

ISSUE 1 · JUNE 2023

(RE)CONNECTING WITH THE EMS COMMUNITY

AN EMS NEWSLETTER

About the Program

The Ethnic and Migration Studies master's program (EMS) is now in its eighth year and has developed into a highly sought after international master's program for students interested in critical migration studies. EMS is a two-year program, interdisciplinary in approach, that relates ethnicity and migration to the global economy and cultural change, and to systems of domination and resistance movements. The program integrates the humanities and social sciences, with a commitment to problem-solving, critical and innovative approaches. The EMS program also benefits from the vibrant research, community and international activities of the Institute for Research on Ethnicity, Migration and Society (REMESO). REMESO regularly welcomes international researchers that contribute to the teaching and learning environment of EMS.

The EMS program thrives through its wonderful students and alumni. EMS students come to LiU's campus Norrköping from all parts of the world.

Each incoming student group creates their own approach to a supportive scholarly community with amazing examples of commitment to local Swedish, to European, and to global social movements, non-governmental organisations and community initiatives as seen in the internships discussed in this newsletter and in the reports from the 1st and 2nd year student representatives.

The REMESO Faculty of teachers and researchers are proud of the achievements of EMS alumni in the diverse roles they have in research, teaching, government and non-governmental roles and many contributing to activism, advocacy and creative interventions on cross-cutting issues including climate risks, economic and social inequalities, racism and discrimination.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and stay connected with the EMS and REMESO community.

Claudia Tazreiter, Professor and Program Director



STAY IN TOUCH!



[@emscommunity](https://www.instagram.com/emscommunity)



[EMS Community](https://www.facebook.com/EMSCommunity)



[EMS All Years](#)



[EMS Alumni Network](#)



Year One



It has been an eventful year for our EMS cohort as we embarked on various activities and events to foster a stronger sense of community among ourselves and establish connections with the wider Norrköping community.

Internally, we organized social gatherings and international potluck dinners, providing opportunities for everyone in our cohort to connect and strengthen our bonds beyond the classroom. Additionally, we enjoyed exciting outings to support the Norrköping Dolphins Basketball games, further enhancing our camaraderie.

Furthermore, we focused on activities with an academic flair, such as reviving MigraMovies in collaboration with Cnema. MigraMovies, a series of thought-provoking film screenings centered around ethnicity and migration, has been a resounding success. We have hosted three screenings to date and plan to continue this initiative in the coming year. Our most recent screening in May was accompanied by a captivating concert featuring the talented artists Petra Nachtmanova and Bengtis Hansson, who enthralled us with their mesmerizing Saz performances. These events have not only showcased the potential of the EMS program but also served as a platform for us to connect and network within the Norrköping community.

To sustain these events, we have established a fruitful collaboration with the Norrköping Municipality, enabling us to secure the necessary financial support.

We are grateful for the support and participation of our fellow students and the Norrköping community throughout this journey. Together, we have fostered a vibrant and inclusive environment that we hope to build upon in the future.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and looking forward to more exciting endeavors in the upcoming year!

Best regards,

Nelly and Imran
1st Year EMS Student Representatives



Donations collected by EMS students for those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey.

Year Two

For all of us second year students of EMS, it's been an eventful year, although in various ways. Some of us started of the year with internships or elective courses, while others went abroad for an exchange semester, or double degree, to places such as Greece, Turkey, Spain, and South Africa, to name a few. As a welcome addition, we also had some exchange students coming in to study in Norrköping.

As some readers may already be aware, the university implemented a new admission rule last year which meant a lot of students, predominantly from outside the EU, were not able to start the program last fall. Our whole class was of course concerned, since the policy primarily impacts students who are already facing unequal circumstances, paying fees, requiring visas, etc.

Additionally, as our class is well aware how vital a diversity of students is for our learning environment and education (and all educations), we deem this policy harmful in several ways. Hence, together with the faculty, we have been engaged in the communication with the administrators and the chancellor's office with the hope of abandoning this policy.

On a more positive note, many of us have just submitted our theses and are now preparing for the defence, as well as looking forward to some long-awaited celebrations. As we graduate from the program and move on to the next chapters in our lives, we hope to keep in touch with the alumni network through this newsletter.

