the opportunity to network with many experts in memory studies, and to present our project’s preliminary research in a very lively panel.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Well, I say “congratulations” and “welcome” to the first year BEEGS students. I would invite them to focus for the first two years on the doctoral courses, so that they can gradually improve (or even rethink) their project; a second suggestion is to make use of the resources of the Södertörn University Library – the librarians always fulfil your wishes for interlibrary loans and, 99% of the time, even for book and journal acquisitions. Finally, I’d suggest that they network as much as they can, since the global contacts they will develop thanks to their doctoral studies at BEEGS will stay with them for many years after the dissertation. ●

Linn Rabe 2017 (no. 79)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?



– Conducting and communicating research in such a heterogenous and challenging, yet rich, environment was a great experience for me. Through this experience, I strongly believe I became better suited to navigating international and multidisciplinary working groups. I am particularly pleased with the experience I gained in workplace related organisation, editorial processes and research communication.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– I am very intrigued by the emerging, truly multidisciplinary projects, especially within the human/nature nexus. To understand complex questions regarding environmental degradation, shrinking democratic space, food sovereignty and climate change adaptation, we need multidisciplinary collaborations, area studies and creative scholars like the ones fostered by BEEGS.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Take this opportunity to explore different perspectives, challenge your research biases and play with different approaches. Apart from developing your skills as a researcher, this is life experience for critical thinking, providing and dealing with constructive criticism, networking and managing projects. Try to have some fun with it, nurture your communal spirit and take interest in your fellow doctoral students. Meaningful relationships, allies, safe space and friends are crucial in this line of work. ●

RAMONA RAT**Philosophy, October 21, 2016 (no. 78)****Thesis:** *Un-common Sociality: Thinking Sociality with Levinas*

Since her PhD, Ramona Rat has worked as a senior lecturer at Södertörn University and as visiting lecturer at Uppsala University. She is currently teaching courses in Philosophy and on Teachers Education at Södertörn University.

2017**LINN RABE****Environmental Science, 24 February 2017 (no. 79)****Thesis:** *Participation and legitimacy – Actor involvement in planning for Nature Conversation*

Following the completion of her doctorate, Linn Rabe is now working as head of education and communication at the Swedish office of Framtidsjorden, an international network of environmental civil society organisations who use participation as their fundamental method for change.

EKATERINA TARASOVA**Political Science, March 10, 2017 (no. 80)****Thesis:** *Anti-nuclear movements in discursive and political contexts: Between expert voices and local protests*

After her doctorate, Ekaterina Tarasova taught at Södertörn University and Stockholm University. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Tema T, Linköping University.

SANJA OBRENO JOHANSSON**Sociology, March 17, 2017 (no. 81)****Thesis:** *Från kombifeminism till rörelse. Kvinnlig serbisk organisering i förändring.*

Directly after finishing her doctorate, Sanja Obrenović Johansson was employed as a senior lecturer in Social Work at Södertörn University, where she is still working.

MARYAM ADJAM**Ethnology, March 23, 2017 (no. 82)****Thesis:** *Minnesspår – Hågkomstens rum och rörelse i skuggan av flykt*

After completing her doctorate, Maryam Adjam worked as researcher and curator at the Nordic Museum, Stockholm, exploring decolonising approaches to museum collections of stories and memory tales. Her current postdoctoral project, “The Heritage of the Missing”, focuses on absence as a concept in relation to processes of remembrance and heritage making. Maryam Adjam is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Culture and Media Studies, Umeå University. Her research interest includes the fields of memory studies and critical heritage studies. Using imaginative ethnographical methodologies, such as ethnographic poetics, she explores the intersection between ethnography, art and literature, focusing on practices of remembrance in relation to experiences of war and state-sanctioned violence.

JENNY INGRIDSDOTTER**Ethnology, May 5, 2017 (no. 83)****Thesis:** *The Promises of the Free World: Postsocialist Experience in Argentina and the Making of Migrants, Race, and Coloniality*

After completing her doctorate, Jenny Ingridsdotter has worked as a research assistant on various

projects. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Umeå University.

NATALYA YAKUSHEVA JARLEBRING**Environmental Science, May 12, 2017 (no. 84)****Thesis:** *Parks, Policies and People: Nature Conservation Governance in Postsocialist EU Countries*

After completing her doctoral, Natalya joined the Department of Forest Sciences at the University of Helsinki as a postdoc in international forest policy. Her project focused on exploring the EU’s forest-related policies and their implications for EU climate commitments. She particularly investigated the multiple interests and power relations among the stakeholders. In her role as a postdoc, she has also enjoyed teaching and creative public outreach assignments. She has also continued her involvement with international development cooperation and worked as a consultant on climate change and sustainability related policy matters.

KRYSTOF KASPRZAK**Philosophy, May 24, 2017 (no. 85)****Thesis:** *Vara – Framträdande – Värld: Fenomenets negativitet hos Martin Heidegger, Jan Patočka och Eugen Fink*

After his doctorate, Krystof Kasprzak has taught at Södertörn University and is now employed at the Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge. He is currently working on a postdoc funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

MARTIN KELLNER**Environmental Science, June 1, 2017 (no. 86)****Thesis:** *Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors in the environment: Effects of citalopram on fish behaviour***JULIA MALITSKA****History, Juni 2, 2017 (no. 87)****Thesis:** *Negotiating Imperial Rule: Colonists and Marriage in the Nineteenth Century Black Sea Steppe*

After completing her doctorate in 2017, Julia Malitska worked as a lecturer at the School of Historical and Contemporary Studies at Södertörn University. She has been a postdoc researcher at CBEEES since 2019.

MAARJA SAAR**Sociology, September 29, 2017 (no. 88)****Thesis:** *The Answers You Seek Will Never Be Found At Home: Reflexivity, biographical narratives and lifestyle migration among highly-skilled Estonians*

Maarja Saar is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow at Södertörn University and has been employed there ever since she completed her doctorate.

