

Invitation to an informal constitutive meeting to initiate a Swedish Development Studies Network

Development Studies are well established at universities and other institutions in Sweden and the other Nordic countries. Unlike Denmark, Finland and Norway, Sweden still lacks a national network and association for development studies. Initiating a Swedish Development Studies Network could fill this gap to facilitate interaction between scholars in the field of Development Studies and to provide a forum for cultivating contacts with policy makers and other stakeholders in development research and advocacy.

The network would benefit from a close cooperation with the other Nordic Development Studies associations and the European Association for Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). It would join the efforts to continue with a biennial Nordic Development Studies Conference on a rotating basis in the Nordic countries and would also support the Swedish biennial Development Studies Conference.

We invite all interested to an initial meeting to discuss matters on occasion of the Swedish Development Studies Conference in Göteborg (22-23 August 2018). We have a time slot for

Wednesday, 22 August at 12.00 to 13.00 hrs (Room: South America)

We envisage the establishment of an initial network which aims to:

- Promote Development Studies locally and internationally;
- Support interaction among scholars in Sweden, the Nordic countries and globally with a shared commitment to Development Studies;
- Enhance visibility of Development Studies in the public domain through dissemination and information activities;
- Seek closer communication and exchange with development policy relevant institutions and organizations in the state and civil society.
- Welcome scholars in a variety of disciplines.

If there is interest in taking matters further, the network could develop into a formal association. Consultative meetings should then be planned at an opportune event during 2019, with the aim to encourage Swedish academic and other institutions to join. Such an association should also be open to individual scholars.

We invite all interested to either join us in Göteborg or (in the case of being unable to attend) to inform us if they are interested and would like to be updated. While the meeting is open to all, please indicate your intention to attend. Contact person: Elin.Bjarnegard@statsvet.uu.se

Please circulate this invitation as widely as possible among colleagues and practitioners!

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