

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CRITICAL POLICY STUDIES – EXPLORING THE PREMISES AND POLITICS OF CAROL BACCHI'S WPR APPROACH

18 – 20 OF AUGUST 2021, KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are invited for papers to be given at a forthcoming symposium exploring the premises and politics of Carol Bacchi's "What's the Problem Represented to be?" (WPR) approach. This popular analytic strategy is being deployed across a wide range of research fields and disciplines. It is proving useful among policy workers, in comparative analyses, and to interrogate the politics of international organizations, including the EU, the World Bank and the OECD.

The symposium has as its main objective to open channels of communication among researchers who have engaged with, or who plan to engage with, the WPR approach in order to bring to light the types of analyses being produced and to encourage further collaboration. The format of the symposium will be keynotes followed by panels, paper presentations and general discussions. There will be a particular focus on showcasing new and emerging work from junior researchers. Confirmed keynotes are Professor Emerita Carol Bacchi, University of Adelaide, Professor Susan Goodwin, University of Sydney, and Professor Elisabeth Prügl, The Graduate Institute, Geneva.

The event is being hosted by the research group *Critical studies on power and politics* (led by Professor Malin Rönnblom) at the Department of Political, Historical, Religious and Cultural Studies, Karlstad University. It is being co-arranged with Professor Emerita Carol Bacchi and Professor Susan Goodwin.

The following questions indicate themes that will be addressed:

- What is the potential usefulness of the WPR approach in the current political climate that sees "truth", "facts" and "evidence" as guiding principles?
- What aspects of the WPR approach, in your view, require theoretical elaboration?
- What are the potentials and limitations of combining the WPR approach with other theoretical perspectives?

Paper givers are invited to engage with one or more of these questions, or to raise other related issues. They may offer research involving WPR or consider broader theoretical topics such as conceptions of critique and the potential and limits of "mixed methods".

Please submit your abstract (approx. 200 words) by **April 1, 2021** at the latest to:  
[katarina.alander@kau.se](mailto:katarina.alander@kau.se)

The symposium will have a limited number of participants and the abstracts will be evaluated in relation to the focus of the call. Presenters will be notified by May 15. Papers will be 3000-4000 words and are to be submitted by August 20. The participation in the symposium is free of charge, thanks to a generous contribution from *Riksbankens Jubileumsfond – for the advancement of the Humanities and the Social Sciences*. The organisers will provide a limited number of pre-booked hotel rooms at a lower price.

For any questions on the content of the symposium, please contact Professor Malin Rönnblom, [malin.ronnblom@kau.se](mailto:malin.ronnblom@kau.se)

A warm welcome to Karlstad in August!



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