LOVISA ANDÉN**Philosophy, 6 October 2017 (no. 89)****Thesis:** *Litteratur och erfarenhet i Merleau-Pontys läsning av Proust, Valéry och Stendahl [Literature and Experience in Merleau-Ponty’s Reading of Proust, Valéry and Stendahl]*

Lovisa Andén is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Aesthetics at Södertörn University, on a project funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

JULIA VELKOVA ÖBERG

**Media and Communication Studies,
8 December 2017 (no. 90)**

Thesis: *Media technologies in the making: user driven software and infrastructures for computer graphics production*

After her doctorate, Julia Velkova Öberg started a postdoc position at Helsinki University and is currently assistant lecturer at Linköping University.

KARIN JONSSON

History, 14 December 2017 (no. 91)

Thesis: *Fångna i begreppen? Revolution, tid och politik i svensk socialistisk press 1917–1924*

After completing her doctorate, Karin Jonsson has taught at Södertörn University. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Södertörn University, financed by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

NADEZDA PETRUSENKO

History, 26 December 2017 (no. 92)

Thesis: *Creating the Revolutionary Heroines: The Case of Female Terrorists of the PSR (Russia, Beginning of the 20th Century)*

Directly after completing her doctorate, Nadezda Petrusenko started work as a lecturer in history at Örebro University (2017/2018). In the summer of 2018 she started at Umeå University as a research assistant for a Swedish Research Council project focusing on Swedish environmental businesses. She worked with the project for 18 months, conducting her own research and assisting her senior colleagues with their studies. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Södertörn University, on a project financed by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

2018

KARIN EDBERG

Sociology, 28 March 2018 (no. 93)

Thesis: *Energilandskap i förändring: Inramningar av kontroversiella lokaliseringar på norra Gotland (Changing energy landscapes: framing controversial localisations on northern Gotland)*

After completing her doctorate, Karin Edberg worked with teaching and administration at Södertörn university. In the autumn of 2018 she lived in Visby, working as a lecturer for Uppsala University's section for wind energy, before starting parental leave in 2019. To her current postdoc position in environmental sociology at Örebro University, she did some teaching at Södertörn University, Uppsala University and the Swedish Defence University. She is now involved in a Formas-funded research project entitled "Energy-related practices in transition – e-bikes, policies and everyday life".

MARIA LÖNN

Gender Studies, 25 May 2018 (no. 94)

Thesis: *Bruten vithet: Om den ryska femininitetens sinnliga och temporala villkor*

After her doctorate, Maria Lönn has taught gender studies and worked with research into sensory orientalism in the performing arts.

IRINA SEITS

Philosophy of Arts, 7 December 2018 (no. 95)

Thesis: *Building New Living Space in the Twentieth Century: Russian Constructivism, European Functionalism, and IKEA*

After completing her doctorate, Irina Seits worked in administration at CBEES, before starting a two-year postdoctoral project on the Swedish architectural heritage in St. Petersburg in January 2020. The project is funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies.

2019

ALEXANDER STAGNELL

Diplomacy, 5 April 2019 (no. 96)

Thesis: *The Ambassador's Letter: On the Less Than Nothing of Diplomacy*

Since receiving his doctorate, Alexander Stagnell has worked part-time as a senior lecturer in rhetoric at Södertörn university.

CHRISTIAN SOMMER

**Environmental Studies,
23 September 2019 (Fil. Lic.)**

Thesis: *Processes and factors governing benthic community dynamics – environmental change in the Baltic Sea*

MATHILDE REHNLUND

**Environmental Science, 8 November 2019
(no. 97)**

Thesis: *Getting the transport right – for what? What transport policy can tell us about the construction of sustainability*

Since completing her doctorate, Mathilde Rehnlund has taught at Örebro University and Södertörn University.

OSCAR TÖRNQVIST

Archeology, 20 November 2019 (no. 98)

Thesis: *Röster från ingenmansland: En identitets- arkeologi i ett maritimt mellanrum*

After completing his doctorate, Oscar Törnqvist returned to his previous field of expertise and works as a marine geologist, focusing on investigating the marine environment. Törnqvist has participated in a range of archaeological and environmental research. In his work for the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, he is involved with two research projects on cur-

rent environmental challenges. Namely, forming a baseline for the ecological carrying capacity for coastal fish populations from historical and archaeological sources, and investigating medi-aeval cod fishing in the central Baltic, which may shed light on a recently (re)discovered population of cod, almost fished to extinction during historical times, genetically adapted to the less saline central Baltic and hopefully a genotype that will be able to save this species despite ongoing climate change.

ELISE REMLING

**Environmental Science, 25 November 2019
(no. 99)**

Thesis: *Adaptation, now? Exploring the Politics of Climate Adaptation through Post-structuralist Discourse Theory*

After her doctorate, Elise Remling started work as a researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, on a team working on climate-related security risks.

EVA KARLBERG

Sociology, 13 March 2019 (no. 100)

Thesis: *Organizing the Voice of Women: A Study of the Polish and Swedish women's movements' adaptation to international structures*

Since completing her doctorate, Eva Karlberg has taught Sociology at Södertörn University and participated in some research projects as a research assistant.



Irina Seits 2018 (no. 95)

“My doctoral studies at BEEGS was a life-changing experience”

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– The period of my doctoral studies at BEEGS was literally a life-changing experience, because once I was accepted as a BEEGS doctoral student back in 2012, I moved with my family to Sweden, which has become my new home. A totally different life began, and it was here, at BEEGS, where I met my new lifelong friends. In my previous life I was an art historian, running research projects in St. Petersburg and had worked in international tourism for

over a decade. I very much appreciated the opportunity to work on an interdisciplinary research project at BEEGS and the School of Culture and Education at Södertörn University. I started exploring a new academic field, aesthetics, and was introduced to a vibrant international community of great colleagues from various parts of the world. Today, CBEES/BEEGS is still an important part of my everyday life and is truly my academic and intellectual home.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– In many ways, the Baltic Sea region is a unique

geographic area for researchers from different academic fields with various educational and cultural backgrounds. It is an area where many conventional geopolitical, socioeconomic, and cultural constructions still exist and interact, while also urging their re-thinking and re-definition. In this region, the ‘Western world’ meets the ‘East’, while still defining it as the ‘post-Soviet’ or the ‘former socialist’ region, when in fact these definitions have long lost their relevance. The challenges the world is currently facing reveal that its geographic, political, and national borders do still matter and that natural, historic, political, and cultural landscapes continue to play key roles in constituting and regulating our contemporary everyday lives, as well as in outlining our future. In this sense, the Baltic Sea region is a bottomless source of inspiration for all kinds of research in every academic field. The area’s complexity and diversity provides space and resources for the multiple interdisciplinary approaches to, and academic perspectives on, various local and global scientific and humanitarian problems. This is well reflected in the great diversity of the research projects associated with BEEGS, in the *Baltic Worlds* scholarly journal, and in the thousands of pages of the hundred-plus doctoral thesis that have been publicly defended at BEEGS.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctors?

