

## General Seminar

### Neoliberalism in the Nordics - Developing an Absent Theme

Tuesday 7 April 2020

12.30-2.30 pm

Sciences Po, Room Goguel  
27 rue Saint-Guillaume, 75007 Paris

The research program “Neoliberalism in the Nordics: developing an absent theme” intends to develop an understanding of neoliberalism in the Nordic welfare states, and specifically, of the role of the welfare state and a set of political alliances surrounding and including social democracy, not merely as the targets of neoliberal critique but as the vehicles of a specific Nordic variant of neoliberalism. There are good reasons to hypothesize that key intellectual, political and economic developments in the Nordics since the 1970s share characteristics of neoliberalisation elsewhere – while at the same time displaying distinct features. The program aims to develop a new research theme around the expressions of neoliberalism in the Northern European periphery, by building a strong team of intellectual, conceptual, political, economic, social and cultural historians working across Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. It has two specific aims: first, to re-examine key economic social and political changes in the Nordic countries and explain why and how neoliberalism happened in political cultures and welfare statist societies that, according to the dominant literature in social science, should not have been conducive to it. Second, to bring the particular experiences of the Nordics to the larger field of neoliberalism research globally, by re-examining the role of Nordic progressive cultures as distinct carriers of a ‘local’ variant of neoliberalism.



#### Speaker

**Jenny Andersson**, Uppsala University

Parallell to her historical research, Jenny Andersson has upheld a research interest in the history of political economy and comparative social science, particularly around welfare state research and the transformation of European social democracy. Jenny Andersson was program chair for the Council for European Studies conference, 2015. She has held visiting fellowships at

MaxPlanck Institute for the Study of Society (MPIfG), Köln, and Nuffield College, Oxford, and is an associated researcher with the MPIfG. She was awarded the CNRS bronze medal for her research in 2015. She is also a member of several international research projects, What does the future hold, funded by the Swedish National Research Council together with Erik Westholm, and Global foresight: Anticipatory governance and the making of geocultural scenarios (lead by Christina Garsten, SCORE, Stockholm University). Jenny Andersson is co-author, with Sandra Kemp, of the forthcoming volume *Futures. Interdisciplinary perspectives on futurity*, Oxford University Press.

From 2016 to 2019, Jenny Andersson co-directed the Franco German collaborative research center MaxPo: Coping with instability in advanced market societies. The research program can be found here: <http://www.maxpo.eu/>.

#### Collective discussion

Compulsory registration on the link above - Contact: [katia.rio@sciencespo.fr](mailto:katia.rio@sciencespo.fr)