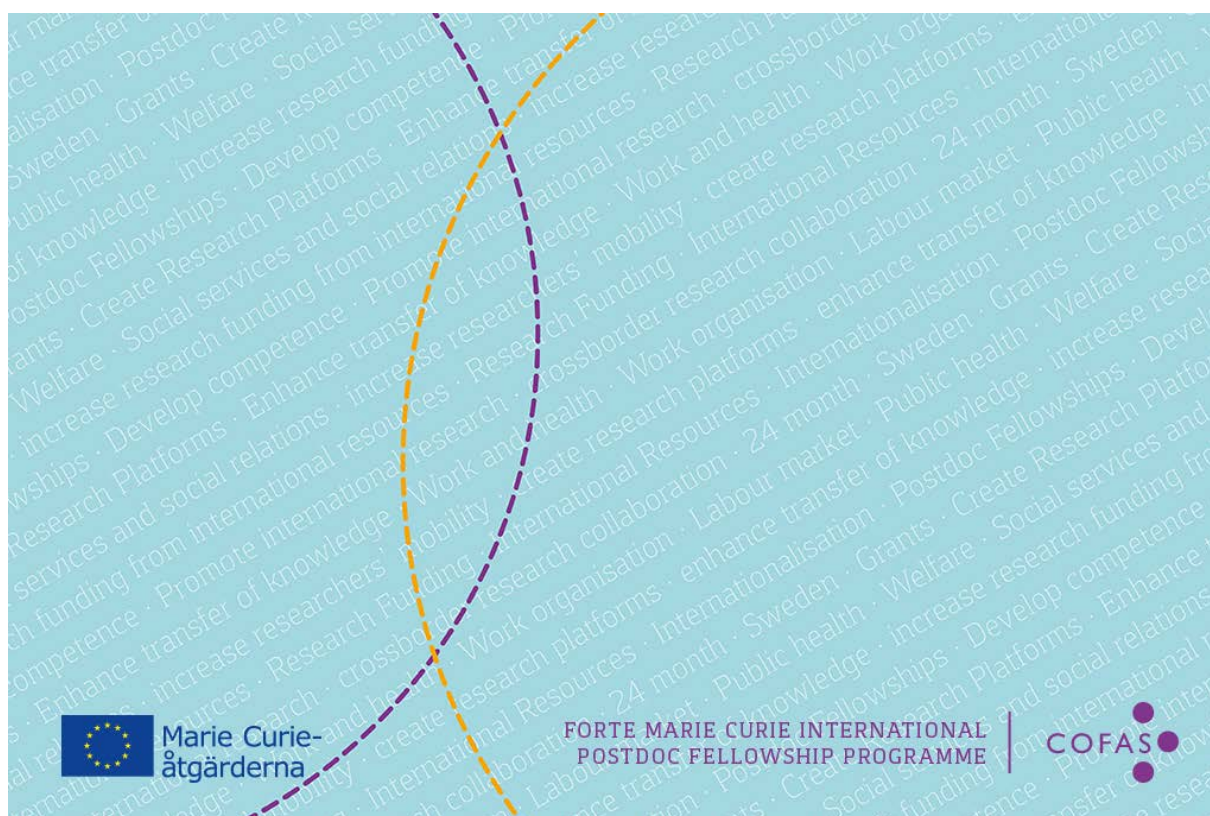


COFAS2 Projects

Book of abstracts



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Albert Banerjee

The logic of care and the logic of audit in residential care for older persons: Learning from international comparative research and feminist care theory

Ensuring that older people in nursing homes receive good care is a major challenge in Sweden and internationally. Approaches to quality have increasingly been influenced by paradigms arising from the for-profit sector, such as marketisation and auditing. However research, particularly from Anglophone liberal countries, with long traditions of for-profit institutions shows that the auditing – e.g., regulation, measurement and monitoring – can make it more difficult for careworkers to flexibly meet residents' changing needs. By contrast, this study draws on feminist care theories which recognize that care has its own unique "logic" that must be taken into account if high quality care is to be ensured. This project's objective is to learn how a logic of care can contribute to the development of meaningful alternatives to auditing. It seeks to learn from the comparison of the logics of care and audit in two national contexts: Sweden with a traditionally more trust-based model of control and Canada with a much stricter and more detailed audit apparatus. The applicant, Albert Banerjee from Canada, is an expert on audit models and care theories. During his stay in Sweden he will collaborate with leading Swedish care researchers in the Department of Social Work at Stockholm University. This study will draw on rich ethnographic materials including observations and interviews at two Swedish and two Canadian nursing homes, collected during 2013-2014 as part of a larger international project. Additional interviews will be conducted with national and local inspectors of eldercare quality and with nursing home managers and care workers in both Canada and Sweden. This study will make scientific contributions to the understanding of the opportunities and constraints of the logics of care and of audit. It will also make applied contributions to evidence-informed quality improvement of nursing home care for older persons.

To: Stockholm University, Sweden,

From: York University, Canada

Bronwyn Brew

The Role of Maternal and Child distress in Asthma and Atopic diseases

Background. Asthma, eczema, hay fever and food allergies are highly prevalent worldwide and have both genetic and environmental causes. Psychological distress during pregnancy is thought to be one of these causes and has been targeted by the WHO as a high research priority.

Objectives. 1) Is maternal distress during pregnancy and the first year of life associated with the development of childhood asthma or atopy?; 2) How much of the comorbidity of childhood atopic disease and anxiety can be explained by genetic factors, shared (familial) environmental factors and environmental factors unique to the individual?; 3) Does having a childhood atopic disease have a detrimental effect on academic performance?; 4) Does having a child with an atopic disease increase the psychological distress of mothers?