– First of all, I would like to congratulate the new BEEGS doctors on the successful public defence of their thesis! If I may give some advice, then I would like to say: you need to know that there is indeed life after your doctoral defence and that the future is full of opportunities and great moments, although sometimes it can be challenging to get over the feeling of insecurity and uncertainty. Being a BEEGS scholar and defending a doctoral thesis is a great achievement, so keep on working passionately and patiently on your subject, and you will be rewarded! ●

Elise Remling 2019 (no. 99)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– I truly enjoyed my BEEGS cohort, many of whom over the years not only became trusted colleagues but also very good friends. Every doctoral journey has its ups and downs, and being able to share these experiences with a group of people going through the same motions was really important.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– My research has never really fit into a classical understanding of area studies. I am a geographer by training, so I tinker with concepts of space and politics, by drawing on less established poststructuralist theories from political science. I find that this cross-fertilisation of different epistemological and ontological angles and working across traditional disciplinary boundaries is what’s really needed to tackle some of the key challenges of the day, biodiversity loss and climate change being two of the major ones. But it is challenging: disciplinary traditions, journals and conference formats are not always open to such non-disciplinary ways of doing research.

Do you have any advice for our new BEEGS doctoral students?

– Yes, three things: 1) Build up a network of colleagues who you trust and who trust you. 2) If your supervisor is not a good fit for you personally and/or for your project, change immediately! 3) Follow your hunches! If you feel like you are onto something, don’t let others convince you (too easily) otherwise. ●

2020

ADRIÁ ALCOVERRO**Political Science, 29 May 2020 (no. 101)**

Thesis: *The University and the Demand for Knowledge-Based Growth: The hegemonic struggle for the future of higher education institutions in Finland and Estonia*

INGRID FORSLER**Media and Communication Studies, 5 June 2020 (no. 102)**

Thesis: *Enabling Media: Infrastructures, imaginaries and cultural techniques in Swedish and Estonian visual arts education*

OLENA PODOLIAN**Political Science, 25 September 2020 (no. 103)**

Thesis: *The Challenge of 'Stateness' in Estonia and Ukraine*

LENA NORBÄCK IVARSSON**Environmental studies, 6 November, 2020 (no. 104)**

Thesis: *Tracing environmental change and human impact as recorded in sediments from coastal areas of the northwestern Baltic Proper*

SARA PERSSON**Business Studies, December 11, 2020 (no. 105)**

Thesis: *Corporate Social Hegemony – A study of community grievances and sustainability standards in the Albanian oil industry*

CENTRE FOR BALTIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES (CBEES)**PÉTER BALOGH****Human Geography, 9 May 2014**

Thesis: *Perpetual borders: German-Polish cross-border contacts in the Szczecin area*

Péter Balogh is now a lecturer at Eötvös Loránd University's Department of Social and Economic Geography, Hungary.

Following his doctorate, he returned to Hungary as a Marie Curie postdoc in 2014. He worked at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for 4½ years and at the Central European University for six months. In 2016 he was a visiting fellow at CBEES for three months, and made repeated contributions to *Baltic Worlds*. Through the lens of critical geopolitics, he is researching the intentions behind, and effects of, various geographical narratives. His work has further revolved around borders and centre-periphery relations in both discursive and geo-economic terms.



“The dynamism really gave food for thought”

Oscar Törnqvist 2019 (no. 98)

What do you remember from your time as a BEEGS student? What did you take with you from your experience here?

– Used to perhaps more conservative or subject-centric study and research, the interdisciplinary environment at BEEGS really carried me like a wind-blown leaf across and beyond the Baltic. Whether we focused on police reform in Bosnia, demographic problems in Ukraine or the challenges of long-distance relationships, the seminars and the ensuing, sometimes animated, discussions really made me think twice about the character and role of contemporary research and the position of my main focus of interest; the often – quite frankly – mouldy or at least moss-covered subject of archaeology, in this wild mix of subjects. But I – like all my fellow students, no doubt – soon learned to embrace the plurality, and to go from fascination to open-minded curiosity. Traits I earned which have led me down interesting paths and avenues over the last couple of years.

What did you do after receiving your doctorate and what is your current occupation?

– I now work as a marine geologist but focus on investigating the marine environment. I have had the opportunity to participate in not only archaeological research (at the time writing, I am eagerly awaiting the result of a couple of grant applications), but also, through my previous areas of work, in environmental research. In the work I do now for the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Havs- och Vattenmyndigheten), at least two research projects connect my



doctorate in mediaeval coastal archaeology to my analytical skills in current environmental challenges. Namely, forming a baseline for the ecological carrying capacity for coastal fish populations from historical and archaeological sources, and investigating mediaeval cod fishing in the central Baltic, which may shed light on a recently (re)discovered population of cod, almost fished to extinction during historical times, genetically adapted to the less saline central Baltic and hopefully a genotype that will be able to save this species despite ongoing climate change.

– So, the circle has closed, with my own professional history rediscovered and applied to my new interdisciplinary research interests, in completely novel fields of research where marine biology, climate change and the future of the Baltic sea is strengthened by a long historical perspective and the finds of small, but significant, fish bones and pieces of old and obscure parchment.

What are your reflections on current studies in the area?