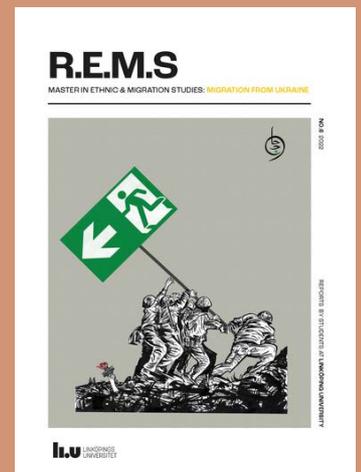
Max & Gwantsa
2nd Year EMS Student Representatives

Critical Cases Course

At the end of the first year of the Master´s Program students work with the course "Critical Cases in Ethnic and Migration Studies", led by Erik Berggren. This course is different from previous courses, as it is primarily a practical exercise in which the students draft articles that form a report for the series Reports from the Master´s Program in Ethnic and Migration Studies (REMS).

The report gives the students a chance to work with research communication and journalism, using many of the theories and cases they have read during the year, rather than producing scientific knowledge. Each year´s report have a specific theme. Students´ task is to find cases, people, organisations and write articles that address the theme from several angles. They then present their report to the public after it is published. This year, the second year cohort presented their report at the Norrköping public library.

Previous years we have worked with themes such as economic aspects of migration; migration and Covid-19; migration and Ukraine. This year's theme is democracy and migration. It gives students a chance to work journalistically with recent political developments and their democratic consequences in Sweden and around the world when it comes to austere immigration policies, such as the so called Tidö Agreement in Sweden and the democratic consequences of the growing number of people who face precarious working and living conditions.



Internship Course

Internship with Disabled Refugees Welcome/The Right to Work Project at the Independent Living Institute in Stockholm

Choosing the internship as my elective course, I got the chance to intern for ten weeks with the project Rätten till Arbete (The right to work and reciprocal integration, RTA) of the Independent Living Institute (ILI) in Stockholm. The current RTA project builds on the experiences of the previous project Disabled Refugees Welcome (DRW), which has focused on creating contacts with refugees and migrants with disabilities in Sweden, mapping out challenges and requirements as well as raising awareness about their situation. As employment and the access to the labour market has been brought up as something challenging by the target group, the current RTA project focuses on mapping out the situation of employment for the target group in Sweden as well as supporting them in their access to the labour market. Another aspect is the use of 'mobile clinics' to create more contacts with different actors across Sweden and further disseminate knowledge and awareness.

I was warmly welcomed into the team from the very beginning and started my internship with the Human Rights Days in Örebro. During my time with the project, I was involved in preparing and carrying out events with the target group as well as with different Swedish actors such as the Employment Agency and supported the other team members in their work, so for example with translations of power points and documents. The internship enabled me to not only increase my knowledge about the intersection of forced migration and disability in general and in Sweden in particular, but to also meet great people who engage in a too often overlooked topic. Last but not least, the internship was not only crucial for my slowly increasing knowledge of Swedish, but also for my master thesis. In the end, despite some organisational challenges, I am very happy to have done the internship and having had the opportunity to meet and stay in contact with the RTA team.

Marjan Aslanifard, 2nd year EMS Student

Photo description, top right: Members of the RTA team and a project participant who are in front of the Disabled Refugees Welcome banner at the first Arbetskafé meeting in December 2022.

Photo description, bottom right: EMS students who participated in the EUMigs Winter Workshop at University of A Coruña.



EUMigs Program

In September 2022, the seven EuMIGS partner institutes of the Double Degree program were awarded an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership grant by the European Commission, enabling a number of joint activities over the academic year. In addition to the yearly kick off for double degree students, hosted by University of Neuchatel in early November 2022, EMS students had the opportunity to participate in a joint course exploring different perspectives on refugee reception and migration policy across Europe in online seminars with students from the Universities of Neuchatel and Salzburg and teachers from 8 of the 11 partner Universities in the EuMIGS network. 8 EMS students were also invited to participate in the first EuMIGS Winter Workshop, held at the University of A Coruña from 27 February to 1 March. The workshop theme was Knowledge Transfer, and 20 students from seven partner universities received training in the production of scientific podcasts and created their own podcasts. The academic year of the network ends with the IMISCOE conference in Warsaw in July, in which all double degree students are invited to present their MA thesis. In the autumn of 2023, the next cohort of double degree students begins and EMS will welcome three new students while five EMS students will leave to do their second year in Osnabrück, Salzburg and A Coruña.