Methods. This body of work proposes to use two primary methods. The first is to use the linkage of a number of registries in Sweden including multigenerational, medication and hospital diagnoses. The second is to use the Childhood and Adolescent Twin Study in Sweden (CATSS) study. Linking the participants in CATSS with their parents in the registries enables study of the associations between maternal distress and atopic disease in both directions eg child on mother or mother on child. Statistical methods will include; Cox's and logistic regression, sibling and within twin comparisons, and bivariate structural equation modelling.

Significance. This project will determine how much of the association between maternal distress and asthma and atopy in children is a direct cause and how much is caused by shared genetic or environmental factors. Similarly, it will seek to extend our understanding of the consequences of living with an atopic disease, specifically on academic performance and distress in the child and mother. The importance of genetic and environmental factors on these relationships provide opportunities for future insight into the possibility of preventive measures.

To: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

From: University of Newcastle, Australia

Hannah Louise Brooke

Cancer survival; a function of offspring's educational level?

BACKGROUND

Better cancer survival in higher compared with lower socioeconomic groups is due to earlier detection and favourable care pathways. Through similar mechanisms, adult children of higher socioeconomic position may facilitate better survival for their parents with cancer. I aim to study the novel hypothesis that children's educational level may be associated with parental cancer survival.

METHOD

A national cohort of ~105,000 cancer patients, aged 65-79 years, with their first lung, colorectal, breast or prostate cancer recorded in the Swedish Cancer Register between 2004-2013, will be identified. Patients will be linked with their children using the Multi-Generation Register. In phase 1 I will evaluate survival 1) for parents vs. non-parents and 2) by offspring's educational level. In phase 2 I will assess mechanistic pathways using data from cancer quality registers, e.g. associations of offspring's educational level with tumour stage, and indicators of diagnostic activity, case management, treatment compliance and follow-up care. Analyses will be adjusted for potential confounding factors recorded in other Swedish registers. Importantly, this includes patient's own socioeconomic position and that of their spouse.

FEASIBILITY

The proposed work will take place within an interdisciplinary team with extensive knowledge of register-based research. The large sample size provides adequate statistical power to detect clinically meaningful risk differences. These factors, alongside results from a preliminary database, demonstrate the project's feasibility. Ethics approval has been granted.

RELEVANCE

Swedish register data present unique opportunities to improve our understanding of pathways influencing cancer survival and health inequalities - two critical challenges in modern society. This project is of great importance for clinical practice, public health policy, and the development of strategies to reduce health inequalities and the cancer burden.

To: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

From: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Radosveta Dimitrova

Advancing Optimal Well-Being in Adolescence. A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Minority and Mainstream Youth in Bulgaria and Sweden

Advancing well-being of children and youth through promoting successful psychological and educational outcomes remains core international policy issue (UNICEF, 2013). Additionally, most European countries are experiencing unprecedented increases in immigrant and ethnic minority families and their children whose well-being and mental health is of current interest (Hernandez et al., 2010). This project adopts a positive youth development (PYD) approach by investigating the contextual resources in families and schools that are associated with optimal outcomes among minority and mainstream youth in Bulgaria and Sweden. The project adopts an empowerment approach by addressing three questions: (1) What are the contextual processes in societies, families and schools that are associated with optimal outcomes among youth? (2) Which identity, family and school resources might protect well-being and foster success of youth? (3) Do we find evidence for intergenerational transmission in identity and family resources that foster optimal outcomes and enhance youths' resilience? The project focuses on multiple factors related to optimal outcomes in novel, albeit understudied cultural groups, by extending research on optimal well-being both conceptually and methodologically. First, we combine relevant theoretical frameworks of bidimensional acculturation (Berry et al., 2006), interactive acculturation (Bourhis et al., 1997) and resilience (Masten, 2001). Second, we integrate quantitative investigations by using multiple informants (van de Vijver & Chasiotis, 2010). Third, by building on strengths of youth, we outline new avenues for intervention programs in local schools and communities to capitalize on their resources and success in Bulgaria and Sweden.

To: Stockholm University, Sweden

From: Tilburg University, Netherlands

Jeroen Marie Louis Hendriks

Integrated Chronic Care Management in Atrial Fibrillation – optimising patient outcomes through self-management and E-health

In this proposal an innovative educational self-management program as part of an integrated chronic care approach in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) is studied. Applying the Integrated Chronic Care Approach, as recently developed and tested in the Maastricht University Medical Centre (MUMC), this proposal takes integrated care to the next level, by using E-health to strengthen interactions between patients and providers. The intervention is innovative for its involvement of patients in the developmental as well as in the evaluation phase of a (technological) intervention (following a user-centred approach), focusing on specific patient characteristics and embedding a patient educational self-management support tool within the integrated approach. This new approach provides tailor-made care with minimal time investment for care providers and maximal engagement of patients. The applicant aims to:

1. Develop a structured patient educational self-management program including a technical support tool for patients with AF, in terms of an interactive guide to be used by AF patients in the home situation. This tool supports and advises patients in their medication adherence, lifestyle activities and necessary decisions and actions to be made in the event of recurrences of AF.
2. Study the medical embedment of the program and the support tool by means of a pre-clinical feasibility trial.
3. Study the efficacy of the program and the technical support tool by means of a randomized controlled efficacy trial. Endpoints include effectiveness in terms of clinical outcomes (cardiovascular hospitalization or death), patient-related outcomes (knowledge, self-efficacy, self-care abilities, quality of life, patient satisfaction) and logistical and economical outcomes (healthcare utilization and healthcare costs) compared to usual care.

This research fellowship will cover a 24-month period at Linköping University, Sweden.

