Book of Abstracts

SOCIOLOGIDAGARNA 2026

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”Same as it ever was?”

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1. Arbete, Organisation och Profession

Organisationers könade regim och förebyggande av sexuella trakasserier

Karin Allard

Göteborgs universitet

Sexuella trakasserier är bestående problem i arbetslivet. Kvinnor drabbas oftare än män. Risken är högre för kvinnor i mansdominerade organisationer och för män i kvinnodominerade. Forskning visar att män undviker kvinnodominerade arbetsplatser och kvinnor mansdominerade, vilket spär på arbetslivets könssegregering. Individer ska inte behöva undvika arbeten; arbetsgivare måste ta organisatoriskt ansvar. En utmaning är bristen på kunskap om hur organisationer kan förebygga, bemöta och hantera dessa företeelser.

Studien bygger på idén att alla organisationer har en ”könad regim” som kan fungera som risk- eller friskfaktor. Som teoretisk modell består en könad regim av fyra dimensioner som tillsammans belyser hur kön påverkar organisering och bemanning, och vilken betydelse könade emotionella, relationella, kulturella och symboliska aspekter har för jämställdhet vs. ojämställdhet samt inkludering vs. trakasserier/diskriminering

Baserat på intervjuer med chefer, HR och medarbetare i organisationer med olika könskomposition analyseras: Horisontella och vertikala könade mönster såsom glasväggar, glashissar, och glastak som hindrar kvinnor och män att arbeta tillsammans. Emotionella och interpersonella relationer såsom känslor när könsmaktsordningen utmanas och könade umgängesmönster samt maktutövande.

Könad kultur och symbolik såsom synen på kön i organisationen (tex om kvinnor och män uppfattas som två homogena grupper med olika förmågor och kompetenser) och om språkbruket innehåller skällsord, svordomar eller skämt med kränkande, diskriminerande eller sexistisk innebörd.

Syftet är att undersöka chefers, HR:s och medarbetares uppfattningar om: organisationens könade regim uppfattas påverka förekomsten av trakasserier och diskriminering, hur organisationen arbetar förebyggande.

”There’s Something Missing” – Workplace Sociability in Digital Work Environments

Anna Alvemark, Daniel Lundqvist, Louise Svensson, Marcus Persson

Linköpings universitet

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to describe the social experiences of working together in flexible digitalized work settings often known as hybrid work. With the specific aim of investigating the experience of workplace sociability in digital work environments, focusing on how coworkers interact and collaborate in hybrid work settings.

Design: Data was collected through 49 semi-structured interviews with both managers and employees in 14 different Swedish organizations in both the public and private sector. The interview material was analyzed through thematic analysis.

Findings: Findings show that highly flexible digital work settings with high levels of individual autonomy fragment workplace sociability, often decreasing employees’ opportunities for informal workplace sociability. Respondents therefore express missing “the social”, often referring to spontaneous run-ins by the coffee machine. This in turn leads to the seeping in of informal social interactions into the execution of work tasks and formal meetings. Findings also lead to an understanding of highly digitalized work settings as unestablished social orders in flux.

Originality/Value: This study contributes original insights into the social dynamics of digital work by focusing specifically on workplace sociability – a dimension often overlooked in research on digital work settings. By conceptualizing highly digitalized work settings as an unestablished social order in flux, the study offers a unique understanding of how both informal and formal social interactions are reconfigured in flexible work environments.

The same or new winners and losers? A study on social inclusion and AI-based automation of recruitment

Moa Bursell

Stockholms universitet

In recent years, both private and public organizations across contexts have begun to implement AI technologies in their recruitment processes. This transition is typically justified by improved efficiency as well as by more objective, performance-based ranking, and inclusive selection of job candidates. However, this rapid development has also raised concerns that the use of these emerging technologies will instead increase discrimination or enhance already existing inequality.

In the present study, we empirical assess the actual consequences of this type of transition for labor market inclusion of socioeconomically disadvantaged social categories. We do this by drawing on data from a unique collaboration with a large Swedish company that implemented an AI-based tool in their recruitment process – a chatbot that conducts interviews with, and ranks, job applicants. First, by comparing the outcomes of traditional and AI-based recruitment in a controlled experiment, where work units that were assigned the experiment condition used the AI-based chatbot while those that were assigned the control group condition did not, we provide quantitative evidence of the effects on diversity of automating recruitment using AI. Second, by analyzing how the chatbot scores the applicants' answers, we explain what type of candidates that are the winners and losers of AI-based interviews.

Gender wage gaps in high- and low-skilled jobs: can workplace training explain men's advantage?

Anne Grönlund

Umeå universitet

The upgrading of job skill requirements has been a longstanding trend, but although women invest more than men in higher education gender wage gaps remain salient. The declining importance of human capital points to a need to explore new mechanisms behind gender wage gaps and compare their importance across high- and low-skilled jobs.

On-the-job training is generally related to wages and a key aspect of the 'lifelong learning' required in turbulent modern labour markets (Korpi & Tåhlin 2021). At the same time, researchers have argued that workplace training investments are biased against women, because care-related work interruptions are problematic in jobs that require continuous training (Polavieja 2008). Thus, on-the-job training could be a driver of both occupational segregation and gender wage gaps (Estévez-Abe 2005). Empirically, however, these propositions have been little explored and presumably, patterns could differ between high- and low-skilled jobs.

In the paper, we use data from the Swedish Level of Living Survey 2020-22 (n≈ 8 500) and apply OLS regressions to examine the importance of on-the-job training as a driver of gender wage gaps in high- and low-skilled jobs. To further explore mechanisms, we study both the mediating and moderating role of occupational gender segregation. High-skilled jobs comprise SSYK major groups 1-3, while groups 4-9 are labelled low-skilled. On-the-job training is captured with an established indicator of the requirements for formal and informal training inherent in the job.

Preliminary results will be presented at the conference.

‘Listen to us on the Floor’: Exploring Organizational De-couplings within the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care

Kerstin Jacobsson

Göteborgs universitet

Public management reform readily becomes a panacea for all organizational ills. However, changes in public governance are not necessarily decisive, or even helpful, for operational management nor for the frontline staff. As shifts in public governance target the organizational level rather than the operational one, these reforms easily foster tensions between managerial conceptions of competence and professionalism and those of the occupational communities. This paper reports preliminary findings from a study of the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (Statens Institutionsstyrelse, henceforth NBIC), and its front-line staff, the care workers at secure, residential homes for youth with highly complex problems, including psychiatric problems and criminal or violent behavior. This agency has recently undergone a governance shift to enhance organizational control and achieve uniformity in operations. The paper explores the gap between organizational governance and operational management, and its implications for the frontline workers and their conditions of work. To what extent NBIC staff face the organizational conditions needed to perform the work according to their embraced notions of professionalism, is a key issue, along with competing notions of professionalism within the agency. The analysis draws on individual qualitative interviews with managers at various levels and front-line care workers, combined with focus group discussions and organizational documents.

Värdekonflikter i differentierad HR: Rättfärdigande av individanpassningar i äldreomsorgen

Robin Jonsson

Karlstads universitet

Inledning: Under det senaste decennierna har differentierade HR-strategier vunnit mark både i forskning och praktik. Samtidigt visar tidigare studier att dessa strategier kan skapa värdekonflikter på arbetsplatsen, vilket innebär att arbetsgivarrepresentanter måste rättfärdiga varför vissa medarbetare får individuella anpassningar medan andra inte gör det.

Syfte: I den här studien analyseras hur linjechefer och HR i svensk äldreomsorg hanterar och rättfärdigar individuella arbetsanpassningar, samt hur seniora undersköterskor uppfattar dessa beslut.

Analys: Studien baseras på 37 intervjuer med linjechefer, HR och seniora undersköterskor i äldreomsorgen. Materialet analyserades tematiskt och tolkades med Boltanski och Thévenots teori om orders of worth.

Resultat: Preliminära resultat visar tre centrala värdekonflikter kring individanpassningar: (1) mellan kollektiv rättvisa och individuella behov, (2) mellan verksamhetskrav och medarbetares förutsättningar, samt (3) mellan ekonomisk rationalitet och moraliskt ansvar. Linjechefer och HR hanterar dessa spänningar genom informella, situationsbaserade lösningar och löpande kompromisser för att upprätthålla verksamhetens drift och rättviseupplevelser. Trots en positiv syn på individanpassningar f utgör de snarare undantag än regel, vilket rättfärdigas genom hänvisningar till likabehandling (civic), effektivitet (industrial) och resursbegränsningar (market). Seniora undersköterskor accepterar i stort dessa motiveringar då de är väl medvetna om begränsningar i budget, bemanning och regelverk. Ansvaret för att säkerställa att medarbetares behov tillgodoses cirkulerar mellan olika aktörer inom verksamheten (linjechefer, HR, ledning), samtidigt som det också förskjuts uppåt till politiska beslutsnivåer där resurser och ramar bestäms. Studien bidrar med nya perspektiv på svårigheterna med HR-differentiering och möjliga konsekvenser för arbetsvillkoren i äldreomsorgen.

Class Inequality in Sweden, 1968–2010: Long-Term Trends in Material Conditions, Work, Health, and Civic Participation

Karin Kristensson, Amanda Almstedt Valldor

Uppsala universitet

This study investigates social class inequalities in Sweden from 1968 to 2010, focusing on material conditions, income, work environment, health, and civic participation. While stratification is well-documented, most existing studies are limited by short time frames or inconsistent data sources. Moreover, long-term analyses tend to focus on income, overlooking broader dimensions central to class theory. This study addresses these limitations by using data from the Swedish Level of Living Survey (LNU), which uniquely provides consistent, multidimensional measures of living conditions across four decades. The results indicate that class-based inequalities have persisted over time and across multiple domains. The middle class consistently experiences more favourable outcomes than low-skilled workers. Although material conditions have improved overall since 1968, relative class positions have remained stable. Inequalities in working conditions have widened, with non-manual workers losing ground in job quality, reflecting a growing concentration of precarious jobs with poor conditions among parts of the working class. Meanwhile, manual workers are increasingly excluded from civic participation—an important development for understanding growing distrust in political institutions. These findings suggest that while the structure of inequality is shifting, class divisions remain entrenched.

Controlling discretionary decision-making — Dimensions of control in welfare professional and street-level bureaucratic work

Bengt Larsson, Ylva Ulfsdotter Eriksson, Magnus Persson, Anna Maria S Marekovic.

Linnéuniversitetet

Organisational governance and discretionary decision-making are central themes in research on both welfare professionals and street level bureaucrats. This paper suggests that it is fruitful to turn the analytic focus in such research from governance vs discretion to how discretionary-decision making is controlled, by elaborating existing analyses of mechanisms for controlling the behaviour and discretion of professionals and frontline bureaucrats. The aim is to understand how discretionary decision-making is controlled by analysing frontline decision-making in four different cases from the Swedish context: dentists, teachers, and case officers in both the Swedish Migration Agency and the Swedish Enforcement Authority. The paper thereby contributes to the research field in two ways. One contribution is to present an empirically comparative study in a field in which research tends to be focused on only one professional group, or a single organisational context or "policy domain", such as social work, education, healthcare or public bureaucracy. The second contribution is the attempt to refocus the understanding of discretionary decision-making by going beyond the top-down vs bottom-up understanding of discretion as a question of restrictions vs freedom and instead approach the issue from the concept of control. Thereby, we want to highlight that discretionary decision-making is never "uncontrolled" (or "free") but always embedded in several of mechanisms and processes of control at system-, organisational- and interaction levels.

Att organisera arbete och pengar under studietiden. Svenska universitetsstudenters ekonomiska dispositioner

Andreas Melldahl

Uppsala universitet

Hur gör studenter i svensk högskola för att klara sitt uppehälle under studietiden – och hur påverkar detta deras studier? Trots decennier av forskning som belagt en seglivad och beständig social snedrekryteringen till högre utbildning saknas forskning om hur klassmässiga ojämlikheter präglar tillvaron för studenter när de väl klivit in över lärosätenas trösklar. En förklaring till detta kan vara den etablerade bilden av det svenska studiestödssystemet som osedvanligt framgångsrikt och generöst: i Sverige har alla samma möjligheter att delta i högre utbildning. Denna bild har varit lika seglivad som snedrekryteringen. Bilden är emellertid inte helt sanningsenlig. Dels består huvuddelen av stödet av rätten att låna pengar för att finansiera studierna, något som forskning visar kan ha en avskräckande effekt på vissa mottagarkategorier, dels är det mycket som tyder på de utbetalade medlen inte motsvarar studenternas ekonomiska behov.

Med utgångpunkt i en komparativ studie av studenter inom humaniora respektive ekonomi vid ett svenskt storstadsuniversitet undersöker detta papper hur svenska studenter använder studiestödssystemet – samt kompletterande inkomstkällor – för att försörja sig under studietiden och visar hur klassmässiga ojämlikheter tar sig uttryck både i förutsättningar för att bedriva studier och i föreställningar om hur aktiviteter under studietiden påverkar möjligheterna att få jobb efter avslutade examen.

Från arbetsetnografi till samskapande: En metodologisk bro för en socialt hållbar hemtjänst

Danka Miscevic, Marita Flisbäck

Högskolan i Borås

Samskapande forskning har snabbt etablerats som centralt för svenska välfärds- och arbetslivsstudier, men risken är att samskapande reduceras till en procedur för delaktighet snarare än en kritisk och teoretiskt förankrad metod. I detta paper argumenterar vi för att samskapande inte är ett nytt fenomen, utan kan härledas till arbetsetnografiska traditioner inom sociologin. Utgångspunkten är projektet Detaljstyrningens janusansikte. En samskapande studie om hemtjänstens villkor utifrån undersköterskors och omsorgstagares perspektiv, finansierat av Forte och genomfört vid Högskolan i Borås tillsammans med Borås Stad. Projektet samlar undersköterskor, omsorgstagare, chefer, tjänstemän, politiker och forskare för att utveckla en alternativ styrmodell för en mer hållbar hemtjänst.

Med inspiration från Michael Burawoys Extended Case Method och idéer om Public Sociology presenterar vi en metodologisk ansats där forskare och praktiker samskapar kunskap genom dagböcker, dialoger och gemensam analys. Samskapande bygger då på olika roller och kunskapsbidrag, där forskarnas analytiska ansvar och praktikernas erfarenhetsbaserade insikter möts i en process som förutsätter tillit och lyhördhet. Samtidigt bör samskapande forskning kritiskt uppmärksamma organisatoriska behov av att legitimera etablerade uppfattningar och politiska beslut. I kontrast till samskapande som ett förlängt styrningsverktyg, och som i termer av Burawoy blir en ”policyretorik”, framhålls här en ansats grundad i en temporalt, teoretiskt och relationellt förlängd fältpraktik. Deltagande reflektioner bidrar till begreppsutveckling och kritisk teori, vilket diskuteras som samskapandets demokratiska potential och en nordisk variant av Public Sociology. En sådan metodologisk ansats är särskilt angelägen i en tid präglad av ekonomiska åtstramningar,”digital taylorism” och urholkning av omsorgsarbete.

The Limits of Academic Community: Stratification, Aspiration and Orientation in the Swedish University System

Gunnar Olofsson

Linnéuniversitetet

Swedish higher education exhibits all the outward signs of being a unified system. Its units are subject to the same higher education act and ordinance, governed by the same ministry, and supervised by the same set of government agencies. It is an open question, however, to what extent and in what sense this corresponds to an academic community or a single academic profession. Using register data on academic staff and HEI units for the period 2001-2024, the article charts two dimensions of stratification in Swedish academia, viz. resource and prestige hierarchies. We argue that these fault lines translate into an asymmetry of burdens, shape aspirations, and condition bonds of solidarity within the system. Yet, the Swedish university system is also differentiated in non-hierarchical ways that are of importance to the notion of academic community. We distinguish between two principal modes of orientation: (a) orientation toward the invisible college of research and researchers with whom one shares intellectual concerns; (b) orientation towards the organization in which one is employed. These hierarchical and non-hierarchical forms of differentiation, we argue, combine to circumscribe and qualify the notion of academic community.

Att organisera ett komplext uppdrag: KAA i tre kommuner

Josefin Palm

Linnéuniversitetet

Hur välfärdssamhället ska hantera unga som inte går i gymnasiet är en återkommande utmaning. Ansvarsfördelningen har skiftat över tid mellan olika aktörer, och sedan 2015 är kommunerna ansvariga genom det kommunala aktivitetsansvaret (KAA). KAA saknar en tydlig organisatorisk hemvist och organiseras olika i olika kommuner, ofta av koordinatorer med varierande utbildnings- och yrkesbakgrund. Ungdomarna utgör en heterogen grupp med olika behov, vilket kräver samordning mellan flera välfärdsaktörer i ett fragmenterat system.

Avhandlingen undersöker KAA som ett icke-institutionaliserat policyområde inom aktiveringspolitiken, där frontlinjearbetare översätter nationella direktiv till lokal praktik. Det övergripande syftet är att förstå hur lokal organisering och samverkansrelationer påverkar översättningen av policy till praktik, och därmed hur stödet till en mångfacetterad ungdomsgrupp formas i olika lokala kontexter.

I en tidigare artikel analyseras hur nationella policytexter och problemformuleringar översätts till lokal nivå. En annan artikel fokuserar på hur koordinatorer definierar sitt verksamhetsområde i relation till andra välfärdsaktörer. Denna artikel jämför organiseringen av KAA i tre svenska kommuner.

Från den medicinska till det sociala arbetets sfär, förändringar i den professionella jurisdistinktionen i och med ÄDEL-reformen 1992

Anton Petersson

Lunds universitet

I detta kapitel i min kommande avhandling analyseras hur vårdens och socialtjänstens fackförbund reagerade på ÄDEL-reformen 1992. Reformen syftade till helt och hållet göra äldreomsorgen till angelägenhet för socialtjänsten, där ansvaret tidigare varit delat mellan socialtjänst och sjukvård. Den gamla tidens sjukhem och långvårdssjukhus fick övergå i kommunalt huvudmannaskap och blev till särskilda boenden. 66.000 personer, motsvarande 1,5 % av hela arbetskraften 1992, bytte arbetsgivare från landstingens sjukvårdsorganisation till primärkommunernas socialtjänst.

Min kommande doktorsavhandling (monografi) behandlar denna reform, i detta kapitel tas en professionssociologisk ansats där analyseras reaktionerna på reformen från sjukvårdens och socialtjänsten professioner och yrken. Detta genom en analys av inkomna reformer till departementspromemorian där reformen bereddes. Med utgångspunkt i Abbots (1988) begrepp professionell jurisdistinktion analyseras yrkes- och fackförbunds inställning till reformen. Hur regerade professioner, semiprofessioner och yrken när stora delar av äldreomsorgen skulle flyttas från den medicinska till det sociala arbetets sfär?

Abbott, A. D. (1988). The system of professions. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Managing uncertainty through collective decision-making: asylum case processing at the Swedish Migration Agency

Anna-Maria Sarstrand Marekovic

Linnéuniversitetet

Asylum decision-making has been described as occurring under conditions of radical uncertainty, shaped by ambiguous legal categories, limited documentation, and the need to predict potential risks if an applicant is returned. These uncertainties create considerable room for discretion among caseworkers. Yet, rather than being exercised by isolated individuals, decision-making at the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) is organized as a collective process involving two professional roles: the caseworker and the decision-maker. While the decision-maker formally signs the decision, both roles are deeply involved in shaping its outcome through ongoing interaction and exchange. Based on data from interviews with caseworkers and decision-makers at the SMA and various documents, this paper explores how discretion is enacted, negotiated, and controlled in practice. The analysis shows how discretion is organized in "professional" collaboration which both enables and constrains decision-making through shared norms, routines, and peer influence. By analyzing the organized practices and interactions through which asylum decisions are made, the paper contributes empirical and theoretical insight into how discretion operates under uncertainty in the Swedish asylum system.

Political elites and mobility between public institutions and the private sector in Sweden, 2002–2022

Isabel Schoultz, Heraclitos Muhire, Shai Mulinari

Lunds universitet

In recent years, Sweden has seen several high-profile cases of political elites moving into private corporations, reviving debates about the “revolving door” between public institutions and the private sector. This paper examines the development of transitions to the private sector between 2002 and 2022, focusing on ministers, state secretaries, and regional council members from Sweden’s three largest regions: Stockholm, Västra Götaland, and Skåne, and across five government terms (Persson, Reinfeldt, Löfven, and Andersson). Using data from Statistics Sweden (SCB). Through network analysis, the study maps and analyses connections between public institutions and private enterprises, showing how patterns of elite mobility may both facilitate and challenge processes of regulatory capture. The paper contributes to the study of state–market relations by placing the concept of regulatory capture within the context of a modern welfare state marked by neoliberal reforms and increasing privatisation of public services.

Quality in Intensive Care as a Sociological Problem: On Meaning-Making, Professional Silos, and Transdisciplinary Reflexivity

Rebecca Selberg, Mia Hylén

Lunds universitet

What does “quality” in healthcare mean—and to whom? This study investigates how the concept of quality is understood, operationalized, and negotiated within Swedish intensive care, focusing on the tensions that arise between different professional and organizational levels. Drawing on interviews with healthcare professionals, managers, and national actors, as well as document analysis, we show how the notion of quality is shaped by interpretive adaptability and siloization—two analytical concepts that capture how meaning-making occurs within bounded practices and epistemologies.

The study contributes to sociological theory by demonstrating that quality work in healthcare is not merely a technical or administrative matter, but a site of symbolic struggle, professional identity formation, and organizational meaning production. At the same time, it illustrates how sociological perspectives can enrich the understanding of everyday healthcare practices - and vice versa.

We argue that transdisciplinary research, where sociologists collaborate with medical and administrative actors, is not only methodologically fruitful but epistemologically necessary. In an era where healthcare is governed by indicators and quantification, sociology’s ability to make the invisible visible—relationships, emotions, ethics, and tacit knowledge—is urgently needed. At the same time, sociology is challenged to develop concepts and methods that can engage in dialogue with other knowledge forms—not from above, but through mutual reflexivity.

We propose that sociology should embrace its role as both a critical observer and a co-creator in healthcare knowledge production. By participating in transdisciplinary contexts, sociology can help foster more inclusive, ethically grounded, and practically relevant understandings of what quality in healthcare truly entails.

Do occupational scales tell the same story? Evidence from gendered career trajectories across generations in Sweden

Roujman Shahbazian, Edvin Syk, Juho Härkönen, Erik Bihagen

Uppsala universitet

How occupations are transformed into analytical measures influences how social inequality is understood. Although occupational scales such as SIOPS, ISEI, and OEP aim to capture distinct dimensions of stratification, prestige, socioeconomic status, and earning potential, they often correlate highly because advantages tied to occupations are intertwined. Yet, the theoretical foundations and what each index emphasizes differ, shaping how inequality appears.

This paper compares three major occupational measures: the Standard International Occupational Prestige Scale (SIOPS), the International Socio-Economic Index of Occupational Status (ISEI), and Occupational Earning Potential (OEP). Following Bukodi et al.'s typology, ISEI is a synthetic-objective scale (combining education and income), SIOPS an analytic-subjective scale (based on prestige evaluations), and OEP will be classified as an analytic-objective scale (based on median earnings). Each provides a legitimate but partial view of social stratification.

Despite their empirical overlap, these measures may tell different stories about gender inequality in career mobility. Women are often concentrated in prestigious but modestly paid occupations such as teaching and healthcare, while men dominate higher-earning technical or managerial roles with longer hours. Consequently, gender gaps may appear smaller when using prestige-based measures like SIOPS but larger when applying income-based measures such as OEP.

The paper investigates how these three scales produce convergent or divergent patterns of gendered career trajectories across cohorts and educational groups. By systematically comparing widely used indicators, it aims to clarify what their differences reveal about the multidimensional character of occupational stratification.

Attractive Work in Welfare Professions: Competence supply in Education, Health and Social Services

Espen Solbakken Nordheim

Linnéuniversitetet

The paper I will present is a description of my Ph.D. project, titled “Attractive Work in Welfare Professions: Competence supply in Education, Health and Social Services”. In the coming years, welfare sectors such as health, education, and social services face a shortage of highly educated professionals, which may reduce the services the welfare state can deliver. Therefore, competence supply is a priority, and questions about how to attract and retain workers become central. To address this issue, this project will explore how welfare-sector organizations develop attractive employment conditions and how these are perceived and experienced by employed professionals. Additionally, the project examines welfare professionals’ expectations regarding artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential influence on their assessment of job attractiveness. The project will collect both qualitative and quantitative data. Semi-structured interviews and document analysis will explore how organizations define and implement attractive working conditions, while a survey across welfare-organizations assesses how professionals evaluate attractive working conditions. Using both data sources, one study will examine workers’ expectations of AI. The project aims to contribute to sociological research on welfare professions while providing insights for employers, unions and policymakers.

Tillräckligt bra: På spaning efter medelmåttighet i arbetslivet

Peter Svensson, Johan Jönsson

Lunds universitet

Vi lever i dag i vad som kan kallas en excellenskultur, en kultur där vi förväntas att ständig förbättras, utvecklas och nå nya, svindlande höjder. Att vara eller göra tillräckligt, men inte mer, räcker inte på långa vägar. Samtidigt verkar samhället och arbetslivet, rent statistiskt, bestå av i huvudsak medelmåttiga prestationer. I många yrken och professioner blir det dessutom absurt att tala om excellenta prestationer. Hur skulle en excellent bussfärd egentligen se ut? Är det en meningsfullt att tala om excellenta beslut på Försäkringskassan? Detta till trots betraktas medelmåttighet sällan som en självklar del av vår vardag utan i stället ofta som något dåligt som ska undvikas och rensas ut ur arbetslivet. Det verkar dessutom pågå en systematisk bortträngning av det medelmåttiga. Ett typexempel kan hämtas från de många och olika arbetsmiljöenkäter vi på i arbetslivet uppmanas fylla i. Här är det mer regel än undantag att endast erbjudas fyra svarsalternativ med argumentet att man ju alltid lutar mer åt det ena eller det andra, eller att man måste välja som att där finns en skyldighet att förhålla sig till något annat än den egna upplevelsen. I den här presentationen kommer vi att presentera ett nyligen påbörjat forskningsprojekt med syfte att förstå rollen och betydelsen av medelmåttighet i arbetslivet samt, inte minst, vad som händer när de storvulna fantasierna om det excellenta krockar med en vardag som oftast kännetecknas av människor som gör tillräckligt bra. Varken mer eller mindre.

Frivårdens brottsförebyggande myndighetssamverkan

Markus Tillman

Linnéuniversitetet

Studien syftar till att undersöka dels de faktorer som ligger till grund för varför och hur brottsförebyggande samverkan initieras, och dels de mekanismer som styr samverkan i praktiken. Studien tar sin utgångspunkt i frivårdens brottsförebyggande samverkan, och inkluderar därför även dess mest centrala samverkanspartners, d.v.s. polis, socialtjänst, och Arbetsförmedlingen. Frivården valdes som exempel då det är en central aktör inom det brottsförebyggande fältet med ett stort juridiskt krav på sig att samverka med relevanta aktörer, men som samtidigt har påtagliga svårigheter att få till stånd sådan samverkan, särskilt på strategisk nivå. Genom att studera Frivårdens plats i detta fält synliggörs de mekanismer och förutsättningar som både möjliggör och begränsar samverkan mellan aktörer med olika organisatoriska mandat, resurser och styrningslogiker.

Forskningsdesignen bygger på en mixed methods-ansats i sekventiell ordning, där den kvalitativa delen föregår den kvantitativa. Den kvalitativa delen består av en dokumentstudie och intervjuer med nyckelaktörer, och syftar till att identifiera centrala mekanismer och förklaringsfaktorer bakom hur brottsförebyggande samverkan uppstår och upprätthålls. Dessa teoretiska insikter kommer därefter att ligga till grund för en enkätstudie riktad till socialtjänst, polis och frivård, för att pröva och generalisera den teoretiska produkten.

Projektet utgår även från en grounded theory-ansats i samband med den kvalitativa delen, där en bred teoretisk palett används för att fånga in ett så teoretiskt uttömmande empiriskt material som möjligt. Exempel på sådana teorier som den initiala intervjuguiden baseras på är bl.a. institutionell teori, boundary work, implementeringsteori, och professionsteori.

A unified framework for understanding work-life inequality

Michael Tåhlin

Stockholms universitet

We outline a unified framework explaining work-life inequality through a multi-level lens, integrating individual skills, occupational positions, institutions, politics, and macroeconomic forces. At the micro level, individuals develop both cognitive and non-cognitive skills—like motivation and care—which are shaped by families, schools, and workplaces and socially reproduced across generations. These capacities influence labor market outcomes but only fully manifest when matched with job complexity and authority, which determine pay and prestige. Education plays a dual role in skill development and signaling, but its payoff depends on job-task alignment. At the meso level, organizations and labor market institutions—such as unions, welfare states, and collective bargaining—mediate how skills and positions translate into inequality, compressing or widening wage distributions. Political dynamics shape these institutions, with ideological shifts influencing their strength and, consequently, wage dispersion. At the macro level, technological change, globalization, and economic growth reshape skill demand and job structures, often leading to skill upgrading rather than polarization. Cross-national inequality has declined due to industrialization and institutional investments in middle-income countries, though global economic growth also brings environmental and political challenges. The framework emphasizes that inequality cannot be explained by single-factor theories; instead, it results from the interaction of skill-based productivity mechanisms and institutional-political mediation. Effective policy must therefore combine investments in skill formation with institutional strengthening and politically feasible reforms. Empirical research should focus on how skills are formed, used, and translated into rewards across different institutional contexts to guide equitable policy design.

Vad är ett beslut?

Ylva Ulfsdotter Eriksson, Bengt Larsson, Anna-Maria S Marekovic, Magnus Persson

Linnéuniversitetet

I studier av ”beslut” ligger fokus inte sällan på beslutsfattaren (t.ex. professionella utövare, chefer, frontlinjebyråkrater) eller på själva beslutsprocessessen (information-”val av alternativ/beslut”- verkställande). Mer sällan fokuseras, i sociologiska studier av professioner eller organisationer, själva beslutet som sådant. Vad ett beslut är tas helt enkelt ofta för givet. Denna studie är därför ett försök att utforska vad som karaktäriserar ett beslut, med syftet att på empiriskt grund föreslå en teoretisk konstruktion av beslut. Det empiriska materialet består av 50-talet kvalitativa intervjuer med yrkesutövare som ägnar sig åt ”välfärdsprofessionellt beslutsfattande” (lärare, handläggare och tandläkare). I detta material fokuseras utsagor som rör beslutet som sådant (typ av beslut, beslutsgrund). För att analytiskt konstruera ”beslut”, inspireras vi av Luhmanns formanalys vilken är lämplig vid definition av begrepp och för att fånga underliggande betydelser. För att klargöra ”det betecknade” (beslutet som ”the signified”), behöver vi identifiera och skilja ut ”det som betecknar” (”the signifiers”). Vi frågar oss exempelvis: Vilket/vilka är beslutets möjlighetsbetingelser? Vad måste finnas för att vi ska kunna kalla något ett beslut? Vilka är ”the signifyers” för ett beslut fattat av välfärdsprofessionella? I studien kommer vi även att diskutera tidigare teoretiseringar av beslut som återfinns inom managementlitteratur och organisationssociologi.

‘Swedish recruiters search for Apples; they have no interest in Pineapple or Papaya’. Returning migrants encounters and experiences of (re)entering the Swedish labour market.

Ylva Wallinder, Oksana Shmulyar Gréen, Maja Cederberg

Göteborgs universitet

Access to international labour mobility is often reduced to a question of citizenship, highlighting different status positions and possibilities to be mobile. However, employment opportunities also differ depending on peoples’ previous experiences and formal qualifications, as well as their ability to get credit and recognition in the local labour market. Swedish work life is characterized by norms and regulations on how to achieve inclusive organizations, both in terms of recruitment practices, competence development and promotion management. Despite such organizational and national policy ideals and regulations on equality and social inclusion, a social reproduction of sameness in recruitment and organizations is often evident, producing ‘look-alikes’ representing the same images and values. This study explores mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in Swedish work life through the lens of Swedish-born return migrants and their accompanying partners. Our primary focus is on their expectations and experiences of the Swedish labour market and Swedish work life, and their struggles to get recognition for their foreign labour market experiences and educational credits. Based on 17 returning family case studies conducted during 2024-2025, we show how the returnees and their accompanying partners often revise their view of their employment outcomes and possibilities in Sweden, from being quite positive to becoming more pessimistic. We see this group on the one hand as insiders, given their understanding of the local culture, language and access to social networks, but on the other hand they feel like outsiders since they experience difficulties to get recognition in everyday work-life situations and encounters.

Entrepreneurs and Stakeholder Dependencies: A Study on Power and Justice in Sweden

Linda Weidenstedt, Claudia Bernhard-Oettel, Constanze Eib

Ratio och Stockholms Universitet

While organizational justice research has predominantly focused on hierarchical employer–employee relationships, this study explores justice perceptions among entrepreneurs regarding diverse stakeholder dependencies. Drawing on Emerson's (1962) power-dependence theory, we investigate what kinds of justice-relevant events entrepreneurs experience with different stakeholders (such as investors, clients, governmental agencies), and which power-balancing tactics entrepreneurs use to manage stakeholder dependencies.

We conducted 39 semi-structured interviews with Swedish entrepreneurs. After a thematic analysis, results reveal that the entrepreneurs experience violations of distributive, procedural, interpersonal, and informational justice. Depending on stakeholder type, the entrepreneurs apply different balancing tactics. For instance, justice rule violations through governmental agencies related mostly to system-unfairness, such that distributive, procedural, and informational justice rules were experienced as being violated. In such cases, the entrepreneurs either employed cost reduction tactics (accepting power imbalances) or withdrew from interactions. With clients, interactional justice rules were more prominent, and entrepreneurs employed tactics such as status emergence or extending networks. With very dominant clients, however, only cost reduction or complete withdrawal was seen as viable.

