The University of Gothenburg
Post-Doctoral Initiative
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Post-Doctoral Initiative
Index

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................... 7
ANDREA MORF ...................................................................................................................................... 8
ANN HAMMARSTEDT .......................................................................................................................... 9
ANNA GORANSSON WESTERLUND ............................................................................................... 10
ANNA LJUNGBERG .......................................................................................................................... 11
BERIT LINDAHL .................................................................................................................................. 12
CHANGLIAN ZHU ........................................................................................................................... 13
CHARLOTTA OLOFSSON ............................................................................................................... 14
CHLOÉ AVRIL ....................................................................................................................................... 15
DANIEL DALEVI ..................................................................................................................................... 16
DANIELA CUTAS .................................................................................................................................... 17
DAVID ENGSTROM .......................................................................................................................... 18
ERIC BYLANDER ................................................................................................................................ 19
ERICKA JOHNSSON .......................................................................................................................... 20
FREDRIK HEINAT .......................................................................................................................... 21
FRODE SLINDE .................................................................................................................................... 22
HELEN JANSSON .................................................................................................................................. 23
HÅKAN SAMUELSSON ..................................................................................................................... 24
IULIA POP .......................................................................................................................................... 25
JENS STILHOFF SØRENSEN ........................................................................................................... 26
JESSICA CORIA .................................................................................................................................... 27
JONAS LINDE ....................................................................................................................................... 28
JÖRGEN ELGQVIST .......................................................................................................................... 29
KIM JEOUNG-AH ................................................................................................................................... 30
LENA HANSSON .................................................................................................................................. 31
MAGNUS LINDWALL ......................................................................................................................... 32
MAJA PUCHADES ............................................................................................................................ 33
MARTIN WIKLUND ........................................................................................................................... 34
MAURICE CURTIS ............................................................................................................................ 35
MICHÈLE ROBERTO PESTALOZZI ..................................................................................................... 36
MONICA LINDGREN ....................................................................................................................... 37
NIKLAS PRAMLING .......................................................................................................................... 38
OLA SVENSSON .................................................................................................................................. 39
PETER NORBERG ............................................................................................................................. 40
RUIJIN SHAO ...................................................................................................................................... 41
SABINE GRENZ ..................................................................................................................................... 42
SOFIA MOVÈRAE SKRTIĆ ................................................................................................................... 43
VIVEKA BERGGREN TOSELL ............................................................................................................ 44
WOLMET BARENDREGT ..................................................................................................................... 45
ÅSA TORISSON NALUAJ ..................................................................................................................... 46
Dear Colleagues,

When writing this, it is now two years since the University of Gothenburg advertised 40 post-doctoral positions. The need to create research posts which would enable people to advance after a doctoral degree in order to attain teaching positions within the university has been addressed in all the faculties. This has resulted in a joint venture at the university.

Renewal is always important. This goes for all organisations be they companies or official agencies but even more so for creative environments like the university. Renewal and experience are important components in the process which creates new knowledge. The need for new teachers and researchers is particularly important when we are now approaching a generation change; new competence will be required not only at the University of Gothenburg but also at other universities and university colleges. At the University of Gothenburg alone, 70 per cent of its professors will retire before 2016. The need for researchers/teachers applies not only to Sweden but also to other countries and other research-intensive sectors of society when all those who were born in the 1940s retire.

Therefore, you constitute an important resource. The fact that many other Swedish universities have followed our example by advertising post-doc positions (even if not to the same extent) is proof that there will be a demand for qualified academic staff.

My colleagues and myself are happy that you have chosen to do your post-doc at the University of Gothenburg. We hope that these two years will make it possible for you to do the research which is a prerequisite to continue your career. We also hope you enjoy this post-doc period and that it will be the start of continued contact with our university irrespective of whether or not you continue at the University of Gothenburg. In short - you are needed!

Vice-Chancellor
Pam Fredman
Andrea Morf

**Institution/Department:** Marine Ecology

**Previous studies:** Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich; University of Gothenburg


**Research areas:** Natural resource-, coastal- & ocean management coupled to marine ecology and environmental problems; spatial planning, participation, conflict management; rural and sustainable development; transdisciplinary knowledge production.

**Current research:** My work shall contribute to the development and exchange of knowledge about institutional frameworks for marine and coastal management. Focus is the management of environmental problems and resource conflicts through participation and collaboration of stakeholders.

In coastal and marine management, multiple uses need to be coordinated and the emerging conflicts addressed. Today’s historically grown institutional frameworks have problems to achieve the necessary flexibility and integration across sectors and levels, stakeholder groups, and types of knowledge.

I want to deepen my Ph.D-research on integrative and participatory tools for dealing with marine conflicts and connect this with front-line marine ecological research.

A number of expanding marine uses with high conflict potential make interesting case studies: e.g. conservation, recreation, aquaculture, or energy production. Selected examples of conflicts and the innovative ways of their management are studied – among other the development of Sweden’s first National Park in the Koster Archipelago, including its continuation across the border in the Norwegian Hvaler area. During my post doc, I also want to contribute to a linking of disciplines and institutions in the area of education for coastal and marine management, as there is a great need for a new type of professionals in this area.

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Institution/Department: Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine/ Diabetes. The Lundberg Laboratory for Diabetes Research.
Previous studies: University of Gothenburg
Thesis: Molecular characterization of insulin resistance in the adipose tissue and the effects of thiazolidinediones.
Research areas: Type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance, adipocyte biology.

Type 2 diabetes is increasing world-wide at an epidemic rate and is expected to reach 350 million inflicted individuals by 2025. Since the health costs in most developed countries for this disease are already 6-15 %, this epidemic will impose a major burden on society. Insulin resistance precedes type 2 diabetes and is also a major contributor to the increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality seen in type 2 diabetes and other states of impaired glucose tolerance. Our laboratory has shown that insulin resistance is associated with impaired adipocyte differentiation. This finding suggests that impaired adipocyte differentiation and, as a result, a dysregulated adipose tissue, could be a major contributor to insulin resistance and the development of Type 2 diabetes. It is well known that insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes is associated with a low-grade systemic inflammation that emanates from the adipose tissue this has also been shown to be associated with enlarged fat cell size. Furthermore, both the increased fat cell size and inflammatory cytokines is associated with recruitment of macrophages to the adipose tissue, which aggravates the inflammatory state of the adipose tissue. The over-all focus of my research is to characterize the cellular and molecular mechanisms relating insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes to inflammation, Wnt-signaling and impaired adipocyte differentiation.