To: Linköping University, Sweden

From: Umeå University, Sweden

Astrid Indekeu

The social implications of reproductive medicine. A comparative study into new family formations

Reproductive technologies that involve a gamete or embryo donor have a significant impact in the resulting donorconceived families and society. Society is directly involved as provider of gametes and regulator of the technology, and donor-conceived families challenge society in its definition of concepts as 'parenthood', 'family' and 'kinship'. Although donor conception has been widely practiced for decades wider societal understanding of the new family formations resulting from this technology has never been investigated before. In an increasing number of countries parents are advised to be open about using donor conception and in Sweden offspring even have the legal right to obtain identifying information about the donor. However, uncertainty around societal perceptions of their family formation along with fear of stigma makes parents hesitant about disclosing the donor conception to others. The aim of the present project is to explore and compare societal perceptions of donor-conceived families in three European countries (Sweden, the United Kingdom and Belgium) that differ in culture and legislation regarding donor conception. The results will enhance understanding of how donorconceived families are perceived in society and contribute to development of recommendations of relevance for social policies and care of donor-conceived families.

To: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

From: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Juta Kawalerowicz

Demographic change and reactions to diversity in Sweden

In less than a century Western European societies have undergone a rapid demographic change, from ethnic homogeneity towards increasing diversity. In many countries these shifts were paralleled by changes of neighbourhoods and cities, with tensions periodically manifesting themselves in riots and the mobilization of far right political groups. Recently there has been a shift from looking at immigrants' efforts to integrate (thus often simplifying integration as a process which depends on immigrants alone) to considering the ways in which behaviour of the ethnic majority group affects the integration process. This is also the approach adopted in this project. Studies of ethnic residential segregation and the processes which generate them are a relatively new field of research in Scandinavian sociology; here we seek to make an additional contribution by linking ethnic dynamics to the emergence and diffusion of the far right political party.

The connection between residential mobility and support for far right parties is that can both be attributed to ethnic preferences. I adopt the conceptual framework from the influential work of Albert Hirschmann (Hirschman 1970), who described how, in the face of perceived decline in the provision of goods, individuals face a choice between the strategy of exit or voice. Specifically, Hirschmann examined the conditions necessary for exit strategy to prevail over voice and looked at how these two strategies are related to one another. When applied in the context of the majority group's reactions to increasing diversity, we propose that individuals may choose to exit because they perceive their neighbourhood's ethnic heterogeneity as reducing its quality or benefits. This gives rise to a dynamic process, with each consecutive exit affecting the perceived benefits of those remaining in the neighboured. What happens to those members of the majority group who cannot afford the exit strategy? According to Hirschmann, the voice strategy is a residual of exit - the availability of exit options reduces voice, yet when exit is not a viable option (for financial reasons or a lack of suitable alternatives in the area) individuals are more likely to opt for voice, a hypothesis which we will put to empirical test.

Sweden has rarely been considered as an example of an ethnically diverse society, yet with around 15 per cent, the proportion of foreign-born is similar to that in the United States (Eger 2010). Although Sweden does not have American style ethnic ghettos, Swedish researchers have documented geographic concentration of immigrant communities, drawing attention to high levels of ethnic segregation among some non-Western minority groups (Bråmă 2006, Hårsman 2006, Andersson 2007, 2012). This is important since the American literature has identified ethnic residential segregation as contributing towards the creation of areas of concentrated poverty as well as it being an important factor in perpetuating inequality (Wilson 1987, Massey 1993). Swedish studies also confirm the negative effect of segregation on outcomes such as educational attainment and unrest (Szulkin and Jonsson 2007, Malmberg, Andersson, and Östh 2013).

Two questions addressed in this project are: 1) To what extent has the majority group contributed to current patterns of residential ethnic segregation by adopting a strategy of exit, and 2) under what circumstances do members of the majority group adopt the voice strategy?

After years of relative unimportance, the Swedish far right has emerged as an important political force. In the September 2014 election, Sverigedemokraterna or the Sweden Democrats (SD) became the third biggest party in the Parliament, polling as high as 30 percent in certain areas. These recent developments, together with the availability of unique high quality register data, make Sweden a suitable case for studying the majority group's reactions to ethnic demographic change.

To: Linköping University, Sweden

From: University of Oxford, UK

Ann-Kristin Kölln

Political representation and the welfare state: opinion congruence on social policy during times of economic crisis

During times of economic crisis social policy is high in demand but, as latest research has shown, what citizens receive instead are in fact cuts in the welfare system (Vis, 2009). In those instances, the discrepancy between what citizens want and what they receive is large. It appears that during times of economic crisis, the translation of public opinion into public policy is more difficult to achieve than already otherwise, as what public opinion demands often collides with what the state can afford. This results in incongruence in opinions held by citizens and representatives. However, opinion congruence is considered one of the standards for the well-functioning of representative democracy in advanced industrial democracies. And large discrepancies can entice or foster citizen dissatisfaction with democracy. Reasons that make representatives decide counter citizen demands can be found in more information. Citizens are usually less informed about political issues and the consequences they might yield, compared to policy-makers and representatives. This research project aims at explaining the discrepancy between public opinion and policy output during times of economic difficulties. It seeks to test whether political information is a relevant factor in explaining this difference. For that, it follows individuals belonging to three different groups of political information: firstly, representatives with highest levels of information; secondly, party supporters as a discernible subgroup of citizens that is generally better informed than the average citizen but less informed than representatives; and thirdly, voters with lowest levels of information.

To: University of Gothenburg, Sweden

From: University of Twente, Netherlands

Isabelle Letellier

The role of perception of emotions and affects in psychotherapy

After more than five decades of psychotherapy research, we know very little about the therapeutic techniques and their relation to the change processes within the patient. The focus of this research project is on the role of the psychotherapist's perception of the patient's affects and its therapeutic effects, which can be assumed as a relevant part of achieving change processes in psychotherapies – both cognitive behavioural and psychodynamic. Perceiving non-verbal communication participates in the therapy because it is crucial for the relationship with the patient, which has been shown to influence the outcome in both types of psychotherapy. Demonstrating that the psychotherapist's ability to identify affective states and emotions constitutes a general factor in the psychotherapeutic technique will encourage the professional psychotherapist to focus on working through the affective disturbances. The research will be based mainly on behavioural experiments testing the psychotherapist's ability to perceive and recognize emotions, questionnaires for therapists and patients (pre-post therapy measurements) and interviews with therapists and psychotherapy students about the therapies they conduct during their training. The research project will lead to create a specialist education of high quality and thus training psychotherapists who can perform their treatments extraordinarily well. This project aims therefore at improving the professional psychotherapists' ability to perform their own work. This in turn will result in improving the patients' mental health, hence their quality of life and working life. Finally, this project aims at improving the cost efficiency of the health care system.