– I was researching the Nordic and Nordic-Baltic cultural cooperation. Not so much has been written in this field since, but I know that my thesis provided inspiration for several related studies in art history and gender studies.

– Working with history and the natural environment for the government and in research, the idealist in me has learned some lessons. The challenges to the environment have never been greater than now. Never have the outlooks for the future seemed so bleak and dreary. Never have we had so many ominous, looming menaces (future resource and power struggles, problems with globalisation and the Putin-Trump world view, currently even the coronavirus pandemic!) above the horizon. Yet, the Baltic, once separating us, is at the same time a body which connects us. For the environment, we have a joint understanding of our imminent challenges through the HELCOM initiative, for

example, and we continue to develop ways of cooperating and legislating. For our historical understanding of our connectedness and interdependence, we learn more and more and now put even the “crown jewels” of national history, such as the Vikings, through various post-colonial, gender and power-theory tests. Given these strengths, my sole and humble view is that academics must take a more active role in societal transformation and not only conduct research for research’s sake. In the post-truth era, given the nervous glances we cast at future threats, hard facts from science carefully placed in discursive fields and pushed into political agendas can and will reshape the future. It only takes bold researchers, who realise the potency of knowledge, perspective and the will to do good. After all, if the idealist, the dreamer and the insightful researcher do not take the responsibility to steer the ship, blatant populism and greedy consumerism will. And we all know where that route leads. ●



In 2010, CBEEES invited BEEGS' doctoral students and staff on a study trip to Ukraine.

The Birth of BEEGS

“Created to abolish mutual ignorance after the Cold War”

In the late 1990s, Södertörn University’s management initiated a broad collegial discussion about the organisation of a multidisciplinary and multicultural graduate school. Södertörn University took three Ms as its trademark: mångvetenskap [multidisciplinarity], mångkulturalitet [multiculturality], and medborgerlig bildning [education as an instrument for democratic culture]. The new graduate school would be characterised by two of these three Ms: multidisciplinary and multiculturality, or internationalization.

Prominent discourses in society and politics at the time, the late 1990s, regarded it as important

Helene Carlbäck, the first Director of Studies at the Baltic and East European Graduate School, held a much-appreciated speech at the 15th anniversary in 2015. This is an extract of it, formerly published in Baltic Worlds Inhouse Edition 2016.

to close gaps and unite the Baltic Sea region. The Soviet Union had collapsed as an entity and empire, and Sweden seemed to have an important task in promoting processes of change in the former Soviet republics, especially in neighboring areas such as the Baltic States. The fall of the Berlin Wall created new sorts of relations with Poland, the Czech Republic and other states that had abandoned their former systems of planned economy and centrally governed political regimes for market economies and parliamentary political systems. To make the economic and political aspects of the changes understandable and relevant, studies of cultural and historical contexts



WELCOME TO BEEGS' EXCLUSIVE PEN CLUB, MEMBER NO. 100!

Eva Karlberg was awarded BEEGS' 100th doctorate 2020, and for this – like everyone else – she will receive a pen. Due to Covid-19, celebrations for this occasion have been downplayed this year. However, for each person each year, the pen is a symbol of a great achievement and many years of tireless work – and joy! The BEEGS' pen club is an exclusive club to yearn to be part of, and now has just over 100 members.



Eva Karlberg

and processes were also considered indispensable by those who planned BEEGS.

The Baltic and East European Graduate School opened in September 2000. On the homepage one could read that BEEGS had been created with the aim of abolishing a mutual ignorance between the two sides of the Baltic Sea. The studies, it said, were aimed at reintegrating experiences in regions that had been separated during large parts of the 20th century, above all during the Cold War.

FOUR ACADEMIC subjects initially formed the backbone of BEEGS: Political Science, Business Administration, Ethnology, and History. Two to 18 students per year were accepted in the first four years. This was a big commitment; these years were filled with an optimistic pioneer spirit but also a certain degree of anxiety. BEEGS went through occasional infantile disorders. The admission process was not perfect in the early years: although we did recruit some very good students, a certain number disappeared from the system without taking their exam. However, the number of applications rose constantly and the admission process became better organized, being run by the academic disciplines and BEEGS together — although not always without friction; I do remember some pretty tense negotiations on whether to admit certain candidates. The rate of doctors graduating in relation to students admitted improved considerably over the years. Today (2015) 74 dissertations have been produced in 15 subjects by students admitted from 2000 to 2011.

Soon several BEEGS dissertations are to come in six new subjects, all connected to environmental studies. BEEGS has always been a multicultural environment with students from many countries besides Sweden, mostly but not only from the Baltic Sea region, Eastern and Central Europe, and Russia. The proportion of non-Swedish students has varied over the years from 25 to 40 percent. The gender proportions have been fairly even over time.

It is a well-known truth that multidisciplinary has its specific challenges. The wider the common object of research, the trickier it can be to find ways towards a focused multidisciplinary cooperation. At BEEGS, the common object is a geographic region that the PhD students approach in quite different ways. When I worked with BEEGS I realized the difficulty of planning for a given result of the multidisciplinary education. Instead we used to talk about doctoral students who married. But we weren't thinking of those among the BEEGS students who actually started families: we were referring to those who married "scientifically", and not necessarily in couples, but often in polyamorous constellations — metaphorically speaking of course. These were students who really benefited from being confronted with the way other disciplines framed a certain question.

FROM THE VERY beginning BEEGS was regarded as the engine that would start the machinery of doctoral studies at Södertörn University. The work was finally crowned in 2010 when Södertörn University was conferred the right to examine its own doctoral students. I haven't been following the activities of BEEGS that closely myself since 2011, but I sense that some of the focus points that united quite a few students in the early years, illustrated by buzz words such as "transition" and "West looking at East" — here we discussed implications of postcolonialism, Orientalist views of "the Other" — that these discussions have partly been replaced by other concerns: environmental and ecological issues regarding the Baltic Sea are dealt with by both life science and political science PhD students; BEEGS students focusing on Ukraine from various disciplines take into account the new geopolitical configurations and agendas created by Russia; and various studies are concerned with memory and the public use of history. In this respect, I would say that BEEGS is a living organism reflecting what is going on in the surrounding world." ●



A TALL PILE OF 74 COMPLETED THESES

Kristy Beers Fägersten, director of studies at BEEGS, arranged the 15th anniversary of BEEGS in 2015 with a festive event at the opening of that year's CBEES Annual Conference. She also produced an ambitious booklet with presentations of 74 former doctoral students and their theses. The cover illustration was an image of all the thesis produced during those 15 years, in one pile.

