



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences

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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

This second issue of Graduate School's newsletter includes many highlights from this past term, new developments at Graduate School as well as news from some of our alumni. During the spring term we have had the opportunity to see our students find amazing opportunities for their third term and begin their thesis writing process in interesting and relevant fields. I have also had the chance to continue to reflect on how we can improve our programmes for current and incoming students and am especially looking forward to incorporating more career components into the programmes. Personally I really enjoyed coordinating the internship course during the autumn. Reading the reflections papers and reports was inspiring and gave me insight into the connections between the programmes and career. Highlights from the spring term, which are mentioned in this newsletter, include the Development Practitioner Seminar series, Spring Lunch, the Master's Thesis Conference, and the Graduation Ceremony, all of which contribute to making Graduate School an inspiring and dynamic place to be.



I am very much looking forward to the incoming students beginning our programmes in August 2014. Those accepted come from 35 countries and we are proud that 17 of our students were recipients of the SI scholarship. For the first time we will offer an introductory online platform "Getting Staarted in Lund" which will be run by Graduate School students and recent graduates who will act as mentors. We hope that this will contribute to make their transition to life in Lund a bit easier and strengthen the Graduate School community.

I hope you enjoy this issue! If you have any ideas for what to include in the next issue, please feel free to contact any of us.
Best wishes and have a great summer!

Lena Örnberg, Director of Studies, Graduate School

Student Snapshots

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



Students re-enacting 1930's film on the streets of Lund
Photo by: José Hildo de Oliveria Filho



In Lund, feminist views on science materialize at Carl Linné statue on International Women's Day
Photo by: José Hildo de Oliveria Filho

Story from the Field

JASMINE SHAKYA: INVESTIGATING EFFECT OF HUSBANDS' OUTMIGRATION ON GENDER ROLES IN NEPAL

- Development Studies, batch of 2013

To describe my thesis experience, especially field work, I would say I am glad for the courses I took during the Master's Programme in Development Studies at Lund University. Courses such as Research Methods and Theory of Science were useful, with a mini research as part of the course, to prepare for the thesis. As for my subject interest, I was drawn towards courses related to gender and migration. Hence, I am writing a thesis that aims to understand the effect of husbands' outmigration on gender roles in Nepalese society. The importance of researching this issue was apparent to me as the phenomenon is underinvestigated and relevant in the Nepalese context.

My approach was to qualitatively investigate the phenomenon at a grassroots level. Therefore, fieldwork involving interviews was relevant in my case. The challenge I faced during

fieldwork was accessing an adequate number of appropriate respondents. I tried to mitigate this by spreading the word far and wide seeking number and variation in physical location and respondents' characteristics. With few interviews during pre-test, I realized the strengths and weaknesses of each question in terms of getting in-depth answers. Through this I modified the interview questions accordingly.

I learnt from my fieldwork that a local contact person is important in becoming familiarized in the field. Otherwise, gaining access to respondents and building rapport would have been too challenging and time consuming. Another imperative lesson is the importance of gaining local trust, and being able to adapt to the local context to get responses. Lastly, the guidance from my supervisor, Thomas Niedomysl from the Department of Human Geography, has been crucial for getting clarity on the research. The purpose of a thesis is to challenge, create and expand knowledge and from my experience so far on this thesis, I can say that it has been successful to do so.



Our Alumni: Where Are They Now?

In each issue we present one or two alumni. In this issue we include Claudia Hirtenfelder and Zeynep Erdal.

Claudia Hirtenfelder: To Lund and back - Social Studies of Gender, graduated 2013

Living and studying in Lund was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life! My name is Claudia Hirtenfelder and in August 2011 I was given the opportunity through an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship to complete my MSc in the Social Studies of Gender majoring in Political Science at Lund University. This was to be a watershed time in my life which helped me to question my knowledge to its core and to explore a field of study I knew little about.