To: Stockholm University, Sweden

From: KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Marta Miklikowska

Like mother, like daughter? Like father, like son? Preventing and reducing prejudice in adolescents: the role of empathy and intergroup contact

Given the increasing prejudice in Europe and the fact that prejudice is a risk factor for aggression against minorities, it is crucial to understand how it can be prevented. The aim of this project is to enable development of an intervention that prevents and reduces prejudice in adolescents by: 1) examining the buffering role of empathy in intergenerational transmission of prejudice and 2) testing empathy as an individual characteristic moderating the effects of positive contacts with immigrants. Although research has shown transmission of prejudice from parents to children, little is known about the ways of countering this process. Research has suggested empathy as a possible buffering mechanism. Thus far however, this idea has not been examined. This research tests whether individuals with low empathy are more prone to adoption of parental prejudice and hence should be targeted in the anti-prejudice interventions. Moreover, although research has shown that positive intergroup contact reduces anti-immigrant attitudes, little is known about the individuals for whom contact is most/least successful. This research tests the idea that positive intergroup contact most effectively reduces prejudice in individuals with low empathy. Thus far, no study examined this hypothesis. Overall, the current project provides longitudinal evidence on the role of empathy in the intergenerational transmission of prejudice and in the effectiveness of intergroup contact on reducing prejudice. The findings have implications for intergroup contact as a social engineering tool in reducing prejudice in adolescents and for interventions promoting empathic skills.

To: Örebro University, Sweden

From: Örebro University, Sweden

Paola Mosquera

Are health inequities rooted in the past? A novel life course approach to socioeconomic inequities in cardiovascular health in Northern Sweden

Life expectancy has increased in Sweden during the last decades, owing first and foremost to reductions in cardiovascular disease (CVD) morbidity and mortality -the persisting leading cause of death in Sweden, as well as in most regions around the world. However, this promising development has not been matched by corresponding improvements in health equity in Sweden –health inequalities deemed unfair and avoidable, such as between socioeconomic groups. There is therefore a need to create a knowledge basis for public health encompassing both improved overall population health and an equitable distribution of health. In approaching this topic from a life course perspective, this project aims to examine the life-course determinants of not only cardiovascular health, but also of socioeconomic inequity in cardiovascular health. The project will take advantage of the longitudinal data in the Västerbotten Intervention Programme (VIP) linked to the SIMSAM Lab, and will examine individual and contextual social determinants from childhood to adulthood, of both cardiovascular health and socioeconomic inequity in health in middle-age. The applicant will employ advanced statistical methods including multilevel modelling and decomposition analysis to address the aims. The results of this FIIP are expected to be beneficial for the public health research, by its focus on the understudied topic of determinants of health inequities, of life course determinants of health, and a novel integration of these approaches. Due to the project's inclusive focus on determinants of health and of health equity, the results is expected to be valuable for the so far unsuccessful public health goal of achieving a good population health as well as an equitable distribution of health.

To: Umeå University, Sweden

From: Umeå University, Sweden

Daniel Arvidsson

Progressing objective physical activity measurement in public health research – methodological advancements to measure physical inactivity

It is believed that physical inactivity is a distinct behavior from physical activity, with additional health benefits if prevented. However, limitations of previous methods to measure physical inactivity contribute to conflicting results. The proposed project targets these limitations, and develops and evaluates a novel method to better measure physical inactivity as well as physical activity in children and adults. A second part of the project is to implement this improved method in large cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of Danish and Swedish children to target advancement of knowledge concerning cardiometabolic risks in early childhood and their prevention, as well as to delineate the recently suggested but poorly investigated interrelationships between physical (in)activity, childhood obesity, endocrine disruptive chemicals found in many consuming products, cardiometabolic risk and their importance to development of cognitive function and skills in children.

This is collaboration between the University of Southern Denmark and Lund University, where the receiving institution in Denmark has been world-leading for many decades in physical activity research, supporting the development of this field also at the host institution at Lund University. The project provides the applicant with a highly supportive and international environment for his research advancements, the opportunity to apply his accumulated skills to promote progression of the physical activity research field of international impact, as well as to develop this field at the host institution as a cornerstone of their more clinically oriented research contribution. Altogether, this Swedish-Danish collaboration is expected to advance public health research in children and its implementation.

To: University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

From: Lund University, Sweden

Amber Beckley

Pathways to adult antisocial behaviour

My aim is to study precursors and predictors of adult antisocial behaviour. Focusing on pathways to adult antisocial behaviour is important because evidence suggests that childhood is critical for many adult outcomes. Longitudinal studies measuring antisocial behaviour as it begins in early childhood and persists throughout adulthood are rare. I plan to research the development of antisocial behaviour under the mentorship of the directors of two longitudinal birth cohort studies, Dr. Terrie Moffitt and Dr. Avshalom Caspi. Participants from a 1972 New Zealand birth cohort and a 1994 United Kingdom birth cohort have been regularly assessed from their birth to the present. The studies examine antisocial behaviour, mental health, and physical health extensively. I plan to undertake original analyses that utilize new and unused data on adult antisocial behaviour. Moffitt's dual taxonomy of antisocial behaviour will provide a framework for my postdoc project as I examine critical issues unanticipated by the theory. The dual taxonomy argues that there are two types of antisocial individuals: one exhibits normative antisocial behaviour for a brief period during adolescence, the other persists in antisocial behaviour from childhood to adulthood. One issue lies in the difficulty of early identification, and subsequent recommendation for treatment interventions, of the people likely to persist in antisocial behaviour. The first study aims to determine the utility of family history screen for substance abuse and offending in identifying children likely to persist in antisocial behaviour. Another issue is effect that parents may have on antisocial behaviour. The second study aims to understand how parental attachment and care impact the child's patterns of antisocial behaviour through young adulthood. The final study weighs the dual taxonomy against competing theories in explaining adult crime debuts. Adult crime debuts seemed unlikely according to Moffitt's theory.

