Greeting from Gunlög Sundberg, who has returned to Stockholms Universitet


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The Swedish Institute announces summer courses in Swedish. Deadline is March 31. For information, contact Monika Wirkkala <monika.wirkkala@si.se> or www.si.se | www.sweden.se

LAS is looking for students interested in a great internship opportunity for next fall. They have approximately 80 intern positions to fill. Applicants must have junior or senior standing by next fall and have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher. The application for LAS 101 interns is now live on the website http://www.las.uiuc.edu/students/enrichment/

Potential applicants are welcome to contact Ruth Hoffman with questions. <ruthhoff@illinois.edu>

"Don’t Miss the Boat"
Spring Semester 2011
Scandinavian Film Nights

All films will be shown with English subtitles in Lucy Ellis Lounge (room 1080) in the Foreign Languages Bldg.

Tuesday, January 25th 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
“Freak” (Miffo)
Comedy about a suburban priest who falls in love with a woman in a wheelchair.
Swedish language

Wednesday, February 9th 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
“Cries and Whispers” (Viskningar och Rop)
Ingmar Bergman (1972)
Intense psychological drama about three aristocratic sisters around the turn of the century.
Swedish language

Tuesday, February 22nd 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
“Reprise”
Joachim Trier (2006)
Drama about two close friends and budding authors as they attempt to publish their first novels.
Norwegian language

Tuesday, March 15th 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
“Flame and Citron” (Flammen och Citronen)
Ole Christian Madsen (2008)
Historical action drama about WWII Danish resistance fighters intent on liberating their country from the Nazis.
Danish language

Tuesday, April 19th 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
“Arn: The Knight Templar” (Arn: Tempelriddaren)
Peter Flinth (2007)
An epic tale of a Swedish Knight sent to the Holy Land who returns to help his family fight for the crown.
Swedish language
The individual countries of Sweden, Norway and Denmark each possess their own distinct cultures, histories, attributes and identities that allow them to be defined as separate nation-states. However, they also share many common characteristics, which unite them. Although Scandinavia has retained many of its distinguishing traits, due to globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of society in recent years, the region faces many challenges to its sense of identity, and its people have been forced to reflect upon their desired role in the modern world.

Integration is a process in which states, usually in the same region, enter into agreements based on mutual political, economic, social or cultural understandings in order to benefit each other through cooperation. In Europe, integration has been going on since WWII, and especially during the ‘80s (Olesen 148, 153). Currently, European states are becoming more connected primarily through the mechanisms of the European Union and the Council of Europe, which try to create uniformity across the region in many diverse areas including human rights, economic policy (especially liberalization of trade), the system of government (democracy), type of currency, education, health care, labor standards, etc. Although regional agreements have been occurring since long before WWII, the European Union is unique in simultaneously having a lot of powerful members (currently 27) and dictating demanding requirements for membership which lead to a fairly high level of integration.

European integration can cause states to give up some of their independence because they are putting themselves under the influence of a supranational institution, but the participants can also receive benefits from belonging to organizations like the EU. Countries integrating with the European system can experience great advantages through enhanced trade (crucial to export-driven Scandinavian economies), increased stability (economically and politically), defense, more opportunities for citizens, and often higher standards of education, health and job safety (CDEP). Also, countries that choose not to join could be putting themselves at risk of being excluded on the international scene or falling behind the rest of the world.

Clearly, there are definitely incentives for Scandinavian countries to integrate with Europe. Although it can appear that it would have been very simple and tempting for Norway, Sweden and Denmark to quickly jump onto the bandwagon of European integration, for many reasons they were all relatively hesitant, and Norway, for example, has still not joined the EU (Johnson 1). The three countries are notorious for their “predominantly negative attitudes” towards becoming more intertwined with Europe, and according to the Eurobarometer, in 1999 Sweden had “the highest anti-membership attitude level” of any country (Duan 1).

Today, the Scandinavian countries are formally included in the integration process, but “Nordic attitudes toward European integration are still marked by a high and pronounced degree of reluctance” (Olesen 156). The Scandinavian countries are unusually unwilling to integrate. In an effort to pinpoint reasons for Scandinavia’s reaction towards integration efforts, many scholars use constructivist methodology, which “considers the specific character and form” of each country and “focuses on what constitutes identity, interests and action” (Koivisto 358).

