

The Postgraduate programme

attached to the FAS-centre

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

CHESS 2011-09-19

We are well into the fall-term of 2011, and it is once again time for some updates about planned activities within the postgraduate programme at CHESS. As we wrote in our previous information letter, last term was rather quiet, with a limited number of activities taking place within the programme. This was due to the quite small number of active PhD:s within the programme at that time. Now, Gabriella is back, and we are also happy to welcome three additional prospective PhD students to our group: Karl Gauffin, Olof Östergren and Julia Sandahl. Karl and Olof will be sitting at CHESS with Anders Hjern and Olle Lundberg, respectively, as their main supervisors. Julia will write her thesis at the Department of Criminology with Jerzy Sarnecki as her main supervisor. She is tied to our programme through me since I will be a co-supervisor. Quite many activities are in the pipeline for the two coming terms, only a few for which the exact dates have been established. Below, a summary of scheduled and planned events is given.

We plan to take up the **Journal Club** with Denny Vågerö again. Three dates have been scheduled so far, the first of which is **October 13** (13.00-14.00 in CHESS's library). At this occasion, we will discuss a paper by Angus Deaton: “*What does the empirical evidence tell us about the injustice of health inequalities?*” This article will be sent out to you one week ahead of our meeting. The second meeting will take place on **November 17**, and the final JC of the term is scheduled at **December 15** (at 13.00-14.00 in CHESS' library). *If you plan to take part in these meetings, please report this to bitte.modin@chess.su.se.*

Amal has also taken the initiative of organizing a one-day **workshop on public speaking/organization skills** in association with the Stockholm Institute for public speaking (see <http://www.stips.se/>). The workshop will be held in CHESS' library on **October 7** (9.30-17.00) with a joint lunch for all of the participants. There is only one spot left, so if you are interested to participate, you can contact Amal (amal.khanolkar@chess.su.se).

Both our Finnish and Danish colleagues have made inquiries about when the next workshops (in Stockholm) will take place. A **workshop with the Finns** would be first out, and my suggestion is that we arrange it **February 6-7** (2012). As for the later workshop with the **Danes**, I would suggest that we meet with them in **September 19-20** (2012). It is crucial that as many within the programme as possible can participate in these Nordic workshops, so please let me know if you have any objection against these dates. We will get in touch with both the Finns and the Danes by the end of this week.

We also have advanced plans on arranging a **two-day course on “Concepts and methods in causal inference”** with course-givers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Bianca De Stavola and Rhian Daniel). Our aim is for this course to be held in May or July, depending on which days the course-givers will be available. We will get back with a more definite date as soon as it has been decided upon. Let me know if you are interested in taking part in such a course (some of you have already done so).

In addition, we aim to arrange the much appreciated 5-day **course in Structural Equation Modelling** (with George Ploubidis and Bianca De Stavola) one more time for the ones who missed it last time (and for those who want to refresh their memory about SEM). Preliminary suggestions of dates are October 2012 or May 2013. We will return with more specific information as soon as we have managed to book a date.

Other suggestions of courses in statistical methods that that have arisen in discussions with PhD students within the programme are techniques in Multilevel modelling and Cox regression. We will look into this issue further – if you have any suggestions of possible course-givers, please let us know!

Finally, we would like to encourage you to sign up for the course in Life-course epidemiology which will run between January 16–February 14 here at Sveaplan with Ilona Koupil as the course-giver. For more information about this course, please contact Monica Åberg Yngwe (monica.aberg-yngwe@chess.su.se)

Best wishes,

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