To: Duke University, USA

From: Stockholm University, Sweden

Anna Bergström

Effect of facilitated participatory groups on neonatal mortality and stillbirths - A stepped wedge, cluster-randomized trial in six provinces in Vietnam

The past 20 years have witnessed major improvements in child survival, but the annual burden of 2.9 million newborn deaths and 2.7 million stillbirths remains a challenge. Although community-based participatory interventions are associated with an average 24% reduction in neonatal mortality there have been difficulties in taking these approaches to scale through health system integration. Recently, a community-based intervention in Vietnam, tested in a cluster-randomized trial, where local stakeholder groups (MNHG) worked with problem solving regarding maternal and newborn health supported by a facilitator resulted in reducing newborn mortality by half. Further reduction and reduction of stillbirth rate require improved quality of care at health facilities. This project responds to the need of a community and health facility intervention with the potential of health system integration for sustained effects.

Aim: to study the effect of MNHGs at local municipality level and district hospitals on newborn deaths. The intervention will be rolled out randomly in 28 rural districts with relatively high newborn mortality. Effects on stillbirth rate, maternal mortality and health service utilisation will be studied. Also, the process of implementation will be described and analysed and a tool will be used to assess the influence of the health system context on the effects by the intervention (Context Assessment for Community Health tool). This project suggests that a cost-effective community- and health system participatory intervention, with a potential of being sustainable beyond the project, could substantially increase maternal and newborn health and survival and decrease inequities between social groups. The University College, London, has a long history of undertaking high-quality research in global health in general and maternal and newborn health and survival in particular. The College has a unique cross-disciplinary approach that will greatly benefit the applicant.

To: University College, UK

From: Uppsala University, Sweden

Carl Magnus Bjuggren

Employment Protection – legislated and implicit contracts and the effect on job flows, productivity, and labor market segmentation

The aim of the project is to increase the understanding of how employment protection affects firms, individuals, and the economy as a whole. Understanding employment protection is important since it could segment the labor market to increase the group of more vulnerable workers that circulate between temporary jobs and unemployment. Moreover, it could dampen the movement of both employment and unemployment over the business cycle by decreasing the rate of both hires and separations.

More empirical research is needed to increase the understanding of employment protection and its implications. Recent literature indicate that family firms might be able to uphold implicit contracts in which they insure their workers against the risks associated with economic cycles, and in return they are willing to work for less pay. The proposed project intends to empirically investigate the occurrence and consequences of implicit contracts of employment protection in family firms as well as investigate the effect of legislated employment protection on total factor productivity, capital deepening, and labor market segmentation. The choice of University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL) for my visit abroad is dependent on their rare combination of research on firm behavior and labor and public economics. At UMSL I will be able to develop my econometrical skills and I will also be able to take part and be influenced by the ongoing theoretical development and empirical work that is closely linked to my research.

To: University of Missouri, USA

From: Linköping University, Sweden

Emma Björkenstam

Accumulation of risk factors during childhood and the risk of later negative health and social outcomes

Earlier research has pointed out children who grow up in adversity as being of higher risk of experience negative health and social outcomes as adults. The family situation is an important indicator of problems concerning welfare, health status and security. Accumulation of risk over the life span has been suggested as one etiologic pathway in a life course approach to health problems.

In the association of childhood adversity and morbidity, earlier research has found poor school performance to be a major predictor for future psychosocial problems and psychiatric morbidity among youth exposed to risk factors in childhood in terms of foster care and parental psychosocial problems.

Research is needed on the association between accumulation of risk factors in childhood and risk of later negative health and social consequences. It is also of importance to increase knowledge on the role of school performance on the association between accumulation of risk factors in childhood and later morbidity and social adjustment. Research is needed to disentangle the influence of single risk factors from the influence of accumulation of risk factors, and to identify which clusters of risk factors that are most toxic for future negative health and social consequences. When discussing prevention programs, it is of great importance to identify risk factors that may be preventable.

In this unique comparison we will have information on several risk factors in childhood for two large and rather diverse areas. The project aims to perform unique comparisons on the association on between different types of risk factors in childhood, with focus on accumulation on risk factors, and the risk of later negative health and social consequences, of two different metropolitan areas using data of high validity.

To: University of California, USA

From: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Zheng Chang

Adverse effects of antidepressant drugs: an investigation of national datasets from three countries

Depression is a seriously disabling public health problem of very high prevalence. During the past decades, the use of antidepressant drugs has continually increased in Europe and the United States. However, there are major concerns regarding adverse effects of the treatment (e.g., suicide, diabetes, and liver injury). This proposal aims to investigate the potential adverse effects of antidepressant drugs, using national healthcare data from the United States, Sweden, and Taiwan. Data will be analysed with state of the art statistical methods. We propose to fully explore the use of marginal structural models, instrumental variables, and growth mixture models in the analysis of large-scale medical claims data, which will minimize biased inferences from observational data. The proposed project will provide a more precise understanding of treatment effects, which is critical for health care providers. Decisions about medication for depression can be made with more confidence. The project will be conducted at the Center of Health Statistics (CHS), University of Chicago, which is world-leading research team in the field of pharmaco-epidemiology and drug safety. CHS will provide the development of the statistical foundation in my research, and also provide data from the U.S. and Taiwan. Together with Swedish data, it will be an unparalleled opportunity to study the adverse effects of antidepressant drugs, and to perform cross-cultural comparisons among the U.S., Europe and Asia.