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THE SAHLGRENSKA ACADEMY

Anna Göransson Westerlund

**Institution/Department:** Department of Orthodontics  
**Previous studies:** University of Gothenburg  
**Thesis:** "On possibly bioactive cp titanium implant surfaces"  
**Research areas:** Orthodontics, Biomaterials, Implantology, Oral Rehabilitation  

**Current research:** Titanium implants have been used successfully for 40 years to restore edentulous patients, however mini-implants as anchorage in Orthodontic treatment has recently become a more frequently used treatment modality. The primary application of mini-implants as orthodontic anchorage is cases that need absolute anchorage for desired tooth movement like midline correction, overbite correction situations. Claimed advantages are elimination of patient compliance issues with regard to wearing of appliances, and occasionally permitting orthodontic treatments previously thought to be impossible without surgery. However, mini-implants as an alternative anchorage in orthodontic treatment have only been partly evaluated regarding clinical and biological effects. There are only a few randomized controlled studies evaluating mini-implants as an anchorage alternative compared to traditionally ones. The project will focus on questions that remains to be answered like implant requirements (e.g., materials, size, designs and surface quality), surgery and healing time, loading, failing rate and iatrogenic effects. Furthermore, when it comes to children and adults with congenitally missing or lost teeth there are several alternatives for oral rehabilitation. Traditionally prosthetic solutions like dentures, crown and bridgework has during the last decades partly been replaced with implant treatment. Yet an alternative to prosthetic replacement in cases with a few missing teeth is orthodontic space closure. This treatment alternative is so far most commonly used in cases with congenital missing upper laterals in children but could be a good solution for single agenesis in children and missing teeth in adults as well. Since the problem with congenital or pathologically missing teeth is relatively frequent and also a cost for the patient and society, the project will focus on comparison between the treatment alternatives regarding long term effects including patient and dentists experience.

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THE SAHLGRENSKA ACADEMY

Anna Ljungberg

**Institution/Department:** Institute of Medicine / Department of Molecular and Clinical Medicine  
**Previous studies:** University of Gothenburg  
**Thesis:** The role of PPAR and growth hormone in hepatic lipid metabolism and atherosclerosis  
**Research areas:** Cardiovascular disease  
**Current research:** Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the world. The major underlying cause is atherosclerosis, which is characterised by successive thickening of the artery walls and subsequent reduction in the blood flow. Adiponectin is a hormone that circulates in the blood and have positive effects on the cardiovascular system. Patients with low levels of adiponectin have an increased risk of developing obesity, type 2 diabetes and myocardial infarction. Experimental studies in animals have shown that adiponectin treatment has anti-diabetic and anti-atherosclerotic effects, whereas deficiency in adiponectin have the opposite effects. These data suggest that adiponectin or its signalling pathway could be a potential drug target to improve cardiovascular disease. The physiological effects of adiponectin is mediated via binding to adiponectin receptors, termed AdipoR1 and AdipoR2. Experimental studies using AdipoR1 gene knockout mice and AdipoR2 gene knockout mice have shown that deficiency in AdipoR1 and AdipoR2, respectively, results in different effects on parameters related to obesity and type 2 diabetes. However, the influence of these receptors on atherosclerosis and cardiovascular function is still unknown. The aim of my postdoc project is therefore to study the importance of AdipoR1 and AdipoR2 in cardiovascular disease, both in experimental animals and in humans.

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Berit Lindahl

Institution/Department: Institute of Caring and Health Science
Previous studies: Umeå University and Borås University College
Thesis: The meeting between people and technology: interpretations of the narratives of ICU nurses and people using ventilators in their own homes.
Research areas: Theoretical and clinical research focusing intensive care as well as ventilator treatment at home from a caring science perspective.
Current research: My research field can be summarized as the dynamics between nursing, technology, space and place. The overall aim of my research is to explore how technology and technological equipment impact both on environment and on patients in two different settings, i.e. an intensive care unit (ICU) and in the home. Today I am involved in a project (a) where I study the sound environment in an ICU and patients’ responses to these sounds/noises. My other ongoing project (b) illuminates the situation for people (adult/children) who are living at home dependent on ventilator treatment for sustaining life and/or improve health. This project also explores the situation for professionals and caregivers who perform care in connection to home mechanical ventilator (HMV) treatment. I am also involved in another project (c), which is in a planning process. The aim of this project is to further develop knowledge about the interior decoration of ICU patients’ rooms and its relation to wellbeing and recovery. This project would be carried out as an interdisciplinary co-operation within a research group consisting of nursing researchers from the Institute of Health and Caring Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy, GU, the School of Health Sciences, Borås University College, an architect and an interior decorator in close co-operation with the organisation Design with care (Swe: Design med omtanke) and medical and nursing staff from an ICU. My thesis had a qualitative approach, i.e. phenomenological hermeneutics. Later on I have worked with various qualitative methods, such as qualitative content analysis and meta-synthesis. In my ongoing research both quantitative and qualitative methods are used.

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Institution/Department: Center for Brain Repair and Rehabilitation
Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology
Previous studies: University of Gothenburg; Shanghai Medical University and Zhengzhou University, China
Thesis: Caspase-dependent and caspase-independent neuronal injury in the developing brain
Research area: Perinatal brain injury

Current research: Brain injury in term and preterm infants is the major cause of neurodevelopmental delay and cerebral palsy in child- and adulthood. This is a severe burden to the child, to the parents as well to the society. Currently no or little effective therapies are available in order to reduce or to repair brain injury in newborns. Recently it has been shown that brain injury leads to neuronal cell death on one hand, but also stimulates stem/progenitor cells proliferation and neuronal differentiation on the other hand. But these initially proliferating cells have been shown to die mostly within one month after the insult. The mechanisms of this cell death are not understood yet. My current research included: 1) to analyse the mechanism of cell death of newborn cells after the injury and 2) to evaluate therapeutic strategies on their potential to either inhibit this cell death or increase neurogenesis. The overall purpose is to develop strategies for prevention and treatment brain damage by inhibiting newborn cell death on the one hand and stimulating regeneration and plasticity by the growth factors on the other, and these strategies need to be adjusted according to the level of brain development.

