Welcome to a research seminar with Andreas Önnerfors, Associate Professor, University of Gothenburg.

Time: Thursday 27 October, 14.15 - 16.00

Place: Lounge room, 9th floor, MIM, Niagara, Nordensiöldsgatan 1, Malmö University
(Gathering for the seminar at sharp 14.05 at the ground floor next to the Reception in Niagara. Please contact Merja Skaffari-Multala 040-665 7117 for help.)

Title: Moving the Mainstream: Radicalization of Political Language in the German PEGIDA-Movement

Abstract:
Provoked by global events, in autumn 2014 a small group of friends in and around Dresden in eastern Germany connected via facebook and sparked off an initiative that at the peak of its previous expansion would bring around 25 000 people to the streets of the ‘Florence of the North’. Under the banner of PEGIDA – Patriotische Europäer Gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes, ‘Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the Occident’, the movement has continuously mobilised popular disaffection with current political affairs in Germany. Throughout 2014 and 2015, between twenty and thirty sister-organizations surfaced around Germany and even in other European countries and the development begs the question if we witness a new dimension of popular protest that is difficult to classify on a traditional scale between ‘right’ and ‘left’.

This presentation is based upon a qualitative analysis of positions advanced by insiders of what I call the ‘PEGIDA-galaxy’, a self-referential symbolic space in which new concepts of political language assume meaning and are reinforced in an intricate interplay between online and offline activism. More specifically, in November 2015, I conducted a field trip to Germany, where I met with researchers into, central representatives and peripheral supporters of the movement. My chapter also provides with an extensive literature review of the current status of research (mainly available in German).

Chapter draft

More seminars at MIM on The Migration Seminar.

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