The study contributes to the literatures on justice dynamics by considering power tactics as coping strategies to perceived justice violations. We also contribute to the entrepreneurship literature and stakeholder management theory by linking power-balancing tactics to justice perceptions and suggesting that managing dependency strategically can reduce vulnerability to powerful stakeholders.

Micro-credentials for macro problems: the valuation and coordination of short-cycle accelerated training for the green transition

Rebecca Ye

Stockholms universitet

Uncertainty and urgency around the green transition have manifested around the question of skills shortages: who will work in jobs that require skills for the green transition and how will they be prepared? Policymakers, employers and industry councils have been concerned with the "mismatch" between the number of people with the right skills and demand for individuals in emergent occupations that require specialist skills. The case of Sweden is particularly compelling due to the geographical variation in skills needs. Through these developments, researchers are observing a dearth of local knowledge around how actors coordinate, evaluate, and cooperate around learning for emerging work tasks. CYCLE is a mixed-methods project that examines how short-cycle, accelerated training, offered through higher vocational education (HVE), has been mobilised for this transformative societal process. In this working paper, the aim is to map out where green training programmes have been launched across the country, and to discover what kinds of skills in these programmes have been identified and how they have been justified. Due to the assemblage of actors involved in HVE provision in this situation of uncertainty, this study is guided by conventions theory to explore processes of coordination in a dual transition: the education to work transition of individuals, and the green transition confronting organisations and society. The paper also aims to theorise a paradox: the acceleration of learning experiences for transformative societal processes, as expectations that we engage in (skills/employability-based) lifelong learning become imperative.

2. Barn och ungdom

Rörelse, skärm och tillhörighet: Sociala mönster inom värdeladdad ungdomspraktiker

Daniel Buller, Karin Redelius, Joakim Åkesson, Mikael Börjesson

Unga människors vardag formas i ett ständigt samspel mellan arenor som skola, fritid och digitala miljöer. På dessa värdeladdade arenor utvecklar de skilda tillhörigheter, livsstilar och praktiker. Fysisk aktivitet utgör en central, men ojämlikt spridd, praktik. Forskning visar att deltagande i skilda rörelsepraktiker starkt hänger samman med kön, social bakgrund och geografiskt sammanhang (Engström, 2008; Larsson, 2019; Skauge & Seippel, 2022). Denna studie undersöker hur svenska ungdomar från fyra geografiskt skilda platser deltar i rörelsekultur och hur dessa praktiker relaterar till deras digitala vanor, utbildningsambitioner, kön och social position. Syftet är att utforska hur dessa värdeladdade praktiker tillsammans utgör beståndsdelar i ungdomars klassade och könade livsstilsrum. Studien baseras på en enkät från 2024 med 945 elever i årskurs nio och använder korrespondensanalys (Le Roux & Rouanet, 2010) för att kartlägga och utforska relationer mellan rörelsepraktiker, digitala vanor, utbildningsambitioner och sociokulturella villkor. Analysen utgår från Bourdieus begrepp om kapital, sociala rum och habitus (2010) samt Engströms ramverk om rörelsekulturens logiker (Engström et al., 2018). De preliminära resultaten visar att rörelsepraktiker är tydligt stratifierade. Flickor med låga nivåer av kulturellt och ekonomiskt kapital deltar i mindre utsträckning än pojkar med motsvarande förutsättningar. Högre kapitalnivåer jämnar ut könsskillnaderna på samtliga platser och samvarierar med ökat deltagande i föreningsidrott. Även digitala vanor speglar könade mönster: pojkarna ägnar mer tid åt gaming, medan flickor i högre utsträckning använder digitala plattformar för social interaktion. En mer utförlig redogörelse av resultaten presenteras på konferensen.

Samverkan för att stödja barn och unga som kategoriseras i risk – avbrott och otakt

Helene Fransson, Anna-Lena Borg

Göteborgs universitet

Samverkan har under lång tid betraktats som en lösning på olika problem som samhällets institutioner måste hantera. Samtidigt har samverkan blivit till ett samtida ledord när sociala insatser initieras. Samverkan kring barn och unga kategoriserade som i risk (och därmed betraktade som problem) utgör inget undantag från detta. Det förekommer idag en mängd olika samverkansinitiativ som syftar till att stödja barn och unga att bli lyckade samhällsmedborgare. Två stora samverkansområden handlar om att stötta barn och unga till gymnasiebehörighet och att hålla barn och unga borta från kriminalitet. I den här presentationen kommer två pågående forskningsprojekt, som beforskar dessa samverkansområden, att beskrivas och problematiseras utifrån hur samverkan tar form. I det ena forskningsprojektet är det förhindrandet av att barn och unga dras in i kriminalitet som är i fokus. Denna stöd och samverkansform heter ”Rätt Kurva”. I det andra forskningsprojektet, där att klara grundskolan med behörighet till gymnasieskolan är i fokus, heter stödet och samverkansformen ”Skola som arena”. Vid en analys av Skola som arena blir det emellertid tydligt att även gymnasiebehörighet ses som en brottsförebyggande insats. Dessa samverkansformer har under den tid som projekten följts visat sig innehålla svårigheter och motgångar, trots stor tilltro till samverkan som lösning på problem som uppstår kring barn och unga kategoriserade som i risk. Avbrott i samverkan till följd av personalförändringar och organisatorisk otakt till följd av skiftande prioriteringar i ekonomiska och sociala frågor är exempel på sådana svårigheter.

MELLAN TYSTADE SAMTAL OCH TALANDE SKÄRMAR. Epistemologisk osäkerhet och digitala medier som moralisk kompass i elevers meningsskapande kring 7 oktober-attackerna och kriget i Gaza

Jennie Karlsson

Göteborgs universitet

I takt med att unga i allt högre grad vänder sig till digitala plattformar för att förstå samhällshändelser, omformas skolans roll som demokratisk och bildande institution. Det väcker frågor om hur elever tolkar och engagerar sig i komplexa samhälleliga och geopolitiska frågor i skolan. Trots att elever uttrycker en stark önskan att diskutera känsloladdade ämnen visar forskning att sådana samtal sällan ges utrymme i klassrummet. Undervisningen tenderar att fokusera på faktabaserat innehåll, vilket begränsar möjligheterna till kritisk reflektion och dialog. Skolan är dock inte enbart en plats för kunskapsförmedling, utan också en social arena där unga möter olika berättelser, perspektiv och identiteter, vilket gör den särskilt betydelsefull i mötet med komplexa samhällsfrågor.

I svensk skolmiljö utgör Israel–Palestinakonflikten ett särskilt utmanande ämne, särskilt efter attackerna den 7 oktober 2023 och det efterföljande kriget i Gaza. Den markanta ökningen av antisemitiska incidenter har blivit synlig både strukturellt och i vardagliga interaktioner. Med diskurspsykologi som teoretisk referensram och genom fokusgruppintervjuer med elever från två svenska gymnasieskolor, undersöker denna studie vad som händer i det ”pedagogiska mellanrum” där elever använder känslomässigt laddade och mediepåverkade narrativ snarare än att förlita sig på lärares kunskapsförmedling. Analysen visar hur eleverna positionerar lärarnas roll, använder digitala medier som resurs, konstruerar mening genom moraliserande argument och polariserade redogörelser, samt förhandlar judisk identitet i relation till staten Israel.

Resultaten pekar på ett pedagogiskt vakuum som aktualiserar behovet av utbildningsstrategier som främjar kritisk mediekompetens, utmanar binärt tänkande och möjliggör nyanserade samtal om antisemitism, antisionism och geopolitiska konflikter.

Mental health among ADHD school girls in Sweden: The role of quality and quantity of social relationships

Gökhan Kaya, Mia Bask

Lunds universitet

The number of children diagnosed with ADHD/ADD has increased dramatically over the years, and debates often focus on differing views regarding the mental health challenges of students with ADHD/ADD. In this study, we aim to investigate mental health disparities among school boys and girls with and without ADHD/ADD by focusing on the quality and quantity of social relations, including close friendship networks, perceived social support, and generalized social trust. In doing so, we used data from the 2021 Swedish Public Health Survey of school children in grades 9 and 11, which includes a range of mental health indicators covering both internalizing problems (e.g., self-harm, anxiety/feeling depressed) and externalizing problems (e.g., school truancy, alcohol and drug use). The results show that girls with ADHD/ADD differ substantially from other groups and are more prone to mental health problems. This group also appears to have more difficulty benefiting from social support as a buffer against social stress compared to their peers. While they do not particularly have a deficit in close friendship networks, they have lower generalized trust. The results have implications for creating trustworthy relations and mobilization of social resources, along with evidence to inform social interventions to maintain health among ADHD/ADD school girls.

Looksmaxxing och unga killars föreställningar om den perfekta kroppen

Introduktion

Magnus Kilger

Stockholms universitet

I vår samtid har betydelsen av hälsa och en vältränad kropp kommit att bli en statussymbol och indikatorer på eftersträvansvärda personliga ideal inte minst bland ungdomar. Dessa ideal innefattar allt från träning, kroppskonstitution och restriktioner kopplade till ätande. Traditionellt har normativa skönhetsideal och kost-restriktioner främst varit en fråga i unga tjejers vardagsliv. Under det senaste decenniet har dock dessa krav och normativa ideal i högsta grad också kommit att innefatta unga killar. Begreppet looksmaxxing är ett paraplybegrepp som innefattar olika praktiker inriktat på unga killar i syfte att förbättra utseende, kroppskonstitution och ”moraliska ståndaktighet”. Men, normativt eftersträvansvärd ideal kommer inte av sig själv, utan kräver kroppsliga omvårdnadspraktiker som innefattar såväl träning som kosthållning. Dessutom behöver dessa personliga omvårdnadspraktiker och framsteg manifesteras för omvärlden, varvid sociala medier kommit att bli en central kontext.

Undomar, identitet och sociala medier

Ungdomars identitetskonstruktion är allt mer sammankopplat med den digitala världen och framställs och formas i sociala medier. Sociala medier har även i flera avseenden möjliggjort för individen att vara mer aktiv i produktionen av identitetsposition(-er) online. En viktig genre är olika former av ”digitala dagböcker” som fokuserar på träningsupplägg, kroppens utseenden eller den egna kosthållningen. Inläggen förväntas bidrar till att åskådliggöra individens identitet, karaktärsdrag genom deras vardagliga handlingar och ge tips till andra unga människor i deras självförbättrande praktiker. I denna presentation är avsikten att undersöka looksmaxxing som ungdomskulturellt fenomen på olika digitala plattformar såsom TikTok. Syftet är därigenom att belysa både hur unga killar konstruerar identiteter i sociala medier, samt att synliggöra rådande samhälleliga normer om kroppsideal, träning och matmoral bland unga i denna digitala kontext.

Exploring The Impact of Preschool on Educational Gaps

Tove Klasson

Stockholms universitet

This project aims to provide new knowledge on the role of preschools and their potential effects on educational gaps. Preschool attendance and quality of preschool are associated with educational achievements late on. Especially large correlation effects are found for children with low socioeconomic status, giving preschools the potential to compensate for socioeconomic disadvantages in educational achievements. School segregation in Sweden starts during the preschool years, and despite overall high participation in preschools, enrolment patterns in different types of preschools are class-based. Reports from Swedish preschools indicate varying quality and precarious working conditions that are insufficient to maintain quality in preschools. Previous research also shows that the knowledge gaps between social groups are established before children start primary school and are stable or increase during the years of primary education.

This project is divided into two studies, focusing on the role of social stratification and varying quality in preschools. Using register data, the first study evaluates how social background and structural quality in preschool are associated with knowledge development in the first years of primary school. The second study uses qualitative interview data to explore preschool staff's perceptions of the varying structural quality, working conditions, social stratification, and their effect on the everyday practices in preschool and on the children's experience. This project will contribute to new knowledge on the effects of quality variation and social stratification in preschools. The results will provide important information about the compensatory potential of preschools and explore potential mechanisms underlying gaps in education.

Young adults in parental co-residence and their transitions into adulthood

Elias le Grand

Stockholms universitet

In recent decades, young adults in the Global North have faced increasingly precarious housing situations and social conditions. Within this context, a growing number have delayed leaving the parental home or have returned to live with their parents. This paper reviews research on young adults in parental co-residence, examining their housing trajectories and transitions into adulthood. The review suggests that, while survey and register-based studies have provided important insights into the prevalence and spatio-temporal patterns of co-residence, there remains a lack of in-depth studies that explore young co-residing adults' housing experiences and aspirations. Existing qualitative research largely focuses on urban, white, middle-class young adults. It is therefore argued that research is needed which addresses how non-white, working-class and rural young adults experience and negotiate co-residence. Furthermore, current studies tend to overlook young adults' housing aspirations, despite the importance of understanding how they articulate their future housing goals and envisage strategies to achieve them. Attending to aspirations also makes it possible to explore how these hopes and desires align with individuals' resources and social positioning. In addition to deploying aspiration as an analytical frame, the paper advocates for a stronger application of theories of social generations and conjunctural analysis to better understand the housing transitions of young adults in parental co-residence.

Between Tension and Triviality: Everyday Race and Conviviality among Youth in Colorblind Sweden

Shahab Mirbabaei

Karlstads universitet

The discourse of race in Sweden is often described as colorblind, where questions of appearance are typically avoided or neglected. Yet research on racialization and experiences of othering demonstrates the continued social relevance of race in Swedish society. While much of the current scholarship focuses on power and racism, less attention is given to the everyday, unruly interactions through which people learn to live with difference.

Drawing on an ethnographic study, my research examines moments where closeness and difference are simultaneously manifested, embracing the messiness of social life. I explore the everyday verbal and physical practices of racialization and conviviality among youth transitioning to adulthood in a mid-sized Swedish town. The study focuses on a state-sponsored youth center where young people gather for unstructured extracurricular activities.

I investigate how youths' practices relate to categorization, their approaches to phenotypical markers, and their modes of convivial interaction within this diverse space. The material was collected through participant observation and focus group interviews.

At the conference, I will present empirical examples and analyses showing how difference is practiced as something trivial, tense, and even thrilling or humorous. In a political and discursive climate that tends to either deny or overemphasize difference, these examples illustrate a form of counter-raciality – an alternative way of engaging with difference. In relation to the conference theme, the study highlights the tension between continuity and change in Sweden's colorblind discourse: while racial structures persist, youth interactions generate new, playful ways of living with difference.

Slå som en tjej? Tjejer, kvinnor och MMA

Frida Siekkinen

Göteborgs universitet

Kampsporten MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) har utvecklats från att betraktas som en manligt kodad aktivitet till en sport som involverar män, kvinnor, ungdomar och barn. Trots ett växande forskningsfält som intresserar sig för kvinnor inom MMA är studier om flickor och kvinnliga MMA-utövare, i synnerhet i en nordisk kontext, fortsatt begränsade. Denna presentation bygger på preliminära resultat från en pågående kvalitativ studie som undersöker hur unga kvinnliga utövare i Sverige förhandlar och konstruerar kön och femininitet i och genom MMA.

Studien utgår från en etnografisk ansats baserad på individuella intervjuer med unga kvinnliga MMA-utövare samt deltagande observationer vid olika kampsportsklubbar. Analysen utgår från ett poststrukturalistiskt perspektiv med fokus på diskurser, subjektspositioner och performativitet.

Resultaten indikerar en mångfald av förståelser av könsnormer inom MMA. De flesta beskriver könsblandad träning som självklar, men poängterar även att det i stort är en fråga om att träna med andra utan för stora skillnader i storlek och vikt, oavsett kön. Samkönad träning beskrivs både som stärkande och som sekundär eller irrelevant, samtidigt som det uttrycks en gemensam önskan om fler kvinnliga utövare, som förebilder såväl som tävlingsmotstånd. Träningsmiljön framstår som central för hur kön och kropp förstås, och deltagarna reflekterar över sina positioner som unga kvinnor i en mansdominerad sport — där förhandlingar kring kropp, samkönad interaktion och klubbens sociala dynamik formar de sätt på vilka femininitet och kön kontinuerligt praktiseras och omförhandlas.

Unga hbtqi+personers livsvillkor, välbefinnande och föreställda framtider

Lena Sotevik

Stockholms universitet

Unga hbtqi+-personers livsvillkor beskrivs ofta i relation till ohälsa och lågt välbefinnande, vilket länge kritiserats inom queerteoretisk forskning. Fokus på utsatthet riskerar att viktimisera unga och bortse från ungas egna praktiker av motstånd, kreativitet och gemenskap (Driver, 2007; Rasmussen, 2006, Talburt, 2004). Samtidigt så har social ojämlikhet, växande ekonomisk osäkerhet och framväxten av högerpopulistiska och antigenusrörelser skapat en mer utsatt position för många hbtqi+-personer. Den komplexa samtidssituationen gör frågor om unga hbtqi+-personers individuella och kollektiva framtid angelägna. Detta utgör utgångspunkten i det pågående forskningsprojektet LGBTI+ youth wellbeing across Europe: Imagined futures in turbulent times. Presentationen fokuserar på analys av hur unga hbtqi+-personers förutsättningar beskrivs i svenska policydokument, men också på preliminära resultat från fokusgruppsintervjuer med samhällsaktörer (myndigheter, organisationer och mötesplatser) som arbetar med att främja unga hbtqi+-personers livsvillkor och hälsa. Analysen använder sig av Bacchis (2012) metodologiska tillvägagångsätt, What's the Problem Represented to Be? för att utforska hur hbtqi+-ungdomars välbefinnande representeras. Frågorna som undersöks är hur hälsa och välbefinnande konceptualiseras, hur ojämlikheter i hbtqi+-personers livsvillkor och välbefinnande beskrivs och förklaras, vilka lösningar som föreslås och var tystnaderna finns.

”Att förändra är lowkey mitt mål i den här världen”: Möjligheter och begränsningar med antirasistiskt arbete inom ett kommunalt ungdomsprojekt

Christopher Ali Thorén

Socialförvalningen Nordost

Denna studie undersöker vad det betyder för unga människor som rasifieras som icke-vita att engagera sig antirasistiskt. Studien utgår från ett unikt kommunalt antirasistiskt projekt där unga personer (15-25 år) anställs som ambassadörer och unga ledare inom socialförvaltningens verksamhet. Inom projektet får de utbildning om rasism och antirasistiskt arbete och arrangerar sedan evenemang samt utbildningar för andra ungdomar. Projektet är tänkt att stärka de unga som deltar och utgå från deras behov och de teman som de är intresserade av, utifrån principen ”av unga, för unga”.

Genom intervjuer med deltagande ungdomar samt projektledare, kommunala tjänstemän och politiker undersöks möjligheter och utmaningar med ett kommunalt drivet antirasistiskt ungdomsprojekt.

Preliminära resultat pekar på att en utmaning för socialförvaltningen är att å ena sidan hantera ungdomarnas förväntningar på att få sina röster hörda och att få styra verksamheten, och å andra sidan de begränsningar som en kommunal verksamhet innebär (i form av ekonomiska förutsättningar, omfång och vilka typer av aktiviteter som är tillåtna). I anslutning till detta diskuteras de implikationer som följer av att ungdomar, som många gånger själva utsätts för rasism, är de som anställs inom kommunen för att arbeta med dessa frågor.

Här lyfts även de möjligheter fram som kommunens resurser och samarbeten med olika förvaltningar kan skapa. Slutligen ges en reflektion över potentialen i kommunala ungdomsprojekt; dels hur denna typ av projekt skulle kunna motverka spänningar inom en segregerad stad, dels vad det betyder för ungas känsla av tillhörighet och förmåga att hantera och bemöta rasism i vardagen.

Att bli vuxen i en osäker värld: risk, försvar och identitet bland unga

Emelie Wahlkrantz

Försvarshögskolan

Samtida utvecklingar såsom klimatförändringar, politisk radikalisering, organiserad brottslighet och väpnade konflikter har aktualiserat frågor om risk och osäkerhet i samhället – inte minst för unga. Denna studie undersöker hur unga vuxna hanterar risker och osäkerhet samt hur de positionerar sig i förhållande till samhällsutveckling, krisberedskap och försvar, i ljuset av det förändrade säkerhetspolitiska landskapet.

Genom djupintervjuer analyseras hur diskurser om risk och osäkerhet artikuleras i de ungas berättelser, och hur diskurserna formar deras föreställningar om framtid, trygghet, ansvar och tillhörighet. Unga vuxna befinner sig i en övergångsfas mellan ungdom och vuxenliv, där frågor om identitet och tillhörighet förhandlas i relation till bredare samhällsdiskurser, exempelvis sådana som kretsar kring individualisering, nyliberalism och genus. Tillsammans bidrar dessa till att forma hur unga uppfattar sin roll i försvaret.

Utöver ungdomskultur är studien teoretiskt förankrad i de sociologiska begreppen riskuppfattning och solidaritet som i offentlig retorik ofta kopplas samman med försvarsvilja. Begreppen är centrala för att förstå hur unga socialiseras och positioneras som aktörer i relation till samtida uppfattningar om samhällsutveckling och hot. Preliminära resultat visar hur unga vuxna förstår och hanterar risker samt förhandlar sin identitet i relation till diskurser om samhällsutveckling, krisberedskap och försvar – diskurser som både möjliggör och begränsar hur de ser sin roll i försvaret och samhället.

Studien bidrar med kunskap om hur unga formas som samhällsaktörer i en tid präglad av osäkerhet, och ger i ett större perspektiv insikter om dagens generation unga, deras socialisation och identitet i samtida samhällsdiskurser.

”Vem vill se någon äta sallad?” Tonårstjejer diskuterar representationer av mat och hälsa i sociala medier

Anette Wickström, Judith Lind, Lena Sotevik

Linköpings universitet

Hur barn och unga påverkas av skadliga kroppsideal och ätbeteenden i sociala medier är föremål för intensiv debatt och har uppmärksammats brett inom forskning och folkhälsorapporter. Den dominerande forskningen som främst fokuserat på att mäta effekter av innehållet i sociala medier riskerar dock att dölja den komplexitet som präglar ungdomars sätt att förhålla sig till budskap om mat och hälsa.

Vår presentation belyser hur tonårsflickor själva tolkar mat- och hälsorelaterat innehåll i sociala medier, med särskilt fokus på sambanden mellan matvanor, hälsa, kroppsideal och femininitet. Med inspiration från feministiska teoretiska perspektiv och baserat på intervjuer med totalt 18 deltagare, undersöker vi hur unga kvinnor tolkar och förhandlar om sådant innehåll.

Tjejernas diskussioner visade på en tydlig spänning: influencers försöker undvika att uttrycka smalhetsideal i ord, samtidigt som de visuellt förstärker dessa ideal. Budskap om hälsosam kost tolkades ofta som indirekt stöd för smalhet, vilket suddade ut gränserna mellan talet om hälsa och argument för bantning. Inlägg där ”skräpmat” konsumerades uppskattades för att de bröt mot restriktiva diskurser och signalerade äkthet. Något deltagarna uttryckte önskan om att se mer av i sociala medier var vardagligt och oglamoröst ätande – sådant som varken framställdes som nyttigt eller exklusivt, alternativt som utstuderat onyttigt eller spektakulärt.

I analysen framträder hur tjejerna positionerar sig som både kritiskt medvetna och utsatta aktörer. Deltagarna visade prov på betydande medielitteracitet och insikt i den kommersiella logik som präglar influencers inlägg, samtidigt som de uttryckte att de påverkades av den stora mängden mat- och kroppsrelaterade budskap de möter i sociala medier.

Den psykiska ohälsan bland barn och unga i ljuset av en modifierad individualism

Karin Zetterqvist Nelson

Linköpings universitet

I mitt paper analyserar jag relationen mellan etableringen av barnets rättigheter i Sverige och den utbredning av psykisk ohälsa bland barn och unga som påvisats i undersökningar och som presenterats i rapporter och forskning. Påståendet att barns och ungas psykiska ohälsa ökar har både granskats och analyserats, och ibland ifrågasatts, i forskarsamhället. Det är ett ämne som också debatterats i media och politiska sammanhang. Oavsett om den psykiska ohälsan har ökat eller inte, genererar frågan känslor och väcker oro över barns och ungas situation. I mitt paper närmar jag mig problembilden ur en annan synvinkel i syfte att fokusera hur synen på barn och barndom modifierats och fått en ny form i senmoderna nordiska välfärdsstater. Jag tar avstamp i barnrättsdiskursen och dess koppling till den modifierade form av individualism som växt fram sedan 1980-talet. Det handlar om en kollektiv tolkningsram (ideologi) om individens plats och individualitetens betydelse i samhället, inte minst betoningen på autonomi, som i sin tur banat väg för en ny syn på barn och unga, utveckling och psykisk (o)hälsa (Ehrenberg 2010; Ehrenberg & Marquis 2024).

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3. Computational Social Sciences

TWIN4DEM: Strengthening democratic resilience through digital twins

Giangiacomo Bravo

Linnéuniversitetet

Democracy research struggles to explain why democracies backslide and predict which countries are more vulnerable this process. TWIN4DEM, a Horizon Europe project, aims to address this issue by creating a digital twin (DT) of political systems.

DTs are data-intensive simulation models designed as virtual copies of real-world systems. TWIN4DEM focuses on detecting vulnerabilities in democratic systems due to executive aggrandizement and advising policymakers on preventive measures. The current version of the DT focuses on the decision-making process of agents. It is based on synthetic data and represents a "generic" model to be used ad base to implement country-specific ones. The model includes three core groups of agents: (a) members of government that initiate executive aggrandizement; (b) members of parliament; and (c) members of constitutional or administrative courts. Such agents interact with two main types of influencers who shape their behavior: citizens (including context-specific interest groups) and EU institutions. An important assumption of the conceptual model is that agents and influencers act based on (a) structural incentives (electoral or party system structure, socioeconomic conditions) and (b) individual preferences (more or less authoritarian and other policy preferences).

The final goal of the project goal is to implement four specific country cases --- Czech Republic, France, Hungary, and The Netherlands --- reflecting the specificity of the different political systems and informed by local data. The first of these cases is planned to be developed during the winter and will be presented at the conference.

Paths to (Dis)Belief: Judging Credibility and Reliability in Cases of Sexual Violence

Hanna Feige

Göteborgs universitet

Evaluating credibility in rape cases is contentious: Physical evidence, when present, is often ambiguous, and many cases hinge on competing accounts. Sweden's 2018 reform shifted to a consent-based framework and introduced negligent rape ('oaktsam våldtäkt'), centering voluntariness. While the reform reflects changing social norms, early research points to uneven application, particularly in courts' assessments of the complainants' voluntariness. The present PhD project examines how credibility and reliability are constructed in judicial reasoning, by scaling up the previous qualitative findings to a large corpus of court rulings (> 5,000).

The project employs a mixed-methods design, combining qualitative annotation with computational text analysis. Natural language processing and rule-based techniques extract metadata (e.g., verdicts; background characteristics), and named-entity recognition captures additional information about cases and actors. Exploratory statistical analyses identify clusters of narrative patterns and associated forms of reasoning, while topic modeling and sentiment analysis complement qualitative reading by mapping discursive themes and evaluative language over time.

The first study aims to (1) detail how credibility and reliability are assessed and (2) how different characteristics of the cases might influence the interpretation of reliability criteria. Findings will support reflexive dialogue with legal professionals, encourage more consistent reasoning in rape adjudication, and advance the transparent, responsible use of computational methods in socio-legal research.

Spin-Glass Sociology, Ferromagnetic Economics: An Ising Model of the Social Conditioning of Methodological Beliefs

Josef Ginnerskov

Linköpings universitet

This talk presents a computational simulation of belief dynamics among social scientists embedded in an institutional network. Inspired by the Ising model in statistical physics, we explore how binary methodological beliefs – quantitative (+1) vs. qualitative (-1) – evolve under peer and institutional influence. The model incorporates disorder (heterogeneity of institutional fields and network ties), frustration (conflicting local incentives), and temperature (low-temperature alignment vs. high-temperature noise). In Kuhnian terms, the temperature τ operationalizes anomaly pressure: higher τ corresponds to periods of unresolved anomalies and looser coordination, while lower τ represents the stability of “normal science". This formulation resonates with Mannheim’s thesis of the social conditioning of knowledge, where belief alignment is shaped by structural position, and Abbott’s theory of disciplinary fractals, which conceives of methodological oppositions as cyclically recurring across scales of scholarly life. The stochastic Glauber dynamics are designed to capture these tensions: fields may temporarily stabilize under low τ (ferromagnetic order, paradigmatic consensus) yet remain perpetually open to perturbation and reconfiguration under high τ (spin-glass disorder, pluralistic flux). Career stage modulates inertia, allowing juniors to adapt more readily to changing environments, while seniors reinforce established alignments. Comparing spin-glass dynamics in Sociology (rugged, multi-valley) with ferromagnetic dynamics in Economics (smooth, single-valley), the model provides a formal, dynamic account of how social structures like consensus, pluralism, and disciplinary oscillation might emerge from micro-dynamics within scientific fields.

Finding ‘Glocal’ Pathways to Outgroup Trust Using Linear Model Trees

Christopher Swader

Lund universitet

Recent research suggests that globalization is conducive to social trust, but ‘glocalization’ literature suggests checking if this relationship is robust to heterogeneous effects across complex social contexts.

We use data from the joint World Values Survey and European Values Survey from 2017 to 2022 (N=135874 individuals across 79 societies) as well as the Quality of Government Dataset. Predicting outgroup trust with social globalization, our novel approach combines multilevel linear regression models with the machine learning method of Linear Model Trees (LMTs) to identify effect heterogeneity.

Our analysis finds 8 subgroups, defined by the combination of a country’s overall level of trust and individual-level religious denomination. Across these, we find substantial effect heterogeneity, including even shifting directions of effects, in how outgroup trust is predicted across most predictor variables. Such effect heterogeneity is identified among all country-level indicators. For social globalization we find a null effect on outgroup trust across 6 of 8 subgroups but a negative effect for the remaining 2 subgroups. In addition, ingroup trust displays substantial variation in the strength of its positive effect on individuals’ outgroup trust, which depends on a society’s overall level of outgroup trust. We suggest adopting a complex heterogeneous effects design as a starting position when conducting research on topics that imply different theoretical ramifications in different social contexts, as is the case with globalization and social trust. We also highlight that linear model trees are an ideal method for social scientists to identify complex effect heterogeneity within the regression paradigm.

Speaking for the smoke: political elites and the amplification of climate misinformation

Anton Törnberg, Victoria Vallström

Göteborgs universitet

A recent IPIE report underscores a critical shift: climate disinformation is no longer confined to the digital fringes but increasingly originates from within the political mainstream. Political elites—especially in fossil-fuel aligned, populist, or authoritarian regimes—play a central role in amplifying and legitimizing misleading climate narratives. This paper investigates how such elites across diverse political systems contribute to the global circulation of climate misinformation. While prior research has focused on either [i] grassroots dissemination through social media users and influencers, or [ii] lobbying networks, systematic attention to the role of elected officials remains limited, largely confined to single-country cases.

Drawing on a global dataset of approximately 32 million tweets posted over five years by politicians from all major parties in 26 countries, the study explores which types of political actors spread climate misinformation, and how this varies across regime types, regions, and ideological orientations. It further examines what kinds of narratives elites deploy to delay climate action: ranging from outright denial and strategic disruption to culture war framings and economic fear-mongering. Combining computational text analysis with qualitative human coding, the paper develops a comparative framework mapping patterns of elite misinformation across democratic, hybrid, and authoritarian contexts, and traces temporal surges around key political and environmental events.

By bridging political communication and environmental sociology, the study conceptualizes elite misinformation as both symbolic power and policy obstruction. The findings reveal how climate disinformation functions as a tool of political legitimation, and where international governance and platform interventions might most effectively curb its spread.

4. Digital Sociologi

Språk och kompetens – mer än homo economicus

Krister Bredmar, Glenn Sjöstrand, Elin Gunnarsson

Linnéuniversitetet

Det finns en föreställning att små och medelstora företags konkurrenskraft kommer öka om de lyckas använda digitaliseringen på rätt sätt. Detta antagande om en kausalitet är inte lika tydlig om man pratar med små och medelstora företag på lokal nivå. Sättet som företrädare för en verksamhet pratar om digitalisering blir på ett sätt ett uttryck för hur man värdesätter fenomenet digitalisering. Digitala initiativ och det digitala stöd som på ett påtagligt sätt påverkar det pågående arbetet i ett företag, utgör en tillgång och något som värderas högt i en organisation.

Den rationella bilden och det antagande som kan beskrivas som att om små och medelstora företag bara lyckas med den digitala resan så kommer ett företags framgång bli ännu större, är ett antagande och en bild som på många sätt kan ifrågasättas. Detta synsätt, att ett rationellt ekonomiskt tänkande är vägledande, har ibland beskrivits som Homo economicus (Bourdieu, 1990 & 2005). Ett kapital i ett företag, är en tillgång som är konkret och fysisk. Men om det däremot rör som om något immateriellt, men fortfarande betydelsefullt kan det i enlighet med Bourdieus (1990) terminologi beskrivas som ett symboliskt kapital. En digital kompetens som visar sig i den dagliga verksamheten och i det språk som används för att beskriva denna vardagspraktik utgör i denna studie en form av symboliskt kapital.

Detta bidrag bygger på ett kapitel i en bok om digital kompetens och spetskompetens, med ett empiriskt material från små och medelstora företag i Kronobergs län.

Digital kompetens i arbetsvardagen ur ett inhabited institutions-perspektiv

Elin Gunnarsson, Krister Bredmar, Glenn Sjöstrand

Linnéuniversitetet

Begreppet digital kompetens används frekvent i olika sammanhang, ofta som en förväntad egenskap hos individer i arbetslivet. Trots det är begreppet mångtydigt, svårfångat och starkt kontextberoende. Digital kompetens reduceras ofta till tekniska färdigheter eller förmågan att använda digitala verktyg, men kan förstås som något betydligt bredare, som individers sätt att tolka, förstå och skapa mening i digitalt präglade praktiker.