Looking inside the countries, one thing that distinguishes Scandinavia and points to its hesitance toward integration is simply in the common culture and attitudes that the countries share. Nordic people are taught to be independent (and not be a burden, even though they live in a collectivist society), but also conform to their culture. The idea of having to rely on other countries, let alone ones that are heterogeneous (multiculturalism has received mixed reviews) and very different from their own, is not naturally conducive to the average Scandinavian’s mindset (Duan 4).
Another attitude that the Scandinavians have is a strong sense of nationalism and their countries’ individual identity; all of the countries experienced strong nationalistic movements throughout their histories. There is not as great of a separation between the concepts of the nation and the state in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and in Denmark, for example, “many years were characterized by promoting sense of Danishness and Nordic identity... strong nationalism became a mass phenomenon” (Srsen 2). Having clear, long-lasting conceptions of being inherently different from other areas such as Europe would definitely inhibit integration, even to this day. It can be difficult for people in nation-states to separate the concepts of nations and states within one unit, so “they tend to be Eurosceptic” (Srsen 11).

Self-perception has a big impact on the depth to which Scandinavians have joined with Europe, and other aspects of how they view themselves include their impression of their distance from Europe and their comparative progress towards modernity. Norway, Sweden and Denmark are physically removed from most other European countries, and they often think of themselves as being more modern than (and possibly superior to) the rest of Europe. Many theorists say that those factors have slowed their rate of integration because they do not have a sense of shared identity or dependence with those that they would join (Duan 5). Unlike most of Europe, Scandinavia is characterized by strong welfare systems, and many people thought that their way of life would be threatened through adapting European ways (Hansen 2). Because the Scandinavian countries do have a sense of an identity as a similar group, there are many common explanations for why they, as a whole, were unusually unreceptive to European integration.

Sweden, Norway and Denmark are alike in many ways; each Scandinavian country, however, still acts on its own in respect to integration, and that fact is accounted for by the differences between each country. The most prominent example of how the specific makeup of one of the countries has impacted its actions toward integration is Sweden’s neutrality policy. Sweden originally was completely against partaking in virtually any form of integration because “traditionally, the official Swedish position was that membership would not be compatible with the longstanding Swedish neutrality policy based on the doctrine of no alliances in peace aiming for neutrality in case of war” (Sundelius 1). Also, Swedish neutrality was perceived as one of the constitutive pillars of the Swedish welfare state, “Folkhemmet” (“The Folk Home”) (Olesen 10). Interest groups in the country ended up mobilizing in favor of integration, though, and they were instrumental in the shift in the political culture towards its acceptance. The political culture and Swedish attitudes slowly changed to become less focused on a separation of cultures: “there is a general movement away from a multicultural approach... towards an attitude of passive tolerance, typical for the position of civic integration” (Borevi 5).

After WWII and through the 1990s, Swedes became more open to other cultures and did not adhere to a multiculturalist mentality—as they instead embraced the possibility of cultures blending together. Sweden dramatically reoriented itself and gradually has become tolerant of more integration. In accordance with structuralist theories (looking at the impact of the overall set up and structure of the international system on the domestic policies of individual countries) of why the country acted in such a way, it has been shown that “small states tend to go with, rather than move against, the international power balance” and Sweden adjusting to the “more dynamic European Community” exemplifies this exactly (Sundelius 2-3). Earlier in history, the Swedish neutrality policy was in place as a safeguard against the dangers of a bipolar balance of power on the international level, but when that balance shifted, the country’s policy also changed accordingly (they are still neutral and have been at peace, but utilize economic ‘alliances’). Since the loosening of its stance against integration, Sweden has steadily become more involved with Europe. In October 1990 it was clear that there was a new distribution of power in Europe, and Sweden responded immediately by declaring its desire to join the European Community in an economic reform bill that same year. Even after an election which put the Social Democrats in power, the new stance towards integration remained. Today, after the drastic changes from 1990-1991, Sweden demonstrates its integration in one way through being part of the OECD, and since 1995 it has been a member of the EU (CDEC).

Norway, as previously mentioned, is the only one of the three Scandinavian countries that does not belong to the European Union. This would suggest that Norway has rejected integration with Europe, but that is not the complete story. The country interacts with EU member states and has economic ties, and it is also a member of the Council of Europe and the European Economic Area (Hansen 1-2). Norway has actually made recent efforts to join the EU, which is definitely the most influential agreement that it could take part in with Europe, but its bid has failed in two national referendums in 1972 and 1994 (Johnson 1). As is the case with Sweden, Norway has specific reasons for the delays in integrating with Europe, which one author sums up by saying, “their recent independence, intense patriotism, small numbers, and peripheral location had... injected a proud, touchy defensiveness into many Norwegians’ reactions to anything” (Johnson
1. As stated, the location and geography of Norway make even more of a difference than in some of the other Scandinavian countries. The country has a large physical area, and therefore “the significant geographical extent of the country means that a centralized government in Oslo controls a nation with vast differences from region to region. Clearly, governing from Brussels would be difficult for the needs of the people in the extreme north to be served adequately and in their best interests” (Johnson 1).