Gender studies is a field that often illicit a surprised and somewhat confused response of "Oh, that's interesting!" And it is! Gender Studies, at Lund, was primarily about the study of power relations and inequality. It was about questioning our assumptions when it comes to how we speak and think about the world and the ways in which our bodies are located within it and through varying degrees of privilege or lack thereof. Gender Studies was, however, more than an academic endeavor - it was a personal journey too. Coming from South Africa, a rather conservative country in comparison to Sweden, I learnt a lot about how life can be viewed and lived differently and I was excited to apply my knowledge at home upon completion of my degree in June 2013.

Almost a year after my return to South Africa I have to wonder where the time has gone! It has been an amazing time of reconnecting with friends and planning a wedding (I was Claudia Forster-Towne when I was in Sweden) and professionally I have been busy too.

I spent a semester lecturing first years about gender and sustainable development at the University of Johannesburg – within their Development Studies Department before being hired as a researcher at the Africa Institute of South Africa



(AISA). Finishing my first research job required some diligence and I sent my CV to several organisations before I had one bite. Since joining AISA in September 2013 I have spent some months preparing for a small project on ecotourism and gender relations in Botswana and in March 2014 I finished my fieldwork. I am happy that I am still able to work with theories and ideas which I became so intimate with while in Lund!

Prior to going to the field I had shared my ideas with a professor at the University of Johannesburg who was excited and encouraged me to pursue a second masters in Tourism which I am currently writing up. I guess I am a sucker for punishment but I believe I will never move away from studying and learning. I am currently exploring options for where I may be able to undertake a PhD which combines my interests in tourism, labour, and inequality – who knows, you might see me back in Lund in the not too distant future!

Zeynep Erdal: Making the most of Opportunities

- Development Studies, graduated 2013

I am a 28-year-old young woman from Skåne. My parents migrated from Turkey to Sweden in the early 1980's, so I grew up in a multicultural setting. My aspiration to enhance societal development on a global scale in an international setting prompted me to pursue a bachelor degree in "Peace and Conflict Studies and International Relations" at Malmö University. After graduating in 2009, I began working as an integration pedagogue for unaccompanied refugee children in Sweden.

My career path and life took an unexpected turn when I was accepted to the double-degree program between Lund University and Fudan University in Shanghai, and received a MSc in Development Studies (major Political science) respectively Master of Law in Chinese Society (major Sociology). I spent my final year in China and conducted a field research in Hubei Province for my thesis, which evaluated the long-term impacts of a hydropower project on local socio-economic development.

I discovered my great passion for field research and desire to pass on my knowledge onto others. Hence, when I was offered a Teaching Assistant and Capstone Coordinator position at Fudan University – I gladly accepted. For three semesters, I taught American undergraduate students how to conduct field research in a Chinese context, gave lectures in qualitative research methodology, and have to date supervised 54 research projects that have covered a variety of issues in current Chinese society. My passion for research prompted me to begin working with Consultancy Africa Intelligence (CAI), a research and consultancy firm headquartered in South Africa. After completing a 6-month internship as a junior analyst on Sino-Africa affairs, I was offered a position as a Regional Analyst at CAI's Africa Asia Monthly Monitor series and conducted updated analysis of Asian investments in the African continent, in-depth analytical features and interview coverage.

To further develop my expertise on Chinese society and politics, I continue to live in Shanghai to learn Mandarin, and simultaneously work as a freelance Consultant and Analyst. I am involved in several projects that cover a wide range of issues

including employment sector development, the Sino-Africa economic cooperation and geopolitics in the Arctic region. I also volunteer at a Chinese NGO that builds libraries in schools in the Chinese countryside.

The Development Studies program provided me with excellent qualitative research skills, and developed my critical thinking as well as analytical skills – which constitute the basis for my success as a writer, lecturer and analyst. The international setting of my class made our in-class discussions an invaluable source of knowledge, and provided me with a deeper understanding of how contextuality and discourses shape realities and policies. Thanks to the guidance and the precious support from my coordinators at LU, I was also able to seize the opportunity to move to China.

