



Sammanfattningar av två- och treåriga projekt beviljade 2023/ Summaries of two- and three-year projects approved in 2023

Projekttitel/Project title: Crimes and socio-economic development in the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe in comparative perspective

Projektledare/Project manager: Marcus Box

Sammanfattning/Summary:

Crimes are a social problem and they come with considerable costs. Crime trends generally vary substantially over time in all societies and for nearly all types of crime. Furthermore, the same type of crime can often differ noticeably in rates and levels between countries. In Baltic and East European countries, violence crimes have been higher than in other European countries. On the other hand, acquisitive crime rates, such as burglaries, are generally lower in Baltic and East European countries. How can these (dis)similarities and variations be explained? Macro-analytical, cross-country comparative research and explanations of macro trends of different types of crimes are generally lacking, despite that variations and differences in crime rates have received several explanations in previous research. The lack of knowledge of the drivers of different forms of crime and crime trends is particularly apparent for post-socialist societies and Baltic and East European countries, both in historical and contemporary perspective. The project adds new knowledge on socio-economic development in this region. It aims to contribute to the understanding of the development of and driving forces behind crime rates in several Baltic and East European countries from the early 1990s to present day. The project is comparative and sets out from a socio-economic framework, investigating how macroeconomic, political and social factors are related to several different forms of crime over time.

Projekttitel/Project title: Networked misogyny in Sweden, Germany and Russia: articulations, intersections and transnational flows

Projektledare/Project manager: Maria Brock

Sammanfattning/Summary:

This project will examine contemporary forms of networked misogyny in Germany, Sweden and Russia. It aims to understand how misogyny is articulated, reproduced and circulated in contemporary online spaces, in particular by female actors. It uses a comparative lens, with Russia, Germany and Sweden offering three different political systems and levels of gender equality, and with Russia acting as a transnational hub for the proliferation of 'traditional values', which ultimately involve the curtailment of women's rights. It has a dual focus on media form and media technology, employing this two-pronged approach to understand the discursive



articulation of misogyny in various kinds of media texts, using psychosocial discourse studies, as well as its networked features and the role of technology in ushering in a new era of misogyny and violence. The project is premised on recent developments in three areas of research, namely work on 1) contemporary instantiations of online misogyny, 2) gender and far-right movements and 3) digital affordances of media technologies and the platform-driven aspects of networked movements. It proposes an intersectional understanding of misogyny in a digital age, and analyses contemporary configurations of misogyny in the three countries of the Baltic Sea region, separately and in their interrelation.

Projekttitle/Project title: In the Shadows of War: Belonging, Identities, and Hierarchies in Intra-regional Migration in Central and Eastern Europe after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Projektledare/Project manager: Florence Fröhlig

Sammanfattning/Summary:

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, provoked an unprecedented level of forced migration from Ukraine but also from Belarus and Russia. Little is known about Belarusian and Russian war migrants and their identity construction in times when their citizenship and nationality are widely associated with military aggression, imperialism, and the lack of political agency.

With a theoretical approach based on translocalities and migranhood, this project aims to give insight into how Belarusian and Russian migrants justify their emigration and conceptualize their new status in Lithuania and Poland, two neighboring EU countries, to which they fled. This dual theoretical lens will be used to analyze 40 qualitative interviews with Russian and Belarussian migrants in both countries, the identity reconstruction of these two exiled groups in relation to their homelands, their host societies, and other migrants (including Ukrainian war refugees). Secondly, the project will collect survey data to examine how the host societies whose national memory is marked by Russian imperialism and who bear the direct impact of Russia's aggression, perceive these migrants.

By addressing the ethnic reconfiguration of the Baltic region in the shadow of the war in Ukraine, this project will show how East Europeanness is simultaneously maintained and rethought in relation to the European West but also to Russia.



Projekttitel/Project title: Crafts crossing the Baltic: development and transmission of osseous technologies in the Baltic Sea region c. 9500–3000 BCE

Projektledare/Project manager: Sara Gummesson

Sammanfattning/Summary:

How did bone and antler (osseous) technologies developed, spread and change around the Baltic Sea during the period c. 9,500-3,000 BCE? Materials from the eastern Baltic have been of limited access to the wider academic circles, and osseous production have generally been understudied in relation to, for example, lithic technology. This project aims to investigate osseous artefacts from Sweden, Latvia and Estonia in order to increase knowledge about the manufacturing of osseous artefacts, traditions, knowledge transfer and social contact networks among the hunter-fisher-gatherer groups of the Baltic Sea region.

The proposed project is divided in three work packages:

WP1. Data collection and catalogues. The project will study and make four museum collections of osseous artefacts available in catalogues. The project also undertakes an extensive sampling program in order to investigate typology, chronology and technological choices.