To: University of Chicago, USA

From: Karolinska Institutet

Daniela DeBono

The Social Life of the Reception Regime from the point of view of Irregular Migrants' Human Rights: A comparative study of Malta and Italy

The purpose of this project is to contribute to theoretical debates on irregular migration, human rights and states/borders through a comparative qualitative analysis of the practices and processes that constitute the Reception Regime on one of the EU's main irregular migration maritime routes. Based on ethnographic material gathered through participant observation in Italy and Malta, this project will discuss questions related to the reception of irregular migrants, human rights and access to asylum.

This study is motivated by current efforts within the EU to mainstream human rights in EU reception facilities, border control and immigration. The safeguarding of the human rights of migrants is important in situations where migrants are particularly vulnerable. This is a challenging task given that border control is typically dominated by security concerns, which can clash with human rights concerns. This tension manifests itself not only in academic and policy discussions, but also in the everyday management and interactions at the border which is what this study will be focusing on. A better ground-level understanding of these tensions will also contribute to the construction of fair and just systems of asylum, since the access to asylum is often dependent on treatment at the border.

This project proposes to contribute to these efforts by examining the reception of irregular migrants in Italy and Malta both of which lie on one out of three main routes for irregular entry into the EU - the so-called Central Mediterranean Maritime Route. The Reception Regime on this route comprises four sets of policies and procedures, which are usually conducted within a few days. These are rescue at sea, immigration, reception/detention and asylum policies.

This study will generate a fine-grained ethnography of the everyday implementation of the Reception Regime by studying two pivotal groups that shape and influence reception practices on the ground: on the one hand, street-level agents, army officials and civil servants in the various entities responsible for implementing the policies mentioned above of detecting, rescuing, registering, detaining and informing the migrants of their rights. On the other hand, the migrants themselves whose reactions to the system are imbued with their cultural practices, expectations and understandings both of hospitality and their perception of what the EU stands for. The presence of civil society actors at this critical stage in the process who assume the cause of irregular migrants is not consistent, and therefore the migrants' agency takes on increased significance in this setting. The project will make an original contribution to the anthropology of migration, human rights and the European Union, as well the anthropology of the state and of borders, bringing to light the practices, dynamics, contestations and negotiations that take place at this critical implementation interface.

To: European University Institute, Italy

From: Malmö University, Sweden

Kristina Edvardsson

The six country ultrasound study: Midwives' and obstetricians' views of the use of ultrasound and maternal/fetal roles and rights

The host institution is the Department of Clinical Sciences, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Umeå University, and the receiving institution will be Mother and Child Health Research, La Trobe University, Australia.

Background: Worldwide, there has been rapid technical development and widespread use of obstetric ultrasound. Increased visualisation of the fetus in combination with advances in fetal treatment has led to increased 'personification' of the fetus and an increased focus on fetal rights.

This has implications for the mother, as it tends to diminish her central role in pregnancy. Although this development holds potential to diminish maternal rights in relation to fetal rights, an ethical discussion about its implications for clinical management, care and women's reproductive rights has to date been absent. Purpose: To explore midwives' and obstetricians' views and experiences on use of obstetric ultrasound in relation to clinical management and care, and maternal and fetal roles and rights, in low-income and high-income countries. The Six Country Ultrasound Study (SICUS), a newly developed multidisciplinary research project, will provide the basis for this FOIP. Involved countries are Australia, Sweden, Norway, Rwanda, Tanzania and Vietnam. Methods: The project will be undertaken in two steps with interviews and focus group discussions (step 1) and surveys (step 2) undertaken in each of the participating countries. The countries are selected to represent a variety of contexts, including culture, religion, gender perspectives and legislation. The applicant will have the central and coordinating role in the project. Anticipated outcomes: 11-13 publications (first and co-author), submission of three competitive grant applications, presentations at national and international conferences, preparations for a research conference with collaborators from all participating countries, initiation of PhD-student supervision and supervision of master-level students.

To: La Trobe University, Australia

From: Umeå University, Sweden

Nina-Katri Gustafsson

Explanations of alcohol and narcotic use and the link to violence among young people: the interplay between person and environment

The project intends to explain young people's substance use and the impact it has on violence. When these behaviours have been studied earlier, research has focused on personal characteristics or environmental factors. Using Situational Action Theory (SAT), which is an interaction theory combining these two approaches in a unified framework, will increase our understanding of how these acts come about further. By studying the interplay between individual characteristics and earlier experiences and the social environment, we will be able to explain under what circumstances people engage in various acts, i.e. explaining why, when and where these occur. Analyses will be carried out on a unique longitudinal data on English young people between 12 to 21 years old, the Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+). PADS+ was designed to develop SAT and methodologies to test hypotheses about the role of the interaction between person and environment. Interviews were carried out annually between 2003-2008, 2010 and 2012 about various activities such as substance use and crimes. These acts were linked to different settings through a space-time budget measure, including information about place, time and who were present. Complementary data from registers and a small community survey was collected in 2005 and 2013. Using multivariate analyses, the project will study under what circumstances substance use occur among young people and the impact it has on violence as well as how this changes over time, taking into account the role of environment and its interaction with people's characteristics and experiences. Comparisons between population groups, i.e. gender and ethnic groups, will also be made.

To: University of Cambridge, UK

From: Stockholm University, Sweden

Anders Herlitz

Comparability, incommensurabilities, value conflicts and priority setting in the health care sector

This project examines comparability problems in relation to priority setting in the health care sector. I address the problems in relation to mental health and palliative care. The purpose is to map problems in current practices and to outline solutions to these. Specific care sectors are addressed, yet the project is relevant for numerous other areas of research on health, working life and welfare.