When defining my career path, I have always tried to have a clear yet flexible target, and seized opportunities whenever presented. Internships and volunteer activities have been a first step into acquiring work experience within my field. I have attended and presented at various international conferences, seminars and networking events – which has been a valuable platform to meet fellow experts, colleagues and potential employers. Moving abroad has been invaluable for my personal as well as professional development. Living in different countries has allowed me to develop my intercultural communication skills, experience different cultures and to be aware of my cultural luggage and how it shapes my analysis. Education provides us with the necessary tools to be successful in our work career, however what tools we select and how we choose to apply these to achieve our targets, is our responsibility and adventure.



What's happening at Graduate School

Research in Action

Global Ethics, Gender and Celebrity by Annika Bergman Rosamond, Programme Director of Master of Science in Global Studies.



My current research falls into three broad strands: gender, global ethics and international relations; Arctic and Nordic security as well as celebrity advocacy and global politics. All aspects of my research are deeply political and engage with a wide range of normative issues, in particular the extent to which we have ethical

obligations to distant others beyond borders. This is a highly interesting and ethical question in a world defined by conflict, war, environmental depletion, inequalities and gendered violence as well as international cooperation, human security and rights.

A good deal of my current research explores such things as gendered justifications for war and intervention, women soldiers and peacekeeping and the significance of studying gender in the context of cosmopolitan notions of ethical obligation. To this end I have co-organised several events on gendered violence and authored various texts. At the moment I am in the final stages of co-authoring one article on women soldiers and dialogic peacekeeping and another one on homecoming soldiers, with Professor Annika Kronsell, Lund. I have recently co-authored a piece on Arctic security and community with a colleague at Copenhagen University. Finally, I am making contributions to several edited volumes by critically exploring the roles of Sean Penn and Angelina Jolie in international politics.

It is my firm belief that ethical debates on global obligation will continue to inspire interesting research and my scholarship will carry on in this broad tradition.

Caste as a Basis for Political Mobilization and Community Making by Ted Svensson, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Sciences

At the moment, my research is primarily attending to caste as a basis for political mobilisation and community making. I have, during the last year, worked on two parallel texts pertaining to the discouraging prevalence of caste-based discrimination—not only in South Asia, but worldwide. Both of these are related to my past engagement with the now concluded research program Transdemos (see www.transdemos.se). In one of the texts I turn to the risk of ending up reifying notions of caste and to view articulations of caste affiliations as foremost indicative of hierarchical relations while striving to counter caste-based discrimination. Here, I place emphasis on the possible pitfalls and evident shortcomings of transnational activism in this area. Although imperative for the growing attention to caste in global governance settings, it also tends to reproduce untenable notions of identity formation and to gloss over the material basis of exclusion and marginality. The second text specifically revolves around Nepal and its protracted attempt to draft and promulgate a new constitution. In this, I ask questions about the possibilities that arise and the intrinsic limitations that become manifest at this important juncture. That is, to what extent does this 'constitutive moment' allow for reconsiderations of caste and related notions of purity and pollution, inclusion and distance?

Mia Liinason, Course Coordinator in Social Studies of Gender Programme, has found new work at Gothenburg University

I have been working with Graduate School since 2011 and have been the coordinator of Critical Feminist Perspectives in Social Theories since 2012. I have really enjoyed working with the group of students in this course, as you always engage in topics and discussions with critique and curiosity, emanating from a great diversity of political, subjective, disciplinary and geographical experiences and knowledge. From May 1st, 2014, I will start my new job as an associate professor at the department of Gender Studies (located within a large department called Cultural Studies) at Göteborg University and I am very honored and happy for this, although I will miss the staff and students I have been collaborating with at Lund University. To my new job I will bring a lot of useful experiences about the do's and don'ts of a course coordinator of an interdisciplinary and international course like the one we have been working with together. I would like to thank all students, not only for having shared your thoughts and ideas around practicalities and contents of the course, but also for your high level of engagement in the topics we have discussed, which has involved me in thought-provoking and exciting reflections around feminist knowledge production and feminist teaching. I have learned a lot! I wish you best of luck in your future studies and you are more than welcome to contact or visit me in Göteborg. If you are interested in discussing MA- or PhD-supervision, please get in touch. The website address to my new department is: www.kultur.gu.se/english/ and as soon as I have started, you will also be able to find my contact details there.

