



MISSION

The Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) aims to provide optimal research conditions for curiosity-driven research. The Collegium is a scholarly community where Fellows pursue research of their own choosing in a context of interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation. Since its foundation in 1985, it strives to protect and nurture independent inquiry, collaborative and deep thinking, and to emphasize the importance of academic freedom worldwide. Governmental support and support from major research foundations allow the invited Fellows to freely decide on their study and to engage in focused research.

Chartered by the Government of Sweden as an institute for advanced study, SCAS is a national scientific institution. The Collegium is open to applications from scholars across the range of the human and social sciences, as well as from the natural sciences. All candidates are assessed on the basis of their individual achievements and the quality and promise of their research proposal, including those who apply within the framework of a group. Every year presents a novel mixture of Fellows from all over the world who either work on their individual projects or who are part of a cluster of scholars with similar interests.

SCAS hosts advanced senior scholars as well as early-career scholars. During 2020-21, the Fellows come from twenty universities in ten countries; some seventy per cent of the Fellows come from abroad.

SCHOLARLY PROFILE

The Swedish Collegium has an ambition to articulate the significance of the social and human sciences for an understanding of the contemporary and historical condition of humankind in its diverse global contexts. This stance has long been a cornerstone of the profile and activities of SCAS.

The most recent articulation of this ambition is the engagement in questions pertaining to global governance. This



has been realized by funding from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ) focused on the instalment of a new research programme: the Global Horizons Fellowship Programme. The purpose of the Global Horizons Programme is to advance multi-disciplinary frontline research on global future governance issues, focusing on large-scale challenges. The programme aims to attract research fellows pursuing research on contemporary aspects of globalization and to promote a thematic collaboration across faculty lines. The programme revolves around three thematic areas: Global Knowledge Cultures and Regimes; Global Political Predicaments; and Global Futures. The programme is future-oriented in its ambition to contribute to the advancement of knowledge on contemporary forms of governance and their future implications. The programme also offers a basis from which to reach out and engage with university scholars across disciplinary boundaries, but also with public intellectuals, policy makers, and politicians.

In addition, the newly launched Barbro Klein Fellowship Programme contributes to the overarching aim of the Collegium. The programme emphasizes research on cultural and social diversity, cultural heritage and creativity, societal structures and public resistance, and varieties of cultural expressions in local and global perspective.

The expansion of the Collegium to include a Natural Sciences Programme aims at advancing cutting-edge research in the natural sciences, as well as at bridging the gap between these and the humanities and social sciences. This expansion has been made possible by support from the Erling Persson Family Foundation and the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. There are four thematic foci of the programme: Theoretical Biology; Human Brains and Societies; Measurable Man; and Exoplanets and Biological Activity on Other Worlds.

The academic profile of the Collegium has grown out of a consistent ambition to study and inquire into the variety of trajectories that characterize the development of human societies. This has found expression in collaborative research involving historians, social scientists and linguists, resulting



in reformulations of the idea of the Axial Age but also in the development of the idea of multiple modernities. It has also brought forth efforts to reconceptualise shifts occurring on a global scale during the tenth to thirteenth centuries in an age of transregional reorientations. These efforts have been further pursued with a focus on transformative periods in global history, in the so-called Karlgren-Eisenstadt Programme. In addition, the Collegium has consistently explored links between the economic sciences, philosophy and other human and social sciences. Dimensions of this research are reflected in the International Panel on Social Progress (IPSP), an endeavour that is uniquely ambitious and involves scholars on a global scale. Another consequence of the Collegium's engagement in this field has been a strengthening of study programmes with a focus on PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) in universities on different continents.

The Collegium of today is an institution that offers scholars the opportunity to be driven by their own intellectual curiosity; that crosses disciplinary boundaries; and remains small enough to build a sense of community. By doing so, research at SCAS may provide insight, knowledge, and reflection that contribute to the advancement of science at large.

THE PRO FUTURA SCIENTIA PROGRAMME

The Pro Futura Scientia Programme, funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ), is a unique and highly attractive programme for talented early-career scholars in the humanities and social sciences. This programme promotes state-of-the-art and focused research for a younger generation of scholars, whilst contributing to international collaboration. The idea is to provide optimal conditions for the younger scholars and to give them the chance to pursue curiosity-driven research during a five-year period. In the course of the programme they are offered a tenured position at the nominating university. Candidates are nominated by Swedish universities and leading research universities in neighbouring countries but also by the University of Cambridge.





INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

SCAS interacts with a large number of scholarly institutions. Especially important is the collaboration with originally six, now ten, leading institutes for advanced study within the SIAS group (Some Institutes for Advanced Study), of which the Collegium was a founding member in 1991: Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University; Institut d'études avancées de Nantes; Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem; National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC; Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences; Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University; Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study; and Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

In 2004, the Swedish Collegium was a founding member of the network of now twenty-five European institutes for advanced study (NetIAS). SCAS also has special links to other institutes for advanced study.



ORGANISATION

Professor Christina Garsten is Principal of the Collegium and a Permanent Fellow. Professor Björn Wittrock (Founding Director and Principal 1996-2018) is a Permanent Fellow.

The Collegium benefits from the contributions of six Non-resident Long-term Fellows, namely Professors Bruce G. Carruthers (Northwestern University), Linda Colley (Princeton University), Marianne Gullberg (Lund University), Michael J. Puett (Harvard University), Sverker Sörlin (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) and Alisse Waterston (City University of New York).

The Academic Senate oversees the activities of the Collegium and gives advice on institutional matters. Its members are Professors Ash Amin, John Broome, Lorraine Daston, Peter Goddard (Chair), Helga Nowotny, Carole Pateman, and Wang Hui.

The Collegium has a national board consisting of representatives of Swedish universities. Its members are



Professors Claes-Fredrik Helgesson (Uppsala University), Ericka Johnson (Linköping University), Susanne Lundin (Lund University), Anders Malmberg (Uppsala University; Chair), Ingrid Martins Holmberg (University of Gothenburg), Christer Nordlund (Umeå University) and Elisabeth Wåghäll Nivre (Stockholm University).

LOCATION

The Collegium is located in the Botanic garden in a national heritage building, Linneanum, from the turn of the eighteenth century. Since 2011 and 2017 respectively, the Collegium has added two adjacent heritage buildings, namely Prefektvillan and Villa Therese Andersson.

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