



LUND UNIVERSITY  
Faculty of Social Sciences

# Graduate School Newsletter Faculty of Social Sciences

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, GLOBAL STUDIES AND SOCIAL STUDIES OF GENDER



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## Letter from Lena

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This semester has been a busy time for everyone here at Graduate School. We are very pleased with the batch of students that began their studies with us in the autumn of 2014. It was a great pleasure to get to know them through some of the reflection seminars and workshops I led and I look forward to other opportunities to talk more with them.



We have decided to focus on one of the three GDG programmes (Development Studies, Global Studies and Social Studies of Gender) in our newsletters, allowing us to go a bit deeper into the experiences and individuals within these themes.

In this issue we will focus on Social Studies of Gender programme. We have included contributions from Jens Rydström, one of the teachers on the profile course and Danyang Wu and Zeynep Topalan, who are both Social Studies of Gender students currently doing internships. We have also included updates on two alumni, Ina Knobbloch and Fernanda Drumond, who write about the gender perspective in their current work and how this relates to their studies. We've also included some student snapshots pictures, sent to us by students from their internship experiences. We hope you enjoy reading this issue, and as usual, look forward to your future contributions and feedback!

**Lena Örnberg, Director of Studies, Graduate School**

## Student Snapshots

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Each issue includes a few pictures from our students. Contact us if you would like to submit a picture!



Marina Salomão de Freitas Assunção de Carvalho, master student in Development Studies, during her internship at the United Nations Development Programme, International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, Brazil



Fredrik Sundqvist, master student in Development Studies.

I work for a small NGO called Wayo Wayo Africa that runs a youth center in Kibera. My work is divided into two different tasks. The first is to work with youths and kids in order to support them with necessary tools. The second is office work which in the most simplified terms could be explained as fundraising and marketing. Since it is a small non-profit NGO I can be really free and creative in my work.

# Story from the Field

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## DANYANG WU

**-Social Studies of Gender, currently doing an internship at Feminist Voice in Beijing, China**

Lured by the various work that Feminist Voice was doing in China as well as encouraged by my fellow classmates, I submitted my application for an internship back in Beijing just before the deadline. It turns out to be a really good decision so far. In fact, even without the potential contribution that can be made to the master's thesis, my internship has become and continues to be a unique and inspiring experience for me. It builds me a bridge between academic studies and feminist practices, while allowing me to reflect on what I've learned in this field, especially about the cross-cultural studying experience in Lund.

Gender Watch Media is a non-government/profit grassroots organization located in Beijing, and Feminist Voice is its major project, and for this reason we usually call the NGO "Feminist Voice." The NGO was founded as the Global Women's Media Watch Network after the 5th UN women's conference in Beijing, but by now they have expanded their work far beyond the media field. Various gender equality advocacy,

protests and training activities have been launched and have influenced mass social discourse in mainland China. All of these new developments have taken place over the past two years, starting with the first action art "injured bride" against gender based violence. It could be said that FV is one of the most influential feminist voices in the Chinese gender frontier.

NGO work, especially feminist NGO work in mainland China, is challenging for sure. But as an intern, I wasn't expected to take much risk yet. My everyday work includes such tasks as updating the FV website, helping to prepare for new activities, translating documents and so on. However, it is a great chance for me to get to know young grassroots feminist activists and get a closer insight into their work. I've met so many amazing activists challenging the various gender discrimination practices and norms, helping me to rethink the relation between feminist theory and practice, as well as the historical linkage of Chinese feminist movements from the beginning of last century.



## Story from the Field

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### **ZEYNEP TOPALAN**

**- Social Studies of Gender, currently doing an internship at Women Against Violence Europe Network in Vienna**

I am Zeynep Topalan, one of the international master students of the Social Studies of Gender programme in Lund. This semester I am in Vienna doing an internship at Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE). WAVE is a European-wide feminist network that focuses solely on the elimination of violence against women and children. The network comprises 4000 women's NGOs under its roof and it is amazing to see their solidarity and exchange of knowledge to fight violence against women. This year is the 20th anniversary of WAVE and a huge celebration was held in Vienna between November 16th and 19th, together with the annual conference. It was very exciting to be a part of the preparations.

