We hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday! The spring-term of 2010 has begun, and it is once again time for some information about coming activities within the postgraduate programme at CHESS. The ambition for the coming year is a somewhat less “packed” calendar compared to last year’s crammed agenda.

First, some good news: FAS (the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research) has decided to extend the grant for the postgraduate programme at CHESS for two additional years, which means that we will be able to continue with the programme until the end of 2013.

Our Finnish colleges have made some initial inquiries about a Finnish-Swedish workshop in Helsinki in September. Next in turn should, by right, be a Danish-Swedish workshop, but we have not heard anything from our Danish colleagues so far. Since there is little room for such a workshop to take place before the summer anyway, we will not stress this matter for the time-being.

It may also be of interest for you to know that we plan to invite all concerned supervisors to a mini-seminar in Mars in order to exchange information and ideas about the postgraduate programme with them. Your input on possible activities within the programme is of course also always welcome! Currently, we are particularly interested in suggestions about themes (and possible lectures) for our educational half-day series.

With best wishes,

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The first meeting of the monthly Journal Club this term will take place on February 2, 13.00-14.00 in CHESS’ library (with Denny Vågerö). Information about which paper to be discussed will be distributed next week.

The preliminary schedule for the subsequent meetings to take place is Mars 9 (13-14), April 6 (13-14) and May 4 (13-14). If you want to take part in these meetings, please report this to bitte.modin@chess.su.se.

Introduction to life course studies on health inequalities (7.5 ECTS credits)
25 January – 26 February, 2010

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).
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 spring-term:

April 14 (13-14): Kristiina Rajaleid
April 28 (13-14): Alexander Miething
May 12 (13-14): Lisa Folkesson

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! 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 works just fine.

Responsible for the internal seminars at CHESS: Johan Fritzell

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**Open seminars at CHESS (13.00), spring 2010**

27 January **Dr Emilia Simeonova**

What Happens When Charity Care Requirements Expire? Evidence from Hill-Burton Hospitals in Florida.

The full programme of seminars for spring 2010 will soon be published on CHESS’ homepage!

Responsible for the open seminars at CHESS: Ilona Koupil