Begreppet Inhabited Institutions (Hallett & Ventresca, 2006) kan användas i ett försök att förstå hur digital kompetens formas, omformas och förhandlas i arbetsvardagen. Genom detta perspektiv blir digital kompetens inte en statisk egenskap som individer har eller saknar, utan ett fenomen som växer fram genom relationer, organisatoriska praktiker och samtal.

I studiens material belyses hur digital kompetens tar form genom fyra återkommande teman: förhandling, erfarenhet, motstånd och ledarskap. Dessa teman synliggör hur digital kompetens är situerad i sociala och institutionella sammanhang där normer, värderingar och maktrelationer påverkar hur digitalisering förstås och praktiseras. Genom att föra samman begreppen digital kompetens och inhabited institutions skapas en fördjupad förståelse av digitaliseringens vardagliga dimensioner, och till diskussionen om hur digital kompetens kan förstås som ett levt och relationellt snarare än tekniskt fenomen.

Detta bidrag bygger på ett kapitel i en bok om digital kompetens och spetskompetens, med ett empiriskt material från små och medelstora företag i Kronobergs län.

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Virtuell rättvisa och kroppens vittnesmål - upplevelser av deltagande i virtuella rättssalar

Mikaela Linell

Lunds universitet

Den digitala rättssalen – same as it ever was?

Under de senaste åren, framför allt påskyndat av social distansering under pandemin, har den moderna rättssalen i allt högre grad kommit att präglas av digitala lösningar. Argumenten för vittnar om att den eventuella skillnad mellan digitalt och fysiskt deltagande är marginell medan argumenten mot hävdar att det just är den slående skillnaden, bristen på synligt kroppsspråk, ökad förvirring och minskad förståelse för allvaret i stunden som är problemet. Hur ska vi förstå oss på denna förändring, och, kanske viktigare, är förändringen verkligen kopplad till det virtuella formatet eller blottlägger det snarare brister som även återfinns i den fysiska rättssalen.

Genom intervjuer, observationer och body mapping sessioner undersöker jag hur det virtuella formatet av rättegångar upplevs ur ett emotionellt och förkroppsligat perspektiv där fokus ämnar upplevelsen av virtuell närvaro. Body mapping, som är en kreativ intervjuteknik, blir ett verktyg i att förstå hur det virtuella rummet och det fysiska rummet sammanvävs i deltagarnas levda upplevelser. En metodik jag menar har potential att tillämpas brett inom digital sociologi.

Genom att undersöka dessa mjukare, och ofta åsidosatta, aspekterna av deltagande i rättssalen menar jag på att vi kan finna de komponenter som ligger till grund för rättssalsritualernas framgång i en digitaliserad värld. Upplevelsen av rättprocessen har i sin tur vidare implikationer för hur rättens roll förstås i samhället.

Digitaliseringsstrategier i SMF – företagsledningars narrativ

Glenn Sjöstrand, Elin Gunnarsson & Krister Bredmar

Linnéuniversitetet

Generellt tryck på små och medelstora företag att digitalisera och ställa om kompetenser medför att enskilda organisationer behöver sätt att anpassa digitala strategier till de behov och resurser som finns lokalt, snarare än att försöka efterlikna andra företags framgångsrika strategier. Hur ser strategierna för de samtida digitaliseringsprocesserna i små och medelstora företag ut, vad har de hittills genomfört av digitalisering, hur motiveras strategierna och vilka effekter för verksamheten och arbetet har de haft samt vad menar de återstår att genomföra?

Strategier för teknologisk förändring och förnyelse genererar osäkerheter och komplexiteter som är svåra att förbereda sig på, men de kan förstås utifrån den sociala kontext i vilken strategier för digitalisering utformas. Därför finns ett särskilt fokus i studien på hur ledare i företag beskriver sina strategier för att digitalisera, vad de hittills har genomfört av digitalisering, vilka effekter för verksamheten och arbetet de haft och vad de ser återstår att genomföra. I hög grad anknyter dessa resonemang till vad de ser att de har för behov av kompetens för att kunna digitalisera, varför man anser sig behöva digitalisera – alltså vilka mål för verksamheten man har och hur digitalisering är ett medel för att uppnå dessa.

Den teoretiska ramen grundas i kunskapssociologi, social konstruktionism (SCOT), teorier om ”teknologiska ramar” och narrativ analys.

Papert bygger på ett bokkapitel om digital kompetens och spetskompetens, med ett empiriskt material från små och medelstora företag i Kronobergs län.

Everyday platform urbanism and its implications for socio-spatial production

Johan Vaide

Linnéuniversitetet

Digital platforms play a key role in shaping people's urban identities and spatial experiences. As platforms have become increasingly embedded and taken for granted, contemporary urban life has evolved into what Sarah Barns describes as a platformed condition, with numerous everyday practices conducted through diverse platforms. With the everyday use of digital media and the broader platformization of urban life, it is crucial to reflect on how these transformations inform socio-spatial production.

In this presentation, I sketch the potential implications of everyday platform use for socio-spatial production. Given their pervasive presence in contemporary society, platforms can be understood as new agents in the production, coding, and experience of urban space. Drawing on Sarah Barns' concept of platform urbanism, the elaboration of everyday platform urbanism developed in my research on platform ethnography and WeChat use in China, and Henri Lefebvre's spatial theory, the presentation examines how platform-mediated practices—such as digital placemaking, locative features, and online-to-onsite as well as onsite-to-online interactions—inform socio-spatial production.

By bringing together digital sociology and urban sociology, it contributes to the emerging field of digital urban sociology, offering an analytical framework for understanding how digital infrastructures and everyday platform practices co-produce contemporary urban experience.

Multimodal Misinformation: Climate Change Conspiracies in the TikTok Era

Victoria Vallström

Göteborgs universitet

In my paper, I examine how climate-related conspiracy narratives are multimodally constructed and emotionally mobilized on TikTok. Addressing research gaps on short-form audiovisual platforms and on multimodal and conspiratorial climate misinformation, the study explores how TikTok's combination of visuals, sound, and text shapes the construction, emotional appeal, and potential influence of such narratives on climate attitudes and actions. It asks: (1) What themes emerge in a large corpus of TikTok videos on climate and weather modification? and (2) How do videos integrate visual, sonic, and textual cues to construct conspiratorial climate narratives and mobilize emotional engagement? Using a mixed-method design, the study combines inductive large-scale computational pattern detection with qualitative multimodal analysis, an approach that accounts for both the scale of the dataset and the semiotic complexity of meaning-making on TikTok. Drawing on 7,658 TikTok posts, I employ unsupervised AI models (CLIP, Sentence-BERT, and OpenL3) to identify themes across visual, textual, and audio modalities using BERTopic, followed by in-depth multimodal conspiracy framing informed by framing theory, social semiotics, and the sociology of emotions. The findings reveal a distinct form of climate conspiracy on TikTok that affirms the reality, urgency, and human causation of climate change but attributes it to covert technological interventions by powerful actors. These narratives fall outside traditional climate misinformation taxonomies and redirect attention through epistemic emotions such as curiosity, sustaining conspiratorial engagement while diverting focus from climate solutions.

Virtual Raving: Exploring the Mediation of Body, Space and Time

Anna Wiemer

Lunds universitet

At this conference I want to discuss the methodology and theory of my doctoral research, in which I am exploring the rich and diverse subculture of VR raving that exists through the social VR platform VRChat. Through this platform, users build and upload sophisticated 3d models of clubs and worlds, embody avatars through full-body tracking, and rave for hours or even days on end as they are unbound by geographical space or time. I argue that this case not only explores the contemporary and mediated form of a historical subculture, but ultimately asks wider questions about how we understand sociological key concepts such as space, body or time as they become digitised and fundamentally challenged through new technologies.

Aligned with the conference‘s theme, one may point towards the technological novelty of virtual reality and how VR raves appear to question a lot of notions traditionally considered at the core of the rave subculture, such as the appropriation of urban space, physical proximity between bodies and the separation from the media of everyday. At the same time, considering how electronic music has always been deeply rooted in the exploration and appropriation of technological frontiers, are VR raves not the logical heir to the off-grid warehouse raves of the 90s? In other words, focusing on the processes and values at the heart of this culture rather than its manifestation, is this not the same as it ever was?

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Lisa Flower, Associate Professor at Lund University

lisa.flower@soc.lu.se

5. Ekonomisk Sociologi

Locked (out) futures: Markets, the climate crisis, and sociology's role

Elena Bogdanova, Linda Soneryd

Göteborgs universitet

Under ekonomiska kriser blir det ekonomiska systemet synligt; vi börjar tala om det - men oftast i politiska termer, och i polariserade former mellan dem som kräver statlig reglering och omfördelning och dem som förespråkar en utvidgad marknad. Under senaste decennier har marknadsekonomin även fått en mer genomgripande betydelse för miljö och förutsättningarna för klimatomställningar. Michel Callon har utvecklat ett teoretiskt ramverk för att förstå de ständiga processer genom vilka ekonomi och politik formar varandra. Marknader fungerar genom en växelverkan mellan inlåsningar och utlåsningar – mellan det som inkluderas och exkluderas, mellan de frågor som kan hanteras inom marknaden och de som faller utanför dess gränser.

I denna artikel tillämpar vi Callons ramverk för att belysa klimatkrisen och förutsättningarna för samhällsomställning. Vad händer när vi använder hans begrepp för att analysera hur mycket marknaden tillåts styra klimatomställningen? Vad låses in och utlåsas när klimatfrågor blir en del av finansmarknadspolitiken? Vi följer Callons resonemang kring enraged orphans och diskuterar hur sociologin kan använda begreppet i diskussionen av det som inkluderas och utestängs i den framväxande marknadsbaserade klimatstyrningen.

Close-to-date food consumption: discount ethics and the flexibilization of food practices

Jonas Bååth, Rosa Hellman, Rebecca M Martin

Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet

Close-to-date food consumption refers to the acquisition, appreciation and appropriation of the foods' grocery retailers have discounted due to their relatively limited shelf life, such as a nearing expiry date or displaying slight signs of deterioration, such as wilting. To discount close-to-date foods promises a 'win-win', reducing food waste while reducing consumer spending and providing grocery outlets with goodwill. This raises questions regarding what it means to consume close-to-date foods, including the role of economic and moral (e.g. environmental) values in the practices of such consumption and what close-to-date discounts demand of consumers to realize the intended 'win-win'.

Drawing on qualitative interviews with 15 consumers of close-to-date foods in Sweden, this paper examines their practices of consuming such foods. Combining social practice theory with the sociology of markets, we show that the negotiation of economic and moral values promote – but also demand – flexibility in consumption practices to adjust food consumption to close-to-date offers. The flexibility ranges from access to appropriate food storage at home to allow for stocking up on offers to flexible food ethics to justify consumption of foods which would be considered immoral if sold at a full price. Furthermore, the results show how money and economic value acts as an important dimension of consumption practices, as discount prices becomes a 'market device' which enhances flexibility while also engaging structural economic conditions, such as the consumers' socio-economic conditions.

From Means to Forces of Consumption – Or How to Take Technical Mediation Seriously in the Sociology of Consumption

Mark Elam

Göteborgs universitet

This paper brings George Ritzer's sociology of consumption into closer conversation with those analysts like Gerda Reith, Natasha Schüll and Michel Callon who see addiction not as a medical complaint, but a highly prevalent form of consumption today. What Ritzer and these analysts share is a concern with technical mediation.

Ritzer addresses technical mediation firstly through his notion of the means of consumption referring to the many technologies and infrastructures facilitating consumption. For him it is important not to conflate these means with the commodities consumed: McDonalds is more than hamburgers.

In this way Ritzer claims to take us beyond Marx's original thoughts on the individual means of consumption which merely distinguish between basic means of subsistence and luxury goods. However, starting with this distinction another tale of technical mediation can be told. This deals with the development of what can be better conceived as changing forces of consumption. It tells of how the means of consumption have been engineered into commodities reinventing them as consumer goods. Designed and engineered in this fashion, the means of consumption are no longer simply intermediaries better enabling consumption, but active mediators qualitatively transforming consumer goods and consumers alike in the process of attaching them to each other more closely. Neither the objects nor subjects of consumption are the same anymore as they are collectively melded into new forces of consumption. During such processes indulgent luxuries mutate into necessities of life without which newly addicted consumers find it hard to carry on.

Beyond the Charts: Towards a Sociology of Technical Analysis

Gergei Farkas

Linnéuniversitetet

Technical analysis—the practice of forecasting price movements through historical market data—has long guided investment decisions, yet remains understudied in sociology. Recent work in economic sociology and social studies of finance has begun to conceptualise it as a socio-technical practice, where charts, indicators, and routines mediate how financial actors interpret uncertainty and coordinate expectations.

This paper situates technical analysis within the sociology of knowledge, expertise, and markets, and outlines a research programme focused on how fund managers use and make sense of technical analysis in professional practice. The project employs a mixed-methods design: (a) qualitative interviews and field studies to explore how fund managers attribute meaning and legitimacy to technical analysis; (b) quantitative social network analysis to examine how analytical tools and conventions circulate within and across professional networks; and (c) experimental methods to test whether and how the application of such tools may influence the very price movements they aim to predict.

By integrating these approaches, the project positions technical analysis as a socially embedded and potentially self-fulfilling form of financial knowledge—one that both reflects and shapes the cognitive infrastructures of contemporary financial capitalism.

Rethinking Finance: Can Democratic Governance Enhance Sustainable Investments?

Johannes Lundberg

Stockholms universitet

The green transition of contemporary capitalism is in dire straits: while a swift transition from fossil fuels to green energy is urgently needed, shaky geopolitics instead spurs uncertainty and defense investments. To navigate how sustainable investments can be encouraged and legitimized, the literature lacks studies on divestment (fossil fuel dis-investment) decision determinants, democratic voice in institutional investment choices, and influential civil society divestment campaigns. At the center of today's financialized economy are pension funds, being the largest asset owner group and active owners, historically. Containing significant internal variances, the comparatively advanced climate-related investment choices and member democracies of Danish pension funds, along with the relatively impactful Danish divestment campaign, constitute a unique laboratory for filling these gaps. Thus, this investigation explores: To what extent have the funds' climate-related investment decisions been shaped by their type and degree of democracy, the divestment campaign's strategies and pension member organization, fund-specific member groups and individuals, and prevalent financial frameworks?

More specifically, I compare the 16 main Danish pension funds' climate-related actions, 2013–2025, identifying and comparing their divestment policies, active ownership, green investments, governance structures, and member groups. I plan to complement these quantitative comparisons with semi-structured oral history interviews with relevant stakeholders (divestment campaigners, ESG heads of Forsikring & Pension and Finanstilsynet, chief investment officers and board members of selected funds). Thereby, I aim to specify the role of different types of democracy and other factors in Danish pension funds' climate-related investment decisions.

Nonprofits and the Making of the Sharing Economy in Sweden

Mayya Shmidt

Uppsala universitet

The proposed presentation is a part of an on-going dissertation project that examines how nonprofit organizations in Sweden are shaping the norms and boundaries of the emerging sharing economy field. Using rich explanatory potential of neo-institutional theory in organizational analysis, this dissertation has a purpose of analysing institutionalization of the organizational field for non-profit sharing - a community of organizations that partakes a common meaning system and whose participants interact more frequently and faithfully with one another than with actors outside the field (Scott 1995, p.56). On the second level of inquiry, there is a purpose of zooming in the field for collective-democratic organisations in sharing economy in order to study how its members handle and negotiate boundaries between different logics within given organisations.

The proposed paper explores narratives and discourses used by non-profit actors to frame the sharing economy and answers in what ways do field participants contest, negotiate, and cope with conflicting institutional logics of the field? In what ways do conflicting institutional logics affect organisational practice?

The contribution is informed with 20 in-depth interviews with stakeholders: CEO's and board members of several SE organisations, as well as representatives from municipalities, academia, strategic innovation projects, and a cooperative enterprise. The fieldwork was situated in 4 cities: Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö, Umeå, which have become testbeds for the "Sharing Cities Sweden", a national program for the sharing economy of cities, and therefore accommodate a range of initiatives in the sphere of sharing economy.

6. Emotionssociologi

Passionsprincipen i en svensk utbildningskontext

Lisa Backman

Uppsala universitet

I en avhandlingsstudie om tvärvetenskap och högre utbildning använder jag den amerikanska sociologen Erin Cechs begrepp ’passionsprincipen’ i analysen av intervjuer med studenter. Närmare bestämt bygger arbetet på två fallstudier av grundutbildningsprogram som på olika sätt kombinerar flera discipliner, ett i Humaniora och ett i Globala utvecklingsstudier. En av frågorna handlar om hur förstaårsstudenter resonerar om sitt val av utbildning. Genom en huvudsakligen induktiv analys av 17 semi-strukturerade intervjuer med förstaårsstudenter (och ytterligare 15 intervjuer med tredjeårsstudenter vid samma program), använder jag passionsprincipen för att belysa hur studenterna beskrev sitt utbildningsval som präglat av intresse, nyfikenhet, och vikten av att läsa en utbildning som stämde med känslor. Samtidigt utmanades detta av frågan, internt och externt, om vad studenterna skulle ”bli”.

Creating social cohesion through strong emotions – existential rituals in a heterogenous society

Stina Bergman Blix, Anna Lund

Lunds universitet

In many life-altering situations, such as when a midwife delivers a baby or a priest leads a funeral, strong emotions are expected and recognized. While strong emotions are often associated with private experiences, these 'existential rituals' are fundamentally social. Successful rituals commemorate relationships and belongings, serving as the social glue of society (Durkheim, 2008). Existential rituals can uncover emerging societal challenges, as they become subject to diverse expectations. In a heterogenous society, the performance of existential rituals demands negotiation and adaption to generate and reproduce symbolic value (Alexander, 2004). Building on pilot interviews within one of four studied occupational fields, spiritual work, this presentation identifies fundamental elements and challenges in practitioners' performance of existential rituals: 1) balancing flow, feelings of joint presence in the moment, and control, the steering and adjusting of performances; 2) creating boundaries for professional adaptability such as the symbolic production of "returning to earth" in a religious funeral; 3) mitigating empathic work in rituals through preparatory understanding and interactional attuning. Sweden serves as a case in point: a society combining secular and individualistic cultural orientations with a super-diverse population and growing socioeconomic segregation, conditions that call for deliberate strategies to adapt existential rituals to varied expectation. The study advances theoretical fine-tuning of the emotional undercurrents in ritual production, and how to adapt to diverse expectations without losing symbolic and cohesive value. In practical terms, the creation and reproduction of successful rituals can provide a societal solution for narrowing recognition gaps (Lamont, 2018) in segregated societies.

Emotionell navigering i Försvarsmakten – I tider mellan krig och fred

Henrik Börjesson

Göteborgs universitet och Försvarshögskolan

Försvarsmakten befinner sig i ett emotionellt skifte, från en långvarig fredslogik till ett hybridtillstånd mellan krig och fred. Emotioner och rationalitet bör inte ses som motsatser i styrningen av en myndighet vars uppdrag är att hantera yttersta osäkerhet, att planera för krig i fredstid. Om känslan av säkerhet utmanas eller inte tillfredsställs, står samhället och idén om en suverän stat, på spel.

Försvarsmakten rör sig mellan två organisatoriska logiker, den "heta" (krig, operationer) och den "kalla" (administration, planering), vilket kräver olika emotionella regimer. Studien påvisar att känslor inte bara är reaktioner, utan aktiva komponenter i myndighetsstyrning.

Bidraget undersöker hur känslor bidrar i styrningen av Försvarsmakten och hur emotioner formar planering, strategi och ledarskap i tider av osäkerhet genom att kombinera emotionssociologi med myndighetsstyrning. Genom tal från överbefälhavaren och begreppet "militär antagande" synliggör studien hur känslor som rädsla, hopp, ilska används för att skapa legitimitet, kollektiv identitet och handlingskraft.

Genom begrepp som känsloregimer och emotionella mallar belyses hur institutioner formar och reglerar känslouttryck över tid, och hur detta påverkar både intern kultur och extern kommunikation, särskilt i relation till fenomen som avskräckning och säkerhet.

I en tid av osäkerhet och skiftande hotbilder, blir känslor viktiga i förståelsen av risker och framtiden. Jag argumenterar för att emotioner bör ses som en integrerad del av rationell styrning. Konferensbidraget bidrar till en fördjupad förståelse av hur känslor påverkar styrning i stora offentliga organisationer och föreslår vidare forskning med emotionssociologi i strategisk planering och planeras utvecklas till en vetenskaplig artikel.

Porr i skolans emotionella geografi – om hur pornografi tar form i och formger sociosexuella gränsdragningar

Gustav Ekström

Göteborgs univsersitet

Sedan 2022 ingår kritisk granskning av pornografi i gymnasieskolans läroplan inom kunskapsområdet Sexualitet, samtycke och relationer. Trots att den till stor del riktar sig mot ensamma kammare, är pornografi en sociosexuell fråga där det privata och offentliga möts. Förståelser av pornografi angränsar också till andra sociosexuella frågor, såsom mäns våld mot kvinnor och sexualisering av det offentliga rummet.

Porr är kontroversiellt och ett så kallat känsligt ämne. Pornografi kan väcka oro (för barn och kvinnor), ilska (över våld och porrindustrin), rädsla (för män och perversioner), nyfikenhet (på kroppar och självet) och skam (inför allt ovan nämnt). Den kan även betraktas som abjekt i bemärkelsen att pornografi framkallar äckel, obehag och olust i samma rörelse som den väcker lust, nyfikenhet och fascination. Som kulturuttryck kännetecknas pornografi av att vara principlös och inte respektera gränser - medan diskussioner om pornografi ofta rör gränsdragningar och behov av gränser. Dess abjekta status kan också härledas till ovisshet om hur vi kan förhålla oss till och tala om pornografins utbredning.

Skolan kan betraktas som ett emotionellt landskap vari ungdomar formar och navigerar de gränser som dras upp, rivs ner, överträds och befästs i samtal om sexualitet. Gränsdragningar kring sexualitet i skolans samtal utgör därmed också en fråga om makt och kunskap. Hur pornografi förstås (definieras; (betr-)aktas; känns av) i ungdomars samtal och vid undervisning är exempel på sådana gränsdragande processer.

Med avstamp i mitt avhandlingsarbete om pornografi i gymnasieskolan vill jag presentera ett tentativt koncept om hur pornografi ges mening genom gränsdragande dynamiker till angränsande sociosexuella frågor.

Embodiment and Existential Rituals: Midwives Negotiations of Norms, Identity, and Highly Emotional Interactions in the Workplace

Xochitl Ellery Husted

Lunds universitet

This paper outlines a portion of a larger research project that investigates the development and maintenance of 'existential rituals' as part of everyday work routines in occupations which necessitate the navigation of highly emotional situations. The aim of the project is to examine the processes and strategies common to existential rituals in different occupations in an increasingly diverse society whereby rituals cannot be taken for granted. By employing a multi-method qualitative design, including shadowing, focus groups, and semi-structured interviews, data will be collected from four occupational groups including midwives and obstetricians. This paper will interrogate how embodiment of identity plays a role in the highly emotional interactions practitioners have with clients, and the way status and power are embedded within these interactions. More specifically, it will explore how embodiment of identity is negotiated by midwives, whose emotional expression and management is dictated by their professional role. Midwives and obstetricians are of particular interest because of the ways they handle bodies and strong emotions in their dealings with life and death. At the same time, these professionals are expected to uphold the demands of "affective neutrality" (Parsons, 1951) and negotiate labour care organisations structured around masculine values. How do midwives negotiate these norms, in relation to their own embodiment and that of their clients, while navigating existential rituals in the workplace? The paper will contribute to discussions about the constraints and possibilities of embodiment as it relates to the production of existential rituals within professional environments whereby status relations are central.

Manosfären och det romantiska misslyckandet

Kristin Jung Ståhle

Stockholms universitet

Min avhandling handlar om det som idag brukar refereras till som manosfären, vilken kan beskrivas som en samling intressegemenskaper för män som inte vilar på en feministisk värdegrund. Projektet undersöker hur manosfären upplevs, känns och används, framförallt av dem som identifierar sig med den, men också av de medier och forskare som försöker förstå den. I kapitlet som kommer presenteras på konferensen står det romantiska misslyckandet i centrum. För flera av studiens intervjupersoner blev romantiska nederlag, separationer och skilsmässor inkörsporten till manosfärens forum och idévärldar. Vissa sökte konkreta strategier för att bli bättre på dejting, andra ville förstå varför deras relationer tagit slut och en del drogs helt enkelt till en gemenskap där deras erfarenheter togs på allvar. Kapitlet undersöker hur manosfären svarar på erfarenheten av att befinna sig i romantisk kris, vilka löften som erbjuds och till vilket pris. Det handlar om hur personlig smärta omvandlas till ideologisk position, och hur känslor av skam, sårbarhet och längtan kan omformas till självoptimering, frihetsideal och ett ressentiment som gärna vill rastas online.

Besviken på tekniken. Omsorgspersonalens mörka känslor inför nya digitala arbetsverktyg

Marcus Persson, Lisa Ferm

Linköpings universitet

Som svar på en åldrande befolkning och ökat tryck på en redan resursknapp äldreomsorg framhålls digital teknik för att underlätta omsorgsarbetet. Tidigare studier visar på att det finns stor optimism bland både personal och chefer inom äldreomsorgen att använda nya digitala teknologier, men trots höga förväntningar går digitaliseringen långsamt.

I denna studie fokuserar vi på svårigheter med digitalisering inom äldreomsorgen genom att undersöka omsorgspersonalens mörka känslor inför nya digitala arbetsverktyg. Specifikt utforskar vi deras känslomässiga upplevelser som leder till att de väljer att inte använda den teknik som erbjuds dem. Med en emotionssociologisk ansats riktas uppmärksamheten mot känslan av besvikelse – den emotionella reaktion som uppstår när tekniken inte lever upp till förväntningarna. Emotionssociologin erbjuder här verktyg för att förstå känslor inte som privata tillstånd, utan som socialt och organisatoriskt inramade erfarenheter som formar både handlingsutrymme och yrkesidentitet.

Genom etnografiska observationer och intervjuer på äldreboenden analyseras hur personalens besvikelse uttrycks och riktas mot olika aktörer – de tekniska verktygen, chefer, kollegor eller sig själv – beroende på vad de förväntar sig att tekniken ska bidra med. Genom att analysera hur personalens besvikelse riktas mot olika aktörer synliggörs hur personalens ovilja att använda digital teknik inte bara handlar om teknisk okunskap eller bristande organisatoriska resurser, utan även om förväntningar på sociala relationer, yrkesidentitet och omsorgsideal.

Resultatet visar hur omsorgspersonalens känslor av besvikelse ger viktiga ledtrådar till att bättre förstå komplexiteten i deras upplevda teknikmotstånd, och kan i sin förlängning bidra till en mer genomtänkt och förankrad teknikanvändning inom äldreomsorgen.

Teaching in and for emotionality: Exploring structures conditioning teachers' work

Blanka Rósa

Stockholms universitet

Despite decades of political commitment to strengthen pupils' academic achievement, in 2022, a quarter of Swedish pupils in year 6 of compulsory education did not reach the prescribed subject knowledge requirements. The present centre-right government has therefore a renewed interest in reforming teacher education, and in December 2024, a Swedish Government Official Report (SOU 2024:81) was published on the subject. Proposed measures concern how a stronger focus on cognitive sciences, subject knowledge, and practical methods in subject didactics can be achieved within teacher education. Furthermore, the proposal suggests removing the learning outcome requiring student teachers to demonstrate the ability to anchor the school's foundation of core values. Against this background, the present study aimed to investigate final-year student teachers' experiences of their education. Specifically, it explores how these students view the teacher's role in fostering pupils' social emotional development and how prepared they feel to do so. Data were collected through two semi-structured interviews conducted one year apart – once at the end of their education before entering the profession, and once one year into their professional career as teachers – along with diaries kept during that period. Combining a critical realist theoretical framework with a sociological approach to emotions, the study identifies conditions that constrain teachers' work. Preliminary results indicate that initiating pupils into an existing emotional order, where increased emotional awareness is crucial for societal participation, forms an implicit part of teachers' daily work. However, they feel considerably less prepared for this than for their subject-specific teaching responsibilities.

Känsloreglerna för ett riktigt våldtäktsoffer

Marie Sundström

Göteborgs universitet

Vi undersöker hur könsstereotyper och känsloregler för våldtäktsoffer förändras över tid, i relation till fem lagreformer gällande våldtäkt i Sverige mellan 1965 och 2022. Våldtäkt har en låg andel fällande domar. En orsak till detta är våldtäktsmyter, dvs. stereotypa uppfattningar om våldtäkt, som påverkar rättssystemet. Konstruktioner om det stereotypt antagna riktiga våldtäktsoffret berör bland annat antaganden om normala och lämpliga känslomässiga reaktioner. Dessa antaganden har konsekvenser för domstolarnas trovärdighetsbedömningar av offrens och vittnens utsagor. Våldtäktsoffer som inte visar känslor som motsvarar de lämpliga känslomässiga reaktionerna kan uppfattas som mindre trovärdiga. Materialet som undersöks i artikeln är tingsrättsdomar från de fem perioderna. Denna artikel syftar till att undersöka vilka känsloregler som, i rättslig praktik, framstår som lämpliga och legitima för ”riktiga våldtäktsoffer” under de olika perioderna och vilka förväntningar på offrets förmåga till emotionshantering som detta innebär. Vidare undersöker vi hur känsloregler och implicerat emotionsarbete förändras i takt med den förändrade våldtäktslagstiftningen under de fem perioderna. Vi undersöker också vad detta säger om utvecklingen av myten om det riktiga våldtäktsoffret. Tematisk kvalitativ innehållsanalys, kritisk diskursanalys, och Hochschilds teori om känsloregler hjälper oss att förstå normerna för vilka känslor som är lämpliga och vilka som inte är det, när vi undersöker hur målsägandens känslouttryck beskrivs och bedöms i skriftliga domar från tingsrätten. Artikeln bidrar till en fördjupad förståelse av antaganden om de emotionella aspekterna i relation till det riktiga våldtäktsoffret, och hur dessa förändras över tid.

Navigera liminalitet: polisstudenters omvandling till framtida poliser

Clara Taripanah

Linnéuniversitetet

Presentation baseras på ett kapitel i min avhandling. I kapitlet undersöker jag den emotionella och kroppsliga omvandlingsprocessen hos polisstudenter när de försöker navigera i positionen mellan sitt forna jag innan polisutbildningen, och den framväxande yrkesrollen som polis. Studien fokuserar på hur studenter hanterar detta ”mellanläge”, där tidigare föreställningar måste omprövas samtidigt som de ännu inte är fullt integrerade i sin framtida roll. Osäkerheten som följer av detta tillstånd upplevs ofta som förvirrande, och syftet är att förstå hur studenterna anpassar sig och formar nya yrkesidentiteter.

Det empiriska materialet bygger på observationer av ett lärandemoment inom polisutbildningen kallat ‘simuleringar’. Dessa iscensatta rollspel används för att öva på tänkbara fältsituationer, repetera träningskoncept och experimentera med den nya rollen i en kontrollerad miljö. Under dessa övningar korrigeras studenterna av lärare gällande känslor, handlingar och beteenden. Observationerna kompletteras med intervjuer med lärare och studenter för att fördjupa förståelsen av deras resonemang kring utvecklingen av polisrollen.

I kapitlet tar jag inspiration från skådespeleriet som teoretiskt verktyg för att analysera hur studenterna tränas i att reglera känslor, handlingar och beteenden. Genom detta perspektiv belyses hur de navigerar övergången till att bli polis och hur utbildningen formar dem pedagogiskt, socialt och emotionellt. Studien bidrar med en empirisk fördjupning av de mekanismer genom vilka polisstudenter ”habituera sig genom framförande” i denna fas av liminal osäkerhet.

With distinction – on elite habitus and social magic in the Lundin trial

Nina Törnqvist

Uppsala universitet

The Lundin case concerns alleged complicity in war crimes committed by the Sudanese regime to secure Lundin's oil operations in southern Sudan (1999–2003). As two corporate executives stand trial, the case is internationally pioneering and expected to shape corporate accountability for involvement in international crimes and human rights abuses. From a Swedish perspective, it is also unprecedented, providing a dense social space for examining elite distinctions and social magic within the legal field. Building on Scheer's (2012) understanding of emotions as practice—anchoring habitus and orienting individuals toward what is "feelable" in a given context—this paper explores how legal professionals mobilize emotions in the struggle to maintain or challenge stakes within the Lundin trial. Drawing on courtroom ethnography conducted during the first two and a half years of proceedings, the analysis integrates an emotional reading of Bourdieu's concepts of distinction—an affective relation of status fostering feelings of superiority and disgust—and social magic—the convergence of habitus and doxic norms that generates feelings of ease and comfort (Treadgold 2020). Positioned as elite players, the legal professionals' seniority and trajectories reveal a distinct legal habitus, where taste and affective affinities operate as mechanisms of social differentiation and recognition in courtroom interaction. The paper demonstrates how alignment and misalignment with "the feel for the game" are particularly intricate among elite legal actors, contributing to an understanding of the role of emotions, elite positions, and embodied strategies in shaping legal practice.

Thinking Alone, Judging Together? Tension Between Judicial Independence and Collective Deliberation

Sara Uhnoo, Wanna Svedberg Andersson, Moa Bladini

Göteborgs universitet

Judicial autonomy is central to impartiality and the rule of law. Yet, in practice, it is situationally bounded and shaped by relational, emotional, temporal, and spatial factors. While judges often describe their work as solitary, their autonomy is continuously negotiated through collegial interactions that both support and challenge it. This article explores how judges experience their autonomy in collective deliberations, focusing on internal independence and the ability to deliberate and decide collectively while maintaining independent judgment within Swedish courts.