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**Institution/Department**: Dept of Neuroscience and Physiology  
**Previous studies**: Lund University  
**Thesis**: Short- and long-term effects of long-chain free fatty acids on pancreatic islet cell function  
**Research areas**: Endocrine cell physiology. Diabetes, obesity and hormone secretion.  
**Current research**: The white adipocyte is an endocrine cell secreting a large variety of biologically active molecules (adipokines) important for maintenance of energy homeostasis. Adipocytes take up glucose via the glucose transporter Glut4 and altered adipokine release as well as defective recruitment of Glut4 to the plasma membrane have been implicated in obesity-related diseases. The rapidly growing incidence of obesity highlights the importance of understanding how the adipocyte is regulated. However, regulatory mechanisms remain essentially unidentified. Most endocrine cells control their hormone release via changes in membrane potential leading to altered ion channel activity. An increase in intracellular Ca2+ ([Ca2+]i) triggers regulated release of hormone-containing vesicles. Here I shall investigate whether exocytosis in adipocytes is likewise electrically regulated, an aspect that remains largely unexplored. Using high-resolution electrophysiological techniques, my own pilot studies indicate that adipokine secretion and glucose uptake in the adipocyte is indeed associated with altered ion channel conductances and/or changes in [Ca2+]i. The objectives of the proposed studies are to 1) increase our understanding of how adipokine release and glucose uptake is electrically regulated; 2) elucidate whether the electrical properties of adipocytes are altered under (patho)physiological conditions and; 3) investigate the involvement of ion channel expression in adipocyte maturation.

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Chloé Avril

Institution/Department: English Department
Previous studies at: University Lumière Lyon II, France; University of Gothenburg
Thesis: "Who Should Know but the Woman?": Sexuality, Marriage and Motherhood in the Utopian Novels of Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
Research areas: American Literature, Women's Studies, Popular Culture, Literature and Society, Black Power
Current research: I am at present doing research into the autobiographies written by members of the Black Power movement in the USA (1965-1975). I am particularly interested in the dramatic elements the writers of these memoirs use in order to narrate their lives, sometimes sharing characteristics with the genre of crime fiction. I will also be exploring the tensions that these texts bring into relief between the individual and collective selves, something particularly relevant for the autobiographies of political activists. This current project situates itself within a recent revival of scholarly interest in the Black Power movement which has until now been either neglected or demonized as the self-destructive successor of the American Civil Rights movement. As part of this renewal of interest, I have recently written an article on the modern representation of the 1965 Watts (Los Angeles) riots in Walter Mosley’s 2005 detective novel Little Scarlet, which is included in David Bell and Gerald Porter’s collection Riots in Literature (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008).

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Daniel Dalevi

**Institution/Department:** Computer Science and Engineering

**Previous studies:** University of Uppsala, Chalmers, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA

**Thesis:** Inferring Evolution in Bacteria Using Markov Chains and Genomic Signatures

**Research areas:** Systems Biology, Bioinformatics, DNA sequence analysis, Metagenomics, Bacterial Evolution, Gene-order rearrangements, Statistical analysis of chromosomal rearrangements.

**Current research:** Systems biology is the study of complex biological interactions with the ultimate aim of describing in detail how cells and living organisms work. One of the goals is to create models of how genes and proteins interact with each other to control the production of other genes and proteins. These models can then be used to describe cellular response mechanisms, such as when cell-division should occur and how to adapt to starvation etc, for predictive purposes. My current research involves development of tools for inference of large gene regulatory networks from experimental data obtained from Microarrays. I am also working with the development of tools and methods for Metagenomics and gene-order analysis.

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Daniela Cutas

Institution/Department: Department of Philosophy
Previous studies: Union Graduate College – Mount Sinai School of Medicine (Schenectady, New York); Vilnius University, Lithuania; National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania; University of Manchester, United Kingdom; University of Bucharest, Romania
Research areas: Practical Philosophy, in particular: the ethics of reproduction and reproductive technologies, the ethics of immortality, morality policy
Current research: Currently I am undertaking research in the field of reproductive ethics. I am interested in the ethics of the ethics and regulation of natural and assisted reproduction and parenting and the ethical implications of various practices or prospects (such as preimplantation and prenatal diagnosis, human cloning, post-menopausal motherhood, alternative family structures). I am exploring possible ways to improve the outcomes of parenting and empower people who can parent naturally to make responsible parenting decisions, and I argue in favour of the decrease of the tolerance of abuse, neglect and incompetence in natural families, as well as of the intolerance to assisted reproduction and parenting, and non-traditional family structures.

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Institution/Department: Department of Physics
Previous studies: Chalmers University of Technology; University of Cambridge, UK; University of Colorado at Boulder, USA.
Thesis: Multi-Level Lossless Phase Modulation in Liquid Crystals for High-Speed Spatial Light Modulators
Research areas: Optical tweezers, Spatial light modulators, Phase modulation based on Liquid crystals, Diffractive optics, Beem steering, and Optical chirality detection
Current research: Optical tweezers (OTs) utilize a highly convergent laser focus to trap a particle, e.g., a glass bead or a living cell. The OTs were invented in the mid 80’s but not until recently has the spatial light modulator (SLM) been implemented in the setup in order to allow for multiple, individually steerable, traps. The SLM allows for parallel investigation of cells, advanced movement of objects with a length scale on the order of 1 micrometer, force measurements, etc. However, far from the full potential of the SLM has been utilized yet. The aim for my research is to contribute in the development of the SLM-based OTs. A recently finished project focused on how accurately the position of an optical trap can be controlled using an SLM. Currently, work is focused on creating an algorithm for precise 3D positioning of multiple optical traps. Such an algorithm will allow for, e.g., obtaining a sharp image of the cell core of multiple cells in a single measurement. In the long run, the goal is to be able to measure forces between two, or more, objects (such as cells) using an SLM-based OTs.

