

# The Postgraduate programme

attached to the FAS-centre

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

**CHESS 2009-09-28**

It has been a busy fall term within the Postgraduate Programme at CHESS, with a large focus on statistical methods. A number of short courses have been given within the programme since the start of the term. The three courses in *Multilevel Modelling*, *Scaling Theory* and *Introduction to R* given within the **Summer School** (August 10-21) were greatly appreciated by course participants from both CHESS and ARC. All three courses received excellent evaluations by those who took the course. We would like to thank Antonio Ponce de Leon, Michael Reichenheim and Washington Leite Junger from the Institute of Social Medicine at the University of Rio de Janeiro for their great input during these two weeks! We would also like to thank the people within the Swedish-Brazil exchange programme (especially Johan Fritzell, Susanna Toivanen and Jennie Baccus Hertzman) together with whom we co-arranged this Summer School.

Another greatly appreciated course given within the programme was the one-week intensive **course in Factor Analysis & Structural Equation Modeling** (September 21-25). We were really fortunate to get such skilled and experienced course-givers as Bianca De Stavola and George Ploubidis from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The course was quite demanding and intense, and although the ones of us who took the course are not yet full-fledged SEM-users, we now have the tools and skills to continue learning about the various techniques that SEM offers. Not surprisingly, the course received excellent evaluations by participants from both CHESS and ARC.

Short course in Factor Analysis & Structural Equation Modeling at CHESS, September 21-25 2009.



Course givers: George Ploubidis and Bianca De Stavola from LSHTM



Examination, Friday 25, 2009

Beside the four above-mentioned intensive courses, a **5-week course in Social Stratification** with Mikael Rostila as the course director (September 1 – October 6) is soon coming to its end. This course was co-arranged by the Masters Programme and the Postgraduate Programme at CHESS, and a number of PhD students within the programme have taken this course.

Finally, two events within our **educational half-days** have been held since the distribution of the last newsletter:

- (1) At the beginning of the summer (June 1) a seminar on **presentation skills** was held within the programme. Istvan Pusztai from the Institution for communication, media and information technology at Södertörns högskola was invited to give an interactive lecture on communication, involving speaking techniques, mimics and body language. *We would like to thank Kristiina Rajaleid and Sanna Tiikkaja for initiating and arranging this event!*
  
- (2) On September 15, Susanna Toivanen also held a very much appreciated workshop on the latest available version of **EndNote**, where she, among other things, gave an introduction on how to create a library, how to download references, and how to synchronize Word and EndNote. *Thank you, Susanna, for sharing your excellent skills in EndNote with us!*

After this quite intense start of the fall-term, things will slow down a bit in order for you to concentrate on your PhD-work. Beside the **Journal Club**, the first occasion of which has been **rescheduled to October 13 (at 12.00-13.00)**, there are currently no more activities planned within the Postgraduate Programme this year. More information on the Journal Club is given below.

Finally, we have updated the homepage for the Postgraduate Programme at CHESS so that past and coming events are continuously updated. Check it out!

With best wishes,

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## Activities Fall 2009

The first meeting of the monthly **Journal Club (with Denny Vågerö)** was supposed to take place on September 29, 11.00-12.00. As stated above, however, due to a conflict in scheduling, this meeting has been moved to **October 13 (at 12.00-13.00)**. Since it will be held during lunch-time, sandwiches will be served! The paper to be discussed is “Does IQ explain socio-economic differentials in total and cardiovascular disease mortality? Comparison with the explanatory power of traditional cardiovascular disease risk factors in the Vietnam Experience Study” by Batty, Shipley, Dundas, Macintyre, Der, Mortensen and Deary. *European Heart Journal* (2009), 30, 1903-1909. Everyone is expected to read the paper in advance!

The preliminary schedule for the subsequent meetings to take place is **October 27 and November 24, 12.00-13.00**. *Note that the time has been changed so that the meeting will be held over lunch*. Sandwiches will therefore be served at these occasions! If you want to take part in these meetings, please report this to [bitte.modin@chess.su.se](mailto:bitte.modin@chess.su.se).

## The Master's programme at CHESS

### Courses available for the spring term 2010

#### **Introduction to life course studies on health inequalities (7.5 ECTS credits)**

Course manager: Professor Ilona Koupil

The aim of the course is to provide you as a participant with the opportunity to become familiar with theories on developmental origins of health and disease and their application to study of social aetiology of disease and social inequality in health. You will also develop your skills to appraise evidence from life course epidemiological studies and to assess the life course aspects of health and social policies. The course includes: (i) overview and discussion of theories and concepts related to life course and intergenerational determinants of health and health inequalities; (ii) overview and discussion of strength and weaknesses of study designs most commonly used in life course research, and (iii) application of the life course perspective in designing observational and intervention studies, and in formulating policies aimed at reducing health inequality.

If you are interested in taking this course, please contact **Monica Åberg Yngwe** ([monica.aberg-yngwe@chess.su.se](mailto:monica.aberg-yngwe@chess.su.se)). **Deadline for application: November 19.**

## Work Seminar Series at CHESS, autumn 2009

From this fall and onwards, Johan Fritzell will be in charge of the Work Seminar Series (Arbetsseminarium) at CHESS. To cite Johan “a good seminar-culture is extremely important for establishing a successful research environment”. These seminars series are meant to consider “papers-in-progress”. The work of PhD-students will be prioritized, but other researchers at CHESS are also encouraged to present papers at these seminars. For each seminar, two commentators will be appointed. Ten minutes will be given to the author to briefly present his/her work, whereupon 20 minutes are set aside for the commentators. After this, 30 minutes will be left for comments and questions from the audience. PhD- students are expected to present at least one “paper-in-progress” per year at these seminars. Three PhD students within the Postgraduate Programme at CHESS have registered to present “papers-in-progress” during this fall:

November 4 (13-14): Ylva Almquist  
November 18 (13-14): Jenny Thorssander (preliminary)  
December 2 (13-14): Anton Lager

For those of you who are interested in presenting a draft of your work within the frames of these seminars, please visit **J:\Arbetsseminarium\Arbetsseminarium\_Schema** to record yourself – there are still some spots left this fall! And as Johan has already stated in a mail to everyone at CHESS, for those of you who want to present, comment or discuss in English during this Work Seminar Series this will be perfectly fine.

Responsible for the internal seminars at CHESS: **Johan Fritzell**

## Open seminars at CHESS (13.00), autumn 2009

These are the preliminary titles and names of speakers for the upcoming seminars.

2 September	<b>Professor Ryszard Sulkin and Martin Hällsten</b> Families, neighbourhoods and the future: The transition to adulthood of children of natives and immigrants in Sweden.
30 September	<b>Dr Cecilia Magnusson</b> Swedish Collaboration on Health Effects of Snus.
7 October (change of date)	<b>Professor Siegfried Geyer</b> Choosing the “right” indicators in studies on social inequalities in health: Income and index measures.
9 December	<b>Associate Professor Jan Semenza</b> Intervening on inequalities in infections.
27 January	<b>Dr Emilia Simeonova</b> What Happens When Charity Care Requirements Expire? Evidence from Hill-Burton Hospitals in Florida.

Responsible for the open seminars at CHESS: **Ilona Koupil**