

# Newsletter 1, 2018/2019

## Words from the chair

My name is Malin Podlevskikh Carlström and I am a PhD student in Slavic languages (Russian literature) at the Faculty of Arts. I started my PhD studies in 2012, and I plan to defend my thesis during 2019. I am the chairman of GUDK 2018/2019.

In this newsletter you can find information about GUDK and also about what we and the different faculty PhD councils are currently working with or planning to work with during the rest of the year.

**Malin Podlevskikh Carlström**

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## The coming year

This coming year, GUDK will work with an overview of the scientific practices at different faculties and departments. Even though we all follow the same basic rules and regulations, our everyday work differs a great deal depending on the scientific tradition we are part of. Other focus questions are 1) the reasons for stress among PhD students and possible solutions to this problem 2) the decreasing number of PhD students and the impact of such a development on the overall research in Sweden 3) the development of more formalized career guidance for PhD students (writing research applications etc.)

Finally, GUDK works with an international perspective and all of our meetings are held in English. We also strive towards convincing the university to have a more inclusive language policy, in which English is emphasized as a natural meeting language when international staff is present.

## What is GUDK?

The doctoral committee is an association of PhD students from each faculty. GUDK is a part of the University of Gothenburg Student Unions (GUS), which gathers three out of four student unions at GU. Each PhD council at faculty level elects two representatives (a regular and an alternate) for GUDK. GUDK's purpose is to provide a platform for collaboration between PhD students and to increase PhD students' control over their learning and work situation. GUDK focuses on the central level and on matters that are relevant for all PhD students at the University of Gothenburg.

Please visit [www.gus.gu.se/om\\_gus/gudk/](http://www.gus.gu.se/om_gus/gudk/) for more information.

## Did you know that...

...you have the right to four years of employment specifically for your PhD education? Teaching and other departmental duties are extra, and always result in prolongation of the employment period. Departmental duties should according to the Higher Education Ordinance (HEO) never exceed 20% of the employment time, which means that you can be granted up to a year's prolongation for such tasks. However, student union work, such as chairing committees and doing representative tasks, is not part of the departmental duties, and result in additional prolongation (see HEO chapter 5, 7 §). Importantly, this prolongation is not paid by the department or project, but rather by the faculty or university, depending on the level of representation. Supervisors or heads of department should therefore never dissuade or prevent a PhD student to take on representative duties.

In chapter 14 of the Rules and Regulations for Third Cycle Studies at the University of Gothenburg it is stated that all PhD students, regardless of how their studies are funded, have the right to carry out representative duties and to be granted additional time for such duties.

Do not hesitate to contact me or any of the faculty representatives if you have questions or want to get engaged in our work!

# Reports from the faculty representatives

## **The School of Business, Economics and Law**

In the past year, our PhD council has promoted introducing employee dialogue meetings for PhD students. Moreover, we have engaged in discussions on how to manage teaching obligations better in relation to e.g. teaching load and how teaching is assigned and planned. We participate in discussions on the psychosocial environment at the faculty on an ongoing basis.

**Ville Inkinen**

## **The Faculty of Science**

The Faculty of Science PhD council have PhD student representatives in the faculty board as well as in other councils and committees at faculty level, making sure that we can influence and affect the decisions that are being taken towards the quality of our education. One of our current objectives is working towards equal salary for all PhD students at the faculty of Science.

**Alex Cravcenco**

## **The Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts**

The PhD student council is engaged in bettering the working conditions for PhD students. Jointly with the Research School and the PhD students, we are developing strategies to clarify and improve the relations of PhD supervision, as well as finding ways to better the integration of the PhD student in the already established research environment.

**André Alves**

## **The IT faculty**

The faculty consists of two geographically separated departments, one of which is closely integrated with Chalmers. CSE has a PhD council which represents students from both universities. The council is raising awareness about challenges within a shared department and highlighting important differences between the two university cultures. GUDK and Göta student union are working to establish contact with PhD students from the other department, AIT.

**Herbert Lange**

## **The Faculty of Arts**

Unfortunately, only three out of six departments are employing PhD students in 2019 and HDR is therefore emphasizing the impact of a diminishing number of PhD students on the faculty's overall research environment. Furthermore, we are discussing the current political climate and the need for a support system for PhD students who become targeted by destructive forces in society.

**Denis Sukhino-Khomenko**

## **The Faculty of Social Sciences**

This year the council will focus on issues related to working environment, such as the integration of PhD students in the academic environment, possible ways of improving the career guidance and last but not least the socialization process of PhD students. Our aim is to establish an annual event which will bring together PhD students across the faculty in an effort to improve the social environment.

**Alexandra Bousiou**

## **The Sahlgrenska Academy**

The council aims for full representation in all councils and committees at the faculty and departmental level where we have the right to be represented, as well as having PhD committees at all departments. We also strive for good communication with all PhD students, including clinically active ones, and will continue to arrange social activities such as the PhD day.

**Cristiana Rîmniceanu**

## **The Faculty of Education**

The PhD-council has been working towards ensuring quality of education as well as safeguarding the interests of PhD students in accordance with doctoral regulations. This fall, the council has been addressing different issues including: working environment, PhD courses, supervision and support, and dealing with challenges towards the end of a PhD including Kappa writing.

**Kassahun Weldemariam**