The Centre for European Studies (SLLCS) cordially invites you to the public lecture

**Eugenics and Biopolitics in 20th Century Europe**

**Joint seminar by Dr Marius Turda and Dr Per Rudling**

5th March 2014
5.00-7.00 pm
4050B, Arts Building

**Dr Marius Turda (Oxford Brookes): Eugenics and Biopolitics in Interwar Central and Eastern Europe**

Abstract: Biopolitics forcefully encapsulates the representation of the nation as a living organism, functioning according to biological laws, and subsumed to the authority of the secular state. Biopolitics placed the nation-state within a scientific realm, one whose legitimacy stemmed from the dual claim that it could improve the “health of the population”, and protect the “racial qualities of the nation”. In this seminar, Dr Turda will discuss the cluster of biopolitical ideas developing in Central and Eastern Europe during the interwar period, whose main goal was the creation of a healthy nation, a process predicated upon protecting racial qualities deemed superior and upon introducing preventive measures against dysgenic individuals or racial groups perceived as inferior, and consequently a threat to the nation.

**Dr Per Rudling (Lund University): Racial biology in Sweden and the USSR, contacts 1920-1975**

Abstract: The 1920s saw a significant exchange between eugenicists in Sweden and the young Soviet state. Sweden did not partake in World War I, and during the years following immediately upon the Versailles peace treaty, Swedish scholars came to serve as an intermediary link between, on the one hand, Soviet Russia and Weimar Germany, and the Western powers. Swedish eugenicists organized conferences, lecture tours, visits, scholarly exchanges, transfers and translation of eugenic research. Herman Lundborg, the director of the world’s first State Institute of Racial Biology, an old-fashioned, deeply conservative and anti-communist “scientific” racist, somewhat paradoxically came to serve as something of a Western liaison for Soviet eugenicists. Whereas the contacts were disrupted in 1930, Swedish eugenicists had a lasting impact on Soviet physical anthropologists, who cited their works well into the 1970s, long after they had been discredited in Sweden.

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