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Eric Bylander

Institution/Department: Department of Law
Previous studies: Uppsala University, Sweden; University of Oslo, Norway; University of Minnesota, USA; Stockholm University, Sweden
Research areas: Procedural law, Courts, Rhetoric
Current research: Procedural law is sometimes referred to as “Lawyer’s law”. This is the law governing the machinery of the courts and the methods by which rights may be enforced in court. My major current research project (“Processlagstiftning”, “Procedural Legislation”) concerns some different aspects of law giving and legislative techniques in this field.

Procedural rules are developed through interplay between the courts and the legislator. From a general point of view, judges are considered to be among the most qualified law applicators. Discrepancies between intended and actual application of rules, for which judges are principally responsible, are therefore worthy of particular attention. In the light of this, the issues I am studying include the following. To what extent do changes in procedural legislation lead to judges changing their actions? What is characteristic for procedural rules that are respectively observed and not observed? What discrepancies are tolerated by the legislator and why? What, on the other hand, gives rise to interventions by legislators into the area of procedural law? A fundamental concept in the project is that Swedish legislative work in the field of procedural law should be contrasted with practice and theory in other countries. An increased understanding of application and development of the law in this area might possibly contribute to a better functioning court system.

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Ericka Johnsson

Institution/Department: Sociology, Section for Science and Technology Studies

Previous studies: Vassar College, USA; Oxford, UK; University of Linköping

Thesis: Situating Simulators: The integration of simulations in medical Practice

Research areas: How the medical subject is reproduced and constructed in and by medical technologies.

Current research: Currently I am studying the changing concepts of masculinity associated with the introduction of Viagra to the Swedish market and the prescription of healthy subjectivities associated with anti-aging pharmaceuticals. My previous work has examined how knowledge and facts about the body are gathered, articulated and represented in material artifacts used to teach medical practice. I have looked at the practices, ideas and understandings of professionals and patients as reproduced in the construction and introduction of simulators. In my Ph.D. dissertation I analysed how computer simulators are used in medical education, which focused on the details of practice when people and machines interact and intra-act, and how the use of simulators contributes to both learning and identity formation.

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Institution/Department: Department of Swedish
Previous studies: Lund University
Thesis: Probes, pronouns and binding in the minimalist program
Research areas: syntax, morphology, semantics
Current research: In my project as a postdoc at GU I am investigating the relation between syntax, morphology and semantics. This is done by looking at what is usually called light verbs, or support verbs, such as 'ta'/'take' in 'ta ett bad'/'take a bath'. The special thing about these verbs is that they modify both the way we interpret noun phrases, and the aspect of the event, i.e. the way we look at the internal structure of some action or state. Compared to regular verbs, such as 'bada' the light verb construction makes it possible to interpret the noun phrase 'ett bad' as a predicate; in a way its possible to say that we interpret the noun as a quality rather than an object, which is normally the case with noun phrases. Also the way we interpret the relation between time and the verbal action differs between the simple verb and the construction with a light verb. The aim of the project is to account for these peculiarities of light verbs within linguistic theory.

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Institution/Department: Institute of medicine/Department of clinical nutrition
Previous studies at: University of Oslo and University of Gothenburg
Thesis: Body composition and energy expenditure in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Research areas: Clinical nutrition
Current research: I have taken part in the development of simple muscle function tests and studied physical training and energy turnover in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD. I have found that muscle wasting in COPD is related to poor prognosis and that physical training might lead to improved, less energy-demanding muscle function. Old people also suffer from muscle wasting that leads to frailty, poor autonomy and, secondarily, fractures. We now validate simple muscle function tests (hand grip strength, heel rise test, voluntary quadriceps muscle strength and 30 m walking test and balance tests) in both groups by relating them to an involuntary, magnet stimulated, test of quadriceps force, HRQL, tests of body composition (impedance, DXA) and recordings of physical activity. The relation between food intake, systemic inflammation, muscle mass and function is also analysed. Simple, evaluated muscle function tests applied in primary care may be used for early detection of muscle dysfunction in COPD patients and old people so that early intervention against deconditioning can be started. Analyses of food intake and of inflammatory markers might identify factors of special importance for muscle dysfunction, which eventually might lead to improved dietary therapy and pharmacological interventions.

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Helén Jansson

Institution/Department: NMR-centrum
Previous studies: University of Gothenburg; Chalmers University of Technology
Thesis: Dynamical properties of interfacial water and its role for biomolecular dynamics
Research areas:
Current research: During my graduate studies I have investigated the dynamical behaviour of various water-containing systems with the goal to understand the role of water for biomolecular dynamics (and function). In my studies I have investigated water dynamics in both model-systems and real biological systems, such as protein and carbohydrate-containing systems, and how dynamics of water molecules close to biomolecular surfaces influence the dynamics of biomolecules. The main aim of my studies has been, and still is, to understand the role of hydration-water in biological systems. In particular, the relation between biomolecular motions and the dynamics of the solvent surrounding biomolecules is of interest. So far, the main techniques that I have been used are dielectric spectroscopy and neutron scattering, which both are excellent and complementary tools when studying interrelated motions due to the large time-scale accessible. However, in order to get a more detailed picture of solvent-protein interactions I need to extend the study to involve other techniques. An obvious choice for such complementary studies is nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) since with this technique I can get a detailed insight into the internal motions of proteins by use of the possibility to study nuclei at different locations, and thus obtain selective dynamical information.

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Håkan Samuelsson

**Institution/Department:** Department of Mathematical Sciences

**Previous studies:** University of Gothenburg; Erwin Schrödinger Institut, Vienna; University of Wuppertal; Institut Mittag-Leffler, Stockholm; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

**Thesis:** On residue currents and multivariable operator calculus.

**Research areas:** Complex Analysis, Complex Geometry, Algebraic Geometry, Operator Theory.

**Current research:** Residue currents can be seen as analytic objects that describe geometric and algebraic objects. Roughly speaking, this means that curves and surfaces etc. can be studied using techniques from the theory of integrals and derivatives. My current research is mainly focused on using residue currents to solve a certain equation that is of fundamental importance in complex analysis. This is a well studied problem in many situations but residue currents make it possible to solve this equation in situations that could not be handled by previous techniques.

