

Explorative workshops 2009

Identity, Diplomacy, Societies: Nordic Perspectives on European Integration from the Interwar Period to the Present Day

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Bidrag 40.000 EUR

The Nordic countries' relationship with European integration is complex and ambivalent. Since the beginning of the 20th century, Nordic attitudes have been shaped by both the need to take part in forms of European cooperation and a reluctance to join supranational organisations.

The idea of Nordic unity has always held appeal as an alternative to European integration. However, the EC/EU's emergence as the European centre of gravity has forced Nordic governments to adjust their countries' affiliation with the EC/EU according to national preferences.

Research across countries and disciplines

In a series of three workshops, researchers from the Nordic countries will try to reassess the region's self-understanding and re-examine its place in Europe.

In an interdisciplinary effort, historians and political scientists will add new empirical evidence and conceptual reflection on the long-term trends, historical turning points, and current developments of Nordic approaches to European integration.

Identity, Diplomacy, Societies

The first workshop will ask whether the Nordic way of interacting with Europe is unique, to what extent Nordic attitudes towards Europe are similar, and how Nordic contributions to European unity are seen from the "Continent".

The second will discuss different forms of Nordic affiliation with the EC/EU and examine the negotiations that led to them.

The third will reassess the societal cleavages that have shaped Nordic attitudes towards European integration, evaluating the motivations and strategies of individual and collective actors.

Nordic food culture

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Bidrag	25.000 EUR

The objective is to create a new multidisciplinary Nordic research force within food culture. This network will be concretized through the Nordic International Commission on the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (ICAF) that will give a basis for a first common application for research project about traditional food in Nordic countries.

Explaining food habits

During the last decades it has been recognised that the quantitative analysis of food intake does not on its own explain food habits nor their origin.

Diversification of diets has occurred in wealthy nations with globalization and this increases the importance of finding out more about choice than is available from a simple record of dietary intake.

Difference between discourses and practices

Individuals become enabled to have personal tastes and preferences, and even at home people pick and choose. Difference between discourses and practices, between what people say they eat and what they really eat is then very important.

Content of the workshops

With such considerations in mind, the first workshop opens towards interdisciplinarity by considering the Nordic knowledge on food themes as:

- Changes in food habits
- Systems of distribution
- Significance of foods
- Cuisine and culinary systems
- Migration, globalization and locality

The second workshop focuses on food culture and culinary systems and emphasizes cultural dynamics and the importance of political and economical dimensions on traditional food habits. This aims to lead to a common application for research project in this field.

Nordisk ettervern: Forutsetninger for sosial inkludering blant tidligere barneverns klienter i de nordiske landene

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Bidrag 32.344 EUR

Formålet med de tre workshopene er å utvikle et forskningsprosjekt om forutsetninger for sosial inkludering blant ungdom som har vært under offentlig omsorg (ettervernsungdom) i de nordiske landene. Så langt vi kjenner til, har det ikke tidligere vært gjennomført nordisk, komparativ forskning om denne gruppen.

Ettervernsinnsatser hjelper, men hvorfor?

Overgangen fra ungdom til voksen byr på en rekke utfordringer. I vestlige industriland snakker vi om en forlenget ungdomstid i forhold til tidligere. Unge som har vært under offentlig omsorg opplever derimot en aksellerert og komprimert overgang som de forventes å klare raskere og med langt mindre støtte enn ungdom flest.

Forskningslitteraturen viser også entydig at tidligere barnevernsungdom har langt dårligere levekårsutfall på en rekke områder enn ungdom flest. På den andre siden viser en del forskning at ettervernstiltak kan ha positiv effekt. Det mangler imidlertid kunnskap om hvorfor.

Tre temaer for workshops

Tre spørsmål er sentrale, og vil være tema for hver sin workshop:

- Komparativ, nordisk kunnskap om policy, organisering og utforming av tiltak og betydningen av variasjoner innenfor den nordiske velferdsmodellen, samt potensiale for videre utvikling av tiltak.
- I hvor stor grad ettervernstiltak hjelper på grunn av skjev selektering inn i tiltak, og/eller fordi tiltakene og deres organisering har positiv effekt.
- Forskningen om ettervernsungdom er teorisvak, og mangler helhetlige, teoretiske perspektiver som inkorporerer et individuelt og et strukturelt perspektiv.

Exploratory workshops on the Foreign, Security and Defence Policies of the European Union

Prosjektleder Walter Carlsnæs
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Bidrag 17.286 EUR

This application for funding is intended to facilitate research co-operation between four of the major research institutes in the Nordic area working on the EU as a global actor.