Current priority-setting approaches rely on the idea that relevant values for resource allocation in the health care sector (e.g. need, cost efficiency) are comparable. Either, it is assumed that we can establish rankings or that values can be balanced on a case-to-case basis. Neither assumption is warranted without scrutiny. Applying methods that rely on unwarranted assumptions leads to injustice, harming certain groups, benefitting others, and creating social tension. Identifying problems related to priority setting, and attempting to improve the way we develop prioritization policies is important to avoid injustices, and for social cohesion.

By using theoretical research on incommensurability that address comparability problems, research results from behavioural and cognitive sciences and by studying prioritization practice, I will address these issues in a series of articles. The extent to which incommensurability problems apply to priority setting and what the impact of them is will be scrutinized. I will also suggest a new approach to how to deal with these issues by assigning greater importance to decision makers' capacity to reason about final ends, and analyse methods to systematically approach the creation of representations for decision making. The project will improve our chances to develop justified models for priority setting in the health care sector.

To: Rutgers University, USA

From: University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Björn Lindström

How does learning from others lead to conformism and ostracism? Linking individual behavior, neural mechanisms, and group outcomes through experimental and computational models

Social learning, broadly defined as learning through social interaction or through observing other individuals, is of fundamental importance to human behavior and culture. Behaviors based on social learning are often adaptive, but can create conformity in how individuals behave. This might result in the emergence of arbitrary and maladaptive norms and behaviors on the level of the group. For example, ostracism and bullying occur in many groups, such as in schools or the workplace. However, the mechanisms underlying the emergence and maintenance of such negative group outcomes are unknown.

The purpose of this research project is to investigate if and how social learning can lead to conformity, ostracism, and bullying in groups. This project combines knowledge from several previously unconnected research fields, such as the biology of social learning, cognitive neuroscience, learning theory, and social psychology, to construct a multidisciplinary and rigorous approach to the dynamic of social learning in groups. Groups depend on the behavior of individuals, but the interactions of many individuals also can result in emergent characteristics not easily predicted from the behavior of a single individual. Therefore, it is necessary to link individual behavior with group outcomes for understanding how social learning can result in conformism and ostracism. This project will combine experimental and computational models (such as agent-based modeling) to mechanistically bridge group behavior, the personal level of individual behavior, and the sub-personal level of neural mechanisms (using functional magnetic resonance imaging).

Understanding the behavioral and neural mechanisms underlying the emergence and transmission of conformity, ostracism and bullying is of fundamental importance for predicting and preventing such negative outcomes in groups, such as schools or the workplace.

To: University of St Andrews, UK

From: Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Marlene Makenzius

Abortion and Contraceptive Stigma in Kenya – A Quasi Experimental Evaluation Study

In many low-income countries including Kenya, unsafe abortion is recognized as a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality. Social stigma surrounding abortion and contraceptive use plays a critical role in the social, medical, and legal marginalization of abortion and contraceptive service. Though this stigma is pervasive and threatens women's health, it is not well understood how it can be reduced. The Stigmatizing Attitudes, Beliefs and Actions Scale (SABAS) is a new validated tool designed in 2013, to measure abortion- and contraceptive stigma at individual and community level (1). Objective: I) to conceptualize abortion stigma among; service provider in Youth Friendly Centres (YFC), upper secondary school teachers, and school students, and II) to determine if a school based intervention, targeting gender stereotypes, discrimination, potential contagion, and attitudes to contraceptive use and induced abortion, compared to usual standards, will decrease abortion- and contraceptive-stigma and increase contraceptive use among secondary school students, who are sexually active. Design, Setting, Participants: I) Focus group discussions (FGD) with service providers at YFC, upper secondary school teachers and upper secondary school students, gender-mixed groups, respectively, and II) a quantitative quasi-experimental pre- and post-intervention study, targeting upper secondary school students (16-18 y), in Western Kenya.

Eight schools will be cluster-randomised, into four interventions units and four control units, according to the study site and academic standards of school. The region is chosen because of its low rate of contraceptive use and high rate of unsafe abortion. In addition, the research team is carrying out a post abortion care project within this region, financed by Vetenskapsrådet. A sample size of 200 female and 200 male students (N=400), will with 80% power be able to detect a difference of 25% regarding abortion stigma (95% CI) between the intervention and control groups. Intervention: An abortion- and contraceptive-stigma reduction intervention (2-month program), capturing negative stereotypes about women and men that are associated with abortion and contraceptive use, discrimination/exclusion of women who have had abortions, and fear of contagion as a result of coming in contact with a woman who had had an abortion. Main Outcome: Abortion-stigma (25% reduction in total score SABA-scale). Secondary outcomes: Contraceptive-stigma and contraceptive use. Measured at baseline (pre-test), and post-test at 6- and 12-months, by using the validated SABA-scale. Analyses: Qualitative content analysis and repeated measures ANOVA (PASW 20.0).

To: Kisumu Medical Education Trust KMIT, Kenya

From: Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Cecilia Nakeva von Mentzer

Listening difficulties in children with language impairment

The aim of the planned research is to investigate mechanisms involved in speech and auditory processing in normally hearing children between 7 to 12 years of age who have or have not been diagnosed with language impairment. The overall objective is to test the hypothesis that some children with language impairment have 'listening difficulties' (LiD) that are not detectable using conventional pure tone audiometry – the standard test of hearing. The long-term goal with the planned research is to improve speech understanding in children with language impairment. The prevalence of language impairment is estimated to affect 5-8% of all children in the younger school years. Thus, this is a large population for whom very few Audiological or Speech Language Pathology (SLP) clinics in Sweden have an established care program in which they may receive proper assessment and intervention regarding listening difficulties. Many of these children are at risk for learning disabilities. In this research, we will focus specifically on hearing speech in challenging auditory environments. This occurs primarily where there are competing speakers, or where there is a lot of reverberation, producing echoes. Hearing speech-in-noise (SiN) is the single most frequent complaint of people who have difficulty with their hearing, and of children with LiD as assessed by their caregivers. The planned research will dissect the components of SiN hearing in groups of normally hearing children with and without diagnosed language impairment. By comparing the groups in relation to their performance on tests for auditory sensory ability, speech processing, and additional tests of cognition further understanding about the critical features of LiD will be obtained. With this new knowledge the negative impact of LiD in children with language impairment in terms of misunderstandings in social interaction with peers, learning problems and low self esteem may be prevented.