The last months have been very helpful to me to learn how working in the field feels like. I have supported WAVE in many kinds of activities such as helping with preparation of the annual conference, using social media tools and most importantly supporting them in one of their important projects. The thing I like most about WAVE is it gives young women an opportunity to gain experience in the field and that they trust them with main responsibilities. Beginning as an intern with no experience on project writing, I am now responsible for writing some parts of a project, which aims to support women's organizations and shelters in six Balkans countries, strengthening their service provision for women survivors of violence. After all theoretical courses on feminism and gender from my last university semester it is very interesting to produce practical projects and materials. I can gladly say that after my time as a master student and the internship at WAVE, I know what I would like to do more in the future. Studying and working in the field of gender will always be in my life.



## Our Alumni: Where Are They Now?

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In each issue of the newsletter we will present an alumnus. In this issue we include Ina Knoblock who is currently a doctoral candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, Lund University and Fernanda Drumond, Survey and Data Investigator at Gapminder in Stockholm.

### Ina Knoblock

- **Social Studies of Gender, graduated 2010**

I am a doctoral candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, Lund University since the autumn of 2011. My research interests are gender, nation, citizenship and social justice. In my earlier research, I analysed the Sweden Democrats, a Swedish populist radical right party, from feminist intersectional perspectives. In addition to my master's degree in gender studies, I have some experience from social movements in South Asia and Latin America. In 2007/2008 I did an internship in a Chilean women's organization working for the rights of indigenous and rural women.

My doctoral thesis focuses on indigenous peoples and feminism. The main aim of the research project is to explore central contributions within indigenous feminism(s), on a general level, and Sámi feminism(s), on a specific level, and their implications for feminism as a theoretical tradition and social movement. Through this, I wish to contribute to an expansion of feminist knowledge - both knowledge of indigenous and Sámi feminism(s) and knowledge advanced by indigenous and Sámi feminist perspectives.



## Fernanda Drumond

- Development Studies, graduated in 2014

### IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTENT

I've been an admirer of Hans Rosling's work for many years. I dreamed of working with something that really mattered and I thought that I could learn a lot from him in order to achieve that. When I got to the internship semester during my Masters in Development Studies I finally started to fulfill such dream: I became an intern at the Gapminder Foundation.

Now that I graduated I got hired at Gapminder as a Survey and Data Investigator. That means that I am a researcher. I search for, fetch and refine datasets with subnational development statistics. My main task is to explore online datasets about development indicators such as global health, income per capita, fertility, CO2 emissions, at provinces and cities levels. Through research I am also a creator. I create questions and survey questionnaires for a project that seeks to measure what the general public knows about global development. I believe that acquiring practical skills is necessary not only for striving towards a certain career path but also for making a difference in the world somehow. So I'm quite happy to learn more about data analysis, user acceptance testing and survey design.

The most interesting lesson that I've learned so far is that 'content' is what really matters. We development workers may create great projects, good tools or do great presentations, but what really matters is the content that we are offering to our audience. Content is what brings about change. The other aspects, like the tools, are only means to actually transmit content.

One of my greatest challenges in this regard is composing content related to gender. The difficulty is in finding relevant and reliable gender disaggregated data that can be compared across countries. Well-established indicators, or those related to maternity and fertility are easy to find. However, sex-disaggregated data that could contribute to

better understanding of circumstances that affect genders differently are still not mature, and are difficult to find for all countries. There are many areas, such as disaster aid for instance, that would greatly benefit from such data as we would be able to plan more meaningful projects in the future.





# What's happening at Graduate School

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In this section we include research, events and other updates taking place at Graduate School and within its closer network.

## RESEARCH IN ACTION

### Jens Rydström's research

- Professor, Gender studies department



Queer theory, Critical Disability Studies, and Critical Masculinity Studies are my main fields of interest within Gender Studies, which I always have approached from an intersectional angle. My involvement in the International