Many wishes, Mia



Getting started in Lund online platform

Graduate School will launch an online platform "Getting Started in Lund!" for all incoming students where they will have the opportunity to begin learning more about their thematic areas, work on their academic writing, and get an insight into Life in Lund. Current students will act as mentors during the summer to make the transition for new students easier. It is completely voluntary to participate in this platform but we hope that many incoming students will find it a fun and rewarding way to transition to their studies in Lund. This will be the first time such an introductory platform is being offered and we are very much looking forward to its development!

Graduate School has a new website!

We have moved online! Come check out our new website: graduateschool.sam.lu.se

Events

Spring Lunch, April 1st

This year we decided to invite some current PhD students at Lund to come and talk with students about their experiences. Among these were Johan Sandberg (Sociology, alumnus from Global Studies), Ana Maria Vargas Falla (Sociology of Law, alumnus from Development Studies), Jayeon Lee (School of Social Work) and Maysam Behravesht (Political Science). The PhD students were all in different phases in their programmes and talked frankly with students about how they obtained their position, the ups and downs of being a PhD student, as well as advice and pursuing a career within academia.

Development Practitioner Seminar (DPS)

During the spring term Graduate School organized a DPS (Development Practitioner Seminar) Series together with Lumid (International Development and Management) and BIDS (Bachelor's programme in Development Studies). Professionals working within the broader field of development work were invited to come and speak with students about their field, the challenges they face, the reality of their daily work and offer career advice. Every other seminar was organized together with Lumid students, so students also had the chance to talk with others studying the same theme. Speakers have come from both Sweden and abroad to discuss a broad range of issues including corporate social responsibility, human rights advocacy, gender and development, and environmental justice. We plan on continuing with this series next year, and welcome any suggestions for people to invite.

For more information on the series and a list of presenters see [here](#)



3rd Annual Master's Thesis Conference

The 3rd Annual Master's Thesis Conference was held on June 9th in Eden and included presentations from 18 students from ten different programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The day was opened by a keynote speech by Ben Rosamond on "Europe's New Global Challenges." Academic staff acted as chairpersons and discussants in the different parallel sessions, and guest included family and friends. Students also had the opportunity to attend a workshop on publishing a



Students presented their research during a poster session. Photos by Kaptan Jungteerapanich.

Master's thesis held by Ann-Sofie Zettergren from the Social Science Faculty Library and Moira Nelson, senior lecturer at the Department of Political Science. Once again, students were invited to prepare a poster to present their thesis. The poster session gave students and conference participants the chance to discuss more in-depth the various topics. More on the conference can be found [here](#).



Some of the students who presented at the conference.

Graduation

On June 10th we were excited to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2014!

Below: Development Studies, Global Studies and Social Studies of Gender.





Staff News

The administrative staff at Graduate School is going through some dramatic changes. Both Lina Mann and Jeanette Nordström will be taking a leave of absence for 2 years. Lina Mann, programme coordinator at Graduate School, will be leaving Lund and heading to her new position as international coordinator at Linné University in the beginning of August. Jeanette Nordström, study advisor at Graduate School, will be moving

to the Democratic Republic of Congo with her family and is looking forward to new opportunities and experiences.

Franziska Seidel was hired as administrative assistant at Graduate School and is also working part-time for Katarina Follin, the Faculty's international coordinator during the spring term.

Important Dates for Autumn 2014

August 19th	Arrival Day
August 25th	Meet your Coordinator Day
August 29th	Programme Start
September 1st	Course Start

September 15th –	Application period exchange students
October 15th	
November 1st	Course Start mid-term
December 12th	Lucia Lunch
Dec 22 – Jan 6	Winter break