WP2. Environmental reconstructions. The second part of the project consists of palaeoecological sampling and investigations to provide environmental reconstructions of the milieu in which osseous artefacts were created, used and deposited. The outcome will primarily result in artistic illustrations.

WP3. Publication of results in peer-reviewed articles. The third part of the project will summarize the results and data in articles on three different themes; Technology & raw material management, Chronology, Patterns of function, use & deposition.

Projekttitel/Project title: Ukraine and the Global Nuclear Order: an Environmental and Technological History

Projektledare/Project manager: Tatiana Kasperski

Sammanfattning/Summary:

This project is an environmental and technological history of the nuclear age in Ukraine. It highlights major peaceful and military activities from the dawn of the nuclear age, 1930-present. Ukrainian history encompasses all processes and experiences of the nuclear world: uranium mining, the arms race and non-proliferation, nuclear missiles and atomic bomb research, the unrestrained push for nuclear power, accidents and radioactive pollution. This project argues that Eastern Europe in general and Ukraine in particular are crucial to fully understand the global nuclear order. It draws on unique primary sources to extend this history in new ways: by adopting postcolonial and envirotechnical perspectives and by analyzing simultaneously civilian



and military applications. The project considers both the impact on nature and nature's agency, adaptation, and resistance to nuclear infrastructure, and the emergence of new and unpredictable geographies, landscapes, and power relationships that accompanied nuclear development. Beyond the dichotomy between colonizer and colonized, the project will unravel the complex material, environmental and institutional entanglements, from uranium ore to fuel, from production to pollution, and from research to widespread applications that the development of atomic energy and weapons entails. The Russian invasion of Ukraine confirms dramatically the relevance of the region to understand inner workings and inherent risks of the global nuclear order.

Projekttitel/Project title: Culturally adapted behavioral interventions for promoting residential energy conservation in the Baltic Sea region

Projektledare: Andrius Kažukauskas

Sammanfattning/Summary:

Despite numerous calls for action and policy efforts by international organizations, the public response to the global climate crisis has been insufficient and varies greatly between countries and cultures, as is apparent in the Baltic Sea region. Research into behavioral interventions to promote sustainable energy consumption and climate change mitigation strategies has thus far largely ignored cultural differences. By using interdisciplinary knowledge from economics, sociology, and psychology, drawn from the western and eastern shores of the Baltic, this project will determine how effective culturally adapted interventions are in the Baltic Sea region and assess how the public response to energy conservation interventions differs in three countries – Lithuania, Estonia, and Sweden. For the three-year period, the project will implement three work packages: 1) assessment of the current residential energy saving policies in the Baltic Sea countries; 2) designing effective culturally adapted behavioral interventions for a sample of three Baltic Sea countries; 3) assessment of the longitudinal effects of pro-social norms triggering behavioral interventions concerning residential energy conservation in Lithuania and Sweden. The project's final report, which will summarize the findings of the project as a whole, will provide Baltic Sea climate policy stakeholders with effective, culturally adapted tools to facilitate the achievement of energy security and climate goals.



Projekttitel/Project title: Gender and Expert Knowledge. A Study of Migration and Integration Policies in Germany, Poland and Sweden

Projektledare/Project manager: Teresa Kulawik

Sammanfattning/Summary:

The aim of the study is to explore the dynamic linkages between gender, expert knowledge and policy in the field of migration and integration in Germany, Poland, and Sweden from the late 1990s to the present. Migration is among the most important and disputed societal and policy issues of our time. What makes this comparison especially relevant is that the countries studied all experienced East-West and South-North migration but differ significantly with regard to historical paths and policy developments. With a special focus on family migration and asylum claims related to sexuality and gender identity. We ask: 1. How have country-specific configurations of knowledge-policy relations shaped gendered understandings and framings of policy issues related to migration and integration? 2. What is the positionality and impact of feminist expertise in the contestation and authorization of political knowledge claims? 3. How are different migrant groups, European and non-European, represented and categorized?

The study is embedded in comparative research applying qualitative methodologies and conducting document analysis and interviews. This allows for rigorous exploration of the institutional and discursive linkages through which policy-relevant knowledge is assessed and deemed legitimate. We will advance feminist scholarship with our analysis of how gender affects political knowledge and thus make an innovative contribution to migration and integration research.

Projekttitel/Project title: Artrepreneurs on the Edge Between Artistic Autonomy and Marketization: Organizing Creative Practice in the Baltic Sea Region (ArtR)

Projektledare/Project manager: Ann-Sofie Köping Olsson

Sammanfattning/Summary:

The project responds to the ongoing policy debate about artistic freedom and the role of artists in the context of the neoliberal political economy. Creative practitioners are expected to become "artrepreneurs" to self-manage and self-organize their careers at times of great uncertainty due to the dynamics of internationalization and digitalization, while at the same time, they experience great pressure to commercialize their creative works for economic survival.

