

New Research Platform about Russia and Caucasus

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RESEARCH. The Faculty of Culture and Society will focus on developing its research in Russia and Caucasus for at least the upcoming three years. This autumn from September 1, the research platform *Russia and the Caucasus Regional Research* (RUCARR), will be established at the faculty.

"We're very happy about it and it means a lot to us," said Karina Vamling, professor of Caucasus Studies and main applicant to the research platform.

"Professor Bo Petersson and I, along with other researchers at the department for Language Studies and the department for Global Political Studies, have had various collaborations with a focus on Russia and the Caucasus for several years.

"Setting up a platform bringing the researchers in this area together is important both internally in our organisation, and externally in relations with partners and other stakeholders.

"This means that we will have more resources to develop and make the research visible, initiating new activities, and making it easier to collaborate on common research applications, for example."

The second Research Platform at Culture and Society

The research centre Medea was established almost a year ago. When the faculty announced means for a second platform at the beginning of the year, three applications came in. These were reviewed by external experts and judged on more general strategic criteria by the faculty's research and postgraduate education committee.

"It was a difficult choice since we have very strong research at the faculty," said Ingrid Dackert, dean of Culture and Society.

"We decided for RUCARR because we believe its potential to develop research of high societal relevance is great, both internationally and nationally. The combination of social sciences and humanities will give good opportunities to make multidisciplinary research with a high degree of originality."

The funds for the research platform is 750,000 Swedish kronor per year, intended to help shaping and developing the area of research. The platform has been approved for an initial period of three years, and will be evaluated in the spring of 2019.

"We see research platforms as a very good way to develop strategic research in the faculty and make as much as possible of our scarce research funds from the state," added Ingrid Dackert

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