Exploring and conducting critical area studies

The first edition of Baltic Worlds' "In-house" was produced to celebrate Södertörn University's twentieth anniversary. It focused on the research conducted by scholars who were both at Södertörn University and affiliated with the university, in the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe. The editorial board was composed of doctoral students at BEEGS, namely: Adrià Alcoverro, Eva Karlberg, Sophie

Landwehr Sydow, Vasileios Petrogiannis, Linn Rabe, Elise Remling, Irina Seits, Ekaterina Tarasova, and Jaakko Turunen. Working with the editor, they created an edition that was widely circulated. It is available as open access on the journal's website, and is still downloaded, not least for educational purposes, as it provides an overview of and different perspectives on area studies.

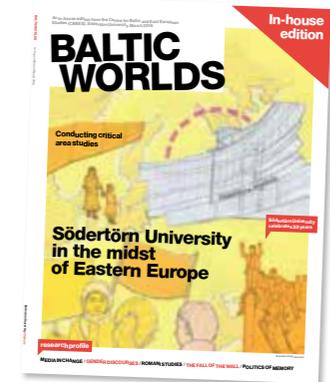


Image cover In-house Edition 2016

BEEGS' Director of Studies



Helene Carlbäck
2001–2011



Ann-Cathrin Jungar
2011–2014



Kristy Beers
Fägersten 2014–2016



Anne Kaun
2016–2019



Florence Fröhlig
2019–

The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies – proud funder of BEEGS



The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies financed the founding of the Baltic and East European Graduate School, BEEGS, and has supported its activities ever since. What has the Foundation's role been, and what is its opinion of the graduate school's importance?

SOME FIGURES and statistics about doctoral-level education in Stockholm and in Sweden provide a context in which we can observe the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies' support for BEEGS.

According to statistics from the Swedish Higher Education Authority, there were 17,000 doctoral students in Sweden in the autumn of 2019. The most common form of income provision is a doctoral studentship, at 68 per cent. A report from the Stockholm Academic Forum has more figures with a bearing on doctoral education: the proportion of international doctoral students in Stockholm increased by 14 per cent between 2008 and 2018; in the autumn of 2018, 43 per cent of Stockholm's doctoral students came from a country other than Sweden. In 2019, the Swedish Research Council's The Swedish Research Barometer showed that doctoral students are the staff category that perform the most person-hours of research in Swedish higher education.

These figures – the 17,000 individuals, 14 and 43 per cent – include the doctoral students at BEEGS. The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies is delighted to contribute to this work.

THE FOUNDATION for Baltic and East European Studies has funded BEEGS since it started, also during the build-up phase. A look at the financing from recent years shows that from 2010 to 2020, the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies has granted 375 million kronor to BEEGS.

The objectives of the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies are founded on its statutes. The Foundation has clarified the focus of its funding through a specific programme statement in 2020. The overall objective is that the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies provides funding for research, doctoral education and infrastructure that should generate research

of the highest possible quality in areas related to the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe at Södertörn University. The Foundation has also formulated a list of priorities, of which two are of significance for doctoral education. One is internationalisation, where the Foundation prioritises funding for international cooperation, network building and mobility of researchers and doctoral students. The second relates to the academic career, where the Foundation prioritises support for every stage.

Supporting BEEGS and the doctoral students at the graduate school is a form of support that contributes to fulfilling the purpose given in the Foundation's statutes and aligns with its objectives and priorities. The research contributed by BEEGS' doctoral students is vital to what the Foundation usually calls "relevance to the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe", i.e. a clear association with the Foundation's geographic area. Recruitment to the graduate school is international and contributes to increased mobility, international cooperation and network building. Supporting doctoral students by providing secure conditions in the form of doctoral studentships is integral to the Foundation's priority of providing funding at every stage of the academic career.

Research is – and must be – international. Doctoral students at BEEGS contribute hugely to a creative research environment through their research focus and their presence. The networks to which doctoral students contribute and gain through their doctoral education may be of great importance, both for the individual and for the research environments at the university, long after their thesis is completed and the doctoral degree awarded.

WE ARE DELIGHTED that our financial support has contributed to doctoral education at BEEGS and we are grateful for the research that focuses on our geographic area of interest to which the doctoral students have contributed. We wish all the past and present doctoral students continuing success.

Britta Lövgren, Research Director, The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies

Current BEEGS' students at Södertörn University

BEEGS' doctoral students spend their first year at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, CBEES. They often share an office with other doctoral students and get to know each other very well, encountering a multidisciplinary and international research environment and being introduced to critical area studies in the region.

After this first year they move to the department to which their main subject belongs, joining one of the four different research areas for doctoral studies at Södertörn University, while remaining part of BEEGS. We have invited representatives from these research areas to present how doctoral students are currently contributing to the work of these areas and within their subjects.

Current doctoral students are listed with the year of admission. We look forward to them successfully completing their doctorates and joining the ranks of BEEGS' alumni.



Politics, Economy and the Organisation of Society

SUBJECTS: Business Studies, Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology

Research into the Baltic Sea region and post-communist countries of Europe is strong at the School of Social Sciences, home to the research area of Politics, Economy and the Organisation of Society. BEEGS' doctoral students play a crucial role in carrying out this research, as well as within the multidisciplinary research conducted at the School of Social Sciences.

In addition to the geographical focus on the Baltic Sea region and the post-communist countries of Europe, the area has several themes. Identity, migration and ethnic relations is one, and cuts across several subjects. Another theme is governance within political parties, public administration, civil society, and business – from the local to the global level. Environmental and climate-related issues constitute a third major interdisciplinary theme. Other research themes are also prevalent, including democracy and human rights, agricul-

ture, innovation, business development, health and living conditions, social protection and exclusion, populism, propaganda, racism, urban development, and the politics of technology (e.g. space and surveillance).