Anna Bredström, Professor & EUMigs Coordinator





Alumni Updates

Tamar Nadibaidze

Graduated 2022

I have been working in the local civil society sector, encouraging inclusive policy-making and social dialogue between internally displaced people, ethnic minority groups, local communities and public servants; and supporting the capacity of state and commercial entities to counter the proliferation of components of the Russian advanced conventional weapons.



Looking at the EMS program in retrospect, I appreciate that it sensitized me to an intersectional approach and critical theory as a methodology for seeing the world. More than that, Remeso is a fond memory of a space that nourished my imagination for alternative practices and supported with theory. Now, even as the real world may come with limited ruptures for attempting aspirations into work, the friendships I made throughout the program and the professors I came to meet serve as a continued source of support

Antoine Bodo

Graduated 2023

Since graduating from the EMS master's programme, I have been working with an NGO fighting against the exclusion of older adults in Ireland. I am designing further education programmes facilitating access to digital learning. Although not directly related to the field of migration (even though a lot of our learners have a migration background), I still apply a lot of the knowledge I acquired during the programme to my work daily. Older adults face discrimination and exclusion and are stigmatised based on prejudices in a way not too dissimilar to the situation faced by migrants. The creation of curricula thus requires making informed decision on the content to be included as well as its presentation to offer everybody equal opportunities.



The EMS programme was a great opportunity to increase my understanding of discrimination and exclusion and the many ways in which it takes place. The critical approach of the programme was a great allows for the a greater understanding of exclusion in general and is proving extremely useful in my current role.

Froso Terzoglou

Graduated 2020



The REMESO master's programme offered me a critical way of thinking and an insight into global and local challenges and changes. During my studies, I met great people from all over the world, enjoyed doing an internship and then after graduation worked in multicultural classrooms in Sweden. Currently, I work as a PhD student in Child Studies at Linköping University, as I wanted to combine my interest in learning more and teaching. In my research, I am looking at how young students' emotions are shaped, among others, by culture and society and my master's studies, both in gender and migration, have given me wide background knowledge in the field.

Galyna Kutsovska

Graduated 2019



The EMS program is a unique chance to learn globally important topics from an interdisciplinary perspective and meet amazing peers from around the world. Throughout the program, students are engaged in various practical fieldwork, which gives them opportunities to realize their own projects with support from teachers. The program widened the scope of my research expertise and gave me the tools to take on projects in any area within humanities and social sciences.

After graduation, I worked as a research assistant with a professor from the EMS program and REMESO, who continuously supported my activities and ambitions. Eventually, I received several offers from PhD programs in Sweden and Canada. Now, I am pursuing my dream of being a PhD candidate in History at Uppsala University and plan to build a research career in academia. My research is focused on the Holocaust in Kharkiv. None of this would have been possible without the EMS program and its talented teachers who supported and inspired me throughout my learning process.

Tobias Seitz

Graduated 2022



After my first year at the EMS program, I did an Erasmus internship in Berlin. It was at PECO-Institut, a small consulting and education organization connected to the union IG BAU. Luckily, I received a small position at PECO after my internship during my second EMS year. After my graduation, they offered me a full-time position as democracy trainer and civic educator. Until recently, I held seminars with union members about topics like discrimination, racism, migration and solidarity. In May 2023, I changed to the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR) in Berlin, where I work as a social scientist for the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings. The EMS Programme provided me with the right environment to develop my own ideas and has given me the qualification to aim at multidisciplinary positions.

Matilde Veglia

Graduated 2022



Since graduating from EMS, I have been working in publishing as a freelance translator. My most exciting project has been the co-translation of *Against Borders, The case for abolition* by Luke De Noronha and Gracie Mae Bradley (Verso, 2022) to Italian. With Associazione Frantz Fanon in Turin, we are developing a project focusing on structural violence and discrimination within the housing sector. Aside from their clinical work in the field of ethno-psychiatry, we are participating in the constitution of a network of associations on the local level to coordinate and promote monitoring actions and mobilization within the civil society against marginalization, violence, and the tightening of policies with regards to migration, illegalization, detention in CPRs, and accommodation programs.

The EMS program has provided me with a variety of meaningful encounters on both the theoretical and personal level. The educational environment and mentoring I have experienced over the two years have helped me to identify research and teaching as my core passions and contributed to discovering my principal interests, preferred methods and frameworks, shaping the way I envision doing it in the future.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Many thanks to all EMS students, alumni, and faculty who contributed texts and photos to the newsletter. A special mention also goes to Melike Isleyen, Frida Log, and Kenna Sim who played a role in coordination, design and formatting.

