

[[home](#) >> [faculty](#) >> [berman](#) >> Honorary Doctorate]

Honorary Doctorate

[Uppsala University](#)

Sweden

In January 2008, Sweden's Uppsala University bestowed upon Professor [Sheri Berman](#) an Honorary Doctorate, for her contributions to political science, particularly the study of social democracy in a comparative perspective.

The English translation of the Swedish [press release](#) is as follows:

"Sheri Berman at Columbia University is a prominent political scientist who is already a world authority in her primary field (born 1965). Her research examines social democracy as an independent ideological and political movement. She has, first and foremost, made significant contributions to the understanding of the unique role played by Swedish social democracy within the larger international context. In her book *The Social Democratic Moment* (1998) she compares Swedish and German social democracy during the 1920s and 1930s and explains why these two movements selected such different trajectories during the turbulent inter-war period. She argues that it was neither the party structure nor the voter base, but rather the two parties' different ideological views on politics and economics that led Swedish social democracy to promote democratization, while the German counterpart lacked initiatives and thus created an opportunity for Hitler to launch his plans for change. She has also written about Europe's ideological history (*The Primacy of Politics*, 2006) and the formation of fascism, Nazism, and social democracy, all of which promised enhanced community ('folkhem') and the establishment of welfare states. The Swedish social democracy movement incorporated the idea of community and social welfare with strong commitments to democracy, which set it apart from fascism and Nazism.

The degree was conferred on January 25, 2008."

With thanks to Professor [Carl Wennerlind](#) for the translation.

Back to [Sheri Berman](#)'s page.