Research into the Baltic Sea region and the post-communist countries of Europe is mainly funded by the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, but external funding is also provided by the Swedish Research Council, Formas, Forte and various foundations within the EU system, among others. Researchers collaborate intensively with leading scholars in Europe and other parts of the world. ●

Mattias Alvarsson, 2020, Sociology: *Power, Network, Sweden, Russia, Ukraine*

Hamdija Begovic, 2020, Sociology: *Bosnian Islamism in a regional context: the case of SDA*

Sofia Beskow, 2020, Sociology: *The paradox of tolerance and self-defense: state repression against radical nationalist movements and its consequences.*

David Birksjö, 2011, Business Studies: *Innovations, Standards and Industry Development*

Nina Carlsson, 2016, Political Science: *One Nation, One Language? Immigrant Integration in Multinational States*

Cagla Demirel, 2018, Political Science: *Politics of Competitive Victimhood in the Context of Reconciliation Processes.*

Hugo Faber, 2020, Political Science: *Contested energy transitions*

Fakhreddin Fakhrai Rad, 2018, Business Studies: *Insights into Digitally Enabled Supply Chain Integration – Toward Next Challenges, Opportunities, and Required Capabilities*

Erik Gråd, 2016, National Economics: *Essays in Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region*

Ellinor Hamrén, 2014, Political Science: *A Nationalism of Good Intentions*

Vasileios Kitsos, 2014, Sociology: *Urban Change in Overlooked Territories*

Xiaoying Li, 2018, Economics: *Energy Efficiency, Building Regulation, and the Heating Market*

Helena Löfgren, 2011, Business Studies: *Det legitima ägandet – Den politiska debatten kring ombildning av allmännyttans hyresrätter i Stockholms stad mellan 1990–2015*

Tony Mickelsson Blomqvist, 2020, Social Work: *Swedish sport as a social work practice: the integration of Eastern European immigrants*

Anna Nyqvist, 2011, Business Studies: *Green Industrial Marketing: With Emphasis on Strategies, Industrial Relationships and Green Trust*

Johan Sandén, 2016, Business Studies: *Lärare och digitalisering*

Historical Studies

SUBJECTS: Archaeology, Ethnology, History, History of Ideas, Study of Religions

The research area of Historical Studies currently has eleven doctoral students who are funded via BEEGS. Their work makes significant contributions to their disciplines' regional profile in Baltic Sea region and Eastern European studies. The span of topics is illustrated by the two thesis projects in Archaeology, Tomas Englund's study of a 1719 battleground from the war between Sweden and Russia, and Jane Ruffino's study of contemporary data ecologies in the Baltic region. Together, their studies reflect and expand on their senior colleagues' interest in maritime sites and innovative approaches.

Historians Martin Englund and Lovisa Olsson exemplify a similar temporal breadth, analysing the 1968 generation of Polish-Jewish migrants to Sweden and the emergence of territorial states in the context of trade relationships in the Baltic Sea region, respectively. On one hand, they represent research strands in contemporary oral history and identity construction and, on the other, the document-oriented study of economic and political history, together highlighting different facets of History at Södertörn University.

THE SUBJECT OF History of Ideas is represented by Liza Jakobsson's study of Swedish and Baltic investment in the home, Marie Jonsson's study of vegetarian movements, and Kristin Halverson's comparative work on the trade in medical tools and their meanings in Denmark and Sweden. Notably, they all address aspects of materiality, thereby joining, but to some degree also challenging, their senior colleagues at Södertörn University in pointing out innovative research perspectives.

Both thesis projects in Ethnology examine po-

litical aspects of social mobilisation. Paul Sherfey is studying collective gardens as sites for activism, exploring the different types of heritage that influence how gardeners experience the present and envision the future. Aleksandra Reczuch is analysing the connection between (post-political aspects of) mainstream party politics and Polish civil society. These topics enable them to draw on Södertörn scholars' strong focus on bottom-up processes and the political as a sphere of ethnological observation.

FINALLY, WITHIN THE Study of Religions, Kateryna Zorya is investigating esoteric currents in post-Soviet Ukraine, whereas Douglas Mattsson is exploring the development of black metal subcultures and their use of blasphemy. These topics aptly illustrate the interest shown by Södertörn's academics in phenomena with a religious significance beyond conventional places of worship and established religions.

Doctoral students from BEEGS are the backbone of the research area of Historical Studies. They are a major asset to their subjects, facilitating mutually beneficial conversations between scholars at different stages of their careers. They highlight Södertörn University's international profile and open new channels for the circulation of ideas. Perhaps most significantly, they enhance our thriving regional studies environment with a focus on the larger Baltic Sea area as well as East-Central and Eastern Europe, supporting Södertörn University's status as a leading site for research and higher education in this field. ●

Martin Englund, 2019, History: *The Life Stories of the Refugees who Came to Sweden During the Anti-Semitic Campaign in Poland 1967–1972*

Tomas Englund, 2015, Archaeology: *An Archaeological study of the Battle at Baggensstäket during the Russian Ravaging of the East Coast of Sweden 1719*

Kristin Halverson, 2017, History of Ideas: *Tools of the Trade: Medical Devices and Historical Meanings in Sweden and Denmark, 1850–1900*

Liza Jakobsson, 2019, History of Ideas: *A Great Investment: Constructing a Financialized Home in Sweden and the Baltic Region, 1970–2000*

Marie Jonsson, 2015, History of Ideas: *To Live in Accordance with Nature and Science: A Study of Vegetarianism in the Early 20th Century*

Douglas Mattsson, 2019, The Study of Religions: *We Despise the Crescent: Black Metal, Blasphemy, and Subcultural Evolvement in Turkey 1990–2020*

Lovisa Olsson, 2017, History: *The Fragile Web: Social Networks and Trade in Early Modern Baltic Towns*