Based on ethnographically inspired methods (around 50 interviews and shadowing of trials, deliberations, and informal interactions across four District Courts and two Courts of Appeal), the study examines relational and lived autonomy through a law-and-emotions perspective.

Findings reveal tensions between independence and interdependence. Collegial decision-making may foster positive dependence: collegial support, safety, and better-reasoned outcomes. Yet internal independence is constrained by hierarchies, evaluation systems (individual salary setting, grading, promotion), workload and time pressure, spatial arrangements, and interactional dynamics (senior judges' discouragement of dissent). Such conditions can inhibit open disagreement, particularly among junior judges. The study identifies autonomy-enhancing practices, such as the rule that the most junior judge to vote first, explicitly encouraging dissent, circulating drafts for feedback, and allocating time for solitary reflection.

Conceptualising judicial autonomy as dynamically relational, the article contributes empirical depth to debates on judicial independence and offers practical insights for leadership, training, and procedural design aimed at safeguarding internal independence while preserving the benefits of collegial deliberation.

Dying, death and loss in co-housing – emotional experiences in the intersection between collectivity and individualisation

Cathrin Wasshede

Göteborgs universitet

Emanating from a previous research project about co-housing and sustainability, and an interest in death and dying, I started a project about dying, death and loss in co-housing for people "in the second half of life". Ten qualitative interviews have been done to explore how dying, death and loss are experienced and handled by persons living in co-housing communities. In this session I will present empirical results and some initial analyses with a focus on emotional aspects.

Both public discourses and previous research have stated that humans in our times are alienated from death, due to medicalisation, professionalisation and individualisation of death and dying. Co-housing projects are thus interesting cases to study since they are built on collectivity and community – and therefore might be seen as forms of resistance to these alienating processes. Residents in co-housing create everyday relationships with each other since they share areas in the house as well as everyday activities such as cooking, eating together and taking care of the facilities. Further, in co-housing for people "in the second half of life", the residents are quite often confronted with death due to the age of themselves and their co-residents. One central question is if and how ideals and practices around sharing and collectivity affect dying, death and loss.

The aim of the project is to explore experiences of dying, death and loss in co-housing, as situated in the intersection between collectivity and individualisation, and what we can learn from them.

Rural chronotopes and community life in polycrises

Åsa Wettergren

Göteborgs universitet

Research on rural areas has long been centering on problems like depopulation, deindustrialization, the withdrawal of state welfare services and more recently on green-green conflicts around reindustrialization governed by transition to ‘green growth’. The purpose of this paper is to analyze rural chronotopic narratives, in the context of the interlocked crises of climate change and biological degradation: the threats of hybrid war; and the far-right political turn hitting hard on state subsidized rural civil society activities. Chronotope (coined by Bakhtin) conceptualises time and space as an integrated unit. In narratives, chronotope marks external time-space horizons and internal 'textures of space wedded to the rhythm of time' (Lawson 2011:385) and functions as a bridge between stories and real events and actions. With the sociology of emotions as theoretical framework the analysis develops the concept of chronotope as narrating embodied and emotional experience. The data consists of 20-25 interviews with inhabitants in a rural area representing different perspectives (e.g. municipal civil servants, artists and musicians, local food producers, ‘neo green-wavers’, summer residents, and ‘natives’). The results demonstrate a rich diversity of rural community life and how overlapping local networks and activities, building on a shared chronotope, can generate mutual trust and care across potentially antagonistic group boundaries. In conclusion, I propose that enhanced understanding of rural civil society and community life can inform our visions of collective preparation in times of polycrises and, thus, how re-localization can be socially sustainable.

(Dissertation PM) Feeling, accepting and contesting - Emotional experiences of working with corporate environmentalism

Ulrika Winter

Örebro universitet

During the last decades of increasing environmental concern, the environmental impact of business has come under increasing scrutiny. Responding to this, companies have taken on a more proactive approach to environmental protection, called corporate environmentalism. Ample research has dealt with corporate environmentalism as a discourse and organizational practice, comparing claims and actions to assess its feasibility and often criticizing it for obscuring contradictions between profit maximization and environmental protection. However, less attention has been paid to how such contradictions are experienced in everyday life by people working to implement corporate environmentalist practices, including to what extent they personally find their jobs meaningful.

More attention to everyday experience and assessment of the ecological crisis in has come from the literature on ecological emotions. Researchers have explored how emotional responses to looming or actual environmental catastrophes inform environmental (in)action. However, less research has explored how these emotions are in turn shaped by dominant environmental discourses.

In this dissertation project, I aim to contribute to the understanding of the social organization of emotions towards the climate crisis, by exploring the emotions of climate professionals, and how they are shaped by, maintain, or possibly challenge the corporate environmentalist discourse. I will conduct semi-structured interviews, shadowing and observations of climate consultants advising private companies on climate impact management. Their statements and interactions with each other as well as their clients will be analyzed through a theoretical framework drawing on Hochschild's emotion work and feeling rules, as well as the Gramscian concept of hegemony.

7. Familj och nära relationer

Constructing Sexuality as Shame: Turkish Women's Emotions in Marriage

Aylin Akpinar

Linnéuniversitetet

A generation of middle-class Turkish professional women who married in the 1980s has voiced the belief that sexuality is often treated as a source of shame for Turkish women, leading to feelings of inhibition in their marriages. For many, this became a compelling reason to divorce. This paper focuses specifically on five professional, middle-class women aged 45 to 55, each of whom had children and whose marriages had lasted between 4 and 19 years before they finalised their divorces. The overall study involved narrative interviews with fifty-three divorcées from various age groups and social backgrounds residing in Turkey's largest metropolitan areas —Ankara, İstanbul, and İzmir. The cities were selected due to their high rates of divorce. Considering sexual scripts as dominant narratives that give cultural information and images about how women and men should behave sexually, it became possible to understand the feelings of shame that all five women had to cope with in their marriages. Thematic analysis brought up the themes of the construction of sexuality as privilege for men but as shame for women in marriage, and sexuality within the confines of reproduction for women but pleasure for men. Through these themes and narratives, the paper illustrates how these women have resisted societal expectations in their marriages and ultimately chose divorce as a form of liberation. I

Keywords: middle-class Turkish women's sexuality, marriage, divorce, sexual script, honour and shame complex

Less Work for the Family's Project Leader? The Gendered Division of Labour within Families with a Minimalist Lifestyle

Jenny Alsarve, Lisa Elliot, Helen Peterson

Örebro universitet

Minimalism has been popularized as a sustainable lifestyle to simplify daily life and free up resources such as time and money for families. We still however know little about how minimalist practices intersect with gender relations in everyday family life and the on-going negotiation of traditionally gendered household labour. This paper therefore addresses the question: To what extent do minimalist lifestyles challenge and/or reproduce gendered divisions of labour within families? To answer this question, the paper draws on qualitative interviews with 21 women and six couples who engage with minimalist practices in their everyday family life.

The analysis shows how the women tended to initiate the minimalist project with the explicit intention to achieve a more manageable, sustainable, everyday life. However, although many intended for minimalism to be a family project, they themselves frequently assumed the main responsibility for decluttering, organizing, and reducing household consumption, especially in relation to children. Men, meanwhile, were more often positioned as taking on a supportive role and were less engaged or involved in the daily work of maintaining minimalism.

The study thus highlights how minimalism can both challenge and reproduce a traditional gendered division of labour within families which strive to achieve a minimalist lifestyle.

Later-Life Labour: Paid Domestic Care Work by Retirees

Terese Anving, Sara Eldén

Lunds universitet

Since the introduction of the RUT tax deduction in 2007, the market for private domestic care services has grown rapidly in Sweden. Today, deductions can be made for cleaning and gardening, as well as for care services such as going for walks, providing companionship, assisting with dressing, and helping with personal hygiene. One main group that make use of the tax deduction are elderly over the age of 65 (Riksrevisionen, 2020:5). The employees in the sector are, however, less researched. Previous studies have shown that women and people with migrant background are overrepresented, (Eldén & Anving, 2019; Riksrevisionen, 2020; Silfver Widding, 2024), but in our study of the RUT-market targeting the elderly we have observed a new group of employees: Swedish women pensioners that take upon hourly employment after their own retirement. In this paper, we focus specifically on this group of workers and, based on data from interviews with RUT companies, employees, elderly individuals purchasing the services, and their relatives (40 interviews so far), we analyse, firstly, their different pathways to employment in the RUT sector, and secondly, how the they understand and view their work, as well as, how they negotiate their position and relationship to the elderly.

Older Adults and Intimate Partner Violence: To Seek Help or Remain Silent?

Terese Anving, Maria Wemrell

Lunds universitet

Intimate partner violence constitutes a widespread societal issue, with major implications for individuals and society at large. Older adults represent a particularly vulnerable group, yet research concerning their experiences remains limited. Existing studies on violence against the elderly have often overlooked partner violence, while research on partner violence has predominantly focused on younger age groups (Band-Winterstein & Avieli, 2022; Simmons, 2021). Elderly women have been identified as especially susceptible to partner violence (Johansson et al., 2022), partly due to insufficient awareness among professionals regarding the specific vulnerabilities of this group. Furthermore, older individuals may experience heightened dependency on their perpetrators due to age-related factors and health conditions, particularly when they receive or provide care within the relationship (Mysyuk et al., 2016). Few report and seek help, something that can lead up to an escalation of violence (Fraga Dominguez et al. 2021). At the same time, knowledge regarding what hinder or facilitate help-seeking is limited. This presentation draws on findings from a larger research project investigating exposure to partner violence and help-seeking behaviours after such exposure among older adults (aged 60–84), using survey data as well as interviews and written narratives from survivors. In this presentation we ask: what do older victims describe as barriers to or facilitators for seeking help following experiences of intimate partner violence? Based on an initial analysis of the qualitative data, we examine these accounts through an intersectional lens, with particular attention to gender, social class, and migration background.

Implications of an Incomplete Gender Revolution for Low-Resourced Single Mothers in Sweden

Lovisa Backman

Stockholms universitet

The ability to combine paid work and family life gender-equally has been a longstanding policy aim in Sweden, which has sought to solve this problem by supporting dual-earner-dual-carer families. This study explores how low-resourced single mothers meet family needs in Sweden, using coupled parents as a comparison group. Sixteen single mothers, thirteen coupled mothers, and two coupled fathers participated in seven focus groups during spring 2023. While Sweden is considered a frontrunner in the gender revolution, I suggest that the policy assumption of equal parenting disadvantages low-resourced single mothers. Swedish social policies are predicated on a perceived equal division of parenting, but checks to ensure equal parenting are few. When the division is highly unequal, single mothers are set back by policies that assume gender-equal parenting or do not compensate for its absence. These insights further our understanding of how gender-equal-driven policies can reinforce inequalities when they overlook family diversity.

How can we best understand what characterises parenting? A conceptual analysis

Disa Bergnehr

Linnéuniversitetet

In 1996, sociologist Sharon Hays published the reclaimed and much cited book Intensive mothering: the cultural contradictions of motherhood, based on 38 interviews with urban, Californian mothers, and North American parenting advice books of that time. Thirty years later, the concept intensive mothering/parenting – and what it implies – continues to be used by researchers from other national contexts and from another time. In this paper, I take a critical stance towards Hays' theorising. Drawing on work from philosophy, psychology, anthropology and sociology, I propose alternative ways to understand and explore what characterizes parenting and what the ideals are that influence parents' practices. I suggest that a good starting point for understanding parenting is Ruddick's (1995) notion that parenthood is a status signifying that the person engages in direct and indirect practices that aim to protect, nurture and train the child since this is what every child "demands" for survival, growth and social acceptability. The demands intertwine and can come into conflict, which prompts parents to reflect on their strategies and alter their actions. The ambivalence that contradictory demands can cause is thus inevitably ingrained in being a parent, and here, I will draw on Parker's (2005) work to problematise Hays' reasoning on contradiction. Also, agency and relational aspects are pertinent to acknowledge when conceptualising parenting: both parent and child are actors who have a great part in forming the outcomes of their relationship and everyday family life. This paper presents and discusses theories on parenthood and suggests ways forward.

The gender composition of siblings, gender-typed preferences, and educational choice

Magnus Bygren, Kieron Barclay

Stockholms universitet

This study explores whether a key structural aspect of the family environment—the gender composition of siblings—shapes the development of gender-typed preferences that influence educational choices. The gender of a sibling provides a large-scale natural experiment, allowing us to study how gendering processes operate within families.

Using Swedish population register data, we examine educational choices at both the upper-secondary level (N = 425,064) and university level (N = 133,297) among first-born Swedish men and women in two-child families, focusing on cohorts born between 1980 and 2003. We also investigate whether parental educational background modifies these associations.

Our findings show that men who grew up with brothers are more likely to apply for female-dominated upper-secondary programs than men who grew up with sisters, while men with sisters are more likely to pursue some male-dominated tracks than men who grew up with brothers. These patterns are particularly evident among men from less-educated families. However, we find no significant relationship between sibling gender composition and university subject choices for men, nor any differences in educational choices for women.

Overall, the results provide some evidence that growing up in a mixed-gender sibling group may contribute to a more gender-typed upbringing for men. That is, a sister seems to be a masculinity-reinforcing contrast for men, but brothers do not seem to be a similar feminizing contrast for women.

Family Care Across Borders: Ukrainian Migrants in Sweden and Their Elderly Parents in Ukraine

Lyudmyla Corney

Lunds universitet

My PhD project focuses on Ukrainian migrants in Sweden and how they sustain long-distance care relationships with their elderly parents in Ukraine. The possibility of adult migrants to maintain long-distance care with their stay-behind parents is becoming an increasingly pressing issue globally. In lower- income countries, migration (especially female) has created a care gap that local state structures have little capacity to fill, placing more pressure on migrants to maintain long-distance care.

While scholarship on transnational families often emphasizes the resilience of cross-border ties, my study highlights how care is shaped by political and socio-economic conditions, the lived experiences of migration, and by gendered and classed inequalities. Ukrainian migrants provide a compelling case-study, given their increased presence in Europe and high involvement in long-distance care, for instance though remittance sending. Furthermore, the ongoing war in Ukraine allows to explore how the context of war and insecurity shapes the way adult children and parents navigate care across borders.

The project draws on the interviews with Ukrainian migrants in Sweden and their parent(s) in Ukraine. The sample comprises migrants of different gender, age and family situation and diverse socio-economic and migration background. The presentation demonstrates preliminary findings from interviews with the migrants, with some reference to insights from parents in Ukraine to contextualize the care dynamics.

Att köpa omsorg till mamma: Nya ojämlikheter på äldreomsorgens arena

Sara Eldén, Terese Anving

Malmö universitet

Den politiskt subventionerade marknaden för RUT-tjänster förändrar vardagens omsorgspraktiker för äldre. Sedan 2007 har marknaden vuxit i snabb takt, och äldre över 65 år är en av de grupper som främst nyttjar RUT-avdraget (Riksrevisionen 2020:5). Samtidigt har det blivit svårare att få offentligt finansierad hemtjänst (Szebehely et al 2017). Det innebär att äldreomsorgen blir alltmer stratifierad i förhållande till inkomst, vilket är ett avsteg från tidigare svensk jämlikhetspolitik (Andersson & Kvist 2014). Detta innebär också att organisering och hantering av omsorgstjänster i allt högre grad faller på anhöriga (Ulmanen 2015). Med utgångspunkt i semistrukturerade intervjuer med anställda i sektorn, äldre och deras vuxna barn analyserar vi den diversifierade äldreomsorgssituationen i Sverige, med särskilt fokus på förhandlingar om vad som är ”god omsorg” och uppdelningen mellan familj, marknad och offentligt finansierade omsorgsaktörer för att uppnå detta.

Scripts wanted? Lesbian couples in Sweden after the transition to motherhood

Madeleine Eriksson Kirsch

Stockholms universitet

Drawing on pre-birth and post-birth interviews with women in lesbian couples, this study address a puzzling change in how these women talk about (not) having roles and pre-assigned scripts for their families of two mothers. Before they became mothers, the women constructed their relationships as positively absent of predefined roles and scripts. In the follow-up interviews, the lack of scripts for their type of family was largely approached as a disadvantage. This change in narrative is explored through the meanings the women attach to being two mothers, and what type of motherhood ideals underpin these meanings. The findings show that many of the women adhered to an intensive motherhood ideal. To some extent, gendered norms and expectations in motherhood was viewed as positive and as serving the lesbian-headed family as a resource. While being two mothers was conveyed as an advantage—as the burdens of motherhood were spread across two individuals—it also brought challenges of its own. The challenges relate to the absence of scripts. These findings are discussed in relation to sociological perspectives on 'negotiated' and 'democratic' families. Since these concepts also capture underlying beliefs and discourses around gender equality, the empirical findings not only challenge late modern sociological theories but also contemporary gender equality ideals from the perspective of lesbian families.

Reflexivt arbete: en könad motsättning i samtida intima relationer

Veronica Flyman

Göteborgs universitet

Denna artikel introducerar reflexivt arbete – förmågan att tänka kring och kommunicera känslor – som ett centralt begrepp för feministisk analys och kritik av samtida intima relationer. Å ena sidan bygger intima relationer idag på ömsesidigt reflexivt engagemang som ett uttryck för jämställdhet; å andra sidan är den strukturerad enligt en patriarkal logik. Kommunikativa och kognitiva processer kring känslor feminiseras, nedvärderas och undergrävs konsekvent, vilket gör dem inneboende motsägelsefulla. Vidare framhäver begreppet reflexivt arbete hur reflexivitet främjar känslomässigt engagemang, vilket utmanar den patriarkala dikotomin mellan känsla och tanke och vidareutvecklar sociologiska teorier om relationen mellan känsla och reflexivitet.

Med stöd i Anthony Giddens och Jürgen Habermas teoretiska ramar kring intim reflexivitet respektive kommunikativ handling, argumenterar artikeln för att reflexivt arbete som kommunikativt ideal normativt vilar på jämlikhet, ömsesidighet, ärlighet och uppriktighet, och är centralt för autentiska, känslomässiga band grundade i tillit. Ur ett Meadianskt perspektiv framhålls vidare att denna typ av arbete är avgörande för emotionellt rollövertagande. Däremot, eftersom det feminiseras och nedvärderas leder reflexivt arbete till ett asymmetriskt rollövertagande. I denna dynamik blir kvinnor mer känslomässigt självmedvetna än män och belastas oproportionerligt med reflexivt ansvar. På så sätt blir kvinnor mer känslomässigt engagerade i intima relationer, samtidigt som män blir mer känslomässigt distanserade. Denna obalans tystar känslor, hämmar uppriktighet, skapar misstro och leder till en bristande självbild. Empiriska exempel från ett forskningsprojekt om singelliv och intimitet i det samtida Sverige – baserat på berättelser från 22 självdefinierade singlar – illustrerar argumenten.

Medicalized Parenting- Neoliberal Parenting Ideologies in Parents' Narratives of their Child's Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnostic Process

Sivan Gal Rosberg

Uppsala universitet

Contemporary neoliberal parenting ideologies are often characterized by intensive parenting, emphasizing self-surveillance, control, and individual responsibility. These ideologies operate bidirectionally, shaping parents' self-identities while being reinforced through broader cultural scripts such as policies and legislation. Parallel to this, other developments have contributed to the growing medicalization of childhood, exemplified by the expansion of psychiatric diagnoses among children. Given parents' central role in these diagnostic processes, their perspectives are crucial to understanding how medicalization intersects with contemporary parenting norms.

However, the relationship between neoliberal parenting ideologies and processes of medicalization remains underexplored.

This study examines how parents perceive and narrate their participation in their children's psychiatric diagnostic processes, focusing on what these narratives reveal about their parental identities. Specifically, the research explores the experiences of 19 parents (14 mothers and five fathers) from 15 families whose children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in Sweden. Using thematic analysis within a narrative framework, the study investigates how parents construct their parenting practices and notions—shaped by intensive parenting ideals—and the events surrounding their child's ASD diagnostic process. The findings reveal, for example, how parents interpret the process of securing a diagnostic process and the meaning of an eventual ASD diagnosis for their child, as related to their own parental decisions, actions, and identities. This illuminates how parents' self-understandings and actions are embedded within broader neoliberal and medicalized discourses of parenting.

Unpacking the discourse of the selective woman

Lena Gunnarsson, Maria Wemrell, Evelina Johansson Wilén

Örebro universitet

While an increasing number of people choose singlehood as a preferred lifestyle, many are involuntarily single, struggling to find a partner. These struggles unfold in a societal context marked by gendered conflicts about how to make sense of the frustrations of dating. While relatively mainstream feminist sensibilities regard heterosexuality as marked by male power, manosphere discourse positions women as being in control when it comes to love and sex. Our study examines how discursive conflicts around gender are played out in involuntary singles' sense-making around the contemporary dating landscape. Drawing on interviews with heterosexual long-term involuntarily single women and men and a survey study, we interrogate how personal experiences of difficulties in dating are translated into broader claims about gender and power. Our analysis centres on a theme recurrent both in our data and in broader discussions about dating: the notion of women being overly selective when it comes to partner choice. While our study confirms that women often take on the role as selective gatekeeper in heterosexual online dating, we question the translation of this fact into a claim about female power. Rather, women's "choosiness" can also be seen as a form of relational labour that is required to bring about a viable match but which men, in their attempts to maximize their chances by lowering their standards, delegate to women. Our analysis sheds new light on the gendered struggles related to frustrated needs for intimacy, thereby contributing to the understanding of broader gender polarization.

Love, Inequality, and the Politics of Intimacy: Rethinking Gendered Power in Heterosexual Relationships

Evelina Johansson Wilén, Lena Gunnarsson, Maria Wemrell

Örebro universitet

Even in highly gender-equal societies such as Sweden, men's violence against women persists at strikingly high levels, revealing the resilience of patriarchal norms within intimacy itself. However, heterosexual love – while often reproducing women's disproportionate responsibility for care and emotional labor – also contains the potential to unsettle gender hierarchies.

In this presentation, we draw on a mixed-methods study of involuntary celibacy and singlehood in Sweden to examine heterosexual love as both a site of women's subordination and a potential locus of transformation of gender relations. Our research combines interviews, survey data, and analyses of online incel forums to explore how different forms of intimacy relate to gendered attitudes and practices.

Empirically, the findings indicate that men's isolation from intimacy correlates with anti-feminist attitudes and the acceptance of partner violence, whereas men engaged in heterosexual relationships tend to express stronger support for gender equality. These patterns suggest that love, far from being a merely private or apolitical domain, plays a crucial role in the reproduction and contestation of gendered power.

We argue that when grounded in mutuality and equality, romantic love can function as a counter-force to patriarchal domination – fostering empathy, shared responsibility, and ethical interdependence. Reimagined as a practice of equality, intimacy thus holds emancipatory potential: it challenges entrenched gender hierarchies and expands the sociological understanding of how personal relationships both shape and are shaped by broader structures of inequality.

Intergenerational Solidarity in the Context of Migration: A Scoping Review

Ayesha Mahmud

Uppsala universitet

The globalisation of international migration has destabilised the ethno-cultural contexts in which family care is provided, particularly amid population ageing. In many societies, the provision of physical, emotional, and financial support to ageing parents is framed as a moral, religious, and in some cases legal duty. This makes the study of intergenerational solidarity in transnational families a pressing concern, particularly where older parents remain in welfare-limited contexts where filial care traditionally falls to children. How migrants negotiate and organise care for their ageing parents across geographical distance constitutes a pressing issue in contemporary scholarship. To capture how scholarship has approached this issue, scoping methodology was used, focusing on the relevant 86 peer-reviewed articles in English that were identified. The guiding question for the review to be presented is: how does existing research on transnational filial care inform our understanding of intergenerational solidarity across borders, and in what ways is migrancy conceptualised within the literature on family care? The corpus was examined through content analysis to trace the dominant assumptions, research questions, and empirical findings that shape this research. The analysis reveals not only the moral and material logics underpinning current scholarship but also significant blind spots, particularly in relation to how intergenerational solidarity and conflict are theorised across borders. By mapping these contours and gaps, the review contributes to advancing debates at the intersection of migration, ageing, and family sociology, and calls for new conceptual tools to better capture the complexities of transnational family life.

‘Mom needs a break, too’: Gendered caregiving for young autistic children in diverse welfare contexts

Hailey Rheault

Örebro universitet

This article examines how caring for young autistic children shapes parents’ daily lives as gendered caregivers and citizens in Canada and Sweden. The study contributes sociological insights into how mothers’ and fathers’ care, work, and family-related decision-making vary within distinct family policy and autism-related support systems. Drawing on semi-structured interviews and written accounts from parents and legal guardians of autistic children under 13 in select Canadian provinces (N = 17) and across Sweden (N = 16), as well as interviews with autism professionals (N = 4), the analysis employs a thematic narrative framework to explore how parents negotiate caregiving alongside paid work and other obligations. Informed by critical feminist and disability studies perspectives, the findings reveal that mothers in both contexts typically assumed primary caregiving roles, undertaking responsibilities from recognizing early signs of autism to navigating services and advocating for their children’s needs. In Canada, these practices were reinforced by ideals of good motherhood, limited public supports, and fathers’ prioritization of financial provision. In Sweden, policy structures afforded parents greater agency, with fathers more visibly engaged in daily care, though mothers still disproportionately adjusted careers and were more likely to assume caregiver roles through national insurance benefits, including extended sick leaves and related entitlements. While parents in both contexts emphasized that filling gaps in public provision was essential to their children’s wellbeing, the comparison shows how family policy and autism-related supports structure available options and shape the gendered practices through which care is negotiated and made meaningful in daily life.

Temporalitet och rättslig praktik: Prognoser och berättelser i bedömningar av barnets bästa

Anna Sonander, Anna Lundberg

Lunds universitet

I denna presentation undersöks hur tid mobiliseras i tingsrättens bedömningar av barnets bästa i vårdnadstvister. Genom en analys av domar, intervjuer med domare och observationer av förhandlingar belyses hur rättsliga berättelser om tid konstrueras och används för att legitimera beslut i en kontext präglad av komplexitet och osäkerhet. Fokus ligger på hur tidigare händelser omvandlas till prognoser om barnets framtida välmående, samt hur domstolen hanterar den temporala dimensionen i sina kortsiktiga och långsiktiga överväganden. Studien visar att tid inte bara är en bakgrundsvariabel, utan en aktiv komponent i rättens sätt att skapa mening och struktur i svåra beslut. Genom att analysera de institutionella ramar som formar dessa berättelser bidrar projektet till en fördjupad förståelse av hur social förändring artikuleras och hanteras i rättsliga praktiker.

8. Genus och Intersektionalitet

Gender Discrimination following Parental Leave

Helen Eriksson, Filip Olsson

Stockholms universitet

Gender inequality in the labor market continues to be strongly shaped by parenthood, with women's careers and earnings declining sharply after the birth of a child. Although men and women in Sweden express highly egalitarian attitudes, parental leave uptake remains gendered, and the mechanisms sustaining this imbalance are not fully understood. This study examines whether unequal treatment of men and women based on their parental leave choices—termed leave-based gender discrimination—helps explain persistent disparities. Using a nationwide vignette experiment conducted through Sweden's probability-based Novus panel, we randomly assigned 1,026 respondents to evaluate an employee (male/female) who had taken parental leave of varying lengths (none, two weeks, three months, twelve months, or fifteen months). Participants then recommended a salary increase for the employee. The factorial design allows us to isolate gendered evaluations of identical leave durations. Preliminary analyses show that women who take shorter-than-average leaves receive lower salary recommendations than men taking the same leave, suggesting that women are penalized for behavior that deviates from gender norms of caregiving. Conversely, men who take long leaves are rated less favorably than comparable women, indicating a penalty for fathers who exceed normative expectations. Regression models confirm a significant negative association between leave length and salary recommendations for men but not for women. These findings demonstrate that both mothers and fathers are subject to gender-specific penalties for non-normative leave choices, highlighting how deeply entrenched norms of caregiving continue to shape workplace evaluations even in an egalitarian context.

”Att tvingas föda på sjukhus är ett kollektivt övergrepp på kvinnor!” Gynocentrisk feminism och postfeminism i den svenska hemförlossningsrörelsen

Mia Eriksson

Linnéuniversitetet

Presentationen behandlar den svenska hemförlossningsdiskursen och hur den artikuleras på sociala medier i början av 2020-talet. Syftet är att visa hur hemförlossningar positioneras som en motdiskurs till sjukhusförlossningar och formuleras som en feministisk fråga. Det empiriska materialet består av anteckningar från online-observationer av offentliga Instagram-konton som förespråkar och informerar om hemförlossningar. Dessa konton positionerar hemförlossningar som ett säkrare, friare och mer ”naturligt” alternativ till vad som beskrivs som en förtryckande, patriarkal och misogyn sjukhusmiljö. De framställer också hemförlossningar som en feministisk fråga. I den här presentation argumenterar jag för att den feminism som uttrycks inom hemförlossningsrörelsen är både gynocentrisk och postfeministisk. Den bygger på idén om den kvinnliga kroppens särskildhet från den manliga kroppen och centrerar den kvinnliga kroppens intuitiva förmåga att föda barn. Kvinnan är, i denna feminism, en förhållandevis oproblematisk subjektsposition som kan intas av alla som delar vissa kroppsliga erfarenheter, såsom ägglossning, menstruation, graviditet och födande. Men det rör sig inte om en återgång till 1970- och 80-talens gynocentriska feminism. Det gynocentriska perspektivet slås här samman med en postfeministisk syn på frigörelse som ett individualistiskt projekt som främst eftersträvar självbestämmande och valfrihet. Centralt i hemförlossningsdiskursen är inte att kvinnor ska föda utanför sjukhuset, utan att den individuella kvinnan ska kunna välja var och hur hon vill föda och att detta val ska grunda sig helt och hållet på den egna kroppens behov och begär. Utforskandet av hemförlossningsdiskursen är alltså också ett utforskande av en samtida feministisk position och en diskursiv konstruktion av den kapabla födande kvinnan.

Care, Protection, Paternalism? Unpacking Gender and Class to Understand Emotional Labour and Expression in Drought-Affected Polish Farming Households

Marta Gospodarczyk

Warszawa universitet, Polen

The research on which this paper is based examines the gendered impacts of drought on Polish farming households. Its findings, based on participant observations in two locations in Poland and 30 IDIs with adult members of farming households, show that both men and women attempt to manage the emotional consequences of drought for other household members; these attempts are influenced by socially legitimate models of masculinities and femininities, and are connected to class-based modes of emotional expression.

Farming men are more likely to take on a role as stoic leaders, sometimes deliberately withholding information about the farm's condition, financial burdens, and their own mental state from their wives. Women express concern about their partners' stoicism and its impact on their health, and offer emotional support, doing what can be described as emotional labour and stepping into the role of a helper. In households with children, both men and women attempt to shield them from negative emotions and the consequences of drought, for example, by renegotiating the household budget to accommodate children's needs. These strategies are born of the logic of care and protection; however, they are enacted in distinct gendered and classed ways.

Using the concepts of protective masculinities, caring masculinities, emotional capital, and emotional labour, the paper will untangle the ties among class, gender, and place in emotional expression and mutual emotional care during a drought crisis. The rules of gender, place (rural Poland) and class all intersect to create emotional scripts of care, protection and paternalism.

Ideal mothers and Others in the German anti-gender opposition

Isabel Köhler

Göteborgs universitet

In this article, I examine how motherhood is conceptualized and mobilized in the German anti-gender opposition. This research links scholarship on anti-gender politics, on the sexual politics of the far- and extreme right, and on motherhood as a discourse. The German far right has been actively involved in opposition to gender equality and feminism, especially in the last 15 years - during which queer, trans, and women's rights have increasingly become codified into law. In this polarized context, family life has been at the forefront of debates. Yet, scholarship has focused on discourses around the child, while the mobilization of parenthood, and especially motherhood, by anti-gender organizations has not been researched yet. In this article, I explore the question "how is motherhood being conceptualized and mobilized in anti-gender opposition?", aiming both to explore empirically and to theorize. Based on material from a German anti-gender podcast, I investigate social processes through which anti-gender actors (re)produce difference and hierarchy in their construction of traditional motherhood. The article is based on a feminist intersectional and critical theoretical foundation and the analysis follows a social-constructivist grounded theory logic. I find that heterosexual, cis motherhood is constructed to be the only acceptable life path for women, whereas lesbian motherhood is devalued and othered, and the abjection of queerness makes trans and queer motherhood inconceivable.

Equal Ranks, Unequal Burdens: Dual-Officer Families in NATO Sweden

Frida Linehagen, Jenny Landberg, Henny Hedström

Kings College / Försvarshögskolan

Military organisations place unique demands on their members, including exposure to danger, geographical mobility, and separations, all of which affect the entire family (Segal 1986). Research has shown that such organisations are deeply gendered (Linehagen 2023; Persson & Sundevall 2019), where loyalty articulates with gendered expectations and shapes both military and civilian life. In this article we ask: what happens when both spouses in a military family are officers? We approach military power through the concepts of loyalty and affective labour, and show how these dynamics unfold in the Swedish Armed Forces at the time of NATO accession, where gender-equality ideals intersect with intensified operational demands. Drawing on interviews with dual-military families, we demonstrate how loyalty is both reproduced and resisted: women disproportionately shoulder affective labour, sustaining both family life and the military, yet this work also generates stress, sacrifice, and sometimes the decision to leave the organisation. We argue that the family as an institution sets limits on military power, thereby nuancing classic accounts of military wives' free labour. By making these contradictions visible, the article contributes to critical military studies by showing that militarisation is not all-pervasive but fragile, shaped by the bodies and emotions that sustain it.

Blygden under kniven. Kvinnors delande av erfarenheter av "intim" kosmetisk kirurgi.

