



**Sara Eriksson, the 2019-2020
Joan and Egon von Kaschnitz Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley**



I am a first year PhD student in Archaeology in the Anthropology Department at Berkeley. In my research, I explore the paradoxes of empowerment and oppression that women have grappled with during different periods of history.

I came to archaeology by way of journalism. In 2012, I started working as the editor-in-chief for the Fennoswedish feminist magazine Astra. Astra was founded in 1919 and thanks to the long history of the magazine, the readership ranged from teenagers to centenarians. I wanted to preserve this diversity, so I focused on making Astra into a platform where different generations could learn from and about each other, breaking through the mutual suspicion that is

often found between the varying waves of feminism. Before Astra, I had done an internship at Circolo Scandinavo in Rome, an artist residence that houses people active in all cultural fields from all the Nordic countries. The collaborations that were born there in the meetings between different generations, different artistic fields, and different cultures and languages showed me the power of interdisciplinary work. I carried this experience with me in everything I did at Astra and it has influenced my approach to research.

In 2014, I decided to go into academia. I had been following the political development in Europe, seeing how far-right movements used warped versions of history to further a racist and sexist agenda. I decided on Archaeology as a field that would allow me to combine my experience and interest in history, gender theory and education. An important reason for coming to Berkeley for my Ph.D. is the university's commitment to diversity and equality. I look forward to both being part of and teaching such a diverse body of students and I am deeply grateful to the von Kaschnitz family for the opportunity to start my time at Berkeley by experiencing the vibrant interdisciplinary community at I-House, Berkeley.



The Joan and Egon von Kaschnitz Gateway Fellowship was established in 2011, with the goal of supporting incoming international PhD. students with financial need, in any academic discipline.