Aleksandra Reczuch, 2019, Ethnology: *On Post-political Initiatives and Civil Society in Poland: Protests, Social Movements and Non-Governmental Organisations as Political Actors*

Jane Ruffino, 2019, Archaeology: *Black Box Archaeology: Contemporary Data Ecologies in the Baltic Region*

Paul Sherfey, 2017, Ethnology: *Cultivating Revolutions: Activism and Political Culture in Collective Gardens*

Kateryna Zorya, 2017, The Study of Religions: *'The Government Used to Hide the Truth, but Now We Can Speak': Contemporary Esoteric Currents in Post-Soviet Ukraine, 1990–2010*

Critical and Cultural Theory

SUBJECTS: Aesthetics, Art History, Comparative Literature, Gender Studies, Media and Communication Studies, Philosophy and the Theory of Practical Knowledge

Critical and Cultural Theory is a research area for doctoral studies that is dedicated to the critically motivated study of cultural artefacts and practices. Artworks, literary and philosophical texts, media technologies and social and political practices lie at the heart of this research. Researchers in the area are united by a shared concept: the idea that the humanities are where human society examines and gains awareness of itself. One important profile area comprises critical and cultural studies related to the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe. This profile cooperates with the Baltic and Eastern European Graduate School and Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES).

Since its inception, receiving its first doctoral students in 2010, Critical and Cultural Theory has consolidated a unique platform for multidisciplinary research in the humanities, focusing on the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe. Some subjects included in the research area can only be found at Södertörn University, such as the Theory of Practical Knowledge, while others have a profile that is unique within the field of study. The research area is defined by its scholarly and critical approach to the issues, phenomena and philosophies that are relevant to the region, historically and in the present day.

THE THEORY OF PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE is a multidisciplinary research subject, which primarily adopts its theories and methods from the scholarly tradition of the humanities, including subjects such as Philosophy, the History of Ideas, Aesthetics, Pedagogy and Ethnology. Research targets the problems and challenges of contemporary working life

and aims to help us understand and deal with such dilemmas by applying philosophical, historical and ethnographic methods. The phenomena and problem fields currently being explored by doctoral students in the Theory of Practical Knowledge include the resistance strategies used by doctors when issuing sick leave certificates, practitioner mindsets in integration-related practices, midwife approaches to prenatal diagnostics in meetings with patients, primary school teachers' views on the professional collective and collective knowledge in teaching, and psychiatric professionals' ways of understanding and applying diagnostic categories in and through their meetings with patients.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION Studies offers doctoral education in collaboration with one national network and several international networks, including highly ranked universities in the UK, Germany, Portugal and Brazil. Research focuses on the contemporary digital media society from a critical, cultural, and historical perspective, blending approaches from the social sciences and the humanities. This international research embraces a wide range of critical and timely topics. Many research projects relate to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe and all the doctoral students' projects are well integrated in the department's research.

Research in the area of Critical and Cultural Theory that focuses on the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe is characterised by the combination of a humanistic and critical cultural approach, which aims at deepening knowledge about relevant contemporary and historical phenomena. Using its knowledge and understanding of the region, the

research area has also developed new perspectives on feminism and gender issues, colonialism and antisemitism. Uniting philosophical and theoretical reflection with empirical and historical studies, the wide range of topics in the research area not only

demonstrates the relevance of critical and cultural theory for research into the former Eastern Bloc, but also the importance of introducing, comparing and judging issues and Eastern European phenomena in Swedish and international contexts. ●

Erik Bryngelsson, 2012, Philosophy: *The Science of Subjectivity: Lacan's Return to the Subject*

Mats Dahllöv, 2017, Aesthetics: *Det absoluta och det gemensamma: Benjamin Höijers konstfilosofi*

Martin Elfsberg, 2012, Education: *Restoration of Voice in Education*

Anna Enström, 2012, Aesthetics: *Om sinne, stämning, skratt och hypokondri: sinnlighet och estetisk erfarenhet hos Kant*

Mirey Gorgis, 2018, Rethoric: *On linguistic violence*

Gabriel Itkes-Sznajd, 2012, Aesthetics: *Precisions skrift: Gombrowicz, Christensen, Müller*

Ellen Jacobsson, 2019, Theory of Practical Knowledge: *Ursprunglighetens politik: en undersökning av människokategorisering, politiska identiteter och professionella överväganden i integrationsrelaterade praktiker i Sverige och Ungern*

Emma Kihl, 2017, Comparative Literature, *De kroppar som rör sig i de rum/tider som formas innan och utanför Agneta Enckells poesi*

Laura Lapinske, 2015, Gender Studies: *Care to live: precarious livelihoods and everyday survival strategies of single mothers in Lithuania*

Camilla Larsson, 2015, Art History: *Framträdandets politik*

Karin Larsson, 2019, Media and Communication Studies: *The Smart City: Digital Urbanism as the Logistics of Future*

Karl Katz Lydén, 2017, Philosophy: *Critique and Practice of Truth: Foucault's Political Economy and the Emergence of Collective Subjects*

Maria Mårzell, 2019, Comparative Literature: *Fred och feminism: Frida Stéenhoff, Elin Wägner och Edith Södergrans litterära gestaltningar av en tanketradition i Östersjöregionen ca 1900–1940*

Iwo Nord, 2012, Gender Studies: *Bodies Entangled: Gender Affirming Surgeries in Glocal Belgrade*

Joel Odebrant, 2019, Art History: *Spirituell konst i en rationell tid: en studie av det informella måleriets politik*

Kirill Polkov, 2019, Gender Studie: *(Homo) Sexual Nationalisms in Russia and Sweden: National and Individual Identities*

Mani Shutzberg, 2015, Theory of Practical Knowledge: *The Virtue of Critical Praxis in Medicine*

Oscar Svanelid, 2015, Art History: *Formande liv: konstruktivism som yrkespraktik i São Paulo och Rio de Janeiro (1954–1984)*

Oscar von Seth, 2017, Comparative Literature: *Desiring the Other: Queer readings of Hermann Hesse's "Peter Camenzind" and "Der Steppenwolf"*

Environmental Studies

SUBJECT: Environmental Science

Researchers and doctoral students engage in research and scholarship with the aim of understanding and governing the complex interactions between society and the environment in the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe, using concepts and methods from the natural and social sciences. Ongoing research includes the governance of terrestrial and marine environments and resources, how knowledge of paleoenvironments can contribute to current understandings of ongoing environmental change, as well as how sustainability challenges are perceived and addressed in agriculture and the shipping sector.