Establishing cooperation between on a Nordic basis

In the past we have all been very active internationally within this field of research, but have had relatively little direct and continuous contact on a Nordic basis. This we now intend to change by establishing a closely knit network between both university and research institute based scholars.

Four dimensions of the EU as an increasingly important global actor

More specifically, the intention is to hold two workshops focusing on four dimensions of the EU as an increasingly important global actor.

- The first of these goes to the very heart of the proposed project: what kind of an international actor is the EU?
- Secondly, we will focus on the normative dimension of the European Union, in particular on issues pertaining to transparency, accountability, legitimacy, democracy and multilateralism - all traditional Nordic concerns.
- Thirdly, we wish to put a major focus on the link between European security and crisis management, a policy area which has expanded considerably and very quickly over the past few years.
- A fourth aspect of the EU that we feel needs further penetration is the question of European security and defence policy and the potential role of the Nordic countries in its development.

Outcome is an application for long-term funding

On the basis of these two workshops a concluding workshop will be reserved exclusively to writing an application for long-term international funding.

Field works: Towards collaborative research practices in dance

Projektleder Petri Hoppu
Institution University of Tampere
Bidrag 15.000 EUR

The inspired interaction which has really been catching on very strongly in the project Dance in Nordic Spaces has made the members of the research group wish to superimpose a new dimension of innovation, laboratory workshops as research practices on top of their running project.

The workshops focus on developing a reflected approach to practice-led, collaborative scholarly analysis. In a laboratory-structure the researchers will work with a division of labour and in tight cooperation on defined materials/topics.

Forms of investigation

The workshops explore three field work situations:

- Dance practices
- Performance events
- Archival studies

The intention is to de- and re-fine a cluster of common methodologies useful in collaborative projects among specialists.

Goals

The main purpose is to test the benefits of having the work take place concentrated in one time and space and in an inspired togetherness, but still with time to individual work between the laboratories.

What this means is that the researchers share the same frame of research, the laboratory, which allows them to investigate same phenomena from different perspectives according to the division of labour.

This kind of innovative inquiry strengthens the evidence of research, producing multiple views that

The Nordic Network for Contemporary Maritime History. Understanding the upheavals in Nordic shipping, 1960 – 2010

Projektleder Martin Jes Iversen
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Bidrag 25.150 EUR

There is no sector more relevant to focus on in this economic downturn than the shipping industry. This industry has always been at the core of globalization by facilitating international trade and therefore, is extremely vulnerable to changes in the levels of trade and can be used as a forecaster of change in economic cycles. The Nordic maritime cluster, in particular has played a vital role in international economies for a considerable period of time.

Nordic shipping companies major role until the 1970s and 1980s

Nordic shipping companies manifested their major role in international shipping until the great crisis of the 1970s and 1980s. After the crisis, the experiences of the various countries differed markedly

Denmark and Norway were able to fully or partly recoup their previous position, while Swedish and Finnish shipping largely failed to take advantage of the new possibilities and these differences have yet to be comprehensively studied.

Nordic network study maritime history

The need for further study regarding the above two research areas led to the formation of the Nordic Network for Contemporary Maritime History, which was started in January 2009 as a network of nine highly qualified scholars representing four Nordic countries.

The network has proposed an ambitious agenda for future research in contemporary Nordic maritime history and will organize two cross-Nordic workshops in 2010 with the aim to analyze the various ways in which the great shipping crises and the political-institutional setting affected corporate strategies and vice versa.

The Nordic Colonial Mind

Projektleder Lars Jensen
Institution Roskilde Universitet
Bidrag 40.000 EUR

The workshops will bring together for the first time Nordic scholars working on Nordic colonialism and scholars working on contemporary immigration.

Inter-Nordic collaboration

Although research has been conducted e.g. in national archives, this research has at best sporadically been the subject of inter-Nordic conferences and general research collaboration.

The workshops will enable the important cross-cultural exploration of related research, and create a formal structure for the future collaboration within fields, from anthropology, ethnology, history, social sciences, literature studies, popular cultural studies and postcolonial studies.

Historical analysis of the past in the present

The workshops will critically engage with the historical past of the Nordic countries, examining how the Nordic countries participated, contested and participated in colonial and imperialistic projects.

Contemporary issues of North- south relations

Simultaneously, the project brings these historical perspectives into the present, through the overt focus on the relationship between the Nordic colonial past and contemporary processes of globalisation, most notably migration.