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Iulia Pop

**Institution/Department:** Department of Mathematical Sciences

**Previous studies:** Al. I. Cuza University, Romania; University of Gothenburg; University of Alberta, Canada; Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel.

**Thesis:** Lie bialgebra structures and their quantization

**Research area:** Quantum Groups

**Current research:** Poisson homogeneous spaces of rational and trigonometric type and relations with the dynamical Yang-Baxter equation with spectral parameter.

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Jens Stilhoff Sörensen

Institution/Department: School of Global Studies, Peace & Development Research

Previous studies at: European University Institute; University of Lund; University of Leeds; University of Exeter

Thesis: State Collapse and Social Reconstruction in the Periphery: Political Economy, Ethnicity and Development in Yugoslavia, Serbia, Kosovo

Research areas: State-building; Aid Policy; Post-Conflict Reconstruction; Political Economy of Conflict; Civil Society; Ethnicity & Nationalism; the Balkan region / Yugoslav successor states

Current research: Currently working on a project entitled Civil society and the new aid-security terrain, which concerns changes within aid- and security policy since the Cold War and which role various interpretations of civil society has within this change. Central to the project is also the merger of development and security, and by implication aid- and security policy, since the early 1990s. The book “State Collapse and Reconstruction in the Periphery” is forthcoming in early 2009 (Berghahn Books) and an edited book on aid policy, with critical approaches to Western currents and Asian alternatives in international aid policy, is planned with Palgrave for 2009.

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Institution/Department: Environmental Economic Unit
Previous studies at: Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile
Thesis: Essays on the Impacts of Environmental Policy on Technological Adoption

Research Areas: environmental economics, environmental policies and the impacts of the choice of policy instruments on technological adoption.

Current Research: In some cities, geography produces a greenhouse effect that prevents pollution to leave the atmosphere during winter, causing occasional environmental crises that call for the imposition of emergency measures. Considering that environmental regulation is difficult to change on short notice, how policymakers can cope with environmental crises? Bawa (1975) showed that a mixed policy in which market-based instruments are used to control the long run equilibrium level of pollution and direct controls are used in short-term emergencies minimizes total social costs. Currently, I am analyzing the unintended impacts of such policy interactions over the rate of adoption of advanced abatement technologies theoretically and empirically.

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Jonas Linde

**Institution/Department:** Department of Political Science  
**Previous studies:** Örebro University; Uppsala University  
**Thesis:** Doubting Democrats? A Comparative Analysis of Support for Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe  
**Research areas:** Comparative politics, Political regimes, Post-communist political development, Corruption, Political attitudes  
**Current research:** My research at the Quality of Government Institute has so far come to focus on corruption in post-communist countries. More specifically, it deals with quantitative analyses of the relationship between levels of democracy and control of corruption. I am also involved in a research project on “semi-authoritarian” or “hybrid” regimes, i.e. political regimes that combine formal democratic and non-democratic characteristics, where formally democratic institutions, such as multiparty electoral competition, mask the reality of authoritarian domination. The project aims at analysing the dynamics of this type of regime that has grown substantially in number since the end of the Cold War. The project is funded by the Swedish Research Council and includes researchers from University of Gothenburg, Södertörn University College and Örebro University.

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THE SAHLGRENSKA ACADEMY

Jörgen Elgqvist

Institution/Department: Institute of Clinical Sciences, Department of Oncology
Previous studies: University of Gothenburg
Thesis: Astatine-211 radioimmunotherapy of ovarian cancer – Therapeutic efficacy, myelotoxicity, and radiation dosimetry in an animal model
Research areas: Radiation physics, radiobiology, nuclear medicine.
Current research: The research during the postdoc period will be focused on investigating the therapeutic efficacy of alpha-radioimmunotherapy of cancer. Since the research group recently has completed a phase I clinical trial in women with recurrent ovarian cancer, after second-line chemotherapy, one goal with the research is to further develop clinically feasible targeted therapies of the short-range high-efficiency alpha-emission from At-211, or other alpha-particle emitters, conjugated to tumor-binding ligands for application in disseminated sub-clinical residual cancer, i.e. systemic conformal radiotherapy. The research will be used to optimize the current treatment for disseminated ovarian cancer, but also to develop and test other alpha- or electronemitters conjugated to tumor-binding ligands for other malignancies. This translational research involves different studies of the therapeutic effect in vivo, studies of the biodistribution and pharmacokinetics in vivo, imaging techniques (e.g. gamma-camera imaging, light-microscopy, and electron-microscopy), radiation dosimetry (i.e. micro-, smallscale-, and classic dosimetry), computer modelling, and studies of the radiobiological effects in both normal and malignant cells and tumor nodules. One important issue to investigate is for example the diffusion of antibodies into tumor nodules, for example by studying spheroids of tumor cells in vitro.

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Kim Jeoung-Ah

**Institution/Department:** School of Design and Crafts HDK

**Previous studies:** University of Gothenburg, Sweden; University of Arts and Design Helsinki UIAH, Finland; Ewha Womens University, South Korea

**Thesis:** Paper-composite porcelain: Characterisation of material properties and workability from a ceramic art and design perspective.

**Research areas:** Design; Ceramics; Interdisciplinary

**Current research:** A practice-based research project on the aesthetic experience of ceramic art and design.

The aim of this project is to explore the aesthetic experience of ceramic art and design products. As in many other design-related fields, the public’s experience is also of importance in ceramics.

The project is based on two major studies. The first is exploring visual appearances in ceramic objects and how aesthetic experiences can be applied to the creation of designs while the second is investigating the public’s attitudes towards eco-materials and eco-design. This study uses prototypes produced with new sustainable ceramic material which develops during this project.

The expected outcomes are: (1) the revelation of the value a ceramic object actually brings to people, which may lead ceramic designers and industries to new ideas and new creations, (2) new knowledge to support the possible development of eco-ceramic products through the use of sustainable ceramic materials, (3) the provision of insight into people’s expectations and experiences, and finally, (4) the establishment of a platform for further research development in this field through a better understanding of public desires and attitudes toward ceramic art and design products.