The project seeks to create a novel knowledge basis to understand creative practitioners' own experiences of the dilemma of artistic freedom and marketization that the policy imperative of entrepreneurship posits on them by asking: 1) what are the main challenges and obstacles to the economic and social sustainability of artrepreneurs' work and creative practices; 2) to what extent can individual strategies and forms of collective organizing help artists to overcome these



challenges; 3) how do different political programs within the cultural field influence the way entrepreneurs work and how do they relate to the local ideas of artistic freedom?

The international project team will focus on four countries in the Baltic Sea region: Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania, where qualitative case studies will be conducted. Our theoretical approach combines cultural sociology, critical cultural policy studies and media and business studies.

Projekttitel/Project title: From a "Sea of Peace" to a "NATO lake"? A feminist security analysis of island militarisation in the Baltic Sea

Projektledare/Project manager: Sanna Strand

Sammanfattning/Summary:

Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and 2022 invasion of Ukraine has reshaped security in the Baltic Sea Region. Finland and Sweden's decision to commence NATO-accession processes creates a new border between NATO and Russia and new strategic realities. This research project studies the Baltic Sea islands of Gotland, Bornholm and Åland as sites of militarisation. These islands have historically played a strategic role in regional security, most recently in relation to control over maritime space, access to key sites such as Kaliningrad, grey zone activities and energy security. Militarisation of the Baltic Sea region is expected to increase, heightening this zone as a security concern for Nordic states, NATO and Russia. Representations of the islands as security hotspots may however compete with other meanings, such as the islands' importance for tourism, business and the sensitive Baltic Sea ecosystem. The project aims to make visible the assumptions that enable the militarization of these Baltic Sea islands. We draw on analytical concepts across two theoretical fields: constructivist international relations approaches to identity and security; and feminist security approaches to protection and militarization. The study explores both state and local (potentially oppositional) discourses of threat and insecurity, drawing on empirical material such as official policy documents, media representations as well as interviews with local stakeholders on the islands.

Projekttitel/Project title: The benevolent patriarch? How crises reveal early modern households' labour organisation and the reach of patriarchal care across the Baltic Sea, 1723–1809

Projektledare/Project manager: Carolina Uppenberg

Sammanfattning/Summary:

This project aims to investigate how male and female servants were cared for by their masters in times of hardship and how this differed across the Baltic Sea during the early modern period.



Our understanding of the gendered hierarchy of early modern households, of the labour market and of the demographic patterns all build on an assumption of reciprocity between servant and master and of the possibility of developing the basis for future independence for the servant during his or her youth. While the laws and ideals were clear – a master had the responsibility to take care of the servant – there is no study that investigates whether servants were in fact taken care of by their masters in times of hardship: i.e., whether the servant institution actually provided the protection it was assumed to. The project will be conducted through analyses of court cases regarding conflicts over employment, eviction, run-away servants and care for servants who were ill or hurt, taking place before, during and after short-term local crises, such as harvest failures. In the project, crises function methodologically to locate court cases, and, theoretically, since times of hardship are periods when conflicts regarding the care of servants are likely to increase, the relationships in the households are negotiated, and the position of servants might thus be challenged. Thus, this project will contribute to our understanding of the reach of patriarchal care in early modern households.

Projekttitel/Project title: #SolidarityWithPolishWomen: Transnational Abortion Activism in Eastern Europe and the Baltic Sea Region

Projektledare/Project manager: Katarzyna Wojnicka

Sammanfattning/Summary:

The goal of the project is to investigate the character and dynamics of transnational abortion activism, a phenomenon that can be identified in contemporary Eastern Europe and the Baltic Sea Region. Transnational abortion mobilisation in the region has not yet been investigated, despite its theoretical and social significance, given the recent limitations of civil rights and health assistance for Polish women. Hence, the proposed research is the first study where this type of mobilisation is analysed from national, comparative, and transnational perspectives. The research will be conducted in Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, and Sweden and will be supplemented by netnography and an investigation of the nature of global transnational abortion networks. The project utilizes a qualitative mixed-methods approach as individual interviews, observations (incl. shadowing) and netnography will be conducted. The theoretical framework consists of theories and concepts developed within gender studies and social movements studies, and the investigation is framed by an intersectional approach. The ambition is to contribute to the theoretical debates on transnational social movements. The results of the project will be published in scientific papers, an edited monograph, during scientific events and in the media. The project has clear societal relevance, providing knowledge on an under-researched social phenomenon, relevant to increasing the level of gender equality in the region.