Schedule and thematic headlines for the NCM workshops

- Autumn 2009 RUC: Nordic Exceptionalism
- Spring 2010 University of Iceland: Contemporary immigration and Nordic Colonial Legacy
- Autumn 2010 Joint seminar Oslo University College and Gothenburg University: Challenging national historiographies – from colonialism to migrant others

Kön och makt i Norden - en forskningsbaserad databas

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Bidrag 16.558 EUR

I FN-statistiken rangordnas de fem nordiska länderna till de mest jämställda i världen. Samtidigt visar maktundersökningar på en ojämn fördelning av samhällets toppositioner mellan kvinnor och män även i Norden.

Statistik över fördelningen av kvinnor och män på olika områden

Sträven efter en jämn könsfördelning i tillgången till samhällelig makt är en hörnsten i nordisk demokratiuppfattning och jämställdhetspolitik.

Ett centralt verktyg i det jämställdhetspolitiska arbetet är statistik över fördelningen av kvinnor och män på olika samhällsområden, arbetsuppgifter och samhälleliga maktpositioner.

Förbereda databas om strukturell köns makt i Norden

Workshoparna ska förbereda skapandet av en forskningsbaserad databas om strukturell köns makt i Norden.

Med strukturell köns makt avses de systematiska mönster och skillnader vilka innebär att män oftare än kvinnor innehar toppositioner inom olika samhällsfärer (vertikal könssegregering) och att kvinnor och män ofta verkar inom olika fält och har olika arbetsuppgifter (horisontell könssegregering).

Utvikling av indikatorer för horisontell könssegregering

Databasen bygger på resultat i forskningsprogrammet Kön och makt i Norden som kartlägger och analyserar fördelningen av strukturell köns makt inom näringsliv och politik i Danmark, Finland, Island, Norge och Sverige samt Färöarna, Grönland och Åland.

Förutom jämförelser mellan länderna ska programmet även diskutera orsakerna till att kvinnorepresentationen i Norden är relativt hög (mellan 30 och 45 procent) inom politik medan näringslivet fortfarande är starkt mansdominerat.

Workshoparna ska särskilt diskutera hur indikatorer för horisontell könssegregering, som är svårare att fånga en vertikal segregering, kan utvecklas.

Nordic medieval book culture and its international networks. Workshops on manuscript fragments in Nordic collections

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Bidrag 35.200 EUR

The introduction of the book

The Nordic medieval book and scribal culture was the result of a new religion, a new alphabet and a new international language: Latin.

With the introduction of Christianity to the North new centres of learning were established which remained internationally oriented for the remainder of the Middle Ages. The number of books grew rapidly, both through import and through local book production.

In the twelfth and thirteenth century England and France were important as sources for cultural influence, and there appears to have been an eager exchange of people, books and ideas.

The remains of the book culture

The physical evidence of the international dynamics behind northern medieval book culture can be found in medieval manuscript material in modern collections.

The medieval manuscripts are unevenly distributed among the Nordic countries. Yet, for all of them the study of the earliest book history must to a large degree depend on the book fragments which have survived as covers of the royal administration in early modern times.

New activity

During the last two decades there has been a new wave of activity in the study of manuscript fragments. Since the challenges of fragment studies are considerable it is important to maintain a Nordic network of scholars, while looking towards other parts of Europe for collaboration.

The international networks of the Middle Ages are best studied through a corresponding international network of modern scholars.

Nordic citizens in knowledge society: literacy practices in transition

Projektleder Anne Pitkänen-Huhta
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Bidrag 40.000 EUR

Literacy skills are considered essential to function in today's knowledge society and citizens also have to understand what kind of literacy practices are valued and how to show competencies in order to gain recognition.

Increasing cultural and social heterogeneity changes literacy practices

Currently all societies are changing in significant ways and the Nordic countries are no exception. These changes are related to globalization, technological developments, migration and the ensuing multiculturalism and multilingualism.

Increasing cultural and social heterogeneity inevitably changes the literacy practices of all citizens as well as the demands society places on citizens' literacy skills. Nordic countries have a long history in literacy teaching and they have boasted with their nearly 100 % literacy rates. The notion of literacy underlying these views has been that of a universal skill, acquirable in full through education.

The rapid societal changes, however, call for conceptualizations that take into account the changing nature of societies and communities, and which aim at explicating the relationship between individuals' literacy practices and their access to full participation in society.