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW

Lena Hansson

**Institution/Department:** Center for Consumer Science/GRI  
**Previous studies:** The Swedish School of Textiles, University of Borås; School of Business, Economics and Law  
**Thesis:** Universal design – a marketable or utopian concept?  
**Research areas:** consumer culture, consumer behaviour, 55+ consumers, universal design, gender & design  
**Current research:** Consumer images in market communication – a study of 55+ consumers and ageism. My research aims to provide a more nuanced picture of today’s 55+ consumers and problematize the concept of age and ageing in relation to market communication. In a time when lifestyles and identities are increasingly expressed through consumption what happens with consumers who are excluded by market communication due to ageism? The overall research questions are: (1) what images of older consumers are mediated through media and used in market communication, and (2) how are these images experienced by consumers within the market segment 55+. It is important to critically question prevailing norms and practice within marketing to counteract ageism. Market communication should reflect changing consumer behaviour due to societal changes including demographics etc.  
Still, youthfulness is glorified and sanctioned which makes words like ‘young’ and ‘elderly’ linked to very different value-charged connotations. However, as consumers relate to their age and ageing differently it is not obvious how market communication addressing 55+ consumers should be designed to be successful. Methodologically, a qualitative research approach influenced by ethnography is used and visual interpretation is performed in order to reveal existing ‘images’ of older consumers in market communication.

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Magnus Lindwall

Institution/Department: Department of Psychology
Previous studies: Stockholm University; Lund University; Exeter University, UK; Lund University; Halmstad University, Sweden.
Thesis: Exercising the self: On the role of exercise, gender and culture for physical self-perceptions
Research areas: Exercise psychology - Relation between physical activity and mental health; Exercise stereotypes and self-presentation processes - Validation of psychometric tests
Current research: My research field is primarily the relationship between physical activity/exercise/training and mental health (exercise psychology). I have also conducted research into measuring within psychology (psychometrics). The focus in my research has been to use advanced statistical models (e.g. structural equation modelling), to evaluate self-assessment instruments within sport- and health psychology and psychology. In recent years I have also focused on the relationship between physical activity and psychological health (including depression and cognition) in the elderly, and have worked with data from both large longitudinal epidemiological studies and intervention studies. The main focus for my postdoc will be precisely the relationship between lifestyle, physical activity and psychological health in the elderly.

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Maja Puchades

Institution/Department: Department of Chemistry  
Supervisor: Andrew Ewing, professor  
Previous studies: Undergraduate and graduate studies in France, University of Aix-Marseille III. Graduate studies in Sweden, Gothenburg University, Sahlgrenska Academy.  
Thesis: Development of proteomic methods for studying cerebrospinal fluid proteins involved in Alzheimer’s disease  
Research areas: Neurochemistry, analytical tools involving microfluidics, electrochemistry and imaging.  
Current research: We are developing new analytical devices in order to analyse molecules involved in neuronal cell signalling in individual cells and a network of cells. The unique chip design will allow us to characterize the pattern of synaptic connections between neurons by fluorescence imaging as well as electrochemically with electrode arrays. The location of neuronal like cells (PC12 cells) is determined by microcontact printing of surface adhesion proteins like laminin or poly-L-lysine. Upon stimulation, PC12 cells release dopamine by exocytosis. This dopaminergic response is quantified both by fluorescence microscopy using the ratiometric sensitive dye Fura-2 and electrochemically in a non-invasive way. These combined measurements are representing an important technical development. Once characterized, they will be applied to understand cell signalling patterns and to develop an in vitro model of degenerative disease like Parkinson’s disease.

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FACULTY OF ARTS

Martin Wiklund

Institution/Department: Dept. of History of Ideas and Theory of Science
Previous studies: Lund University; Aarhus University; Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut in Essen
Research areas: Philosophy of history, historical consciousness and historical narratives, the role of history in society, history of historiography, contemporary Swedish history, theory and narratives of modernity.
Current research: I am currently working on the project “History as a tribunal?”, which discusses the analogy of the tribunal and the concept of justice in relation to historical evaluations of “68” in Sweden. The aim is to contribute to the theory of historical argumentation and evaluation. Central questions are how ”1968” has been judged or evaluated in Sweden since the 60s; how normative evaluations and judgments can be justified and criticized in relation to empirical phenomena; how such judgments and justifications function as arguments for practical and future-oriented conclusions; and, how the role of the historian in society can be understood with regard to the analogy of the tribunal.
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Maurice Curtis

Institution/Department: Center for Brain Repair and Rehabilitation. Institute for Neuroscience and Physiology

Previous studies: Auckland University; University of Gothenburg

Thesis: Neural Progenitor Cells in the Huntington’s Disease Human Brain

Research areas: Neurogenesis, stem cells and neurodegenerative disorders

Current research: We have recently identified and described a long distance pathway for cell migration in the human brain. Although this pathway is predominantly for the supply of new olfactory neurons, it would be desirable to alter the migration direction from the olfactory system toward areas of the brain that are damaged in neurodegenerative diseases. Therefore, we plan to use detailed molecular techniques together with ultrastructural techniques to identify how cells in the human brain and under the influence of what key molecules so that we can alter the course of progenitor cell migration in neurodegenerative disorders.

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FacultY of Science

Michele Roberto Pestalozzi

Institution/Department: Department of Physics, Astrophysics Group
Previous studies: ETH, Zurich, Switzerland; Chalmers
Research areas: Star formation, X-ray transients
Current research: Main field: high-mass star formation through the observation and modelling of maser emission of methanol using interferometry techniques.
Recently started: Be/X-ray transients. We attempt to understand if and how a jet in such objects appears by searching for centimetre continuum radio emission from a selection of targets.

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Monica Lindgren

Institution/Department: The Academy of Music and Drama
Previous studies: Luleå University of Technology, University of Gothenburg
Thesis: Bringing order to aesthetics in school. Discursive positioning with teachers and head teachers.
Research area: Arts and education
Current research: The research project revolves around issues of artistic and pedagogical identity creation in relation to knowledge production within diverse arts subjects. The study views the meaning ascribed to an artist’s work as strongly related to learning within the respective genre. The way in which people within widely divergent fields of art define art, themselves and their own artistic activity thus becomes of interest from a pedagogical perspective. Central issues are how artistic work processes within different artistic genres are perceived, and what abilities are presented as important. These issues concerning the nature of knowledge also lead into issues of how practitioners within different arts subjects verbalise teaching and learning. What is conveyed as central in artistic learning? What choice of content and form respectively are assumed to promote knowledge formation? What are the aims and objectives of the teaching? Also central in these contexts is to investigate which ideas predominate with regard to quality and which judgements seem to govern the teaching and how they can be related to the pedagogic and/or artistic identities. The aim of the research study is therefore to analyse constructions of identity and knowledge within higher arts education and to problematise them with the point of departure in power and control. Participants in the research are artists/teachers and students from the arts subjects music, theatre and the field of image and form.

