

# Nyheter från Samtidshistoriska institutet

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## nr. 3 (sommar) 2024

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### Kommande konferenser arrangerade av SHI

Den 12–14 juni 2024 kommer SHI att, i samarbete med Historiska studier, Östersjöstiftelsen, och CBEES, organisera *Social Cleavages, Political Ideologies, Clashes of Sovereignty* – The 11th Annual Conference av Association for Political History. Konferensen organiseras av Andreas Åkerlund, Norbert Götz, Yulia Gradszkova och Francesco Zavatti. Södertörns högskola kommer att ha över 80 deltagare från globala lärosäten, och de mest renommerade experterna inom konfliktens historia! Programmet kommer att cirkuleras inom kort, och ni är alla hjärtligt välkomna att delta!



SHI | INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY



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Den **10-11 september 2024** kommer SHI att, i samarbete med Historiska institutionen vid Lunds universitet, organisera konferensen “Overcoming post-1945 displacement and Cold War resettlement: Individual and collective strategies by Central and East European actors in the West”, samfinansierad av Östersjöstiftelsen genom projektet “Strategies for Survival of Displaced Fascists: The Romanian Legionaries in the Western Hemisphere, 1945-1965” och av Knut och Alice Wallenbergs Stiftelsen genom projektet “The Growing Phenomenon of Long-Distance Nationalism”. Konferensen organiseras av Francesco Zavatti och Per Anders Rudling.



LUND UNIVERSITY

*Knut and Alice  
Wallenberg  
Foundation*



ÖSTERSJÖSTIFTELSEN  
THE FOUNDATION FOR BALTIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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## En ny forskare vid SHI

Sedan 2024-01-01 har SHI en ny forskare: **Susanne Barth**, PhD från University of Oldenburg och tidigare forskare vid Wien Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. Susanne Barth har vid SHI startat sitt postdok projekt ”The Other Victims of Auschwitz: The Murder of Sick Prisoners in Upper Silesian Forced Labour Camps for Jews”, finansierat av Östersjöstiftelsen under 2024–2026 med 2 606 000 SEK. Projektbeskrivningen är:

“The project examines the Holocaust in Eastern Upper Silesia, a territory annexed by Nazi Germany from Poland after the invasion of 1939. Out of the local Jewish population of 120,000, about 50,000 died as a result of their internment in forced labour camps set up by Himmler’s Special Commissioner Albrecht Schmelt from October 1940. A major factor for their high mortality was the selection of sick and emaciated prisoners for the gas chambers of Auschwitz, or their murder in the camps by cold water, leading to drowning or hypothermia. As the so-called “Schmelt camps” operated in a legal vacuum, there were different perpetrators than in the concentration camps: German order policemen and ethnic German auxiliaries from Bessarabia served as guards, and male and female Upper Silesian civilians as camp leaders. The project investigates how this unregulated space was used to try out new, radical killing methods and how it permitted parts of the mixed Polish-German population of Upper Silesia to prove their alleged “Germanness” by collaborating in these crimes. Agamben’s theory of the Nazi regime reducing Jews and other groups to “bare life” without civil rights, who could be killed without punishment, will be used to analyze the delegation of the state’s prerogative to destine prisoners for death to civilian Schmelt camp leaders. The collaboration of ethnically diverse male and female perpetrators will be contextualized within the concept of “cross-identity performance.”

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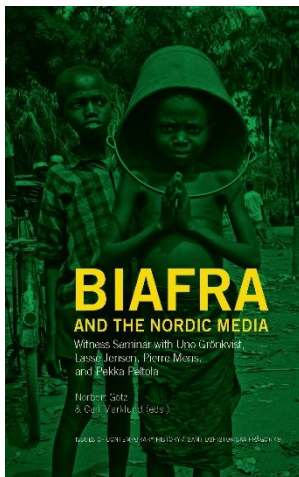
## Nya böcker

**Kjell Östberg (2024) *The Rise and Fall of Swedish Social Democracy*. London: Verso.**



Historian Kjell Östberg presents the first comprehensive study of one of the most influential political movements of our time. Swedish Social Democracy was an inspiration to young socialists around the world for generations. But little remains of the Swedish model today. For almost a century, Social Democracy prevailed in Sweden, which for many appeared to be on the verge of becoming a truly socialist country. What followed instead was a jarring adaptation to a rising neoliberal world order. Large parts of the public sector have now been privatised, social inequality is rapidly worsening, and right-wing populists have come to represent much of the working class. Östberg discusses the reformist strategy, class organizations and social mobilisation, women’s struggle, and the creation of the Swedish welfare society. It is a history emblematic of the transformations in global politics of the last half century.

Norbert Götz & Carl Marklund (eds.) *Biafra and the Nordic media: Witness Seminar with Uno Grönkvist, Lasse Jensen, Pierre Mens, and Pekka Peltola* (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2024, p. 94) [OPEN ACCESS](#)



This booklet chronicles a seminar where journalists from Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, who reported from Biafra, shared their experiences and perspectives on the conflict and the humanitarian efforts aimed at alleviating the famine. The discussions captured in this document provide valuable insights into Nordic humanitarianism and its ethical dimensions, with relevance for contemporary global aid initiatives and the involvement of Nordic countries in international humanitarian cooperation.

Carl Marklund, *Sverigebildens i USA: Historia, händelser och mekanismer* (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2023. s. 76. ISBN 978-91-89615-46-5. Samtidshistoriska frågor, 1650-450X; 46) [OPEN ACCESS](#)



Här undersöks Sverigebildens i USA mot bakgrund av den senaste tidens debatt om hur Sverige beskrivs utomlands. Den svenskamerikanska relationen är viktig för Sverige – kulturellt, ekonomiskt och politiskt. Den är högaktuell givet den säkerhetspolitiska oron och Sveriges NATO-ansökan. USA är också en viktig hållplats för den globala spridningen av föreställningar om Sverige världen över, vilket blivit tydligt i dagens alltmer polariserade medielandskap. Rapporten syftar inte till att återge en fullständig bild av "hela" den amerikanska Sverigebildens utan fokuserar på sådana händelser och tillfällen där uppmärksamheten kring Sverige och svenska förhållanden dels förstärkts kvantitativt och dels förändrats kvalitativt.