Workshops will examine literacy practices in the Nordic context

The aim of workshops is to bring together Nordic researchers working on different aspects of literacy, multilingualism, and the changing living and learning environments and to initiate research examining literacy practices in the Nordic context.

The focal questions examined in the workshops are related to the processes of change in the literacy practices in Nordic countries, to the construction of identities and membership in and through literacy practices, to the role of technology in shaping literacies, and to the role of education in responding to societal changes.

Rights of linguistic minorities: empowerment of European and Russian speech communities by means of a Nordic model?

Projektleder Janne Saarikivi
Institution University of Helsinki
Bidrag 33.670 EUR

Nordic minorities in a larger European framework

The Nordic Countries are known for progressive minority policies, but the situation and the future prospects of two minorities residing in one country may differ significantly from each other. So may the situation of minorities living in several countries.

The aim of these workshops is to put the cases of Nordic minorities such as the Kvens, the Samis and the Tornedalen Finns in a larger European and Eurasian framework by comparing them with the Basques and the Mari people. The incorporation of these minorities widens the perspective from national first to Nordic and then to higher level.

International comparison for better understanding

The workshops will study the current situation and development perspectives of these minorities from the point of view of sociolinguistics and social sciences. The range of minorities offers a possibility for multidimensional comparison. The key questions are:

- In which ways have the fates of the Nordic minorities been different to those of the other European countries and Russia?
- How have the different political and societal environments affected the development of minorities?
- Why has one minority survived better than some other minority in the same country?

The focus will be on the contextual factors and mechanisms of minority culture survival and the development of strategies which help to sustain the minority communities.

Broader views in research

This series of exploratory workshops will provide interdisciplinary contacts and offer new views in minority research.

Ownership and regulation in the Nordic forest management since the early 20th century

Projektleder Haari Siiskonen
Institution University of Joensuu
Bidrag 39.600 EUR

From the judicial point of view the property rights of the family forest owners have remained strong in the Nordic countries. However, this has not entitled the owners free hands to manage their forests.

The prevailing norms and values of the society along with the economic importance of forests for the national economy have reflected to legislation that regulates the management and utilization of forests. By ordinances and subventions the legislator has been steering the behaviour of the forest owners.

Development of the regulatory systems in forest management

The exploratory workshops focus on discussing the development of the regulatory systems in management and use of the forests of the non-industrial private forest owners. We will critically examine how the regulatory systems have been developed and how they have changed since the beginning of the 20th century.

We broadly define regulation as legally binding rules and agreements, but also as less hierarchical forms such as nonbinding declarations, recommendations and codes of conducts and their implementation practices.

The overall objective of the workshops is to summarise the current knowledge about how the Nordic forest owners have reacted and adjusted to regulation and what kind of changes there have occurred.

Multidisciplinary and comparative approach

The novelty value of the planned exploratory workshops is the multidisciplinary and comparative approach to private forest ownership between the Nordic countries. In the Nordic countries no such multidisciplinary project has yet been carried out.

The workshops will provide a starting point for a common research program focusing on comparing the tradition of regulation of renewable resources not only in the Nordic context but also at the global level.

Interpreting African Christianity: Anthropology and Theology in Dialogue

Projektleder Mika Vähäkangas
Institution University of Helsinki
Bidrag 40.000 EUR

In Africa Christianity has grown at a pace unprecedented in history. The result was not the expansion of Western Christendom and Western cultural uniformity. Rather, African Christians interpreted the new faith in their socio-cultural contexts, resulting in new forms of Christianity.

Anthropologists and theologians are both in the forefront researching African Christianity with the tools of their disciplines. In this task, they can enrich each others' approaches to understand more deeply the contents and the socio-cultural context of African Christian faith.

Understanding the Christianization of Africa and the Africanization of Christianity

The explosive growth of Christianity in Africa, taking place predominantly only after the independence, was a result of various factors like Biblical translations into vernaculars, the Africanization of church leadership, churches' social commitment and the adaptation of African interpretations of the Gospel.

African interpretations of Christianity have existed from the first missionary encounters. Eventually, the interplay between the African imagination and the imported religion has grown wider and deeper. As a result, African theological ideas and practical approaches have risen that challenge traditional Western concepts.

African Christianity as a Global Network

Western Christianity expanded together with colonial power. African Christianity expands through migration caused by poverty in Africa. Through African immigrants, these new approaches to Christianity penetrate into new areas and facilitate the transnationalisation of this branch of Christianity. In this way, it gains global presence.