Masters Programme is mainly through teaching on the course Gender, Class, Ethnicity, Sexuality (SIMP25). Teaching on the Masters' level is among the most inspiring things you can do in academia, I think, since all the students come from

different backgrounds, with different kinds of studies behind them and different experiences. The students in a group represent a very broad array of competence and when you enter the classroom you never know where the discussions might lead. My own research has always circled around sexuality – except my own Masters project, which was about the professionalization of the Swedish and Russian armies in the end of the 19th century. My doctoral dissertation was about same-sex sexuality and bestiality in Sweden 1880–1950, using mainly court cases and legal documents as sources. Historical studies can be a rather time-consuming endeavour, and I spent eight years on my doctoral project. (Which was perfectly normal before the higher education reforms in the middle of the 1990s.) During these years, I really got to see the whole country, doing archival research on the National Archive, eight Provincial Archives, three city archives, and 88 district courts. I studied 2,333 court cases concerning “fornication against nature.” On the one hand, I used a top-down perspective as I analysed the discursive changes of the regulatory power and the struggles between the legal and medical professions for the power over perverse citizens. On the other, I searched for the voice of the subaltern in the court material, filtered through the language of power. How did those who broke the norm organise their lives? How did they meet, and how did they try to avoid the normalizing mechanisms of legal and medical authorities?

One recent project was about the history of the laws on registered partnership for same-sex couples in Scandinavia, which resulted in a book from Amsterdam University Press. How did these laws become possible in Scandinavia in the 1990s? In the book, I investigate both the legal and political perspective, but also the LGBTQ movements and the way they discussed the laws and lobbied for or against them. Was a copy of heterosexual marriage really what they wanted? From a lesbian feminist perspective, it was unthinkable to demand marriage rights, since the institution of marriage was one of the cornerstones of patriarchy. But new reproductive techniques in the 1980s changed the picture completely. The lesbian baby boom in the 1990s changed the attitudes to registered partnership, and from around the year 2000, lesbian couples marry more frequently than gay couples,

presumably for the sake of their children. Questions of security for the rainbow children have gotten high up on the agenda, as queer parents are in an ambiguous position. On the one hand they are a queer vanguard, breaking new ground in heteronormative institutions like child day care centres, schools and gynaecology. On the other, they act as guardians of normality, living under a hard pressure to provide “normal” childhoods to “normal” children.

For the moment I divide my time between Critical Disability Studies and Queer Studies. I am just finishing a project that I have been working on together with social anthropologist Don Kulick, in which we compare how the Danish and Swedish welfare states deal with sexuality and disability. The book that we wrote will appear from Duke University Press in February 2015. In it, we draw the sad conclusion that in Denmark, the sexuality of people with disability is acknowledged, discussed, and facilitated, while in Sweden, it is denied, repressed, and discouraged – to put it as starkly as possible. My part of the project has concentrated on the historical explanations to this. While Denmark and Sweden are virtually similar in most aspects of the modern welfare state, there are vast differences in the regulation of pleasure. Denmark inscribes itself in a continental European tradition, and can best be compared with Germany or the Netherlands, while Sweden belongs to a Scandinavian tradition with a strong state regulation of things such as alcohol and drugs. It can best be compared to Norway and Finland. Still, one has to avoid becoming too metaphysical when looking for explanations. There are real political decisions behind the different outfall in the two countries in the area of sexuality and disability. While these questions were lifted up to a government level in Denmark in the mid-1980s, they disappeared from the political agenda in Sweden. I have recently received funding for a PhD project that hopefully will shed more light over the political processes that took place during these crucial years.

# Events

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## Annual Potluck

On September 10th we held our annual potluck where Graduate School students brought their yummy international dishes to share. The spread featured delicious Israeli hummus (made by a Swiss), Ukrainian potato pancakes, a beautiful covered apple pie, rice crispy treats, Finnish pierogi filled with rice and boiled eggs, Italian homemade pizza, and Indonesian fried rice, to name a few. The occasion was also marked with the singing of happy birthday in multiple languages to one of the students.

## Soup Lunch with Student Chaplain and Student Health

On October 21st the Student Chaplain and a representative from Student Health came to meet Graduate School students and share with them what kinds of services they offered.

More information can be found on their websites: Student Health <http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/current-students/health-care/student-health-counselling> Student Chaplain <http://studentprasterna.wordpress.com/in-english/>



Some of the yummy food consumed at the potluck.

## Events

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### MBTI seminars

- **Lena Örnberg, Director of Studies, Graduate School**

This year I have introduced and led optional reflection seminars. The aim is to provide a supplement to the regular courses, for discussion of the self in relation to others and to build skills. The reflections seminars are optional and non-assessed and are meant to be an open and safe forum for discussion. The tools and methods used in the reflection seminars are widely used in leadership courses at Lund University.