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FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Niklas Pramling

**Institution/Department:** The Linnaeus Centre for Research on Learning, Interaction, and Mediated Communication in Contemporary Society (LinCS)

**Previous studies:** Karlstad University and University of Gothenburg

**Thesis:** Minding Metaphors: Using Figurative Language in Learning to Represent

**Research areas:** The use of metaphors in learning and knowledge formation and children’s learning, communication and understanding, particularly in the domains of science and the arts

**Current research:** In my current research, I study communication about natural phenomena between young children and teachers in early schooling. More specifically, my analytical interest concerns the use of metaphorical language when trying to describe or explain unfamiliar and/or abstract knowledge. Metaphors can be understood as ‘tools’ for ‘bridging the gap’ between the everyday experience and language of the learner, on the one hand, and, on the other, the novel, more abstract, knowledge to be learnt. In speaking of something less familiar in more familiar terms, metaphors become central for sense-making. Metaphor is an important principle through which people make their primary tool for learning, i.e., language, functional in a changing world of experiences and observations. Hence, what metaphors teachers and children use, and how these provide support when learning about, for example, nature, are important questions to analyse when studying learning and development.

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Ola Svensson

**Institution/Department:** Department of Zoology

**Previous studies:** Stockholm University, University of Hull.

**Thesis:** Sexual selection in *Pomatoschistus* - nests, sperm competition and paternal care.

**Research areas:** Behavioural Ecology, Evolution, Genetics, Speciation

**Current research:** Sexual selection in the sand gobies *Pomatoschistus minutus* and *Pomatoschistus microps* both belong to the so called sand goby group in which all species have exclusive paternal care. My research on the sand gobies is focused on different aspects important in sexual selection, e.g. nest building, sperm competition, paternity and paternal care, and their mutual interrelationships. Furthermore, I am also interested in paternal care per se, that is, outside of the framework of sexual selection.

The genetics of mate choice and speciation in African cichlids

There are hundreds of mouth brooding cichlid fish species unique to Lakes Malawi and Victoria in Africa. Many closely-related species can be crossed in the laboratory, but mate assortatively in nature, suggesting that speciation may often be influenced by mate choice behaviour. To unravel the genetic background of reproductive isolation we are designing and carrying out experimental crosses, assaying male phenotypes used in species recognition and carrying out experimental tests of mate preference using molecular paternity analysis.

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**Institution/Department:** Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Micro Biology

**Previous studies:** University of Gothenburg; Chalmers University of Technology

**Thesis:** Evolution of Human Alpha-herpesviruses

**Research areas:** Bioinformatics; Evolution and adaptation of Viruses and bacteria; Antibiotic and anti viral resistances; Vaccines

**Current research:** I am currently working with IncP-1 plasmids, which are broad-host-range plasmids, known to carry and spread a wide spectrum of antibiotic resistances. These resistances are usually located on transposable genetic elements incorporated in the plasmid backbone. While these mobile genetic elements carried by the plasmids have been well characterized, information about the evolution of the incP-1 plasmid backbone is sparse. Our recent results demonstrate that IncP-1 plasmids are more diverged than previously thought, and that homologous recombination is a frequent and continuous feature of the evolution of the plasmid backbone. The evolutionary presence of inter-type recombination events supports that incP-1 plasmids are mobile and can move between different bacteria in different environments, which may have implications for the spread of antibiotic resistances. Furthermore, recombination requires simultaneous replication of two plasmids within the same host-cell, and a direct implication hereof is that those plasmids, at least occasionally, move between bacteria already carrying plasmids from the same family. Such free movement facilitates the exchange of genetic material directly between different IncP-1 plasmids and may therefore also increase the risk for the accumulation of multi-antibiotic resistances in one single plasmid.

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Ruijin Shao

**Institution/Department:** Department of Physiology/Endocrinology, Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology  
**Previous studies:** Gothenburg University  
**Thesis:** Expression, regulation and function of Small Ubiquitin-related M0difier-1 interaction with nuclear proteins in vivo  
**Research areas:** Reproductive Endocrinology  
**Current research:** The mammalian fallopian tube is the venue of reproductive events leading to the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy, and approximately half of female infertility is caused by fallopian tube abnormalities. Considerable attention has been paid to the important roles of estrogen on the tubal morphological, biological and physiological functions and it has long been proposed that impairment of tubal transport primarily results in tubal ectopic pregnancies in humans. However, progress has been hampered by a lack of experimentally provable evidence to elucidate mechanism of estrogen action involved in regulation of tubal cell function and dysfunction in vivo and in vitro. My research program focuses on the specialized functions of tubal cell ER subtypes, and how these subtypes interact in relation to fallopian tube physiology and pathology. We plan to accomplish the overall objective of this application by pursuing the following intercalating aims: (1) to define the steroid hormones regulating both receptor subtype and isoform expression in a regional- and a cell type-specific manner; (2) to delineate the physiological roles of ER subtypes during the transport process by using ER, ER, and ER/knockout mice; (3) to develop an in vitro primary tubal cell culture system and combinatorial in vivo detection strategies in order to identify the target genes under the control of ER subtype proteins, and (4) to find out whether dysfunction of either ER subtype is responsible for tubal ectopic pregnancy and how to modulate ER function under pathological conditions in vivo. We anticipate that the outcome of these studies will lead to a better understanding of not only the physiological influences of estrogen-dependent ER activation on tubal function such as transport of gametes and early embryos, but also the causes of fallopian tube dysfunction and it will allow the development of new pharmacologic strategies for the prevention of tubal ectopic pregnancies in humans.