Petra Roll Bennet

Stockholms universitet

Att uppleva att delar av sin kropp som fula och avvikande från det ”normala” kan orsaka obehag, oro och skam. För att radikalt förändra delar av kroppen används ibland kosmetisk kirurgi. Vanliga kosmetiska kirurgiska ingrepp i Sverige är fettsugning, bröstförstoring och näsoperationer, alla relativt ”synliga” ingrepp. Den här presentationen handlar om ett mindre synligt ingrepp, ”intimkirurgi”, vilket ofta innebär en förminskning av de inre blygdläpparna. Feministiska perspektiv har både framställt kosmetisk kirurgi som förtryckande (Bartky, 1997; Bordo, 1989). samt som ett medel för kvinnor att uppnå autonomi (Davis, 1995).

Presentationen analyserar hur kvinnor uttrycker sina erfarenheter av genital kosmetisk kirurgi i ett svenskt onlineforum. Särskilt fokus läggs på hur teman som skam, smärta och föreställningar om normalitet artikuleras. Studien utgår från ett feministiskt kritiskt förhållningssätt och Objektifieringsteorin (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997) samt begreppet Violability (kränkbarhet) (Nussbaum, 1995)

Analysen, baserad på 210 trådar visar att skäl till operation inkluderar skam över utseendet, att underlivet upplevs bulligt, ojämnt och för obehagskänslor vid fysisk aktivitet. Före operationen uttrycks förhoppningar om "design vagina", men också rädsla för komplikationer som känselbortfall. Efter operationen beskrivs fysisk smärta och ånger, att underlivet är "trasigt och förstört". Andra uttrycker lättnad, förbättrat sexliv och ökat självförtroende.

Avslutningsvis diskuteras självobjektifiering där kvinnor internaliserat den sexualiserade blicken och hur den kvinnliga kroppen konstrueras som utan gränser, som är tillåtet att bryta upp, krossa och bryta sig in i. Kirurgin blir till ett projekt som upplevs som frivilligt men nödvändigt och ett sätt att nå normalitet.

Preschool Girls, Mega Influencer Moms, and the Doing of Gender on Social Media

Megan Rådesjö, Isabel Köhler

Göteborgs universitet

Gender subjectification begins early in life and is constructed relationally within the gender order. While gender equality efforts have made progress across Western Nations, they are increasingly under threat by anti-gender and anti-feminist opposition. Within this context, we explore girls' clothing as a site of symbolic struggle facilitated through social media. By queering the concept of doing gender and using the concept of 'stickiness', we frame stylistic choices as politically charged. Through this lens, we analyze how the presentation of preschool-aged girls' clothing on macroinfluencer moms' Instagrams and TikToks participate in the ongoing social (re)construction of gender. In our analysis, we approach these digital spaces as arenas that open up the possibilities for doing, undoing, and redoing gender subjectification. We ask: How do social media representations of preschool-aged girls' clothing on macroinfluencer moms' social media accounts participate in the doing, undoing, and redoing of gender? The study contributes to feminist sociological debates on gender, childhood, and digital culture by showing how everyday online practices mediate the affective attachments and disciplinary forces that sustain and, at times, trouble the contemporary gender order.

Forest Activists' Practices of Care as Feminist Work

Natt Söderpil Jakauby

Linköpings universitet

My paper explores everyday practices of care among anti-capitalist, anti-colonial, and leftist forest activists on the Swedish side of Sápmi. Engaging in civil disobedience and direct action to resist clear-cutting, activists defend Sámi and environmental rights while enacting relational, justice-oriented, and collective forms of care. In the context of climate coloniality and the green transformation, these practices illuminate how social change is imagined, embodied, and enacted.

Drawing on six and a half weeks of participatory, feminist-informed ethnographic fieldwork in 2025, including on-site participation, online engagement, and approximately fifteen conversations, I explore care as an embedded, material, and relational practice. It manifests in shared meals, kitchen routines, emotional support rituals, and ethical engagement with more-than-human beings. While care is increasingly recognized as important for sustaining social movements, particularly in mitigating burnout, it often remains invisible and under-theorized.

Situating care within feminist theory, social movement studies, and the concept of climate coloniality, I show that care functions both as sustaining and a prefigurative practice enacting alternative futures. Practices of care include negotiating shared resources, maintaining collective infrastructures, organizing accountability rituals, and ethically considering humans and non-humans affected by activism. These practices make invisible labour visible, construct collective needs, extend care beyond human communities, as well as show tensions and exclusions. My paper contributes to feminist scholarship by demonstrating how everyday, relational, and material practices of care can operate as both transformative praxis and feminist knowledge.

Kvinnor i fysiskt krävande militära roller i Sverige

Annika Öhrner Lindén, Aida Alvinius

Försvarshögskolan

Fysiskt krävande militära roller – ofta jägar- eller elitfunktioner – präglas av höga prestationskrav och starka symboliska normer om vem som ”hör hemma”. Trots formellt könsneutrala inträdeskrav utgör kvinnor en minoritet och bedöms ofta mot en manligt kodad måttstock. Studien undersöker hur kvinnor som kvalificerat sig till dessa roller i Sverige erfar och tolkar tillträde, tillhörighet och legitimitet, samt vilka strategier som möjliggör erkännande i vardagen.

Empirin består av femton semistrukturerade intervjuer med kvinnor verksamma eller erfarna inom fysiskt krävande befattningar, främst jägarroller. Analysen genomfördes med tematisk analys i en explorativ, hermeneutisk tradition.

Tre teman identifierades. (1) Att göra sig redo för att kliva över gränsen: målmedveten fysisk och mental förberedelse, där träning används för att göra kroppen kompatibel med krav som i praktiken speglar manliga ideal. (2) Att positionera sig inom gränsen: ett vardagligt gränsarbete präglat av överprestation, balans mellan synlighet och anpassning, ansvarstagande och återkommande självkritik. (3) Att förskjuta gränsen genom sin närvaro: gradvis normalisering via uthållig prestation; legitimitet byggs även genom organisatorisk förmåga, uppmärksamhet på detaljer och teoretisk kunskap, men erkänns inte alltid som likvärdig meritering.

Kvinnorna fungerar som boundary spanners som överskrider och förhandlar gränser mellan exkludering och inkludering. Deras närvaro synliggör könade villkor och skapar normförskjutning inifrån, men på villkor som ofta kräver oproportionerlig anpassning. Studien bidrar med en fördjupad förståelse av svenska erfarenheter och pekar på behov av ledarskap, utbildning och organisatoriska processer som erkänner flera former av duglighet – med bäring på rekrytering, utbildningsutveckling och operativ förmåga i svensk försvarsomvandling.

9. Historisk sociologi

Social Change through the Lens of Student Migration

Leonora Dugonjic-Rodwin

Stockholms universitet

Students from postcolonial Africa and the Middle East, sent in large numbers to study abroad with the hope of becoming physicians, have often been analyzed through the lens of political or militant engagement and conceptualized as “new elites” or “modernizing cadres”—a perspective shaped by what Abdelmalek Sayad called “state thought,” and more recently “methodological nationalism.” How can we understand these departures beyond purely political and strategic logics? What might a sociological reading reveal?

I examine the trajectories of students who left postcolonial countries to study in Yugoslavia between 1965 and 1982—and often remained there, defying state and family expectations. This unique case of what might be called peripheral international migration challenges prevailing geopolitical categorizations (“North/South/East/West”) and exposes the reductive interpretations applied to generations of international students, which have focused on an instrumental view of their emigration.

Drawing on cross-referenced sources—archives, federal statistics, and biographical interviews—my paper constructs an object of study outside Western hegemonic circuits of resource accumulation abroad, testing the hypothesis of so-called “international capital” through the lens of its fragilities. It highlights the social logics behind decisions to leave and to stay. Far from guaranteeing clear social advancement, these trajectories reveal forms of misalignment and downward mobility, as well as renegotiations between family aspirations involved in the process of emigration and the actual possibilities of adapting to the position of immigrant in the new context.

Den första svenska gröna vågen i ett historisk-sociologiskt perspektiv

Samuel Edquist

Mittuniversitetet

I presentationen diskuteras det tidiga 1900-talets utbredda kritik av den snabba urbaniseringen och industrialiseringen, som fördes fram av olika aktörer över hela det politiska spektrumet. Det finns goda skäl att betrakta detta som den första ”gröna vågen” i svensk historia. Vid sidan av en högerinriktad strävan att genom utbredande av agrara ideal motverka moderniseringens samhällsupplösande krafter, fanns det också utopiska och ibland revolutionära strömningar som vurmade för landsbygdsmiljöer. Inom författar- och konstnärskretsar sökte sig många till och bosatte sig i glesbygdsområden, till exempel Rackstadkolonin i Värmland. Men också i folkrörelserna odlades en utopisk landsbygdsromantik, inte minst i nykterhetsrörelsen och den vegetariska rörelsen, men även i arbetarrörelsen där många associerade städer och industrialism med kapitalismen. Exempelvis grundades Brunnsviks folkhögskola 1906 i Dalarna intill skolgrundaren Karl-Erik Forsslunds lantliga bergsmansgård. Forsslund var en kultfigur för åtskilliga unga i den tidens nykterhets- och arbetarrörelser, främst för sin radikalt landsbygdsutopiska roman Storgården (1900) om just hans nyinköpta gård.

Mycket är ännu okänt om det tidiga 1900-talets gröna våg och dess likheter och skillnader med senare motsvarigheter. Inom det nystartade Formasfinansierade forskningsprojektet Gröna vågor i tre epoker – En historisk-sociologisk undersökning för hållbara miljöomställningar tas dock ett helhetsgrepp på dessa vågor. Medan jag studerar den första gröna vågen analyseras 1970-talets och samtidens motsvarigheter av projektledaren Katarina Giritli-Nygren, Lena Sohl och Emelie Pilflod-Larsson, och tillsammans ska vi löpande analysera mekanismerna över tid. Projektet föranleder också en löpande diskussion om själva begreppet historisk sociologi liksom om dess tänkbara preciseringar ”historiskt inriktad sociologi” och ”sociologiskt influerad historievetenskap”.

Kapitalismens 'dubbla rörelser'. Faser med socialt inbäddade – och urbäddade – marknader 1637–2022, exemplet Allmänna Barnhuset i Stockholm

Martin Gustavsson

Stockholms universitet

Övergången från ett traditionellt förkapitalistiskt samhälle till ett modernt industrikapitalistiskt samhälle stod i fokus i de klassiska sociologiernas arbeten. Även Polanyi var upptagen med Den stora omdaningen (1944) mot slutet av 1700-talet. Förtjänsterna med Polanyis teori om den ”dubbla rörelsen” i kapitalismens utveckling – pendlingsrörelserna mellan en reglerad/inbäddad och oreglerad/urbäddad marknadsekonomi – är att även senare omvandlingsperioder kan inkluderas i analysen, t ex den som mot slutet av 1900-talet förvandlade det (reglerade) industrikapitalistiska marknadssamhället till ett (avreglerat) post-industriellt marknadssamhälle.

Genom att studera Allmänna Barnhusets interna ekonomi 1637–2022 mot bakgrund av de ovannämnda svängningarna i samhällsekonomin fångar bidraget upp sessionens intresse för sociologiska teorier, historiska material, metoder och tekniker för periodisering. Att jämföra barnhusets försörjningsvillkor före, under och efter stora omvandlingar ställer höga krav på källmaterialet. Den obrutna serien räkenskaper från 1637 och framåt i barnhusets arkiv håller måttet. Hur hantera den långa undersökningsperioden? Genom att använda (1) systematiska tvärsnitt och endast samla in material var 10:e år och (2) tolka den uppgrävda informationen med en analysmodell som pekar ut när perioder med (statligt dirigerad) marknadsexpansion slår över i perioder med (spontant utbrutet) marknadsmotstånd.

Ett övergripande resultat: barnhusekonomins omvandling är tätt sammankopplad med samhällsekonomins omvandling. Samtliga historiska skiften som modellen pekar ut kan identifieras i barnhusets huvudböcker. Socialhistoriskt axplock: inom det traditionella samhället var barnens tvångsarbete i barnhusmanufakturerna olönsamt, trots uttalade vinstmotiv. Inom 1800-talets renodlade marknadssamhälle var barnen lönsamma, trots uttalade vårdmotiv. Det hade utvecklats en fosterbarnsmarknad som begränsades först med välfärdsstatliga inbäddningsreformer på 1900-talet.

Who Controls the Digital Means of Knowledge Production?

Pablo Antonio Lillo Cea

Uppsala universitet

Since the 1980s, university research has become increasingly dependent on digital infrastructures. What began as a means of support (computers, email, statistical software) has evolved into the very medium through which research is organised, communicated, and governed. Yet, the infrastructures enabling this dependence are rarely designed or controlled by researchers themselves. Decisions about hardware, software, cloud storage, and, more recently, generative AI tools are typically made by IT units, administrators, or external vendors. This raises fundamental questions of scientific autonomy and digital sovereignty: who controls the digital means of knowledge production, and how have they gained legitimacy to do so?

Existing research in IT governance treats these dynamics as managerial or technical challenges, while Science and Technology Studies highlights distributed agency but seldom institutionalised authority. Likewise, recent applications of Bourdieu's field theory tend to introduce notions like "digital capital" rather than analyse how expertise converts into bureaucratic power.

This study addresses these gaps by tracing the genealogy and governance of IT power in Swedish universities—from early computing centres to today's cloud- and AI-driven ecosystems. Combining historical analysis, process tracing, and ethnography, it seeks to uncover how infrastructural decisions redistribute autonomy between researchers, administrators, and vendors. In an era framed by digital transformation and AI innovation, the project seeks to illuminate how struggles over infrastructural control reshape the relations between social fields, revealing contemporary mechanisms through which bureaucratic and technical authority intersect with scientific autonomy.

Pentecostalism and Antisemitism

Markus Lundström

Karlstads universitet

This presentation outlines how Pentecostal perceptions of Jews developed alongside the lead-up, outbreak, and aftermath of the Holocaust – the infamous incarnation of modern racism epitomized during the Second World War. It disentangles the nexus of Christian Zionism and political antisemitism by analyzing the teachings of pastor Lewi Pethrus (1884–1974), an early international organizer and Swedish Pentecostalism's grand old man. By examining Pethrus' books, articles, editorial work, archived sermon manuscripts, and private correspondence, the study here presented highlights a racialization an ambivalent understanding where Jews represented both a threat and a promise: Jewish power posed a threat to Swedish culture through a degenerative and anti-Christian agenda; relocation of Jews to Palestine bore the promise of God's plan for universal resurrection. With this theological outlook, the Pentecostalism of Lewi Pethrus included resistance against the alleged Jewish agenda to challenge Christian values and undermine the Swedish nation. Pethrus Christian Zionism harmonized with the idea of repatriation, a racializing logic for excluding people by linking them to an imagined homeland. In this sense, Pethrus' dispensationalist Jews-to-Palestine call – based on Jer 16:16, by which Pethrus identified with Zionism's fishermen rather than antisemitism's hunters – remained his political solution to the so-called Jewish question and served as a leitmotif to his Pentecostal politics of national rebirth.

Sekulariseringens berättelse inom och bortom sociologi

Erika Willander

Umeå universitet

Hur kan Sverige samtidigt vara ett av världens mest sekulariserade och ett av världens mest mångreligiösa samhällen? I den här presentationen söker jag svar på den frågan genom att betrakta sociologins vetenskapshistoriska utveckling i ljuset av tre historiska offentliga diskussioner. Presentationen sammanfattar hur sociologiska bevis för- och emot sekularisering i Sverige och förhåller sig till de mest inflytelserika antagandena om sekularisering. Genomgången identifierar kamp mellan övertygelser och maktens tolkningsföreträde som ett förbisett perspektiv av sekularisering i Sverige. Argumentet fördjupas genom presentation av tre offentliga diskussioner: (1) Djävulsdebatten i Dagens Nyheter 1909, (2) Tro och vetande diskussionen med utgångspunkt i Ingemar Hedenius bok utgiven 1949 samt, (3) Diskussionen av den datadrivna Sverigebilden från 1980 och framåt. Presentationen avslutas med ett resonemang om nya perspektiv på sekularisering i Sverige som öppnar upp för tolkning av samtidens paradoxala tendenser.

10. Kritisk välfärdsforskning

Using the gut feeling: An Analysis of Street-Level Bureaucracy and Preventive Work with Children and Youth at Risk of Social Exclusion and Criminality

Goran Basic, Veronica Burcar Alm, Agneta Mallén

Linnéuniversitetet

The purpose of this study is to gain new knowledge about practical work with children and young people (aged 0-15) who are at risk of social exclusion and criminality. The study explores how professional actors within preventive work practice and negotiate their scope for action when confronted with complex social situations. The particular focus is on how gut feeling ("magkänsla" in Swedish) influences assessments and how certain children and young people become visible or invisible in these situations. The empirical material for the study was collected in connection with a pilot project in a big Swedish city ("Ourtown") through participant observations at 15 project meetings, qualitative interviews with seven staff members, and documents produced within the project. The study's analysis and interpretation of the collected material show that professionals' "gut feeling" is central to identifying and supporting children and young people at risk. However, subjective assessments and organisational constraints simultaneously render some children and young people invisible. Gut feeling functions as a tool for managing uncertainty and prioritising interventions, while policy and everyday practice sometimes diverge. For practice, this implies that organisational structures, coordination, and shared assessment frameworks need to support professionals' judgement-based assessments to reduce the risk of children and young people becoming invisible. The study also demonstrates that ethnographic methods are particularly useful for making visible the everyday assessments that shape children's and young people's access to support, thereby opening possibilities for further research on inclusive and effective preventive strategies.

Beständig ojämlikhet och föränderlig välfärdsstat: idrott och samhällsnytta

David Ekholm

Linköpings universitet

Sedan 2023 fördelar regeringen årligen 100 miljoner kronor till Riksidrottsförbundet för att för att stärka idrottsrörelsens närvaro i de områden som Polismyndigheten benämner som utsatta eller särskilt utsatta. Satsningen kallas Idrottsklivet. Regeringen motiverar satsningen med fokus på brottsförebyggande effekter, medan Riksidrottsförbundet betonar inkludering i föreningsidrott, rekrytering av ledare och föreningsutveckling. Mellan dessa mål finns spänningar som gör sig gällande i hur medel fördelas, hur arbetsformer utvecklas och hur centrala frågor om föreningsutveckling, områdesutveckling och brottsförebyggande förstås. Studiens syfte är att skapa förståelse för hur (till synes) olika ambitioner och intressen förhandlas med varandra och mellan olika parter och därtill skapa förståelse för hur aktiviteter, relationer och rörelser uppstår inom ramen för dessa spänningar och förhandlingar. Med en etnografisk utgångspunkt analyseras policydokument, massmedia, fokusgruppsintervjuer, intervjuer och observationer med skuggning. Studien visar hur den sociala ojämlikhetens villkor skapar differentierade former för barn- och ungdomsidrott och som därmed bryter upp den traditionella föreningsidrottsmodellen; hur föreningar omförhandlar sitt fokus på idrott och/eller samhällsnytta; hur ekonomiska investeringar krävs för att upprätthålla lokala infrastrukturer; hur satsningen etablerar utrymmen för motstånd och en mångfald av perspektiv. Välfärdsstaten omvandlas i sina vardagliga aktiviteter, relationer och rörelser. Omförhandlade relationer mellan stat, kommun och idrottsrörelse för att möta sociala problem som följer i spåren av ökad ojämlikhet visar på olika utvecklingslinjer i omvandlingen. Resultaten berör den sociologiskt ständigt aktuella frågan om beständighet och/eller föränderlighet. Ojämlikheten förefaller vara av viss beständighet, men dess effekter leder olika aktörer och flöden på föränderliga sätt och i nya riktningar.

Förändringar av policy och rutiner på gräsrotsnivå i myndigheters kontakt med klienter: underhållsstödsreformen tio år senare

Stina Fernqvist, Marie Flinkfeldt

Uppsala universitet

Den här studien undersöker institutionell förändring över tid, med fokus på hur ny policy implementeras och realiseras i gräsrotsbyråkraters arbete med klienter. Vi studerar regelverket som 2016 infördes för underhållsstöd, en ersättning som Försäkringskassan kan betala till en separerad förälder som inte får underhåll från den andra föräldern. Regeländringen skärpte kravet på föräldrarna att själva hantera underhållet, samtidigt som underhållsstöd fortsatt kunde beviljas vid ”särskilda skäl”, exempelvis hot eller våld i relationen.

Vi har genomfört intervjuer med försäkringskassehandläggare vid två tillfällen: i samband med regelverkets införande samt tio år senare. Intervjuerna analyserades tematiskt. Resultaten visar att handläggarna i det första skedet upplevde stor osäkerhet inför att hantera frågor om våld, att utbildningen var knapphändig och att riktlinjer och metodstöd saknades. I intervjuerna från 2025 framträder en större säkerhet i hur frågor om våld kan ställas och hur svaren kan tas emot, samtidigt som handläggarna uttrycker fortsatt engagemang kring de problem som kvarstår i Försäkringskassans hantering av sådana frågor.

Jämfört med 2016 är utbildningsinsatserna inte märkbart större idag, och det metodstöd som tagits fram används begränsat. Däremot har erfarenhet av att hantera frågor om våld ackumulerats, både hos enskilda handläggare och på organisatorisk nivå. Betydelsen av erfarenhet inom gräsrotsarbetet betonar att institutionell förändring inte enbart följer formella riktlinjer utan också formas av professionellt omdöme som utvecklas över tid. Studien visar att handläggarnas ökade trygghet främst är ett resultat av situerad praktik, vilket understryker behovet av att förstå implementeringsprocesser som dynamiska och präglade av samspelet mellan policy, praktik och erfarenhet.

Tjäna in på gungorna vad man förlorat på karusellen: Digitala språng och klyftor inom insatser för särskilt stöd och service innan, under och efter covid-19-pandemin

Richard Gäddman Johansson

Stockholms universitet

Denna presentation behandlar digitaliseringen av funktionshinderomsorgen i Sverige, med särskilt fokus på det ”digitala språng” som utlöstes av covid-19-pandemin i relation till befintliga digitala klyftor (”digital divides”) för personer med intellektuell funktionsnedsättning. Frågan som ställs är vad som gick förlorat och vad som tillkom under en period av digital transformation, då daglig verksamhet—en insats enligt lagen om stöd och service till vissa funktionshindrade (LSS, SFS 1993:387)—försökte erbjuda sina tjänster till stödanvändare inom ramen för en nationell strategi som på betydande vis begränsade den direkta kontakten med verksamheternas omsorgspersonal. Empirin bygger på ett nyligen avslutat forskningsprojekt om digital inkludering och stöd till meningsfulla aktiviteter inom daglig verksamhet för vuxna med intellektuell funktionsnedsättning, före, under och efter pandemin. Materialet består av transkriberade intervjuer med stödanvändare (n=16), omsorgspersonal (n=23) samt verksamhetschefer (n=15) vid dagliga verksamheter som i varierande grad använde digital teknik i sitt arbete. Resultaten visar bland annat att stödanvändare och omsorgspersonal inte bara gjordes olika sårbara (”situational vulnerability” respektive ”pathogenic vulnerability”) under pandemin, utan även att deras respektive sårbarheter stundtals kolliderade med varandra. Ett annat centralt resultat är att omsorgspersonalens roll och yrkesidentitet omformades (”boundary blurring”) och ifrågasattes (”boundary making”) till följd av den ostrukturerade implementeringen av digital teknik. Avslutningsvis diskuteras dessa resultat i relation till deras implikationer för det fortsatta arbetet med att stärka digital inkludering och rättigheter för personer med intellektuell funktionsnedsättning i Sverige.

Socio - gerontechnological encounters: implementing welfare tech on a local level

Magdalena Kania Lundholm, Jessica Wide

Högskolan Dalarna

This presentation is based on the results from a research project which purpose has been to describe, understand and compare experiences and practices regarding digitalization process, and more specifically, implementation and coordination of the, so called, socio-gerontechnologies or welfare technologies, on a municipal level in Sweden. Such technologies include, among others, digital admin systems, digital locks, night surveillance cameras and medicine-dispensing robots. They are employed in the context of digital welfare provision and are often perceived, at least on the policy level, as solutions to problems of demographic ageing in developed societies, promise equal access to services and healthcare provision as well as promote independence, safety and support among caregivers and caretakers. Based on interviews with fourteen managers and two focus group interviews (n=7) with members of personnel known as DigiCoaches, the goal has been to critically examine local manager's and care workers' experiences with welfare technology implementation, potential tensions between policy and practice and understandings of technology's place in social service and care provision. The results show three main overarching themes; firstly they point to the shifting relations between people and technology where the latter is understood either as potential replacement of human work or assisting it, secondly there are tensions between the logic of effectiveness at work and the logic of care at home and thirdly, due to these socio-gerontechnological enounters, there is a potential space for critique and resistance emerging from the tensions between policy and practice.

Moralizing Retirement in the Active Society: The Case of the 'Jobbonär'

Jon Sunnerfjell

Göteborgs universitet

This paper explores how the figure of the jobbonär - a hybrid of "job" and "pensioner" - is constructed and normalized in Swedish advertising material produced by staffing agencies targeting retirees. Drawing on a critical discourse analytic approach, the study examines how these promotional texts and images portray retirement as a period of cheerful productivity, where older adults are encouraged to remain active, positive and self-managing. The advertisements feature smiling, healthy pensioners joyfully performing tasks such as gardening, cleaning, and home maintenance, all of which are activities framed as both pleasurable and socially valuable. The analysis situates this discourse within the activity imperative that permeates contemporary welfare governance and its orientation toward active societies, encouraging all individuals to continuously optimize and activate themselves in the context of a retrenching welfare state. Through this lens, the jobbonär emerges as a moral and affective ideal: a citizen who mitigates welfare dependency by embodying so-called active aging and self-responsibility (Rose, 1999). By interrogating how such representations align with broader processes of welfare state retrenchment and responsibilization, the paper contributes to research on inclusion, exclusion, and identity formation. It argues that the jobbonär discourse both reflects and reproduces shifting, yet persistently moralized, boundaries between work, retirement, and citizenship in late-modern welfare societies. Importantly, the paper suggests that the discourse resonates precisely because it draws on enduring moral ideals of industriousness and usefulness, deeply rooted in Swedish work culture and most notably articulated through the work-strategy (arbetslinjen) tradition.

Vägar, omvägar och avvägar till vård: 65-plussare i den digitala välfärdsstaten

Dino Viscovi

Linnéuniversitetet

För svenska myndigheter gäller numera strategin digitalt först som innebär att kontakten mellan medborgare och myndigheter i första hand ska ske via digitala plattformar och kanaler – och inte via traditionella kontaktvägar som telefon, brev eller platsbesök. Med befintlig kunskap om digitala klyftor (van Dijk 2001) kunde man på förhand förmoda att en sådan strategi riskerar att äventyra medborgarnas likvärdighet: att resursstarka gynnas och resurssvaga missgynnas, vilket senare också har visats empiriskt (se t.ex. Olsson & Viscovi 2023).

Detta, liksom forskningen om "the digital welfare state" (van Toorn et al 2024), bildar bakgrunden till den aktuella studien som beskriver och analyserar svenska 65-plussare och deras konkreta erfarenheter av vårdkontakter, företrädesvis via den föreskrivna plattformen 1177.se.

Materialet består av trettio intervjuer med individer, 70-90 år, med varierande digitala färdigheter och som i varierande grad har integrerat digitala medier i sina vardagsliv. Intervjuerna kombineras med besök på 1177.se. Genom intervjuerna och interaktionen med gränssnitten blir det möjligt att mera i detalj undersöka hur den som enskilde gör för att ta sig fram vårdsystemet, och varför somliga är lyckas och är nöjda, och varför andra misslyckas och känner vanmakt.

Teoretiskt tar studien sin utgångspunkt i Murdock et al (1992) och idéerna om de materiella, diskursiva och sociala resurser som gynnar tillsägelsen och användningen av digitala medier. Resursmodellen har därefter uppdaterats och elaborerats med hjälp av forskning från bl.a. e-government-service, e-health och channel choice.

Responsibilisation of people in precarity in an unequal housing landscape – the role of housing coaches in ”social dumping” in Sweden

Ulrika Wernesjö, Maria Persdotter

Linköpings Universitet

Since 2019 there have been reports of (mainly) wealthy suburban municipalities with a shortage of affordable housing encouraging – or coercing - people who have difficulties securing housing to relocate to other, often depopulating, post-industrial mill town, municipalities. In media reports this has been referred to as ”social dumping”. The government, on the other hand, has coined the term ”active participation in re-settlement”.

The purpose of the paper is to critically interrogate the role of housing coaches in the so called ”social dumping” between municipalities. Housing coaches employed by social services or municipal integration services, have been identified as key actors in the relocation of housing insecure people to other muncipalities. The analysis is based on on-going research on experiences and politics of “social dumping” in sending and receiving municipalities in Sweden.

The housing coaches’ work is guided by rationalities of individual responsibility and activation. Housing insecure individuals are obliged to be active to find housing (on their own) on an unequal housing market, while the housing coaches are there to guide, inform and to some extent assist them. Further, the housing couches emphasise that the opportunities to find affordable housing within the municipality are scarce.

To conclude, we argue that the understanding of ”active participation to resettlement” and focus on the practices of housing coaches downplays structural conditions and inequalities on the housing market, locally and nationally.

Är en förebyggande socialtjänst möjlig? En undersökning av implementeringen av den nya socialtjänstlagen

Jessica Wide, Sverre Wide

Högskolan Dalarna

Sedan den 1 juli 2025 gäller en ny socialtjänstlag i Sverige med uttalade mål om en mer förebyggande, lättillgänglig och kunskapsbaserad socialtjänst. Detta projekt undersöker hur intentionerna i den nya lagen förstås, förhandlas och översätts till lokal praktik i ett antal kommuner i Dalarna. Med utgångspunkt i organisationsteori, professionsteori och kunskapssociologi studeras hur begrepp som "förebyggande", "lättillgänglig" och "kunskapsbaserad" tolkas och operationaliseras i kommunernas implementeringsarbete. Genom tre delstudier – dokumentanalys, deltagande observation och kvalitativa intervjuer – analyseras variationer i behovs- och lägesanalyser, aktörers förståelse av omställningsarbetet, samt organisatoriska översättningspraktiker. I fokus för projektet står inte enbart praktiska och organisatoriska aspekter, utan också grundläggande kunskapsmässiga, etiska och identitetsmässiga frågor om det sociala arbetets natur och framtid.

11. Konstsociologi

Regimes of Engagement in Urban Creative Commons: The Case of Hacker and Maker Spaces

Anki Bengtsson

Stockholms universitet

Urban creative commons and politics are often associated with shared visions. This study examines hacker/makerspaces and tech spaces as forms of creative commons. They are sites where diverse actors such as engineers, artists, activists, and hobbyists converge to experiment, share resources, and co-create. While previous research has explored such spaces through the lenses of co-production and participation, this paper focuses on how configurations of commonality are shaped within these environments.

The empirical material consists of self-presentational texts from websites and digital archives, alongside six interviews conducted between 2016 and 2025, offering a temporal perspective. The analysis centers on what engages participants in the various creative commons expressed through discourse, practices, and material objects. Furthermore, attention is paid to the spatial aspects of these environments and the ways in which creative spaces are organized. The analysis draws on Thévenot's sociology of regimes of engagement and grammars of commonality, which illuminate tensions between moral commitments to the 'good' and practical engagements with reality.

Preliminary findings suggest that multiple value regimes are mobilized in these spaces: freedom and creativity (inspired world), efficiency and scalability (market grammar), inclusive access (civic grammar), and technical development (industrial grammar). Tensions and compromises emerge through familiar, planned, and justifiable forms of engagement, with their ordering varying depending on whether the space is self-organized or institutionally structured.

This study contributes to the sociology of creativity by foregrounding the moral dimensions of collective creative practice and highlighting the tensions between diverse modes of engagement within creative commons.

Same, but different: Making a market for cultural entrepreneurs through the formation of a field for cultural incubators

Hanna Borgblad, Maria Norbäck, Elena Raviola

Högskolan i Borås

A free and independent cultural sector is considered important for the development and maintenance of Western democracies. In Northern Europe, the cultural sector has historically been financed primarily by public actors. However, over the last decades, the public role in this sector has diminished, while ideas of entrepreneurship and self-employment have gained prominence. Various actors have intervened in this transformation toward increased entrepreneurialism. One such actor is a relatively new type of organization, the cultural incubator, positioning itself as an intermediary between the state, seeking to increase the number of entrepreneurs in the cultural industries, and the cultural workers, striving to find jobs and sources of income from their creative work.

In this paper, we explore the role and practices of cultural incubators and examine how a market for cultural incubators themselves is created. These incubators operate in the interstice between the worlds of art and culture and the world of business and entrepreneurship, functioning simultaneously as cultural organizations and entrepreneurial incubators. Specifically, we focus on how cultural incubators are typified as a particular kind of market actor that, in turn, contributes to shaping the cultural field into a better functioning market for cultural workers. Drawing on institutional theory, the analysis employs the concepts of typifying and alterifying as simultaneous processes through which actor identities are constructed. The paper is based on a qualitative study of 10 Swedish cultural incubators and their national member association – CreArtive – which acts as their representative body.