This work emphasises the understanding of interactions between contemporary societal development patterns and their relationship to sustainability problems, as well as working with partners outside academia to forge sustainable pathways. Researchers take an inter- and transdisciplinary approach to engaging with sustainability, which considers how multiple dimensions of sustainability interact, including cultural, economic, environmental, political, and societal aspects.

THE RESEARCH PROJECTS of previous and current doctoral students enrolled at BEEGS have been vitally important to the development and significance of our environmental science research.

Since 2010, when Environmental Studies at Södertörn University received the right to award doctoral degrees, six BEEGS students have defended their doctorate or licentiate theses in Environmental Science. In line with the broad and interdisciplinary approach of our research, these previous BEEGS' projects reflect a wide set of research methodologies and topics including discourse ana-

lysis of climate adaptation, physiological responses of fish to contaminants, as well as qualitative case studies of nature conservation initiatives and transport planning.

SIMILARLY, CURRENT BEEGS students contribute to our multifaceted and vibrant research environment by engaging with a wide set of interconnected and relevant research problems and methodologies. For example, two projects are analysing long-term environmental change and human impacts in the Baltic Sea over the last 3000 years by examining Baltic Sea sediments as 'libraries' of environmental change. Other projects use more qualitative case study methodologies to explore sustainability challenges and pathways in the shipping and aquaculture sectors. Finally, one set of projects is analysing how changes in urban community gardening practices and the equestrian and recreational use of rural areas close to cities might influence, among other things, ecosystem services and human health/wellbeing.

In September 2020, a new generation of five highly qualified doctoral students in Environmental Science enrolled at BEEGS. Like their predecessors, their research interests and methodologies vary and complement each other, further contributing to our interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. While it will be hard work, and sometimes challenging, we are confident that our shared journey will be rewarding and enjoyable. Most importantly, the theses will provide relevant and significant insights into: environmental justice, environmental protection networks and narratives, transdisciplinary research practices, biodiversity and public health, and antimicrobial resistance. ●

Mohanad Abdelgadir, 2018: *Functional ecological adaptation to environmental change in the Baltic Sea: impact of habitat fragmentation*

Wouter Blankestijn, 2020: *From Exploited Resource to Aquatic Agent A Cross-country Discourse Analysis on (Bio-)Diversity for Environmental Justice in the Baltic Sea*

Viviane Griesinger, 2020: *Networks and their narratives: Environmental protection in the context of natural resource exploitation in Eastern Europe.*

Thérèse Janzén, 2018: *Peri-urban landscapes in the Baltic Sea region – new hazard and relevance for public health*

Sophie Landwehr Sydow, 2015: *Media Technology, Experiencing Making – Unpacking Material and Social Dimensions of the Maker Movement*

Ola Luthman, 2018: *Sustainable aquaculture governance, what is it and why do we need it?*

Nikolina Oreskovic, 2018: *Cultivating Environmentalism – The role of urban community gardens in the making of environmental subjects*

Tatiana Sokolova, 2020: *Transdisciplinary studies of the Baltic Sea: A comparative analysis of contexts, approaches and policy implications*

Patrick Spets, 2020: *Why Estonia? Explaining Below Average Antimicrobial Resistance in One out of the Three Baltic States*

Igne Stalmokaite, 2016: *Sustainability transitions in Baltic Sea shipping*

Olena Vinogradova, 2016: *Land use changes during the past 3000 years: pollen analysis from southwestern Baltic Sea onshore coastal zone*

Kseniia Zakharova, 2020: *Aesthetic impact of natural and urban landscapes on human well-being: biodiversity and public health*

Erika Öhlund, 2012: *Perspectives on sustainable agriculture: governance, degrowth and values of land in a Swedish context"*

BEEGS is a part of CBEES at Södertörn University

The Baltic and East European Graduate School (BEEGS) is located at Södertörn University in southern Stockholm, Sweden. BEEGS is part of the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, CBEES.

BEEGS is a unique environment for research studies in the Swedish academic world. The international composition of doctoral students, the multidisciplinary emphasis of the postgraduate studies combined with specific disciplinary studies and a special emphasis on regional studies of the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe creates specialists with a particular expertise.

During their employment, doctoral students write their theses, take courses and participate in seminars, workshops and conferences. Normally they also work part-time as teaching assistants in undergraduate programmes at Södertörn University. BEEGS' doctoral students receive a salary, office space and other benefits for a period of four years.

BEEGS' doctoral students normally spend a period of their PhD education at CBEES (Centre for Baltic and East European Studies) in a multidisciplinary environment with area specialists, and attend academic events and seminars. During this time, they participate in the doctoral course *Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe*, 7.5 credits, and other courses offered by CBEES/BEEGS. They also participate in an annual internal conference specifically designed for junior scholars to present their ongoing research.

Parallel to these activities at CBEES/BEEGS, doctoral students also take postgraduate courses within their own disciplines and research areas and begin to work on their theses in cooperation with their supervisors. The supervisors may be employed at Södertörn University or at another University.

During their last years, doctoral students continue to participate in activities, postgraduate courses, workshops, conferences, seminars etc. arranged by CBEES/BEEGS, while spending most of their time at the school at Södertörn University that hosts their research area and subject.

Applications for admission to BEEGS are usually invited once per year. Applicants from all countries are welcome to apply. Fluency in English is required. ●



The Baltic and East European Graduate School (BEEGS) is proud to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2020.

This publication presents all of BEEGS' alumni and shares their experiences from their time as doctoral students.

We also list BEEGS' current doctoral students, now at different stages of research for their theses.

BEEGS
20TH
ANNIVERSARY
2020