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FACULTY OF ARTS

Sabine Grenz

Institution/Department: Department of Culture, Aesthetics, Media and Gender Studies
Previous studies: Humboldt-Universität, Berlin; London School of Economics and Political Science
Thesis: The Construction of (Hetero-) Sexuality in Prostitutes’ Clients’ Narratives – an empirical and cultural historian analysis
Research areas: Gender and Sexuality, Cultural History of Sexuality, Prostitution, Gender and Nationalism, Gender and National Socialism and the Second World War
Current research: Gender Relations Represented in Second World War Diaries by Women who Were Recognised as German.

Diaries are a fascinating set of material to give insights in the every day life, thoughts and activities of people in other periods of time. Even though diary writing has been popular since enlightenment, we still know little about diary writing of ‘ordinary’ people. Additionally, despite the wealth of research on National Socialism and the fact that diary writing reached a peak during this period, we still know little about it and thus, little about how people related to the ‘truths’ offered by the fascist system on a daily basis.

In this project I plan to develop the fundamental reconstruction of how civilian women in a fascist society accounted for themselves. Core concepts are the gendered and racialised power relations. The proposed work focuses on diaries by women who were privileged on the basis of racism. Diaries are by no means simply private documents. Instead they often are written for other people (relatives, friends) and represent a discussion of individual persons with their public and private environment. As such they entail how these persons related to the ‘knowledge’ claims of the fascist society and how they constructed their subjectivity in connection to them.

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Sofia Movérare Skrtic

**Institution/Department:** Institute of Medicine  
**Previous studies:** University of Gothenburg.  
**Thesis:** The relative importance of sex steroid receptors for bone metabolism.  
**Research areas:** Epigenetics and osteoporosis  
**Current research:** Loss of bone mass along with microarchitectural deterioration leads to enhanced bone fragility and increased fracture risk — the bone disease known as osteoporosis. Osteoporosis is thought to be a polygenic disorder, determined both by multiple genes and environmental risk factors. Epigenetics are the study of changes in gene expression that are not mediated at the DNA sequence level. The overall aims of my present research are to investigate the role of environmental factors for epigenetics and to determine the impact of epigenetics for osteoporosis. Well-characterized large population-based cohorts of young adults and elderly subjects, respectively, will be used. Global and sequence-specific DNA methylation of candidate genes for osteoporosis will be analyzed. To determine the contribution of environmental factors for epigenetics, we will compare the epigenetics between young and elderly subjects and study how birth weight, duration of breast-feeding, vitamin D-drops, smoking, physical activity, and dietary intake influence the epigenetics. To investigate the impact of epigenetics for osteoporosis, associations between epigenetics and skeletal phenotypes will be performed. Characterization of environmental factors affecting epigenetics and the importance of epigenetics for skeletal phenotypes might elucidate novel targets for the development of treatments of osteoporosis and increase the understanding of the mechanisms by which environmental factors affect bone mass.

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FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Viveka Berggren Torell

Institution/Department: School of Sport Science
Previous studies: University of Gothenburg, the departments of Ethnology and of Home Economics
Thesis: Children’s clothes in the People’s home Discourses on the dressed child in the 1920s to the 1950s in Sweden
Research areas: Cultural perspectives on clothing and textiles
Children’s clothes – Historical perspectives on children’s consumption combined with textile history
Current research: Football and clothing – Connections in consumer culture has three themes:
- Football-kits and clothes for training – How do players experience their clothed bodies when the traditional dress code of football meets new textile developments?
- Football and fashion – What do players think of connections between football and fashion today? How have relations between football and the ready-to-wear-industry been constructed earlier?
- Supporters’ clothes – What functional and symbolic meanings do clothes have for supporters?
Football clothes nowadays are carriers of sponsor brands, income generating supporter-items and functional working-clothes contributing to players’ top-performances at the pitch. In this time of “sportification” football kits also influence everyday clothing design and football stars spread images of the fashion-conscious man. This project, with an ethnographic approach, aims at investigating such connections between football and clothes in Sweden today. Some historical retrospects will also be made. Theoretically the starting point is to discuss how far “post modern conditions” can explain experiences of connections between football and clothes today. The project is also aimed at “making fashion material” by focusing on material properties and tactual sensations of clothes. When it comes to players’ experiences of their clothed bodies interpretations will be based on Merleau-Ponty’s phenomenological theories.

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Institution/Department: Department of Applied information Technology
Previous studies: Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Research areas: Usability evaluation, computer games, serious games
Current research: The last few years, researchers, educators, and game designers have expressed a growing awareness of the educational potential of computer games. Computer games could make it possible for learners to be intrinsically motivated to learn. However, it is also generally agreed that designing educational computer games is a difficult task. Many educational games have fallen in the negatively associated category ‘edutainment’, a commercial product that is neither entertaining nor educative. People with different backgrounds, such as engineers, designers, academics, and pedagogues have to work together to develop successful educational games. The aim of my research is to gain inside knowledge about how the educational gaming industry tries to overcome these difficulties, by observing different working processes in real company settings. Furthermore, I critically examine different serious games to determine whether they are successful or not, and analyse why and how that has happened. A result of this research could be a first description of a common language for educational game design that helps to professionalize this discipline.

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Current research: Coeliac disease (CD) is a chronic inflammatory disease. Genetic factors, together with gluten from wheat and most likely other environmental factors, are involved in disease development. The disease is more widespread than previously thought and recent data suggests that 1-3% of the Swedish population is intolerant to gluten. In the 1990s, there were more new CD cases per 100,000 inhabitants in Sweden than anywhere else in the world. Even so, more than 70% of affected children in Sweden remain undiagnosed. Ongoing CD will increase the overall risk for developing other autoimmune diseases as well as developing neurological manifestations and malnutrition. We have analyzed all of the eight loci identified from the Genome Wide Association Study in CD and its follow up study. When genotyping our Scandinavian family material, consisting of 325 nuclear families, we were able to confirm two of these loci, the IL2/IL21 region (chromosome 4) as well as the CCR cluster region (chromosome 3). We have made a haplotype analysis as a first step in order to identify variation and confine the region which might contain the disease variant. We have also made a whole genome linkage analysis and identified a disease locus on chromosome 5.

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