Life at a Religious Boarding School at the Brink of War: Poet Werner Aspenström's Formative Experience at Sigtuna's Folk High School (1936-1939)

Henrik Fürst

Stockholms universitet

Werner Aspenström, a former member of the Swedish Academy and one of the country's leading poets, offers a compelling case study on the influence of institutional life at a Swedish folk high school on the brink of the Second World War. From 1936 to 1939, the Christian boarding school at Sigtuna Folk High School profoundly impacted Aspenström's intellectual and creative development. While the life and ideals at the school significantly shaped him and his early literary career, he later rejected those ideals. This presentation draws on archival materials from the mid-1930s to early 1940s as well as his later letters and recollections about this time at the school. The presentation analyzes how institutional structures and power relations shape everyday experiences within this folk high school. Focusing on the experiences, interactions, and relationships within and around the folk high school during this period, the presentation explores how these forces are manifested through the relationships between students and the school, among students themselves, between students and teachers, and in the school's connections to other educational institutions and broader society. This approach emphasizes understanding how institutional practices, norms, and rules influence individuals' lives, revealing the often unseen power dynamics that shape experiences that become particularly pronounced in a boarding school. It allows for a deeper analysis of Sigtuna Folk High School's boarding school and its impact on students like Werner Aspenström, both during their time at the school and in their subsequent lives, with the looming Second World War as a backdrop.

Project and Process: Celebrating Three Years of a Creative Sociology Writing Competition

Lisa Winters

Coastal Carolina University (United States)

There is growing recognition that creative writing in all forms serves as a powerful medium through which sociologists can engage students and communicate the sociological imagination to broader audiences. Work at the intersection of sociology and creative writing helps forge micro-macro connections, cultivates empathy, and encourages critical reflection among participants and readers alike.

In this presentation, I will explore the marriage between sociology and creative writing through an interdisciplinary collaboration between Sociology and Creative Writing faculty at my university, resulting in the South Carolina Creative Sociology Writing Competition. Now in its third year, the competition invites undergraduate and graduate students from across the state to submit short fiction, poetry, or creative non-fiction pieces. Each submission must be accompanied by a 500-word exegesis highlighting the key sociological concepts, theories, and research that provide context to the creative work. Submissions are blind-reviewed by a panel of four judges (two sociologists and two creative writers) who evaluate both the creative merit and the sociological insight of each entry.

The competition culminates in prize money for first, second, and third place winners, with opportunities to present and publish their work. In this presentation, I will outline the competition's requirements and provide an inside look at the process of organizing, funding, judging, and hosting this interdisciplinary literary project, highlighting lessons learned and best practices for fostering creative engagement with sociology.

12. Kultursociologi

You may find yourself in another part of the world: How Japanese vinyl and cultural practices found a home in Europe

Christopher Bondy

Stockholms universitet

Following the theme of “Same as it ever was,” by highlighting old media and its subsequent resurgence, this paper considers how specific vinyl record cultural practices are transmitted globally. It begins with a focus on Japan, which has come to occupy a central place, materially and imaginatively, in the global renascence of vinyl culture. While Japanese record stores, pressings, and listening bars are often celebrated for their technical precision and aesthetic refinement, I argue that their significance extends beyond material sound quality to encompass an affective and symbolic idea of “Japaneseness” outside of its geographic boundary. Drawing on multi-sited ethnographic research in Japan and Europe, the study traces how Japanese vinyl, and its related cultural practices, circulate through transnational networks of collectors, DJs, and tourists who imagine Japan as an environment of analog authenticity.

The paper situates these practices within theories of cultural circulation and affect, showing how objects such as Japanese pressings, obi strips, and reissues operate as “sticky” media that bind listeners to emotions of nostalgia, care, and reverence. In Europe, listening bars modeled on Japanese aesthetics materialize this imaginary, translating Japan’s analog sensibility into new local contexts. The demand for Japanese pressings of records in record fairs and shops (re)enforce this imaginary of a purity of sound.

By examining Japan as both a real node of material circulation and an imagined locus of analog perfection, this paper highlights how affect, authenticity, and global media flows intertwine to produce contemporary forms of cultural belonging and sonic intimacy.

Symboliska gränser av ”vi” och ”dom” i skolan

Carina Carlhed Ydhag

Stockholms universitet

Skola och utbildning framställs inom kultursociologin som en interstitiell institution (Alexander & Tognato, 2018) med potential att förmedla civila värden och solidaritet gentemot den andre. I denna tolkning utgör utbildning en central kraft i skapandet av ett kollektivt och inkluderande "vi" i samhället. Men det är inte alltid självklart vilket slags ”vi” som avses. Jeffrey C Alexander (2006) visar i sina studier av civilfären att denna är uppbyggd kring binära koder som avgör vilka värden, övertygelser och identiteter som anses legitima. Känslor av tillhörighet formas genom mening och emotioner, vilket gör civilsfärens gränser dynamiska och möjliga att omförhandla. Dessa symboliska gränser kan därmed öppnas för ökad pluralism eller tvärtom leda till en inskränkning av civila värden och identiteter. I studien som presenteras finns en rad olika slags ”vi” och ”dom” på en grundskola och de specifika historiska, sociala och kulturella förhållandena spelar stor roll för hur dessa gränser görs, vilket problematiseras i presentationen. Det framträder en samling av föreställningar om vad som bidrar till skolans goda skolprestationer, t.ex. i lärarsamarbeten men det tycks finnas även annat som påverkat det goda utfallet. Det finns en stark lärarburen samarbetskultur och hängivenhet till skolan, men det finns även påverkan av andra sfärer. Men vad som räknas egentligen som legitimt vad gäller mål och medel för elevernas skolframgång, och av vem/vilka? Och vad räknas som skolframgång? I skolan har etnografiska fältstudier genomförts och intervjuer har skett med all pedagogisk personal inklusive skolledningen, med huvudmannens representanter och med elever på högstadiet.

Struggle and Sublimation: The Social Formation of Musical Beings

Lisa Högkil

Uppsala universitet

This presentation contributes to the discussion of social reproduction and change by sharing findings from an ethnography of the socio-musical shaping of pupils (aged 6-18) at a Swedish music-profiled school. Based on observations of musical practices and performances, the analysis highlights ongoing conflicts arising from the interplay of pupils' past experiences, present circumstances, and future aspirations. The social shaping of pupils into 'musical beings' emerged as a struggle between embodied history (structures tending towards reproduction) and immediate expectations (practices tending towards change). However, this shaping was not solely about drill but also about pleasure, and pupils demonstrated remarkable dedication to their practice. To understand how it was possible not only to endure but also to find joy and purpose in the struggle, I draw on both Bourdieusian and psychoanalytical theory. While Bourdieu proposed illusio as the captivating power of social fields (a field-specific devotion), Freud viewed libido as the internal drives of human beings, which, through sublimation, can be directed towards socially valuable goals (such as musical performance). Both processes (socialisation of illusio and sublimation of libido) appear central to pupils' musical development, making it both meaningful and manageable. Nonetheless, how and to what extent pupils became sublimated towards a musical illusio was socially conditioned and varied depending on pupils' social positions and historical backgrounds. Therefore, the social formation of musical beings emerged as an ongoing battle between past and present, pleasure and pain, reproduction and change.

Learning to influence: Ethnography from a political influencer academy

Alice Junman

Uppsala universitet

In an increasingly mediatized and digitalized society, political actors and institutions are in the midst of learning to navigate new spaces and technologies for political communication. Social media has become central in reaching and affecting potential voters, especially younger. But the logic of social media, embedded both in platform affordances and platform culture (volatility, speed, and individualized self-branding), is not best suited for established organizations or institutions: instead, 'regular' users can better master the economic and cultural logic of attention that prevail on social media, making them valuable resources for parties and other political organizations to use.

In this paper, I explore one effort to manage the growing importance of social media on behalf of an established political actor. Through ethnographic observations and interviews, I study an academy for progressive content creators run by a media company owned by a Swedish political party. The academy started in the fall of 2024 and gathers participants mainly from the youth league of the party who, through lectures and workshops given by prominent influencers, are taught how to use influencer strategies in their own content creation. The academy as a case represents how the political field navigates the growing pressure of new power brokers and technologies. The analysis focuses on how the tensions between two previously distinct fields is made possible and legitimate through discursive strategies, and on what the participants are being taught, which reveals something about the position of influencers and social media in the political field.

Så skruvas en bilmekaniker

Sofie Krantz

Linnéuniversitetet

Denna avhandling undersöker hur elevskap och lärarskap konstrueras och omtolkas i vardagliga interaktioner på ett fordonsprogram. Syftet är att förstå hur elever socialiseras till yrkesrollen som bilmekaniker och hur yrkeslärare formar både elever och nya kollegor i lokala yrkeslärarkollegier. Fokus ligger på hur identitet, normer och maktrelationer samspelar i skolans och branschens sociala och institutionella ordningar.

Studien bygger på etnografiskt fältarbete, med deltagande observationer i klassrum och verkstäder samt intervjuer med elever, yrkeslärare och branschföreträdare. Analysen är tematisk och visar hur socialisering och identitet utvecklas i relation till institutionella strukturer, lokala tolkningspraktiker och individers erfarenheter.

Resultaten visar att elevernas yrkesidentitet formas i samspel mellan skolans regler, lärarnas selekterande handlingar och branschens krav. Maskulinitetsnormer och yrkesprototyper styr vilka elever som inkluderas och marginaliseras, medan yrkeslärarnas identitet präglas av balans mellan arbetslivets praktiska värden och skolans akademiska krav. Praktikgemenskaper och branschaktörer fungerar som grindvakter som påverkar elevernas möjligheter till yrkes- och arbetslivsintegrering. Elevdifferentiering och statushierarkier i skolans vardag skapar ojämlika villkor och påverkar identitetsskapandet över tid.

Avhandlingen bidrar teoretiskt genom att visa socialisation och identitet som dynamiska och förhandlade processer, empiriskt genom detaljerade insikter om fordonsprogrammets vardagspraktiker och maskulinitetsregimer, och metodologiskt genom kombinationen av etnografi och intervjuer som verktyg för att förstå yrkesidentitet i interaktion mellan skola och arbetsliv.

Language matters in day-to-day trade union representation: How unions in Denmark construct and respond to migrantised differences

Mai Lundemark

Linnéuniversitetet

This study explores how the labour force, constructed as migrant, is represented by unions in daily union work. Drawing on theory of discourse and myth of class and nation, discursive constructions of migrant difference are analysed. Thereafter it is shown how the constructs of migrant difference relate to union responses of signification and action. Drawing on four years of field work in two Danish unions within the cleaning and bike mechanic trade in Copenhagen, the study finds that language difference is the focal and accepted way for unionists to differentiate between Danish and migrantised workers. Though language differences are signified as central to union representation in both unions, they are met with different forms of action. A two-by-two typology of union representation of migrantised workers is developed, in which union representation is understood as an interplay of union responses of signification and action. The findings show the importance and ways in which language matters in and for union representation. The typology teases out how representational work can be said to address exploitation particular to migrantised workers, or not. Hereby the study contributes to our understanding of union representation as cultural practice per se, as well as to empirical insights into the character of contemporary union representation of migrantised workers in Denmark.

Creating social cohesion through strong emotions – existential rituals in a heterogenous society

Anna Lund, Stina Bergman Blix

Stockholms universitet

In many life-altering situations, such as when a midwife delivers a baby or a priest leads a funeral, strong emotions are expected and recognized. While strong emotions are often associated with private experiences, these 'existential rituals' are fundamentally social. Successful rituals commemorate relationships and belongings, serving as the social glue of society (Durkheim, 2008). Existential rituals can uncover emerging societal challenges, as they become subject to diverse expectations. In a heterogenous society, the performance of existential rituals demands negotiation and adaption to generate and reproduce symbolic value (Alexander, 2004). Building on pilot interviews within one of four studied occupational fields, spiritual work, this presentation identifies fundamental elements and challenges in practitioners' performance of existential rituals: 1) balancing flow, feelings of joint presence in the moment, and control, the steering and adjusting of performances; 2) creating boundaries for professional adaptability such as the symbolic production of "returning to earth" in a religious funeral; 3) mitigating empathic work in rituals through preparatory understanding and interactional attuning. Sweden serves as a case in point: a society combining secular and individualistic cultural orientations with a super-diverse population and growing socioeconomic segregation, conditions that call for deliberate strategies to adapt existential rituals to varied expectations. The study advances theoretical fine-tuning of the emotional undercurrents in ritual production, and how to adapt to diverse expectations without losing symbolic and cohesive value. In practical terms, the creation and reproduction of successful rituals can provide a societal solution for narrowing recognition gaps (Lamont, 2018) in segregated societies.

That's How We Play It! Navigating the (a)Social Lives of Freelance Careers

Anna Nørholm Lundin

Stockholms universitet

To work is to engage in a social setting that is both rewarding and demanding, where belonging and recognition play vital socializing roles. The rise of flexible employment in the gig economy underscores the need to understand the social life of work itself, its meanings and functions. Creative workers—freelance musicians in this case—offer insights into what it means, as a professional, to navigate fluid, temporary, and complex social interactions and relationships. Drawing on Bourdieu's concepts of illusio and habitus, this paper examines how musicians shape and reshape an embodied 'feel' for how the game of music should be played—artistically and socially. The empirical study is based on interviews with professional freelance musicians in the art music genre. The findings show that musicians begin shaping their sense of musical engagement in childhood and youth, drawn to inspiring environments that offer belonging and mutual recognition. During higher education, competition intensifies, and musicians learn the importance of remaining 'current' within professional networks, and enduring such pressures becomes central to their identity. Through their careers, they cultivate an orientation that balances optimism about the profession with preparedness for its challenges. Social networks are crucial, providing both opportunities and support, yet demanding careful navigation. Two types of habitus are identified, reflecting an overall ease or unease in navigating the social dynamics of freelance musical life. In conclusion, the social life of freelance careers is both a condition and a resource, for better or worse.

Professionalism, Fun and Gendered Risk: Anticipatory Socialization in the Student Union of an Elite Business School

Max Persson

Stockholms universitet

In this presentation, I report on preliminary findings from 1.5 years of ethnographic fieldwork at the student union of an elite business school. I show that members had to master the art of switching back and forth between professionalism and fun — two dominant yet partly conflicting modes of being elite business students and performing their roles as “managers” within the union.

While professionalism involved demonstrating special skills and talents in managing others, being efficient, communicative, and consistently goal-oriented, fun entailed the ability to lose oneself in what Fine and Corte (2017) call “collective hedonic satisfaction,” conveying carefreeness, high spirits, positivity, and energy. The ability to switch effortlessly between these modes appeared to constitute an embodied elite distinction — signaling that one has what it takes to become a successful business manager — as well as a ritual of identification, through which members bonded with others who were likewise aspiring business leaders. Combining professionalism and fun in a coherent embodied style was of importance to be seen as a well-rounded aspiring manager in the post-bureaucratic, neoliberal, "big" corporation with fuzzy hierarchies and a quest for entrepreneurialism and positivity.

Furthermore, my findings highlight that fun often constituted a situation of both physical and reputational risk, particularly for female members of the union. While women tended to excel in managerial professionalism, they experienced parties as risky spaces and found it more difficult to effortlessly switch between professionalism and fun. I conclude by discussing the union's party culture as a mechanism of gender reproduction of business elites.

Craft, traces, and historical imagination

Robin Porsfelt

Lunds universitet

The paper examines how contemporary craft entrepreneurs reconstruct the past, builds professional reputation, and cultivate consumer taste through what I refer to as ’craft archaeology’. The analysis foregrounds and delineates the strategic use of traces, as in material leftovers from earlier practices that, through means of situated interpretation, becomes treated as sources and tools in fashioning distinct craft imaginaries. Focusing on the case of Swedish craft cider makers, I investigate a process through which such traces were identified, interpreted, and marshalled as evidence that linked and motivated present activities in relation to absent histories. The study situates these practices within the broader evidential paradigm described by Ginzburg (1989), highlighting the epistemological work required to transform traces into credible knowledge. By analysing the relationship between trace-work, expertise, and claims to authenticity, the paper helps clarify a form of cultural-material dialectics of current craft through which collective memory and value are negotiated.

13. Kunskaps- och vetenskapssociologi

The (labor) power of imagination and practical knowledge in the process of innovation

Majsa Allelin

Högskolan i Halmstad

Today, there is a general consensus on what characterizes and distinguishes an innovation from a novel idea or invention—namely, that it has been realized in the market and has thus benefited users or consumers. In other words, innovations have both a social and material dimension, which in our society takes the form of a commodity—whether a physical product, a service or a method of production. In both stages—from idea to invention and from invention to innovation—relevant means of production are required: to produce prototypes, conduct tests, iterate, and develop new products, for example.

For this reason, few inventors and innovators operate outside the constraints of wage labor. The vast majority of industrial inventors—who today are typically engineers—depend on selling their labor power to a company. Still, a mythical and magical idea of the creative process persists, perhaps traceable to its etymological roots. In this chapter, I will explore—both theoretically (through Marx, Veblen, Schön, Polanyi, etc.) and empirically—how capital subsumes the human capacity (specifically that of engineers) to intentionally create something new.

It would not be possible to understand the creative processes of engineers without turning to ethnographic methods, since the early phases of product development are fundamentally tactile and sensory, involving laboratory work and experimentation. This process is also highly social and spontaneous, involving many forms of interaction—interactions that would be impossible to fully grasp without real-time study. In contrast to outdated notions of the solitary genius, I will illustrate how professional innovation workers—engineers—experiment and materialize their (labor) power of imagination.

What is Educational Science(s)?

Felix Bengtsson, Laura Giorio

Uppsala universitet

In the literature about scientific domains, the term “discipline” is frequently invoked without definition or with a series of contested views. Often, it is understood to rely on some level of institutionalization and governance of the knowledge it pertains. However, “disciplines” exist with varying degrees of cognitive integration and organizational structures, rendering them a complex object of study, often in need of contextualization.

We enter this discussion by proposing a conceptual framework that sees a continuum of scientific domains structured along two main dimensions. One dimension encompasses various levels of cohesiveness in basic theoretical frameworks and research methodologies, while the other dimension displays various levels of institutional manifestations. In this space of scientific domains, we propose that a certain combination of both is necessary to be considered a “discipline”. We use Educational Sciences in Sweden as a case study of a scientific domain that has seen strong institutional drives for the creation of a fully developed discipline. By applying bibliometric methods, we show that despite these pushes for an institutionalization of the scientific domain, Educational Sciences spans various disciplines. As such, the departmental strength and the concentration of funding moved Educational Sciences along the first (institutional) dimension of this space of scientific domains. In the second dimension, Educational Science research in Sweden remains multidisciplinary in character and much akin to an object of study rather than a discipline.

The Revolt of the Knowing – Exploring the Dynamics of Knowledge Societies

Kristoffer Berglund, Lea Fünfschilling

Lunds universitet

Contemporary societies are sometimes called knowledge societies. While the concept is often used in descriptive terms, its (macro)theoretical richness has sometimes been overlooked in sociology. Nico Stehr's corpus represents a notable exception. Knowledge societies are constituted by a proliferation of specialized knowledge which is increasingly integrated into all aspects of everyday life. The quantitative increase has generated a qualitative shift. Science – a very particular form of knowledge – is instrumental. For states and institutions, it has meant a vast increase in their power through the control of technological infrastructures, dominance over information and data, and the transformation of warfare. For individuals, these societies have been accompanied by an increased knowledgeability among citizens. In macrosociological terms, however, this increased knowledgeability has generated a tension in which the growing power of institutions is counterbalanced by an expansion of citizen agency, as individuals are increasingly able to mobilize collectively in response to institutional authority. This paper centers on this tension identified by Stehr. Drawing on the sociology of knowledge tradition, it explores how the knowledge society can be a useful analytical lens for understanding contemporary social issues. To this end, the paper integrates a range of empirical examples such as the political difficulties of sustainability transitions, the "crisis of expertise", and the competing claims to legitimate knowledge evident in the "culture wars". In doing so, the paper demonstrates how classical insights from the sociology of knowledge can be rearticulated for contemporary sociological analysis.

Learning by Doing: An Ethnographic Account of Computer Vision Laboratory Work

Isak Engdahl

Lunds universitet

The presentation analyzes how AI researchers produce knowledge about computational objects such as deep artificial neural networks. Contemporary AI operates under different conditions than more traceable classical algorithms, where intermediate steps can be interpreted: deep learning models contain an epistemic opacity that stems from how models are trained and representations distributed. I shift the focus from crisis narratives about this "opacity" to how work is organized when researchers produce knowledge on partially accessible target phenomena: a condition shared with many other sciences, which is often overlooked in exceptionalist narratives of computer science. Drawing on ethnographic material from computer vision labs in Sweden and the USA, I develop the concept of awareness contexts, in which situated work produces and negotiates traces extracted from computational models. Scientists invoke awareness contexts through everyday computer-mediated activities, mobilizing computational outputs in and across layered environments: terminals, dashboards, visualizations, and work meetings. Rather than achieving full 'transparency', this affords researchers a functional understanding of model behavior that grounds further action. Much remains familiar in how knowledge about computational objects is pursued, although the practices through which this happens have taken on new forms within AI research.

Sociologins röster: Epistemologiska stilar i forskningsansökningar inom sociologi

Mona Hemmaty

Malmö universitet

I denna artikel analyserar jag forskningsansökningar till Vetenskapsrådet under 2015-2023 inom ämnet sociologi. Med hjälp av Lamonts typologi om epistemologiska stilar (2009) undersöker jag hur metodologiska val och epistemologiska antaganden framställ, vad som ges betydelse i ansökningarna och vilka som beviljas medel. Artikeln visar hur kvantitativa analyser med tydlig policyrelevans dominerar medan kvalitativa och reflexiva ansatser marginaliseras. Syftet med artikeln att väcka frågor om epistemologisk pluralism inom sociologisk forskning i Sverige, om forskningsfinansiering samt om val av metod som en praktik som påverkar vilken kunskap som får genomslag.

“Climate is not really my field” – Contrasting frames of expertise among academic climate activists

Anders Hylmö, Eugenia Perez Vico, Jakob Lundgren, Jonatan Nästesjö

Högskolan i Halmstad

What role do conceptions of expert knowledge play in academic activism? And how are notions of expertise entangled with efforts to legitimize this activism? Drawing on 31 in-depth interviews with scholars from the Swedish climate activist movements Researchers Desk and Scientist Rebellion, this paper explores the dynamics between expertise and legitimacy. We draw on the literatures on expertise and collective action frames in STS to explore how members in the two movements make sense of the relationship between science and activism. While studies of expertise in STS and sociology of science have primarily focused on the epistemic nature of expertise, we take a phenomenological and explorative approach to how notions of expertise are mobilized by actors. We find an overarching frame defining climate change as an unparalleled crisis, where scholars as a group have a particular ethical responsibility to act. However, perceptions of ethical responsibility among scientist activists relied upon two contrasting and potentially contradictory frames of expertise. While one frame anchors this ethical responsibility in field-specific expertise, a second frame instead linked it to the scientific vocation and general membership in the academic community. These contrasting frames of expertise produce different boundaries for what epistemic claims are considered valid, and for full membership in the movements. They also involve different conceptions of what legitimizes scientists’ political action, and by extension, which issues and actions are legitimate and illegitimate.

The promises of synthesized bodies: Making up for missing masses in cancer research

Charlotte Högberg

Lunds universitet

Synthetic data holds a lot of promise in the field of medicine. It is seen as enabling data-hungry machine learning approaches and solving privacy constrains of clinical data. This is as synthetic, plausible, datasets are perceived as opening possibilities of data sharing, scaling and training in computational model development. In addition, it is suggested to increase fairness by the possibility of generating data of groups that are missing or underrepresented. Yet, what is the role of synthetic data in medical knowledge production? How could it contribute to a reconfiguration of epistemic practices?

This paper aims to analyze some of the promises attributed to synthetic data in the context of cancer research. By bringing three cases to the fore, this paper deals with the epistemological considerations imbued in the crafting of missing masses for medical research in a double sense. First, I attend to missing masses in a Latourian manner of analyzing the role of technology in these cases and the entanglement with, and co-creation of, sociotechnical worlds. Second, I make visible how synthetic data, as a human-technology construct of informational artefacts, is seen as able to fill in for what is absent or lacking in datasets of medical research. Specifically, this is done by discussing the idea of using generative models to generate data portraying biological masses in plausible human bodies. With this analysis, I seek to contribute to the understanding of how promises of synthetic medical data interplay with ideas about representation, fairness and epistemology.

Välfärdsteknik inom äldreomsorgen - konsekvenser för äldre personers demokratiska rättigheter

Cecilia Johansson

Göteborgs universitet

Det finns bristande kunskap om människorättsperspektivet inom äldreomsorgen och begränsningar för äldre personers påverkansmöjligheter. Välfärdsteknik ses som ett sätt att potentiellt stärka äldre personers möjligheter till delaktighet och självständighet och Sverige har ett mål att vara det främsta landet avseende digitalisering. Välfärdsteknik ses även som en lösning på de föreliggande demografiska utmaningarna med en åldrande befolkning. Samtidigt är det relativt få äldre personer som använder välfärdsteknik och många äldre personer har en negativ inställning till det, vilket inte bör tolkas som ett uttryck för ett generellt teknikmotstånd då attityd till teknik visats handla mer om nyttan än om ålder. Denna avhandling kommer att undersöka vilka logiker som präglar sociala aktiviteter i relation till välfärdsteknik inom äldreomsorg, för att få kunskap om huruvida äldre personers demokratiska rättigheter främjas eller hindras inom välfärdsteknikanvändning. En fallstudie kommer att genomföras utifrån en verksamhet inom äldreomsorgen i en svensk kommun. Fallstudien kommer att utgöras av en policyanalys, fokusgruppsintervjuer och observationsstudier med omsorgspersonal, fotobaserade intervjuer (photo elicitation) med äldre personer samt semi-strukturerade intervjuer med teknikföretag. Avhandlingen kommer utgå från teknik-och vetenskapsstudier (STS), och använda teoretiska begrepp som logiker och Madeleine Akrichs begrepp script. Därtill kommer Bacchis policyanalysramverk What´s the problem Represented to be (WPR) att användas. Denna avhandling syftar till att generera ny kunskap som potentiellt kan utgöra underlag till nya riktlinjer och styrdokument, förbättrat nyttjande av välfärdsteknik samt främjande av äldres rättigheter. Avhandlingen syftar även till att bidra med ett nytt samhällsvetenskapligt perspektiv på demokratifrämjande åtgärder för omsorgsbehövande grupper.

The Science of Governing Men – On Materialization of Predictive Policing in the Nordics

Björn Karlsson

IT Universitetet i København - IT-universitetet i Köpenhamn

The 18th century Paris police commissioner Jean-Charles Lemaire defined police and policing as: “the science of governing men” (emphasis in original, quoted in Neocleous 2021, p. 58). In the modern era, this interconnection between police and science can most clearly be identified in predictive policing which refers to the use of modern data analytics to forecast and thereby pre-empt crime (c.f. Karlsson & Galis 2025).

With predictive policing as a point of departure this session presents ongoing research on the wider scientification (Ericson & Shearing 1986) effort in police forces in Denmark and Sweden. Specifically, the focus is in on how criminological scientific theories are practiced and materialized through following how data moves (Kaufmann 2023) through three moments of translation (Callon 1984): input, black box police systems, and output. This process entails following the data through different analytical levels and in and through different social sites, including state governance and in particular to scientific police knowledge practices.

This process is analyzed through an Althusserian (2014) theoretical framework which understands ideology as a material notion, with a particular emphasis on how the code of police platforms and systems materializes ideology (c.f. Chun, 2011). The session will empirically show how this is a process that is entangled both with police attempts to reproduce social order, but also with the contradictions and failures of translation which appear when police set out to know, surveil, predict and govern society.

Layered lives – Relational sensemaking of postdocs in academic day-to-day life

Anna Khanukaeva

Uppsala universitet

The postdoc position highlights one of the main tensions in current academia, where postdocs hold a highly competitive yet vulnerable position, which does not automatically provide secure future jobs. The uncertainty of employment, difficulties with managing the work, and the sense of stress that accompanies the struggles to meet demands connected to their employment, are some of the challenges that postdocs face. This presentation focuses on how postdocs navigate the relational aspects of postdoctoral work, analysing how competition and collaboration come through in different relational dynamics, sometimes blurring the lines between colleague, friend and foe. Based on the thematic analysis of 29 in-depth interviews with postdocs in social sciences in Sweden, I show that relationships serve as important sensemaking resources through which postdocs interpret and navigate the complexities of academic experiences. I identify three relational dynamics: competitor, mentor and friend, which shape how postdocs understand the conditions of their work and relate to the tension between competing and collaborating. In the interviews, among other things, postdocs reflected upon the negotiation of the boundary between the personal and the professional in the relationships. The relationships can also support the sensemaking of lived experiences, helping postdocs to interpret and emotionally process what academic life feels like in practice. By examining how postdocs navigate academia through layered, emotionally grounded sensemaking practices, this presentation shows how postdocs live the academic system and how postdocs' ways of making sense of their work life contribute to sustaining and sometimes reshaping the broader culture of academic work.

Toward a Plant-Based Future? Contested Imaginaries of Sustainability Transition in Denmark's Agriculture and Food System

Marie Leth-Espensen

Göteborgs universitet

While recent years have seen a surge in plant-based food alternatives, such as "fake meat" and lab-grown alternative proteins, the need to drastically reduce animal production, prompted by the imminent threat of climate collapse, remains a key policy challenge. This research project revolves around contested imaginaries of plant-based future of food and competing assessments of the role of technologies in substituting animal protein with plant-based sources of food. Over a period of twelve months, I engage in ethnographic research in professional contexts to explore how Danish food manufacturers, food activists and policymakers navigate the intricate challenge of influencing the transition. The overarching aim of this research is threefold: 1) to uncover how deeply ingrained social norms and culture surrounding animal consumption impact the development of new plant-based food technologies, 2) to examine how these emerging technologies shape key transition actors' visions and strategies for the animal-to-plant-based transition, and 3) to investigate how the visions of technological food innovation impact the policy trajectory of the sustainability transformation of Denmark's food system. Through this three-fold research design, I seek to shed light on the multifaceted dynamics underlying the aspirations of a plant-based food system. In particular, I aim to examine the intricate relationship between technological innovation in plant-based foods and the normative visions held by key actors driving the transition. The project, funded by Formas, is currently in its initial stages.

Ethical issues and everchanging power relations: Voluntary vulnerability in ethnography ‘up’

Janna Lundberg

Malmö universitet

I will present a paper that explores ethical issues and power relations in ‘studying up’. The Swedish law on research ethics approval has been subject to extensive critique for constraining explorative research that follows qualitative ethnographic methodology. In my paper I elaborate on this critique and add perspectives from studies where the informants are not solely vulnerable, powerless, or defenceless in relation to the researcher. Analysing material from an observational study on an elite school in the south of Sweden, the paper presents examples of powerlessness, defencelessness, and vulnerability for the research(er) as well as for the informants and demonstrates the ethical issues that evolve from research conditions where power balances are in motion. The conclusions drawn from the analysis call for the development of research ethical considerations that make space for everchanging power relations. During the presentation I wish to discuss my arguments for further clarity on researcher positions in ethnographies 'up' in perspective to research ethics.

How to direct the current: relevance practices in the grant evaluation process at the Swedish Energy Agency

Jakob Lundgren, Björn Hammarfelt, Jonatan Nästesjö

Högskolan i Halmstad

In this study, we focus on the practices of funding administrators at the Swedish Energy Agency (EM) and how these shape the translation of policies into "energy-relevant" research projects. EM's broad mission is to further Sweden's transition to a fossil-free energy system and ensure energy security while strengthening competitiveness. One of its central tasks is to fund research that furthers these aims. EM is thus given the authority to determine whether research counts as energy relevant via its funding mechanism. The societal relevance of science has recently become a topic of interest for researchers in STS and the sociology of science. Focus has been on the practices that researchers undertake to enact the relevance of their research. A key identified strategy is to renegotiate the relationship between science and policymaking to engender political interest in one's own field. However, focusing on the practices of researchers risks downplaying the role that other actors play in this negotiation. In this study, interviews with administrators and observations of review panels at EM are analyzed using a combination of a multiple worlds- and co-production framework. We find that Swedish energy relevance is shaped by interests and worldviews from academia, industry, government, and public administration, amalgamated through the (re-)interpretation of EM's mission by its own staff and reviewers, both in the formulation of programs and calls and the assessment of research proposals. Administrators at EM function as translators and integrators on the boundaries between these different sectors.

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Cultivating Resonance Through Epistemic Anarchy

Jonathan Madeland

Linnéuniversitetet

A once secular Scandinavian grouping for anarchic activism has transformed over the decades into a biannual spiritual gathering that communes with Mother Earth. For a couple of weeks at secluded locations, these gatherings host a wide array of alternative individuals who actively attempt to take control of their realities. Under more or less self-organizing forms, breathing the lingering ideology of non-violence, anti-authoritarianism and freedom, conspiracy theorists intermingle with yoga instructors, astrologers, Christians and atheists.

Drawing from a total of 13 days of participatory fieldwork at two such spiritual gatherings, this paper asks how this transformation could take place, why these gatherings are attractive to seekers with so differing world views, how despite this they manage to co-exist in harmony, and how the organization as a whole can sustain itself through its evolved habits.

Of central concern is the cultivation of personalized, resonance-enabling worlds. What is done separately by the participants is the creation of such idiosyncratic products; what is done together is the creation of a space where such production can take place.

Molecular Biotechnology, Cybernetics and the Biosocial Criminal

Stefano Mazzilli Daechsel

Universitetet i Oslo

The aim of this paper is to examine the dynamics between emerging molecular biotechnologies, the cybernetic subject and the criminal as theorized by biosocial criminology. My contention is that emerging molecular biotechnologies are contributing to the contemporary extension of the cybernetic subject that arose from the cybernetics movement launched in the mid-twentieth century by figures such as Norbert Wiener, Warren McCulloch, Gregory Bateson and Margaret Mead. Only once these biotechnologies are placed in their cybernetic lineage can we appreciate their relationship with the subject of biosocial approaches to criminology: the 'biosocial criminal.' Coupling these fields reveals the deeper implications of molecular biotechnologies for crime control and criminological research. More specifically, I argue that these emerging biotechnologies that act at the molecular scale are opening new horizons for examining and correcting biosocial criminals and those individuals deemed to be "genetically at risk" of offending.

