

The Postgraduate programme

attached to the FAS-centre

“Human society as a life-long determinant of health”

CHESS, 2009-03-10

We are well into the spring-term of 2009, and it is once again time for some information about ongoing and planned activities within the postgraduate programme at CHESS. In late January 2009, a first evaluation-report about the progress of CHESS research school was completed and sent to FAS (Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research). One of the conclusions that we drew in this evaluation was that much of the effort put into the programme during 2008 consisted of building a structure around the programme. This was not associated with a lot of costs, which means that the finances of the postgraduate programme will suffice to cover activities for the next-coming three years (2009-2011). The activities planned for 2009 are presented below, although some of them are still rather preliminary.

A **Swedish-Finnish doctoral workshop** together with colleagues from Helsinki University has been preliminary scheduled to take place on **May 7-8 2009**. The workshop will be held at CHESS, and the format will be very similar to that held last year with our Danish colleagues. More definite information about this workshop will be distributed in due course.

We will also give a **summer school** as a joint venture with the Swedish-Brazil exchange program (lead by Johan Fritzell) during two weeks in **August (10/8 – 21/8)**. The summer school will cover three courses: (1) *The basics of multilevel modelling* (teacher: Antonio Ponce de Leon), (2) *Scaling theory* (teacher: Michael Reichenheim), and (3) *Introduction to the statistical software ‘R’* (teacher: Washington Leite Junger). The first course comprises two weeks (33 and 34), while the second and third course each cover a single week (33 and 34, respectively). The courses will be scheduled so that students can participate in all three courses if they wish to do so. More information about these courses will be distributed later on this term.

As most of you know, a **journal club** has been formed at CHESS based on an initiative from two students within the postgraduate programme (Amal and Kerstin). The members meet every second week and discuss scientific papers relevant to their areas of research. In mutual agreement with Amal and Kerstin, our plan is to incorporate this journal club into the postgraduate programme during the fall term of 2009 by appointing a senior researcher to supervise these meetings. Professor Denny Vågerö has agreed to take on the responsibility of a *monthly* held journal club, with the first meeting preliminary scheduled to take place **on September 29**. Once a more formal structure of the journal club has been established, our

ambition is for doctoral students taking part in the journal club to be able to obtain course credits after approval from their respective supervisor.

We plan to continue with the so-called **educational half-days** on a regular basis during 2009. Here, we intend to meet some of the suggestions that have been proposed by the doctoral students within the programme, such as a short courses in *PowerPoint* (**March 17**, *Ylva Almquist*) and *EndNote* (**September 15**, *Susanna Toivanen*). We encourage everyone to send us suggestions of topics/teachers for still more educational half-days during 2009.

Two **advanced-level courses**, given within the frames of the masters' program at CHESS, should be highly relevant for many of you as they cover areas essential to multidisciplinary research and give in-depth knowledge about various sources of health inequalities. The first is a 10-week course in '*International health: regional and global changes in health over time*' (Course manager: Denny Vågerö) which will be held between **September 28 – December 4**. The second is a 5-week course in '*Social stratification and health*' (Course manager: Mikael Rostila) which is a "condensed" version of last years' 10-week course at CHESS' masters programme. This course runs between **August 31 – October 5**. For more information, please contact Monica Åberg Yngwe (monica.aberg-yngwe@chess.su.se)

In the last information-letter we promised to look into the possibilities of arranging a **course in Structural Equation Modelling** during 2009. We have been in contact with potential course-givers in SEM, but have not managed to establish anything definite so far. We will however keep on looking into this matter.

Folkhälsorapport 2009 (The Public Health Report 2009) will be launched at a conference held at Hotel Rival on **April 24**. Information about how to register for this conference can be found at http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/Om_Sos/Konferenser/2009/Folkhalsorapport2009.htm

This report gives a good overview of the level, distribution and trends of health problems in Sweden. Therefore, all doctoral students comprised by the postgraduate programme at CHESS are encouraged to attend the conference (but it should be noted that it is held in Swedish). *The conference fee (which amounts to 500 kr for students) will be covered by the postgraduate programme.*

Best wishes,

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Lists of open seminars at CHESS, spring-term 2009

2009-01-21

Lars Orelund: "The new biology and human behaviour – is there anything left over for a free will?"

2009-02-04

Bo Burström: "Equity in health care in Sweden – are market-oriented reforms going to help?"

2009-02-18

Clare Bambra: "Welfare state regimes, health and health inequalities"

2009-03-11

Reiner Regulies: "The contribution of occupational health research to the understanding of the social determinants of depression"

2009-03-18

Jon Ivar Elstad: "Educational differences in adolescent health behaviours: Indirect health-related selection?"