For the first seminar students were asked to take a free version of the MBTI-test (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator), to find out about their own preference profile. The purpose of the test was to be a start of a discussion about personal preferences and differences in the group, and how all types

are equally valuable. The differences between introvert and extrovert preferences, and the strategies to deal with this, provoked much discussion. As a clear introvert myself, I shared my experience of developing survival strategies to - for example - handle the sometimes stressful seminar situation. For the second seminar the reflective team-method was practiced. This could be a useful tool to avoid conflicts and works constructively in groups. Active listening is a sometimes underestimated skill among leaders as well as among teachers and students, and needs to be practiced.

### Lucia Fika

On December 12th Graduate School held the annual Lucia Fika in the Student Lounge, celebrated with julmust, lussekatter and glögg.



# Upcoming events:

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## **- Development Practitioner Seminar (DPS) Series**

We are excited for the upcoming DPS Series! We will invite practitioners from a range of different fields to come share with you their experience from working in the field. This is an opportunity for learning more about specific topics, organizations, careers, and for networking. The DPS seminar will take place every second Monday during the spring term. The final programme will be announced during the first weeks of January on our website here. <http://graduateschool.sam.lu.se/node/13>

## **- Master's Thesis Conference**

The 4th Annual Master's Thesis Conference will take place June 8th. Get ready! All 2nd year students will be invited to present their research to fellow students and staff. The conference will be divided into thematic sessions moderated by experienced academics. There will also be a chance to present your work in a poster exhibition. An invitation to participate in the conference will be sent out in March. For more information, you can check out the website here. <http://graduateschool.sam.lu.se/node/11>

## Staff News

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### Milan Burke

- Interim Programme Coordinator, Graduate School



My name is Milan Burke and I started as a programme coordinator at Graduate School this past summer. I have been with Lund University since 2013, previously working as an exchange coordinator at the Department of External Relations. The thing I enjoy most about my work is having the opportunity to interact with students from all around the world. Perhaps it is particularly interesting to me because I know firsthand what it's like to be an international student in Sweden. I was born and raised in Hawaii and first came to Sweden for graduate studies as a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar. I have a master's degree in International Relations from Malmö University and a bachelor's degree in International and Intercultural Studies from Pitzer College in California, United States. My studies centered on indigenous rights issues with particular focus on Native Hawaiian self-determination movements. After completion of my graduate studies in Sweden I returned home to Hawaii and served as a district congressional staffer to one of Hawaii's representatives to the United States Congress. Since my return to Sweden in 2011 I have been working within international education on various levels and thoroughly enjoy what I do!

### Helena Falk

- Interim Programme Coordinator/academic advisor, Graduate School



My name is Helena Falk and I am the new programme coordinator/academic advisor at Graduate School. I have a master's degree in gender studies from Södertörn University and a bachelor's degree from Lund University. I also have a bachelor's degree in Political Science. During my education my focus has been Swedish political policy and the gendered structures of organisations. I have previously worked at the Department of Gender Studies and before that at the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) and the County Administrative Board of Skåne (Länsstyrelsen Skåne).

## Staff News

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### Jeanette Nordström

- Study Advisor, Graduate School, Leave of Absence,  
currently in Kinshasa, DRC.

Mbote! Sango nini? Hi! What's new? in Lingala, the local language spoken in Kinshasa, DRC. Nazali malamau. I'm well. I've started picking up French, and I hope I will know how to use the important verbs by the end of January. But this doesn't stop me from talking – the only way to learn a language! In September I met a young Swedish man who is cycling from Gothenburg, Sweden to Cape Town, South

Africa. While in Kinshasa he took the opportunity to vote in the Swedish national election. You can read more about him and his impressive journey at: <http://www.swedentoafrica.com/>. I'd like to take the opportunity to wish all of you who will write your master's thesis during the spring, a very good luck!



## Important Dates for Spring 2015

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Dec 22nd- Jan 6th Winter Break

Jan 19th Courses start

Jan 26th First Development Practitioner Seminar

March 1st Application deadline for exchange studies

March 24th Courses start

April 1st Spring Lunch

April 29th Courses start

June 8th Master's Thesis Conference

June 9th Graduation Ceremony





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