



## The Eurovision Song Contest and the Changing Europe

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and Sveriges Television (SVT) are delighted to welcome you to the Stockholm School of Economics today.

This conference explores the Eurovision Song Contest's relationship to European unity and belonging at this particular historical moment, in which the idea and ideals of Europe are being challenged by the ongoing refugee crisis and the terror attacks on Paris and Brussels. It is intended to interrogate – and celebrate – the work that the Song Contest does in creating a felt sense of Europeanness amongst viewers and participants.

### AGENDA

TIME	SESSION
9.00 - 9.30	<b>Registration</b>
9.30 - 10.00	Welcome/Opening Remarks
10.00 - 11.15	<b>Panel 1</b>
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.45	<b>Panel 2</b>
12.45 - 13.00	Closing/Wrap-Up Remarks

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jon Ola Sand, Executive Supervisor, Eurovision Song Contest, EBU

Emma Stenström, Director of the Research Centre for Arts, Business, and Culture, Stockholm School of Economics, and by a representative of the EBU.

### PANEL 1 - Transforming Europe, one city at a time

How does the Eurovision Song Contest work to promote an idea of European belonging? How does it affect the cities that host it?

#### Panelists:

- **Andreas Önnerfors** is Associate Professor in the History of Sciences and Ideas at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. His research covers the cultural history of Europe from the eighteenth century to today. In 2013 he organised a conference on the ESC in Malmö.
- **Peter Rehberg** is DAAD Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. His research is mostly in the areas of queer theory, media studies, and popular culture. He is working on a book project on queer subjectivities and the future of Europe at Eurovision.



- **Marco Schreuder** is a former member of Austrian Parliament (Green Party) and was Conchita Wurst's communications manager at the time she won the ESC. Since 2012 he has blogged about the Eurovision Song Contest for [derstandard.at](http://derstandard.at).
- **Klaus Unterberger** is a journalist and Head of the Public Value Department at ORF (Austria). He works closely with the EBU on different projects, including its declaration "Empowering Society - The 6 core Values of Public Service Media."

## **PANEL 2 - Diversity and belonging in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Eurovision Song Contest**

How has the picture of Europe presented at Eurovision reflected migration, and ethnic and religious diversity in Europe? How has Eurovision contributed to a non-homogenous Europe? How do European belonging and national belonging contradict or intersect at Eurovision?

### Panelists:

- **Joanna Kurosz** has 15 years of experience in journalism and human rights work in the former Soviet Union. Since 2010 she has led the Eurasia department at Civil Rights Defenders, Sweden's leading international human rights organisation.
- **Olof Lavesson** is Chair of the Committee on Cultural Affairs for Swedish Parliament. He is also LGBT spokesperson for the Moderate Party. Lavesson is former Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).
- **Hanna Stjärne** is Director General of SVT. She has worked as a reporter and news anchor specializing in politics for Ekot Sveriges Radio AB; as Deputy Director of Programmes and Online Media for Sveriges radio AB; and as CEO and Editor in Chief for *Upsala Nya Tidning*.
- **Dean Vuletic** is a historian of contemporary Europe who specialises in the history of the Eurovision Song Contest. As a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, he leads the project "Eurovision: A History of Europe through Popular Music" at the University of Vienna.
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**Organiser and Chair:** **Karen Fricker** is assistant professor of Dramatic Arts at Brock University (Ontario, Canada) and theatre critic for the Toronto Star. She co-directed two government-funded research projects on the ESC and is co-editor of *Performing the "New" Europe: Identities, Feelings, and Politics in the Eurovision Song Contest* (with Milija Gluhovic, Palgrave, 2013).

### **Conference team:**

Conference assistant: Jasmine Elnadeem. EBU: Dave Goodman, Michelle Roverelli. SVT: Marina Krig. Stockholm School of Economics: Linn Hansen, Katarina Hägg

## **A special thank you to all those who helped make this event happen!**

The organizers wish to thank the Stockholm School of Economics, Clotilde Pupillo and Olgica Rijavec (EBU), Hampus Stenberg (Civil Rights Defenders), Jimmy Ahlstrand (SVT), and Jane Ruffino for their invaluable assistance.

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