

**Speaker:** Sandra Moss (Stockholm University, Sweden)

**Presentation title:** Corporate crime and financial strain - An analysis of companies in Sweden in reference to their financial performance and competition infringements

Although corporate crime has been a well-known phenomenon for at least a century, the subject is relatively unexplored. Most studies in the field are based on American companies, and the few quantitative Swedish studies that exist have primarily been based on the individual as a unit of analysis. There is thus limited knowledge about why some otherwise legitimate Swedish companies participate in crime while others refrain. As economic performance is highlighted - both by those who have committed crimes and by the public and researchers in the field - as one of the main underlying reasons why companies commit crimes, the impact of economic performance on the risk of committing competition infringements has been examined. This has been done utilizing the theory of financial strain at both company and industry levels. The data material includes all Swedish companies that have been convicted of at least one competition infringement during the period 1993-2013. The effect of financial performance on the risk of participating in competition infringements was examined using a linear probability model with fixed effects. The results revealed a significant negative relationship between performance, both at the company and industry levels, and the risk of participating in a competition infringement. This relationship also existed when small and large companies were analyzed separately.