Reviving Openness through Infrastructure: The case of Open-source Tools in Water infrastructure

Parissa Mokhtabad Amrei

Chalmers tekniska högskola

Much of Open Science is argued to be a public good, meaning it benefits the public(s) and that publicly funding it is therefore justified. This research investigates this assumption by examining the use of Open-source tools in a publicly owned water infrastructure in a small Scandinavian city and asks whether and how open-source can become a public good. Through an ethnographic approach, the findings suggest that the use of open-source coincides with infrastructural changes including new requirements for knowledge and expertise. It also proposes that the public good vision of open-source can be enacted not merely through accessibility and the sharing technologies, but through intermediaries such as infrastructures.

Digitizing the Discipline: Early Computing and the Making of Historical Knowledge in Sweden

Freja Morris, Sune Bechmann Pedersen

Lunds universitet

This presentation discusses early findings from the pilot project Digitizing the Discipline: Early Computing and the Making of Historical Knowledge in Sweden. The project examines how computing technologies entered and affected the epistemic, material, and organisational foundations of historical research from the 1960s onwards. Methodologically, we combine (1) archival research, focusing on four archives of research programmes and individuals who were early adopters of digital technologies within history and (2) oral history interviews with some of those same pioneers – as well as technicians and research assistants whose 'invisible' labour was essential to computational work.

Already in the 1960s, some Swedish research programmes in history had secured sizeable research grants that promised to deliver new methods that would enable data processing on hitherto impossible scales, produce novel insights as well as research infrastructures – such as databases – that could be used by researchers beyond the specific research programme. At the same time, historians were discussing the potential of computers for historical research at conferences and in correspondence with each other. Here, the potential of computers was not only heralded but also frequently under scrutiny: could they really deliver on their promises? Could the substantial resources allocated to these projects be justified? Did it really offer any new, legitimate insights? Our presentation aims to tentatively situate these early findings at the intersection of sociology of knowledge, STS, and the history of science and computing.

Researchers: Freja Morris (PhD, sociology) and Sune Bechmann Pedersen (associate professor, history). Funder: Anérstiftelsen.

Emotion in motion: Waiting and temporary stops in everyday mobility.

Daniel Normark

Högskolan Dalarna

How do people wait? This phenomenon has fascinated me in numerous projects on mobility from bus stops; airports; and train stations to light-coordinated pedestrian crossings; and rental bike stands. Mobility is intertwined with temporary immobility, deliberate or involuntary. Throughout the years I have collected social occasions where this form of waiting is observable. Following Jack Katz book, How emotions work (Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1999), I hope to show how waiting is more than a temporal activity – it is also emotional – and as such it can be produced within the public setting where it takes place. Voluntary and involuntary immobility thus becomes observable as emotions performed for the co-present order-productive-cohort. Stopping at a traffic light for example, is usually conducted with civil inattention to those co-present. But at times, someone rushes in front of traffic to avoid the wait, while in other occasions the stop is created as an opportunity to interact with fellow mobile formations, both these performances attract attention to a varying degree and feeds our notion of how everyday mobility emotions are enacted. In particular I will focus on two occasions of waiting where the spectrum of emotions is on full display – as a token of compassion as well as an expression of irritation. Analysing the production and recognition work of waiting, the examples provide an insight into how (im)mobilty and emotions are interrelated. Hopefully this can provide an ethnomethodological understanding on the everyday activity of waiting.

Archiving knowledge: Digital materialities, affordances, and challenges in the debates over open digital 3D data in archaeology

Tobias Olofsson

Lunds universitet

Archaeology's turn to digital documentation poses questions for the long-term preservation of archaeological data and their future re-use—questions that have relevance also for the debates about open science and data archivization in the natural and social sciences. In this paper, I investigate how the nexus of epistemology and digital materialities affect attempts to open up archaeological data for future users. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, in-depth interviews, and text analysis, I show how the epistemological positions assumed by archaeologists in relation to epistemic virtues such as objectivity, interpretation, and transparency lead them to adopt diverging understandings of what the material affordances and limitations of digital 3D tehcnology mean for the value and feasibility of opening up digital archaeological data. Supported by the analysis, I argue that the contemporary debate about data reuse and archiving in archaeology offers valuable insights into questions of openness, reuse, and archivization across the sciences. First, because the arguments put forth in the debate highlight important obstacles on the road to open data, and second, because the frictions that arise when archives designed to house physical things are confronted with digital objects make visible the translations involved in transforming epistemic objects into archivable entities.

Contested Objectivities: Epistemic Virtue in Interdisciplinary Research

Tanya Osborne

Chalmers tekniska högskola

In the current technology landscape, there is increasing demand for interdisciplinary research and collaboration. However, such collaborations are fraught with epistemic tensions. In this talk I explore how conflicts in epistemic virtues can cause frictions. Drawing on Datson and Gallison's typology of objectivity (mechanical objectivity, truth-to-nature, trained judgement), and Hass's concept of epistemic modernisation, I discuss the epistemic challenges facing collaboration between the sciences and social sciences in the age of AI.

Following the specific example of interdisciplinary practices with large language models (LLMs), this talk explores how epistemic virtues come into conflict. LLMs offer the promise of approaching qualitative data with 'mechanical objectivity' through the practice of machine reading. Machine reading using an LLM can produce summaries that can be perceived as value-free, which is especially attractive to scientists and engineers. However, social scientists reject this position, as this clashes with interpretivist approaches that aim to both capture complexity and positionality of knowledge claims. Through this conflict, differences in epistemic virtues around objectivity can be seen. Connecting with the conference theme, Same as it Ever Was, while the central conflict is a familiar one, something about the current positioning of LLMs makes the conflict all the more urgent to address.

I argue that interdisciplinary work needs to make differences in epistemic virtues explicit in order for future collaboration to be successful. Not only must we understand why this situation creates a conflict of values, we must also be able to articulate the epistemic virtues in qualitative knowledge creation.

Long Covid sufferers and their carrier stories – The fragility of the mundane

Jesper Petersson

Chalmers tekniska högskola

Speculative fiction author Ursula Le Guin have defiantly asked what if we did not tell the ”killer story” of male heroes and villains locked in energetic battles of thrust, but instead told the everyday ”life story” of those quieter figures who do the important work of carry energy home – where would this carry us? In that spirit, instead of telling the heroic story of the scientists who defeated the deadly COVID-19 virus by developing vaccines at incredible speed, I want to tell a carrier-story as is of those who became sick with COVID-19 but did not recover. Those who named their illness Long Covid before science even recognized their condition. Through interviews with Swedish Long Covid sufferers, I want, inspired by Le Guin, address their many carrying troubles of living with an energy-limiting chronic illness, where the mundane aspects of everyday life are difficult to achieve and are instead replaced by efforts to manage a contingent normality.

Deer reader: Conceptions of humanity, animality and subjectivity in animal telepathy

David Redmalm

Mälardalens universitet

“Hello! Can you hear me?” No, nothing—none of the deer out on the open field seem to acknowledge my presence. I try all the tricks of the trade, yet still fail to establish a telepathic connection with these animals. As part of a research project called Reading Pain—which explores how humans’ understandings of nonhuman subjectivity and animals’ experiences of pain have changed from the 1970s until today—I have read several books on telepathic communication with animals. In this presentation, I draw on my own failed attempts at communicating with wild animals to reflect on how different notions of humanity, animality, and subjectivity take shape and collide in animal telepathy literature and practice. The discussion highlights how a seemingly alternative and subversive knowledge community inevitably relies on the conceptual frameworks and knowledge systems it seeks to transcend—remaining, from an epistemological perspective, the same as it ever was. Establishing stable, mutual, and sustained contact with the radically Other will, paradoxically, diminish the otherness of that Other, thereby raising the question of whether contact was ever truly established in the first place. But then, just as I arrive at these conclusions, I hear a faint voice: “Can it be that you mean me? Do I concern you?”

Knowing the city: Expertise, sustainability and post-political urban transformation

David Scott

Karlstads universitet

Cities are increasingly positioned as key players in addressing global sustainability challenges, taking on greater responsibility for creating sustainable urban environments. “Urban expertise” has become crucial in this endeavor, equipping city administrations with scientific and expert-based tools to control, problematize, and govern urban spaces through, for example, modelling, mapping, scenario-building, and analytical instruments. This paper examines the knowledge production underpinning the so-called “green transformation” of select cities in Sweden, focusing on local city administrations’ responses to large-scale industry projects aimed at the “green” production of steel and batteries. In order to accommodate the requirements associated with these green industries, cities are in the process of facilitating urban sustainable transformation. To this end, city administrations produce knowledge in the form of housing needs analyses, population forecasts, environmental assessments, and financial projections. In this paper, I investigate how this knowledge is produced and how it contributes to making the urban environment legible and amenable to green transformation. Drawing selectively on concepts from Science and Technology Studies (STS), I develop a theoretical and methodological framework for studying the networks of support and co-production that are put in place to generate and stabilize knowledge about urban environments and their sustainability challenges. This approach enables a critical scrutiny of how knowledge production contributes to the reproduction of the “postpolitical city”, where questions of sustainable city-making are depoliticized and reframed as technical problems to be solved through decontextualized and standardized expertise.

The will to know more about death – When physicians want to "find out what happened"

Mikaela Sundberg, Hedvig Gröndal

Stockholms universitet

The primary missions of most physicians are to diagnose, treat and cure. When patients die, they also need to administer death and fill out a cause of death certificate. This is typically an invisible activity of limited importance, where supplementary investigation in the form of clinical autopsy is considered unnecessary. Whereas the Autopsy Act informs us when physicians in Sweden have the right to request a clinical autopsy, we explore when they do so. As a principal sign of interest in finding out more about what caused death, we use this as a means to explore a more general question: What is the responsibility to generate knowledge about causes of death? Methodologically, we base our analysis on semi-structured interviews with 15 general practitioners and 20 hospital doctors, with a wide range of specialties, and theoretically, the concept of knowledge producing responsibility - the judgement about when knowledge is considered sufficient - is our starting point. Our analysis suggests that requests for autopsies depend on whether death was expected or not and on the age of the dead person, as old age is often considered to make explanations for death superfluous. The main reason to request an autopsy is a perceived lack of understanding about the process leading to death, regardless if the patient had a disease that would have been legitimate to report as COD or not. Among general practitioners, clinical autopsies are also used as a detour to forensic medical autopsy, when there is disagreement with the police.

Trust in a digital Co-Citizen

Thomas Wahl

Mälardalens universitet

This paper explores emerging narratives of artificial intelligence (AI) in popular science, focusing on imaginaries that anticipate the evolution of current AI into general artificial intelligence (AGI) or superintelligence. Building on previous work that deconstructs these narratives through anthropomorphic metaphors and conceptions of humanness, this study examines how such representations oscillate between dystopian fears and utopian hopes—particularly the vision of AI as a moral, social agent.

From this tension arises the notion of a digital co-citizen: a future AI entity imagined not merely as a tool, but as a societal participant living and interacting alongside humans. This conceptual shift raises critical questions about the integration of non-human actors into social systems, and the normative frameworks that govern trust, cooperation, and legitimacy.

Drawing on Niklas Luhmann's systems theory—especially his seminal work Trust and Power (1979)—the paper investigates trust as a systemic mechanism for reducing complexity and enabling social order. It asks: under what conditions could digital co-citizens be perceived as trustworthy agents? How might trust in such entities be institutionally and culturally constructed?

Soft technologies, hard consequences: Mundanity in digital security technologies

Katarina Winter

Stockholms universitet

As policing becomes increasingly digitalized and pluralized through new laws, policies, and technologies, responsibilities are delegated to local and private actors. For example, municipalities are now, in accordance with legal mandates, required to implement knowledge-based crime prevention measures. This has opened a growing market for technology companies offering everything from security apps to sensor-driven systems and reporting platforms. These technologies, often framed by techno-optimism and presented as 'soft', cost-effective, easy to install, and non-intrusive solutions, operate largely beneath the radar of traditional policing.

This presentation explores how such digital security technologies (apps, sensors, platforms), while promising to enhance security through benevolent means, nevertheless illustrate a number of tensions. Firstly, producers rely on and reinforce discourses of fear and insecurity, for example, to secure procurements and in marketing. Secondly, while companies sell these technical products, the responsibility for everyday implementation and accountability falls on users and local organizations, which can lead to more or less severe consequences. Thirdly, these technologies obscure underlying power relations and uneven productions of risk and control as they do not only observe but also shape spatial and social imaginaries of threat, categorizing certain groups, behaviors, and places as risky. This digital-plural complex produces social order in multiple ways, raising questions about how risk and control emerge not only in exceptional moments, but are also normalized in everyday life through the mundane, routine use of security technologies.

14. Medicinsk sociologi

Sannolikheten att få en autism eller ADHD-diagnos efter nationella prov i årskurs 3

Daniel Bolander Blomberg

Uppsala universitet

Det har länge diskuterats hur diagnosticering av ADHD skiljer sig mellan olika grupper. Däremot har mindre hänsyn tagits till diagnosen autism, samt skolresultatens roll i diagnosticeringsprocessen. Jag kommer presentera hur kommande diagnosticering av ADHD och autism skiljt sig beroende på resultat på nationella prov i årskurs 3, kön, migrationsbakgrund och föräldrars utbildningsnivå. Studien är baserad på totalpopulationsdata av barn födda 2000-2004, och analyseras med hjälp av beskrivande statistik, logistisk regression och strukturell ekvationsmodellering. De huvudsakliga fynden är att ADHD och autism var vanligare hos de med lägre provresultat, svensk bakgrund och pojkar, samt att ADHD var vanligare hos de med lägre utbildningsbakgrund. Förutom det medierades sambandet mellan ADHD-diagnos och utbildningsbakgrund delvis via provresultatet. Resultaten indikerar att lågt skolresultat kan vara en viktig bakomliggande faktor till varför en utredning initieras, men att ett lågt resultat tolkas olika beroende på vilka sociala grupper en elev tillhör.

‘Sweating blood’: Patients’ dirty work in informal complaint biographies

Jelmer Brüggemann, Ann-Charlotte Nedlund, Lisa Guntram

Linköping University

Patients’ complaints made directly to care professionals, so called informal complaints, are common in the everyday of patients and professionals. Despite this, the practice has received little attention within medical sociology and scholarship on complaints, especially compared with formal complaints. In this study, we zoom in on informal complaints through an analysis of interviews with 19 patients in Sweden, many living with chronic illness. Inspired by Ahmed (2021), we approach these complaints as “informal complaint biographies”: not merely verbal expressions of concern, but interwoven with people’s lives, identities, and care trajectories. We examine patients’ informal complaint biographies through a lens of ‘dirty work’ (Hughes, 1958) – work that is considered a nuisance or even humiliating – and identify three different kinds of dirty work. ‘Disgusting’ involves work with physical dirt as part of the informal complaint. ‘Drudging’ describes patients’ persistent efforts to make healthcare function. Finally, ‘disrupting’ characterizes work that challenges expertise from a vulnerable position. Our analysis shows how informal complaining can involve other, undignifying work that cannot be separated from the complaint itself. By including work done by others than ‘the worker’, namely patients, our study expands scholarship on dirty work. The study also contributes new perspectives to complaints research and policy, which is often wiped clean from any kind of dirt.

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Health Literacy and Welfare Governance: A Systematic Review of Nordic Research (2015-2025)

Linda Hiltunen, Ismael Abdulkadir Ahmed

Linnéuniversitetet

In the Nordic welfare states, recent reforms increasingly emphasize individual responsibility, self-care, and preventive health practices. Within this transformation, health literacy has emerged as a key concept linking individual agency to the structural conditions of welfare governance. Defined as the ability to access, understand, evaluate and apply health-related information in daily life, health literacy reflects not only individual competence but also the social organisation of how knowledge and responsibility for health are distributed in society. Despite the growing policy relevance, the sociological understanding of health literacy, and how it shapes inequalities, citizenship, and welfare governance, remain underexplored. This systematic review examines how health literacy has been conceptualized and analysed within sociological and social science research conducted in the Nordic context between 2015 and 2025. It explores how health literacy is connected to welfare governance, social inequality, and the moral framing of the “active” and “responsible” citizen. The review was conducted in the fall of 2025 following PRISMA guidelines. Comprehensive searches were carried out in Scopus, PubMed, Cinahal, with inclusion criteria requiring primary focus on health literacy situated within the Nordic context. Additional searches were conducted in Nordic databases and journals to ensure region-specific publications. The review contributes new knowledge by synthesising and critically analysing a rapidly expanding research field. It advances the sociological understanding of health literacy as both a resource and a governing mechanism, demonstrating how knowledge and responsibility are mobilised to shape citizens´ health-related practices and identities.

Keywords: health literacy, welfare governance, responsibility, inequality, Nordic welfare states

Konstruktioner av övervikt och professionella roller: En studie om BHV-sjuksköterskors möten med föräldrar och barn med övervikt

Julia Lindblom, Eric A Hodges, Elzana Odzakovic, Mikael Skillmark, Maria Björk

Hälsohögskolan, Jönköping University

Denna studie syftar till att utforska hur övervikt konstrueras av barnhälsovårdssjuksköterskor (BHV-sjuksköterskor), och hur detta formar deras roll i konsultationer där både barn och förälder har övervikt. Övervikt som fenomen konstrueras genom skiftande diskurser kring ansvar, orsak och moral, vilket påverkar hur övervikt förstås som samhällsproblem och hur personer med övervikt positioneras inom vardagsliv och vårdpraktik. Vidare är viktstigma ett väldokumenterat fenomen inom såväl samhälle som hälso- och sjukvården. Inom barnhälsovården är BHV-sjuksköterskor ålagda att hantera barns övervikt, samtidigt som de ska ett vårdande förhållningssätt till föräldrarna. Riktlinjerna är delvis tvetydiga och handlingsutrymmet stort, vilket tillsammans med rådande diskurser om övervikt skapar utmaningar att navigera arbetet.

Med pågående datainsamling bygger denna studie, som utgör ett work-in-progress, på fokusgruppsintervjuer med vinjetter utformade utifrån tidigare utförda individuella intervjuer. Teoretiskt vägleds studien av begreppen vårdande förhållningssätt, emotional labour, diskretion och stigma. Studien avser undersöka hur sociala faktorer – såsom riktlinjer, professionella normer och samhälleliga föreställningar – påverkar BHV-sjuksköterskors känslor, tankar och agerande, där stigma som en social process [MS1] snarare än ett individuellt fenomen. Vidare avser studien synliggöra hur dessa faktorer formar BHV-sjuksköterskornas handlingsutrymme och möjligheter att upprätthålla ett vårdande förhållningssätt i mötet med familjer. Fokusgruppsdiskussionerna kan bidra till att flytta uppmärksamheten från individers upplevelser till de sociologiska, politiska och kulturella influenser som skapar – och samtidigt skapas av – BHV-sjuksköterskornas praktik. Genom detta perspektiv undersöks hur de navigerar mellan ett vårdande förhållningssätt, medicinska normer och samhälleliga diskurser om kropp, ansvar och moral.

Att överleva sepsis: Meningsskapande och subjektivitet i berättelser om att överleva en allvarlig infektion

Henrik Loodin, Marianne Larsson Lindahl, Pia Nykänen

Lunds universitet

Sjukdomsberättelser har länge varit centrala inom medicinsk sociologi, särskilt i studier av kroniska tillstånd, stigmatiserade sjukdomar och psykisk ohälsa. Detta paper utforskar hur personer som överlevt en allvarlig sepsisinfektion strukturerar sina berättelser om sig själva som överlevare. Utifrån ett narrativt och fenomenologiskt perspektiv, där livshistorier förstås som meningsskapande praktiker genom vilka protagonisten bearbetar både personliga erfarenheter och institutionella sammanhang, utforskas vardagens utmaningar samt de institutionella arrangemang som griper in i dessa. Analysen fokuserar på hur individens berättelse inte bara speglar subjektiva upplevelser, utan också hur dessa formas i relation till bredare sociala och institutionella strukturer.

Denna text utgår från sepsisöverlevares egna berättelser om hur den långsiktiga återhämtningsfasen görs begriplig och vilka sociala processer som aktualiseras i narrativen. Det empiriska materialet består av pågående livshistoriska intervjuer med sepsisöverlevare samt gruppintervjuer i form av digitala fokusgrupper och dialogcaféer. Resultaten är preliminära, men visar hur berättelserna länkar individuella erfarenheter till bredare vård- och stödsystem. Genom att analysera dessa narrativ framträder inte bara en bild av individens sjukdomsförlopp, utan också av hur samhälleliga aktörer är med och formar den meningsskapande processen.

Texten diskuterar hur berättandet fungerar som en teknik för att skapa subjektivitet och självbiografisk förståelse, där protagonisten positionerar sig som överlevare i relation till både sjukdomen och det sociala sammanhanget. I berättelserna framträder existentiella teman om livsmening, kunskapsanspråk, kroppslig förändring och framtidstro, vilket ger insikter om hur vård och stöd kan utformas för att bättre möta sepsisöverlevares behov.

Healthy ‘volunteers’ in U.S. clinical trials: when race and ethnicity really matters in medical research

Shai Mulinari, Anna Bredström

Lunds universitet

The dominant narrative on equity, diversity, and inclusion in U.S. medical research emphasizes the underrepresentation of Black and Hispanic participants in commercial clinical trials, largely based on the industry’s therapeutic Phase 2 and 3 trials. Far less attention has been paid to industry's early-phase trials—particularly those involving healthy volunteers who assume health risks without therapeutic benefit, often for money. In these settings, Black and Hispanic individuals may be overrepresented, pointing to a double burden of inclusion and exclusion. This study analyzes 18,217 participants in 429 U.S. Phase 1 industry-involved trials registered on ClinicalTrials.gov between January 2018 and October 2024. We examined participant demographics—race, ethnicity, gender—by health or disease status and U.S. geographic region, comparing enrollment with Census estimates. Quasi-binomial regression identified trial-level factors associated with enrollment patterns. Black and Hispanic individuals were overrepresented in healthy volunteer trials by 14 and 16 percentage points but underrepresented in oncology trials by 7 and 8 points. Overrepresentation in healthy volunteer trials was especially pronounced for Hispanic participants in the U.S. West and South, and for Black participants in the Northeast and Midwest. Female participants were underrepresented, except in non-oncology disease trials. We found a strong association between male and Black participation, but not Hispanic participation. These findings highlight intersecting race, ethnicity, and gender inequalities in the distribution of research risks and rewards. Promoting equity in medical research requires moving beyond simplistic underrepresentation narratives to addressing inequalities shaping racialized and gendered patterns of over and under-enrollment across all clinical trial phases, types, and locations.

Fitness for all? The normative melting pot of the gym as a challenge for inclusion in healthistic societies

Pelle Pelters

Stockholm university

The gym is an iconic location for the production of health and bodies in healthistic societies. Enabling everybody to join is a goal that is, however, challenged by the gym as a known landscape of exclusion.

The presentation aims to clarify the normative melting pot of the gym from an intersectional perspective and investigate the gym's landscape of exclusion from the point of view of Giraud's ethics of exclusion, challenging inclusivity assumptions as ethically superior.

The presentation is a discussion based partly on a qualitative interview study on the meaning of pain in the gym, partly on existing research about power structures operative in the gym.

Studies focusing on so-called vulnerable groups of gym-users have described the normative frameworks of the gym as related to power structures concerning gender, health, ethnicity, body size, class, age, sexuality, disability. In addition, my study showed a range of exercise norms that also regard those formerly considered as representing 'the gym norm' (e.g. bodybuilders) potentially at risk of deviating. In sum, basically everybody appears to be at risk of experiencing exclusion at some point. This reduces the idea of gym exercise as a self-determined, individually accounted for activity that is open to all to absurdity.

Acknowledging exclusionary tendencies in the gym may be beneficial for ethically attenuating the pressure of individual health responsibilities. The paper contributes to the theme of 'same as it ever was' by interrogating continued exclusionary tendencies as means for ethical clarity concerning the morality of gym exercise.

Sociologiska perspektiv på psykedelika-assisterad terapi

Jonas Ringström

Högskolan Kristianstad

Under de senaste åren har psykedelika-assisterad terapi återupptäckts som ett lovande forskningsfält inom psykiatriforskningen. Samtidigt präglas denna så kallade psykedeliska renässans av metodologiska, regulatoriska och samhälleliga/kulturella spänningar. Forskningen på psykedelika-assisterad terapi visar lovande resultat, men kritiker lyfter fram metodologiska begränsningar, såsom problem med blindning, varierande terapeutroller, svårigheter att standardisera kontextuella och psykologiska faktorer, samt riskerna för överdrivna effektstorlekar. Parallellt med dessa för forskningen interna problem har kritiker även varnat för att den samhälleliga och kulturella förståelsen av psykedelika som drog och som verktyg i andlig utveckling interagerar med den vetenskapliga bilden av psykedelika på problematiska sätt. I denna presentation diskuterar jag hur forskare använder sig av en rad olika gränsdragningar för att hantera dessa spänningar i konstruktionen av det nya forskningsfältet psykedelisk vetenskap.

Med utgångspunkt i intervjuer med psykiatriforskare använder jag det kunskapssociologiska begreppet ”gränsdragningsarbete” för att analysera hur dessa spänningar hanteras inom fältet. I detta arbete skapas, ifrågasätts och omförhandlas gränserna mellan vad som är god eller dålig forskning, mellan psykedelika som läkemedel och som drog, och mellan biomedicinska och humanistiska inramningar av (behandlingen av) psykisk ohälsa. Fallet psykedelika-assisterad terapi visar hur epistemisk auktoritet i psykiatriforskning inte är för alltid given, utan förhandlas i gränslandet mellan medicin, kultur och politik.

”Att bli sig själv” i den terapeutiska kulturen: om individualism, psykisk ohälsa och dynamisk stabilisering

Joacim Strand

Linköpings Universitet

Tänk om vår tids sociala patologier så som depression, utmattning och självskadebeteende belyser inte i första hand utmaningarna att leva tillsammans utan snarare svårigheterna att vara oss själva? Hela moderniteten har präglats av en rastlös framåtrörelse medan det först i slutet av 1900-talet, i samband med det senmoderna samhället, som detta blivande kan sägas blivit ett socialt villkor för människor att vara sig själva. Det innebär, med andra ord, att vara sig själv är numera något människor behöver uppnå. Detta kan ses mot bakgrund av Hartmut Rosas begrepp dynamisk stabilisering som innebär att hastigheten behöver öka konstant för att bevara status quo och som i senmoderniteten har nått ända fram till människors inre som förklaras vara plastiskt. Kraven att oavlåtligt bli sig själv fungerar på samma gång som en ny form av social stratifiering som i stället för att utpeka socialt avvikande beteenden definierar önskvärda mentala kapaciteter samt sociala och emotionella färdigheter. Men vad får detta för konsekvenser för människors subjektivitet? Och vilken roll har psy-disciplinerna och den terapeutiska kulturen i att forma den senmoderna subjektiviteten när fokus riktas mot mentala kapaciteter och emotionella färdigheter? Detta är några frågor jag önskar att adressera med utgångspunkt i min pågående forskning om barn och ungas självskadebeteende. Centralt för min forskning är att studera hur psy-disciplinerna och den terapeutiska kulturen erbjuder barn och unga ett språk för att uttrycka vad som både möjliggör och förhindrar dem att bli sig själva samtidigt som denna psykologisering formar deras subjektivitet.

15. Migration och integration

The role of friendships and the local social context for migrant integration processes

Maja Cederberg, Ylva Wallinder, Oksana Shmulyar Gréen

Göteborgs Universitet

This paper explores the role of friends and acquaintances in processes of return migration to Sweden. The “re-integration” of returnees into Swedish society tends to be considered unproblematic, linked to assumptions about the returnees’ background, cultural knowledge, and Swedish language skills, but experiences of return are often less straight-forward than what is expected. This can be seen in several different areas, including that of peoples’ social lives: their social relationships, friends and acquaintances. This paper presents findings from an ongoing study of return migration to Sweden that uses a family case-study approach to explore the experiences of both adults and children in returning families. The preliminary research findings point towards the importance of friends for migrants’ integration, and the paper explores how returning migrants re-connect with already existing social networks and create new friendships, as well as the challenges they encounter in (re)establishing meaningful interpersonal relationships. It considers a number of different factors that can explain such challenges, including barriers to accessing social networks that are built on regular, shared everyday experiences; how different experiences (in Sweden and abroad) imply differences in outlooks and perspectives; and that “Swedish culture” is considered closed, normative, and unwelcoming of newcomers. The paper argues that the local social context and interpersonal relationships play a central role for migrants’ well-being, and that the “integration” debate needs to shift focus from abstract notions of shared values to mechanisms that enable or hinder “participation, access and belonging” (Anthias et al. 2013) in people’s everyday lives.

Expectations and Norms: experiences of workplace language use by internationally recruited academics in Sweden

Sofia Davydenko

Högskolan Väst

Swedish universities are internationalized and linguistically diverse workplaces. The number of internationally recruited academics in Sweden varies across disciplines and institutions; however, reports from UKÄ and Statistics Sweden (2024) indicate that the proportion of foreign employees has steadily increased in recent years, reflecting universities' internationalization goals. Previous research in the Swedish context indicates that the everyday working experiences of teachers and researchers with non-Swedish backgrounds are shaped by challenges caused by the duality of language norms and ideologies coexisting at universities. While the 2009 Language Act (SFS 2009:600) establishes Swedish as the primary language of the administration, English holds high status as the global language of academia and is widely used for teaching and research (Bolton & Kuteeva, 2012; Jeong & Lindemann, 2024; Josefsson, 2014; 2024; Karlsson, 2017; Kuteeva, 2014; Malmström & Pecorari, 2022; Salö, 2010). From a sociolinguistic perspective, migration is not just a physical relocation but also a move into socially and culturally structured spaces filled with norms and expectations (Blommaert, 2010). This study examines the experiences of 11 internationally recruited academics working within Sweden's higher education system. Drawing on Blommaert's (2005; 2010; 2013) framework on language in a globalized, multilingual context, it analyzes participants' narratives with a focus on communicative practices and language use at their workplace. The findings indicate that navigating dual norms is highly challenging and that the expectations to learn and use Swedish are often implicit. The study highlights the importance of institutional recognition and structured support for language learning among internationally recruited academics.

When war-children turn to enemies - opportunity structures impact on mobilization for refugee minors

Malin Ekerstedt

Göteborgs universitet

The so-called refugee crisis in the mid-2010s, brought more than 35,000 unaccompanied refugee children to Sweden, engaging a large movement of volunteers stepping in as the state was unprepared (and later unwilling) to provide the support needed. But this was not the first or even the biggest Swedish child refugee movement. Over 70 years prior, a similar massive popular contribution in support of a war-ridden Finland, led to the reception of more than 50,000 Finnish children into Swedish homes.

This paper explores the complex relationships between the movement organizations and the political power involved in each case. It particularly examines the effect that critical changes in political and popular ideals and structural circumstances within Swedish domestic and foreign policy had on the organizations' strategies and mobilization tactics.

Uncovering Neighbourhood-Embedded Voluntary Non-Profit Action and Capitals in conditions of socioeconomic challenge and superdiversity

Gabriella Elgenius

Göteborgs universitet

This paper analyses the nature of voluntary non-profit (VNP) activity in neighbourhoods conditioned by socioeconomic challenge and superdiversity focusing on categories of organisations and capitals utilised to enable action. We propose a new framing, the Neighbourhood-Embedded Voluntary Non-Profit Action and Capitals Framework combining categorisations of Voluntary Non-Profit Action and Capitals. The first distinguishes action by level of formalisation, nature of approach and size, identifying six different organisational categories (charities, charitable trusts, grassroots, network-actors, social enterprises and subsidiary organisations). These have been shaped by the availability of Neighbourhood-Embedded Capitals and strategically used resources comprising overlapping forms of social, material, multicultural and moral-cognitive capitals. Overall, we draw attention to the conditions and mechanisms under which minoritised populations leverage capitals to achieve organisational goals and deliver multi-purpose activities. We conclude that locally embedded organisations and capitals are overlooked in approaches researching VNP activities which rely heavily on register data. An interdisciplinary framework on grassroot organisations, resource mobilisation and community cultural wealth has been utilised alongside a multi-sited cross-country ethnographic approach to identify different forms of actions including semi-structured interviews with leaders of 129 organisations in seven neighbourhoods in England and Sweden.

Det svenska asylsystemet och den sociala orättvisan

Martin Joormann, Anna Lundberg

Göteborgs universitet

Utgångpunkt för detta bidrag är att flyktingars tillgång till medborgerliga, politiska och sociala rättigheter har begränsats av lagstiftaren i Sverige, under det senaste decenniet, och fortsatt begränsas systematiskt. Vi visar att de asylsökandes erfarenheter av marginalisering inte upphör vid ankomsten till Sverige, utan är tätt sammanlänkade med globala maktrelationer och historiska skeenden. Bakgrunden är den presskonferens som den svenska regeringen höll den 24 november 2015, som skulle få ett stort genomslag i det offentliga samtalet och för kommande lagändringar på migrationsområdet samt för sociala rättigheter på längre sikt. Vi exemplifierar utvecklingen med fokus på flyktingungdomar med anknytning till Afghanistan och frågan hur de tre följande lagändringarna påverkar deras livssituation:

(1) ändringen i lag om mottagande av asylsökande som innebär att dagersättningen till asylsökande dras in i samband med lagakraftvunnet utvisningsbeslut och inte som tidigare i samband med avresa;
(2) lagförslaget som utreddes under 2025 om att det ska bli förbjudet att betala ut ekonomiskt bistånd till papperslösa;
(3) lagändringen från 2025 om att preskriptionstiden, det vill säga tiden för när ett utvisningsbeslut upphör att gälla, inte börjar löpa förrän personen lämnat Sverige.