Also, the importance of national independence is emphasized in Norway, more so than in Sweden and Denmark (“Norway had been ruled by Sweden from 1814 until 1905, and occupied by Denmark before that; sovereign independence was thus not taken lightly”). This can deter people from wanting to join a powerful, highly legitimate organization like the EU which would be able to enact real changes in the country that could possibly undermine the nation’s sovereignty. Probably due to its protection of its independence in particular, out of the Scandinavian countries, Norway most holds onto the idea that “The EU is something exterior, from which certain economic advantages may be extracted, but which, on the other hand, represents a cultural, political and social menace to Nordic sovereignty, society and identity” (Olesen 162). That view is not held by all members of the country, and as time progresses there has been a gradual shift in Norway towards a more positive view of European integration.

Unlike Norway, Denmark is currently a member of the EU, and as follows, is usually considered to be more integrated with Europe. In comparison with other European countries, Denmark appears to be “reluctant towards integration,” but in relation to the other Scandinavian countries mentioned, it went through a fairly gradual and steady transition to a fairly high level of integration. It served as one of the founding members of the Council of Europe in 1949, became part of the European communities in ’72, became a member of the EU in ’73, and entered the EC during the 1980s (Srsen 5). Denmark lacks some of the significant deterrents to integration that characterize Sweden and Norway, and as a result it “has been one of the best countries in implementation of EU law” and has “always strongly supported the enlargement of the EU, also being quite active and playing an important role” (Srsen 6). Its identity as a nation state is the primary factor that has prevented Denmark, for better or worse, from integrating quite as quickly as some other European countries.

Even though they are arguably fairly small and comparatively isolated countries, it is undeniable that Denmark, Sweden and Norway have been successful and continuously made a name for themselves in the globalized world. All three of the Scandinavian countries have very high GDPs, standards of living, educational levels, are ranked high in transparency and governmental fairness. They have also each been able to discover more than one niche area in which they can excel economically. Not only is Scandinavia successful in standard comparative statistical measures, it has also been able to maintain and expand its unique identity. The countries have preserved some of their traditional heritage and have also become known for things like energy innovations, a still-functioning welfare state, gender equality and the international success of brands like IKEA and Volvo. Scandinavia at first became involved in the process of European integration at a cautious rate, and “the Nordics have been more reactive than proactive, more defensive than offensive in handling the integration agenda during the last years of the 20th century.” However, now they have realized their ability to preserve enough of their individuality while having the willingness to accept the benefits of being open to and involved with other countries and cultures (Olesen 9). It is impossible to predict how integrated Scandinavia will become with Europe, but the relations between the two regions show that cooperation and economic gains can be increased through globalization, as well as the fact that sometimes, integration can actually enhance, not diminish, the individual identities of the actors involved.

Bibliography


**Kroppkakor**

Stuffed Potato Dumplings

- 10 Medium Potatoes
- 2-3 Egg Yolks
- 5-6oz Wheat Flour
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 Onion
- 7oz Salt Pork
- 2 tsp Cracked Allspice

Serves 4-6

Peel and boil the potatoes. Mash them and mix with the egg yolks and salt. Let the mix cool, and then mix in the flour. Knead the dough, and shape into a roll. Chop the pork into small cubes and dice the onion. Fry the pork and onion quickly, and mix with the allspice. Cut the potato roll into inch thick slices, make a depression in each slice, and fill with the pork mixture. Flatten each dumpling so the pork mix is in the middle, and roll the dumpling into a smooth even ball. Boil the dumplings slowly in slightly salted water without a lid for 5-6 minutes after the dumplings rise to the surface. Serve with lingonberries and melted butter. The dumplings can also be cut in half and fried.

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**Calendar of Events**

**Conversation Hour**
Every week, meet the Scandinavian Club and Swedish Language Students for an hour of fun conversation – på Svenska!

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm
Espresso Royale on Goodwin & Oregon

**Happy Hour**
Join The Scandinavian Club every week for drinks and socializing
Tuesdays at 7pm at Murphy’s Pub

**Film Nights**
Every other week, see a different Scandinavian movie – with subtitles!
(See the list of movies on Page 2)

**Robyn in Concert**
Join the Scandinavian Club and see Robyn, the Swedish Electropop-Prinsessan, perform live at The Canopy Club.

Buy your ticket online or at The Canopy Club

Contact “partyprinsessan,” Cathy Selen for information on pre/post-concert functions selen1@illinois.edu

**Swedish Chicago**
Announcing a Spring Tour of Scandinavian Chicago! Stops will include Tre Kronor (a Swedish restaurant) and IKEA

To help plan or for information, contact the trip committee
Jenny Haare, Kristin Ingstrup, Beth Samuelson and Melissa Boban