IRENE RAPADO (b. 1986) started her PhD education at the Media and Communication Studies department at Örebro University in November 2014. She graduated with BA in Audiovisual Communications from the Universidad de Valencia (Spain) in 2009 and gained journalistic experience at various Spanish media outlets. Rapado moved to Sweden in 2012 to study the master programme in Global Journalism at Örebro University. She graduated with MA in Media and Communication Studies from this university in 2014.

Performing and Re/Defining Democracy in Post-austerity Spain takes an in-depth qualitative look at the discursive practices of performing and defining democracy by the Podemos party-movement as well as linking therein its own discourse to that of other key political parties. This constitutes a very original contribution to the backdrop of existent research as this thesis aims to fill a number of gaps in existing Critical Discourse Studies on the political communication and discursive practices of post-austerity left-wing populist parties in Southern Europe. It is therefore in the context of the emergence of these new parties that the thesis makes a timely contribution. More precisely, it allows broadening the understanding of populism in post-crisis Europe and, in particular, the understanding of left-wing populism as discursively and practically differing from right-wing populism.

Doctoral Dissertation

Performing and Re/Defining Democracy in Post-austerity Spain
Political Communication and Discursive Practices of the 'Podemos' Party-Movement

IRENE RAPADO
Media and Communication