To: Cincinnati Children's Medical Hospital, USA

From: Uppsala University, Sweden

Nicolas Olsson-Yaouzis

Ideology and inequality – a demystification

According to the theory of ideology, persistent oppressive societies have one thing in common: they produce ideological beliefs and norms that prevent the members of these societies to behave as their interests would otherwise dictate. The purpose of this project is to use the tools of analytical philosophy to defend the theory of ideology. The project consists of two parts. In the first part an analysis of the theory of ideology and its functional component will be provided. This will serve the purpose of dispelling some of the confusion surrounding functional explanations. The second part consists of showing how recent developments in rational choice theory can be used to model a mechanism of how oppressive societies produce ideology that maintains the status quo.

A successful elaboration of the theory of ideology will make two significant contributions. First, showing that it is possible to use rational choice theory to vindicate the theory of ideology will demonstrate that its foundation is no more mysterious than many other theories in the social sciences. Second, it will provide insights into how unwanted norms and beliefs such as xenophobia and sexism persist and are reproduced in groups and societies.

To: University College, UK

From: Stockholm University, Sweden

Sara Raposo

Dietary patterns and cardiovascular disease among individuals with hypertension

The purpose of this postdoctoral research project at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) in Boston, USA is to study dietary patterns and their association with the risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) among individuals with high blood pressure (HBP). The specific aims are to study the adherence to three different diet quality scores; the alternate Mediterranean diet (aMED), the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) and the alternate Healthy Eating Index 2010 (aHEI-2010). Dietary patterns have previously been shown to predict CVD. However, less is investigated on longterm effects of diet quality among individuals with HBP.

We will use data from three large American cohort studies; the Nurses' Health Study I and II and the Health Professional's Follow-up Study (n=280,000), initiated in 1976, 1989 and 1986, respectively. Multiple dietary assessments have been made using a validated food frequency questionnaire. We will evaluate the association between the three diet quality scores and CVD by comparing the risk between participants with high adherence to those with low adherence. In the statistical model, other risk factors for CVD will be controlled for. In addition, we will also evaluate a potential dose-response relationship between the diet quality scores and risk of CVD.

CVD still remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide and HBP is its major independent risk factor. Currently, close to a third of the adult population in the United States has HBP. In Sweden, about 2 million has HBP and 1.4 million live with CVD. The annual costs due to health care and work loss that CVD brings are immense. If this postdoctoral project shows that a healthy dietary pattern can decrease the risk of CVD among individuals with HBP, large individual burden and great societal costs could be saved. The results from this project will bring new insights into the potential for dietary intervention in the large proportion of the society with HBP.

To: Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health, USA

From: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Susanne Rautiainen Lagerström

Cohort and intervention studies of vitamin supplements and cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular disease is a major cause of death and it is therefore very important to identify modifiable lifestyle factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention. Although in Sweden and the United States nearly 50% of adults report use of any kind of supplements little is known about their role in CVD prevention. Epidemiological studies investigating the association between multivitamins and CVD have reported inconsistent results. Furthermore, for vitamin D, which has been suggested as a promising supplement, there are limited studies investigating a potential role in CVD prevention. This project that will take place at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and Karolinska Institutet (during the repatriation period) aims to examine how vitamin supplements such as multivitamins and vitamin D are related to the development of CVD, its major risk factors, and key biomarkers of CVD risk.

The questions will be approached by using both observational and experimental (Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT)) designs. Dr. Susanne Rautiainen will be working with large well-designed studies including the Physicians' Health Study, the Women's Health Study, an ancillary study of the VITamin D and Omega-3 Trial (VITAL), the Swedish Mammography Cohort, and the Cohort of Swedish Men. The proposed postdoctoral project will provide Dr. Susanne Rautiainen new epidemiologic and statistical skills that will advance her research and career. She will have the opportunity to test timely and important research hypotheses in nutritional epidemiology using novel data. Moreover, the proposed project will provide unique, invaluable training experience and position Dr. Rautiainen to launch an independent research career in this important area upon her return to Sweden.

To: Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, USA

From: Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Brigitte Suter

Skilled migration to globalising China: An ethnographic study on migrants' incorporation, transnationality and national identity in Shanghai

China attracts an increasing number of skilled European migrants into its cities, and will continue to do so in the coming decade. This project is set to study the migration projects of skilled European migrants in Shanghai's emerging globalising economy, a topic that still remains underexplored in migration-related research. While the main focus is on Swedish and Swiss nationals, narrated accounts of African and East Asian skilled migrants will also be included in order to provide a more heterogeneous and therefore more comprehensive account. Material gathered through ethnographic fieldwork among individual migrants, their families as well as key network nodes will be analysed from a gender and intersectional perspective and with theories of mobility, social networks, and transnational urbanism. The project is grounded in migration studies, but actively seeks to link to urban studies and political economy. The design of this multidisciplinary study will allow for important contributions to the body of knowledge of the incorporation of skilled migration into urban globalised economies in China in the following four areas: firstly, the influence of various social markers, such as race, nationality, gender and occupation, on the position and experience of the migrants in an urban globalised economy; secondly, the skilled migrants' embeddedness not only into economic, but also social and cultural networks, into family relations and into notions of national identity; thirdly, the workplace as a 'contact zone' where national identities are sometimes fostered, and always negotiated and contested; and fourthly, and finally, the resources and efforts these skilled migrants invest in engaging their transnational social ties.

To: Fudan University, China

From: Malmö University, Sweden