Inskränkningar av asylsökandes och papperslösas tillgång till grundläggande rättigheter innebär att exkludera delar av befolkningen från det skydd som varje individ är berättigad till enligt såväl internationell rätt som svensk lagstiftning. I förlängningen kan det även föra med sig att förståelsen av grundläggande principer såsom allas rätt till likhet inför lagen, rätten till personlig integritet och rätt till mat, vatten och husrum förändras i grunden.

Locating Guidance: Where is guidance available and how does its accessibility matter for the educational progression of first-generation migrant children in Sweden?

Guilherme Kenjy Chihaya Da Silva, Rebecca Ye

Stockholms universitet

Study and career guidance counsellors are actors within the Swedish educational system who have taken on a professionalised role in coordinating educational transitions within, between levels, and out of school. In recent decades, first-generation migrant children navigating the social and symbolic boundaries of Swedish schooling, alongside frequent educational reforms and aggressive marketisation of school choice, have brought forth the role of counsellors in the work of offering guidance. Qualitative and policy research on counsellors in this transforming landscape has been insightful, yet empirical knowledge that maps (i) where guidance is available at the school-level across Sweden, and (ii) how their accessibility relates to the educational progression of first-generation migrant children is scant. This working paper sets out to address these two research queries through the use of population-level register data on these school actors and in relation to school-, place- and first-generation migrant student-level data. Through this analysis, we set out to offer contributions in the area of how migrant youth transitions are coordinated and shaped by other professionalised actors besides family, teachers, and peer networks, the impact of unequal guidance distribution, as well as to theorise the growing significance accorded to "guidance" in European welfare states.

Governing Belonging through Welfare Reform: The Tidö Government's SOU 2025:53 and the Politics of Qualification

Josefine Landberg

Lunds universitet

This paper presents part of the theoretical framework for my doctoral dissertation, which analyzes the Tidö government's report SOU 2025:53 Kvalificering till välfärden (Qualification to Welfare). Drawing on racial capitalism and the concept of banishment (Roy 2019; Borrelli et al. 2024), I theorize welfare reform as a bordering regime that governs belonging through deprivation, conditionality, and moral valuation. Based on my analysis of the report and its accompanying policy discourse, I show how the proposed qualification model ties welfare access to continuous demonstrations of productivity and "right conduct." These mechanisms produce differential inclusion by distinguishing those deemed economically valuable from those marked as dependent, unproductive, or lacking "attachment to the nation." The reform explicitly targets third-country nationals and non-citizens, placing them within a temporally suspended zone of waiting and proof where residence, income, and labor become preconditions for welfare rights. Banishment here captures a bureaucratic production of precarious and expendable life within the national body. The analysis highlights how welfare conditionality, migration control, and labor market discipline intersect in the reform, exposing deeper transformations in the political and economic logics that shape access to welfare in contemporary Sweden

Unequal peripheries: Stratified contexts of reception for lower-secondary newcomers to Sweden in 2015

Eric Larsson, Anna Ambrose, Björn Ivemark

Stockholms universitet

Between 2014-2017, Sweden received a large number of migrants, with the majority originating from Syria. At the peak 2016, approximately 163 000 individuals arrived, of which 41 000 were under the age of 19. Given the political ambition to spread these migrants evenly across the country, several municipalities needed to provide housing, basic welfare and access to schooling. For the newly arrived migrants and the organizers within the educational system, new challenges emerged- particularly in geographically remote areas, where the number of migrants historically had been low. While metropolitan regions experienced a continuous influx from the 1940's and onwards, rural areas had less experience of welcoming newcomers.

This presentation analyses a first set of results emanating from a broader research project on policy-uptake processes at the school level and its role in shaping the conditions for lower-secondary newcomer pupils educational advancement in different geographical contexts. Drawing on a national survey of school principals and qualitative case studies in three distinct types of peripheries (metropolitan suburb, semi-rural commuter area, and remote rural area), this presentation sheds new light on the stratified contexts of reception that newcomer lower-secondary students faced in Sweden in 2015 and their subsequent development since. It thus provides valuable insights into the disparate patterns in newcomers school adjustment and transitions to upper-secondary education, which are tackled in greater depth in a later phase of the project.

Rörlighet och tillhörighet bland utrikesfödda ungdomar på den svenska landsbygden

Lina Sandström, Olav Nygård, Karin Krifors

Örebro universitet

Forskning om utrikesfödda i Sverige tenderar att fokusera på storstadsområden. En allt större andel utrikesfödda bor dock idag på mindre orter eller på landsbygden, delvis på grund av politiskt styrd geografisk spridning av flyktingar. Samtidigt pågår en generell utflyttningstrend från dessa platser, framförallt av unga, som söker sig till större städer för vidare utbildning och karriärmöjligheter. Personer som växer upp på landsbygden ställs därför inför motstridiga sociala normer och institutionella förutsättningar, relaterade till att lämna eller bli kvar. Detta gäller också för utrikesfödda som bor och går i skolan där, eftersom de å ena sidan tenderar att vara inriktade på vidare utbildning och mindre låsta av lokala sociala nätverk, men å andra sidan är mer låsta av institutionella förutsättningar och sämre tillgång till resurser. I den här studien undersöker vi hur det påverkar utrikesfödda unga att bo och gå i skolan i ett sådan kontext, framförallt hur det påverkar deras känsla av tillhörighet och deras tankar om framtiden. Det empiriska materialet kommer från en enkät som skickades ut 2025, och uppföljningsintervjuer med ett urval av dem som svarade på enkäten. Genom att fokusera på ett sammanhang där rörlighet och tillhörighet måste förhandlas av alla, hoppas studien bidra till en fördjupad förståelse av migration och integrationsprocesser.

Narrating retrospective linearity of return in times of uncertainty: motivations and expectations among 'homecoming' Swedish families

Oksana Shmulyar Gréen

Göteborgs universitet

This paper draws on original qualitative research with 17 Swedish families, who have lived abroad for employment related reasons, within a broader research project Coming 'home' in times of uncertainty. Using the theoretical lens on return as an imaginary and an everyday experience, involving complex processes, decisions and expectations, the paper aims to examine how parents and children, while narrating about their experiences retrospectively, co-construct family decisions to return to Sweden. Recent and ongoing developments, including Brexit, the global pandemic, the war in Europe, the recession, in different ways contribute to this sense of uncertainty, creating a unique impetus for return migration. At the same time parallel to these global challenges, both adults and young people talk about personal and at the same time interlinked motivations and expectations of return in a linear form. The analysis of narratives with several members of the families identifies different meanings, but also tensions and at times contradictions in how return is narrated stemming from: 1) parents' professional aspirations/opportunities in both host and home countries; 2) parents' and young people' relations to what constitutes 'home' in different multi-national locations; but also 3) young people' changing needs related to further education and a sense of stability.

Cooking against the Grain: Food Practices, Identities, and Belonging in Migration

Sona Sukiasyan

Göteborgs universitet

Food is often framed within integration discourses as a marker of multicultural conviviality, yet migrants' food practices also expose how assimilationist and exclusionary norms permeate everyday life. This paper explores how cooking, eating, and sharing food both reveal and resist processes of marginalization, invisibility, and othering. Based on ethnographic research in Sweden—including biographical-narrative interviews, observation, and food diaries—the study investigates how food practices intersect with ethnicity, race, class, and gender to shape migrant experiences of belonging.

The research is grounded in diaspora identity (Stuart Hall), affective economies (Sara Ahmed), minor political acts (Leela Gandhi), and the theory of needs (Agnes Heller). These frameworks illuminate how seemingly ordinary acts of preparing and consuming food are entangled with wider structures of power and exclusion. The findings highlight how the limited availability of home-country foods reinforces feelings of displacement and exclusion, while the commodification of "ethnic cuisines" risks homogenizing and stripping them of meaning. At the same time, everyday food practices can be read as minor acts of resistance, sustaining identities, meeting material and affective needs, and creating spaces of solidarity beyond integrationist categories.

Att "hantera" mångfald: Betydelsen av första linjens chefers uppfattningar om äldreomsorgspersonalens etnicitet

Mikael Svensson

Mittuniversitetet

Presentationen fokuserar på hur första linjens chefer på äldreboenden förhåller sig till ”etnisk” mångfald bland omsorgspersonalen, med särskilt fokus på hur föreställningar om etnicitet påverkar deras sätt att organisera och förhålla sig till personalen. Empirin bygger på kvalitativa intervjuer med 20 chefer vid äldreboenden i storstadsområden och kan förstås i kontexten av en föränderlig personalsammansättning, där en snabbt växande andel av omsorgspersonalen är utrikesfödd.
Teoretiskt förstås etnicitet, med inspiration från Carter och Fenton, som idéer inom det kulturella systemet. En utvidgad användning av Miles rasifieringsbegrepp är vidare centralt för att analysera hur chefernas idéer om etnicitet får konkret betydelse. Chefernas uppfattningar om etnicitet präglas av essentialistiska antaganden, där personalens ursprung från ett visst land, en region eller en världsdel kopplas till specifika och homogena kulturella uttryck. Även personal född i Sverige kan rasifieras och tillskrivas en annan etnicitet än svensk. Cheferna tillskriver genomgående etnicitet en avgörande betydelse för uppkomsten av grupperingstendenser och risker för konflikter inom personalgruppen. Två huvudsakliga strategier för att hantera detta identifieras: (1) att aktivt undvika att flera personer som tillskrivs samma eller liknande utländska etnicitet arbetar tillsammans, och (2) att hänvisa till en implicit eller explicit normativt svenskt kodad professionalitet som förutsätter att vad som ses som andra etniska och kulturella uttryck inte ska påverka arbetet. En syn på professionalitet som också knyter an till föreställningar om den vita arbetarklasskvinnan som den typiska omsorgsarbetaren.

Avslutningsvis diskuteras hur cheferna saknar organisatoriskt stöd och efterfrågar tydligare riktlinjer och ökade resurser för arbetet med frågor om ”etnisk” mångfald.

16. Miljö och riskosociologi

Dominant Visions of Food Transition in Sweden: An Explanatory Critique

Kalle Blomberg

Göteborgs universitet

Modern food systems face a host of interrelated social and environmental challenges. There is wide agreement that meeting these challenges requires a comprehensive transition to more sustainable ways of producing, distributing and consuming food. What form the transition ought to take, and how far-reaching the shift should be, is however deeply contested—especially around issues of power, ideology and justice. Considering this, it is crucial to scrutinize the dominant approach to food transition and to understand how consensus is achieved around its particular vision of change i.e., what is emphasized, what is left out and in whose interest? Raising questions such as these is a necessary part of advancing a just transition, but any vision of change involves a set of implicit assumptions about society, economy and nature which also needs to be problematised. This paper combines textual and historical analysis of key food policy directives pertaining both to the EU and Sweden. The objective is to explore how this problematic plays out in Sweden where in recent years key actors across the food value chain have coalesced around a national Food Strategy premised on economic growth, competitiveness and sustainable development. These are priorities also echoed in EU's Farm to Fork strategy. Using an explanatory critical approach, this paper historically situates the dominant conceptualization of food transition and uncovers how it affects the prospect of a genuine just and sustainable transformation.

Environmental Malthusian legacies in Swedish secondary education: A feminist critical discourse analysis of geography textbooks

Lisa Broberg

Örebro universitet

During the last two decades theorizations of population growth and environment linkages have regained popularity – a development observed in both policy circles and scientific conversations. Discourses connecting overpopulation with environmental degradation and resource scarcity have been described as “a neo-Malthusian reflex” in the climate change debate (Schultz 2021, Austrualian Feminist Studies). However, the Malthusian logic of deducing the climate crisis to fertility levels in global South, has been criticized for providing a simplistic notion of contemporary environmental challenges. Moreover, being interpreted as a demographic problem driven by human numbers, it calls for gendered and racialized climate interventions, that rest upon increased contraceptive uptake and the instrumentalization of female bodies.

Theories of population and environment linkages is a theme which is also covered in Swedish secondary education. In a geography textbook, population growth is presented as one of five challenges which threaten sustainable development, and where “the future of humanity largely depends on innovations, and about finding technical and economic solutions to critical problems” (Östman 2011, Geografi: människan, resurerna, miljön, hållbar utveckling 1 och 2). Drawing on critical feminist inquiry, the objective of this paper is to explore ideas on population growth and the environment covered in textbooks used in Swedish secondary education. By using critical discourse analysis, the paper unpacks the environmental role ascribed to global population growth, vis-à-vis other social, economic and political processes. In addition, it will identify intertextual links to theories about population and discuss the historical, and political, role of demographic knowledge production.

Support of others' participation in the green, digital and twin transition as various forms of caring practices

Anna Davidsson, Sebastian Svenberg, Sofia Strid, Martin Hultman

Göteborgs universitet

Green and digital transitions are transforming society, but these changes also carry the risk of exclusion with potentially negative consequences for different social groups. In a study on the 'twin transition', i.e. the intertwined processes of green and digital transition, 400 Europeans were interviewed about how they experience and manage these changes. Many interviewees expressed concern for other's ability to cope and keep up with changes, describing ways in which they either provide support to others or need support themselves. This paper explores how such concerns and support can be understood as various forms of caring practices.

In existing research on the green and digital transitions, care is a recurring concept. However, it is applied inconsistently and rarely through the lens of caring practices. As argued by Moriggi et al. (2020a: 286), studies that investigate "caring practices as sites of empowerment" hold great potential for understanding transformative change.

We draw upon the different phases of caring outlined by Fisher and Tronto (1990) and Tronto (2013): 1) Caring about, 2) Caring for, 3) Care giving, 4) Care receiving, and 5) Caring with. Building on the expanded model developed by Moriggi et al. (2020b) in their study of 'green care,' we explore caring practices in relation to both the green and digital transitions. We also look for differences between these two transitions in terms of how care is expressed, and what such differences imply when interpreting the green and digital transitions as intertwined processes, that is, as a twin transition.

Searching for an exit from Highway Apocalypse

Lisa Ferm, Mattias Hellgren

Linköpings universitet

This study investigates how individuals working in Sweden's industrial and forest sectors perceive the green transition, focusing on their lived experiences and emotional responses to anticipated societal and environmental changes.

The research is based on qualitative interviews. Participants were prompted to reflect on probability and desirability of three possible futures in relation to the green transition: Degrowth, Green growth and Apocalypse

A recurring theme is that the respondents unprompted brought up experiences of an accelerating life tempo, often described as stressful and disorienting. Alongside this, many respondents express a longing for a slower, more resonant pace of life. These narratives point towards an interplay between structural change and personal aspiration, highlighting both resistance to and engagement with the idea of transition.

Rosa's theory of social acceleration and resonance is used to interpret the findings as is the concept anticipatory solastalgia. Rosa's theory is used to illuminate how individuals relate to time, change, and their environments, and how these relationships shape their responses to sustainability efforts.

The study suggests that the green transition is not only a technological or economic process but also an affective and existential one. By foregrounding workers' voices, the research highlights the importance of integrating emotional and experiential dimensions into environmental policy and planning.

Acknowledged vs. acting as an expert. Does adding social science change anything?

Karin Gustafsson, Rolf Lidskog

Örebro universitet

What happens to the role of being an expert in interdisciplinary knowledge assessment when the social sciences are placed at the forefront? Historically, experts from the natural sciences have dominated global environmental assessments, such as those conducted by the IPCC and IPBES. However, as these assessments increasingly recognize the significance of the social dimensions of environmental challenges, and as transformative changes are framed as a necessary response to them, the inclusion of social scientists has become more prominent. Despite this shift, the role of being an expert within these assessments has often been treated as uniform, regardless of disciplinary background. As a result, the changing disciplinary composition of the expertise and its practical implications for social scientists entering this role remain underexplored.

This paper investigates whether, and in what ways, the role of being an expert changes when social scientists are more frequently called upon to contribute to global environmental assessments. Drawing on an interview study with social scientific experts involved in IPBES's Transformative Change Assessment, the study examines how social scientific experts are incorporated into the assessment process. The study contributes both empirical and theoretical knowledge to the types of expertise brought into the assessment, how this expertise is utilized, and what these developments imply for the evolving role of being an expert in interdisciplinary knowledge assessments.

Virkesköparens roll i digital förändring – formalisering, teknisk effektivisering och konsekvenser för det relationella arbetet

Henrik Hultman

Linnéuniversitetet

De tjänstemän som arbetar som rådgivare och virkesköpare, ofta i kombination, inom skogsnäringen har pekats ut som en viktig implementerande och förmedlande länk mellan lagstiftning, skoglig expertis och det praktiska skogsbruket å ena sidan, och de privata enskilda skogsägarna och deras skogar å den andra. Yrkesgruppen har på så sätt en nyckelroll i den svenska skogsbruksmodellen som sedan 1990-talet bygger på principen om ”frihet under ansvar” och en styrning genom information och rådgivning, snarare än tvingande regelverk.

Under de senaste decennierna har virkesköparens arbete, men också kontakten med de privata skogsägarna, liksom själva skogen, digitaliserats i allt större utsträckning. I studien undersöks hur detta gått till och med vilka konsekvenser för arbetets innehåll och utförande; vilket i sin tur ger belysning av hur skogliga åtgärder initieras, planeras och utförs. Studien bygger på intervjumaterial med 16 virkesköpare inom två olika företag i skogsnäringen.

Resultaten visar att digitaliseringen av yrket inneburit att tidigare arbetskrävande och informella arbetsmetoder effektiviserats, standardiserats och formaliserats. Det handlar dock inte om en generell avkvalificering eller utarmning av yrket; digitaliseringen har snarare bidragit till att stärka virkesköparnas professionella legitimitet och status, inte minst i skogsägarnas ögon. Även om digitaliseringen förändrat formerna och villkoren för det relationella arbete virkesköparna utför visavi skogsägarna, kvarstår det som en central och komplex aspekt av yrket. De senaste årens politiska och vetenskapliga debatt om skogens olika värden, och de osäkerheter och oenigheter som råder kring vad som är ”rätt skogsbruk” givet detta, indikerar att den aspekten kommer bli än mer central.

Investigating Doing Less in Everyday Life

Tullia Jack

Lunds Universitet

Amid recurring societal patterns of overwork, over-consumption, inequality, and environmental degradation, IDLE posits that doing less offers a radical pathway to sustainable change. Drawing on social practice theory and critical frameworks, the project employs a multi-method approach—mapping policies, conducting cross-cultural fieldwork in Sweden, the Netherlands, and Finland, and engaging in interviews with individuals who have purposefully reduced their participation in conventional work routines. Initial interview results reveal that idleness is motivated by both necessity and intentional choice, with participants describing meaningful improvements in well-being alongside persistent tensions stemming from social expectations and economic structures. These narratives suggest complex and sometimes paradoxical relationships between agency, policy, and everyday life, opening new questions about stability and transformation in the social fabric. By foregrounding lived experiences, IDLE offers timely insights into how continuity and change interplay in relation to work life, social participation and sustainability. The findings aim to inform both scholarly debates and practical interventions, contributing to the reimagining of progress and fulfillment in light of ongoing social and existential challenges.

Att (o)göra risk genom beredskap: En visuell diskursanalys av samtida beredskapskampanjers (könade) subjekt

Linda Kvarnlöf, Elin Montelius

Mittuniversitetet

Med utgångspunkt i feministisk visuell diskursanalys (Rose, 2012) närmar vi oss i det här arbetet samtida beredskapskampanjer med ett intresse för diskursiva konstruktioner av genus och ansvar. Vi analyserar beredskapskampanjer som vänder sig till Sveriges invånare, med syftet att stärka deras beredskap inför kris och krig. Analysen av kampanjernas visuella uttryck visar att kvinnor konsekvent placeras i förgrunden, ofta representerade som omhändertagande, funktionella och aktiva subjekt. Vi analyserar sådana representationer som performativa iscensättanden (Butler, 2004) av såväl genus som ansvar och beredskap och argumenterar för att beredskapskampanjerna därigenom reproducerar normativa föreställningar om genus och vem som förväntas ansvara för hemmets och familjens beredskap i händelse av kris eller krig. I det visuella materialet placeras även beredskapen i hemmets hjärta: köket, en plats som traditionellt sett har förknippats med (det kvinnliga) hemarbetet. I beredskapskampanjerna sker dock en förskjutning av plats för beredskap, där kampanjmaterial från 2017 och 2018 konsekvent placerar beredskapens praktiker och subjekt i köket så placerar kampanjmaterialet från 2024 till största del beredskapen på det militära fältet. Den diskursiva förskjutning som präglar dagens krishanteringsfält, där krisberedskap allt mer har kommit att diskuteras i termer av totalförsvar (jmf. Ericson, Svenbro & Wester, 2023), avspeglar sig med andra ord även i samtida beredskapskampanjer. I följande text diskuterar vi konsekvenserna av en sådan diskursiv förskjutning med stöd av feministiska säkerhetsstudier och kritiska studier om militarisering.

Rethinking Environmental Expertise: Social Transformation and the Quest to Make Science Actionable

Rolf Lidskog

Örebro universitet

The contemporary environmental landscape – characterized by escalating global challenges, an urgent imperative for transformative change, and persistent difficulties in translating this imperative into action – presents a demanding context not only for policy but also for science. In this setting, there are profound and far-reaching expectations for expert guidance on achieving societal transformation. This raises critical questions: What forms of expertise are needed to meet these expectations? More broadly, how does expertise contribute to decision-making and transformative change?

This paper addresses these questions by proposing a conceptual framework for environmental expertise. It posits that expertise encompasses both epistemic and social characteristics, that is, expertise is simultaneously a matter of competence and of social recognition. Understanding environmental expertise requires acknowledging this dual constitution. Furthermore, expertise is inherently normative; possessing knowledge alone is insufficient but values are also needed to formulate actionable advice and recommendations.

Building on this conceptual foundation, the paper explores two key challenges: i) interdisciplinary integration: how can experts from diverse fields effectively synthesize their competencies to generate advice that reflects the complex, multifaceted nature of environmental problems? ii) societal relevance: what role should expertise play in relation to policymakers, stakeholders, and broader societal actors?

By addressing these challenges, the paper contributes to a deeper understanding of how environmental expertise can be developed, mobilized and applied to support social transformation.

Opportunities and Challenges of Non-Commercial Sharing: A Pilot Study of initiatives in Örebro, Sweden

Merve Tuncer, Magnus Boström

Örebro universitet

This pilot study explores the opportunities and challenges of organizing non-commercial sharing of resources, goods, and services in Örebro, Sweden. Conducted in collaboration with Örebro Municipality, the study forms part of the "Climate-Neutral Örebro 2030" initiative. The aim of the pilot study is to identify practical, inter-relational, and structural conditions that either enable or hinder non-commercial sharing practices at the local level. Sharing, in this context, refers to collaborative arrangements where access to things (e.g. toys, car, leisure equipment, tools) is prioritized over ownership, without financial transactions being the main driver. Such practices have the potential to reduce environmental impact, strengthen local communities, and promote more sustainable consumption patterns.

The study is based on qualitative interviews with employees from five not-for-profit organizations operating in Örebro. These organizations represent diverse sectors and have varying experiences with resource or service sharing.

Preliminary findings show a strong interest in non-commercial sharing as a tool for environmental and social sustainability, including as a tool to remedy some issues connected to socio-economic inequality. The challenges include the need for lack of financial resources, lack of infrastructure, digital barriers, questions around long-term engagement, and the development of (trust) relationships with users and other key actors. The results of this pilot study will contribute to literature on non-commercial sharing and sustainability as well as the ongoing discussion of sharing models in Örebro and other cities aiming for climate neutrality.

Opinions of delay

Kjell Vowles

Göteborgs universitet

Despite climate change being a matter of concern at the highest political level for more than three decades, the emission curve has still not started to decline. This failure is partly due to a consorted effort from the fossil fuel industry to spread doubt about climate change science.

Recent literature on obstruction to climate change policies has emphasised the prevalence of discourses of climate delay (Lamb et al. 2020). These are discourses where the science is superficially accepted, but where the need for emissions reduction is downplayed or denied. Indeed, these arguments displace climate mitigation in time and space, by arguing that it is enough to act in the future, or that someone or somebody else needs to act on some other part of the planet.

While discourses of delay have been increasingly noticed in the climate obstruction discourse literature, little research has looked at how the public perceive these arguments (though see Kulin 2024)

In this study, we focus on the perception of climate change delay discourses in Sweden. Using high-quality survey data from the SOM-institute, we examine what support different discourses of delay have among the Swedish public, and how it corresponds to e.g. ideological position, gender, and age.

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Sustainability in the making? The potential role of makerspaces in a sustainable society.

Sandra Österlund

Örebro universitet

This presentation will be of preliminary results of my ongoing PhD-project. My research interest regards the interlink between sustainability and wellbeing. Wellbeing is often argued to be dependent on economic growth, which enables an improved standard of living. Current modes of production and consumption are thus closely linked to the aim of generating economic profit and growth. A key aim of my project is to highlight other ways of achieving wellbeing and life satisfaction, that is not based om unsustainable consumption. Drawing on theories of human flourishing, this project is investigating experiences of creating and making your own things, in the setting of a shared workshop, or a so called makerspace. A makerspace is often owned and run by private members, however, there are also initiatives funded by municipalities, and thus, they could potentially contribute to the realization of more sustainable societies. They are typically equipped with a mixture of modern digital technology and tools for traditional handicrafts. They also function as a place for members to socialize and learn skills from each other. The case study is based on interviews with leaders and members of 4-5 makerspaces, and supplemented with site observations. The research questions in focus are: what role can makerspaces play for individuals wellbeing and life satisfaction? And, can engagement in a makerspace have any effect on other consumption patterns among the members? Preliminary results highlights the opportunity for members to be creative in a social setting, and sustainability reflections in terms of material use and re-use.

17. Politisk sociologi och sociala rörelser

Long-term interactions between feminist activism and political contexts in Peru, and the consequences for policy outcomes

Anna-Britt Coe, Gloria Mora Guerrero

Karlstad universitet

Feminist activism in Peru presents a conundrum for theorizing social movement outcomes. While it has existed for over a half century and attained many policy outcomes, it operates in a young, fragile democracy. According to prevailing explanations, an open democratic political system is a basic, long-term condition for any social movement to attain outcomes. If this is the case, how can the outcomes attained by feminist activism in Peru be explained? Existing explanations have concentrated on short-term features of political contexts, e.g., sympathetic regimes or elite allies. This emphasis may make sense for studying social movements working in established democracies. In young, fragile democracies, social movements must adapt to medium- and long-term features of political contexts, e.g., the development of open political systems, non-patronage political parties, inclusive policy frameworks, and responsive bureaucracies. Shifting attention to these features requires rethinking social movement interactions with political contexts. Democratization spans multiple government regimes, allowing social movements to have repetitive, on-going interactions with political contexts over much longer time periods. Indeed, it is likely that not only social movements adapt their activities to political contexts, but also political contexts adapt to movement activities. In this paper, we develop this explanation by drawing upon interactionism to theorize the long-term interactions between social movements and political contexts, and their consequences for movement outcomes. We exemplify this explanation with the results of a qualitative analysis of feminist accounts, archival data, and historical studies that locates the long-term interactions between feminist activism and political contexts in Peru.

Krigets mekanismer enligt Leo Tolstoj

Hedvig Ekerwald

Uppsala universitet

Statsvetaren Mearsheimer skiljer på sin egen så kallade realistiska syn på krig och en liberal syn på krig. Mearsheimers kontrasterar statens roll inom ett land där den är till godo och förhindrar att människor tar rätten i egna händer, och staters relationer sinsemellan som präglas av anarki och den starkes rätt eftersom det inte finns någon världsregering med makt. Den liberala synen fick en knäck av Rysslands krig mot Ukraina 2022. Säkerhetspolitik kom åter att stå i centrum. Hur förhåller sig detta till Leo Tolstojs originella synsätt för 150 år sedan?

Leo Tolstoj har en för sociologer intressant syn på krigs uppkomst och fortbestånd. I romanen Krig och fred först utgiven 1868 - 1869 beskrivs Napoleonkriget mot Ryssland och dess förspel utifrån ryska överklassens synvinkel. I Barbara Lönnqvists fina nyöversättning 2017 finns nu Krig och fred i fyra band och föremålet för analys i denna uppsats är tredje bandet som handlar om år 1812 då Napoleon invaderade Ryssland. Mitt syfte är att analysera Tolstojs syn på orsaker till krig, olika aktörers inflytande över krig och själva förloppet av krig, exemplifierat med Napoleonkriget. Vad gjorde ryske tsaren för att undvika kriget, hur organiserade Ryssland sitt försvar när kriget redan var ett faktum och vad betydde Napoleon för krigsutvecklingen? Hur reagerade ”vanliga människor”, ryska ortodoxa kyrkan, adelsmännen och militärledningen i Ryssland på fransmännens invasion av landet och vilket handlingsutrymme hade de enligt Leo Tolstojs analys? Relevansen för dagens säkerhetspolitiska läge torde vara stor men ligger utanför uppsatsens ramar.

A Social Worlds Approach to Political Engagement

Colm Flaherty

Roskilde University

The question of why actors engage (or fail to engage) in political action has long animated researchers in the fields of political sociology and social movements. In recent years, researchers have increasingly highlighted emotional and affective factors that inspire political action and we have also seen an increasing emphasis on the role of networks, scenes, free spaces, and communities in explaining mobilization. Although these approaches provide valuable insights into political behavior, they often struggle to situate political action in its broader societal context and can say little about the broader meaning and culture of politics. In this paper, I therefore introduce and develop an approach to political engagement centered around the concept of social worlds. I argue that this approach has three major advantages. First, a social worlds approach enables us to better analyze how and why actors engage politically and explain how they form, maintain, and change their political beliefs. Second, the nested character of social worlds allows us to better understand the possibilities and constraints political groups encounter. Finally, this approach also provides us with the ability to empirically examine the place of the political within our societies and investigate how this changes over time and varies between societies. I conclude in noting that a social worlds approach opens a range of new research questions surrounding politics and argue that answering these questions would enable researchers to better understand and theorize the political developments we see around us.

Mellan framtiden och evigheten: 2025 års kyrkoval

Sven Hort

Linneuniversitetet

2025 års svenska kyrkoval var - paradoxalt nog - ett lagstadgat val i den civila samhället. Detta papper är en konkret analys av en konkret situation (förhandsröstnibg under två veckor före själva valdagen). 4,7 miljoner svenskar över 16 år var röstberättigade frivilliga medlemmar i institutionen Svenska kyrkan. Knappt 20 procent av dessa valde att delta. De hade 12 reella alternativ att välja mellan. 12 av dessa klarade spärren till det nationella kyrkomötet. På stifts- och församlingsnivå fanns ytterligare drygt 500 valmöjligheter. 2025 års val jämförs i analysen med föregående (2021 och i viss mån också 2017) års val.

Mapping the field of influencer politics

Alice Junman

Uppsala universitet

This presentation focuses on the convergence between the political field and influencer culture, which is the topic of my dissertation. Over the last couple of years, and with accelerating speed, official politics (parties, organizations, and national and transnational government agencies) in Sweden have increasingly started to embrace a new category of actors: influencers and content creators. These are conceptualized as natively digital microcelebrities who have cultivated large and loyal followings on social media platforms, over whom they exert strong influence in the sphere of consumption and lifestyles—but also politics. The convergence between politics and influencers take different forms: influencers creating political content; parties and politicians employing so called influencer strategies; and parties increasingly collaborating with influencers. Despite the increased commonality, these are all more or less debated and contested practices, both celebrated and criticized.

While this phenomenon develops in the public sphere, under much public scrutiny, the scientific knowledge is scarce and important questions remain unanswered. In my dissertation, which is currently a work in progress, I aim to create a conceptual map of the field, using qualitative mixed-methods (interviews, ethnography, digital methods) to understand the boundaries, relations, and practices embedded in the convergence of these two fields. I analyze the boundaries of the field and how these are negotiated, focusing, first on the relations between different actors (influencers, politicians, party employees), and, second, on the collective ideas of legitimate practice, which are constantly renegotiated as the relationships between the two sides evolve.

Protest Cultures in Sweden: Biographical Narratives of Activists

Elin Jönsson, Michael Molavi, Isabel Schoultz

Lunds Universitet

This paper examines protest cultures in Sweden through the lived experiences of activists involved in various movements. Drawing on biographical narrative interviews, it examines how these actors enter, experience, and sustain participation in collective action, and how their moral and political identities evolve. The analysis traces recurring stages in activist trajectories from early motivations and formative encounters to long-term engagement and possible disengagement, situating these in the broader Swedish sociopolitical context. The study explores how protest cultures are narrated and reinterpreted in response to social and political conditions. It highlights how activists make sense of their involvement, negotiate belonging and legitimacy, and experience the personal transformations that accompany activism. The paper contributes to an actor-oriented understanding of how protest cultures in Sweden emerge, evolve, and interact with wider societal structures.

From Incumbent to Deviant: Legitimation Strategies in Regressive Institutional Settlements

Zhanna Kravchenko, Noomi Weinryb, Ebba Sjögren

Södertörns högskola

As authoritarian tendencies abound, a closing space has emerged for those civil society organizations (CSOs) who once proudly and openly supported democracy and human rights. One of the most systematic manifestations of this closing space can be seen in Russia, where it has developed in rounds of increasing repression, through both legislation and by various forms of intimidation. Despite these challenges, prominent domestic Russian CSOs have continuously tried to persevere, and testing new ways to legitimate their work in the eyes of the general public, the state and funders.

Building on recent research on institutional settlements, we approach the gradual exacerbation of civil society repression in Russia as a process of regressive settlements that radically affected and shifted positions of CSOs vis-à-vis the organizational field that they inhabit. Within this theoretical framework, the paper's aim is to explore the development civil society incumbency in light of authoritarian regressive institutional settlements. Empirically, we focus on Memorial, a Russian CSO established in the late 1980s to promote civil rights, carry out historical research and preserve memory of the state repressions. Using sources such as annual reports, media clips, grey literature and earlier academic research, we trace Memorial's trajectory – from the most prominent grassroots movement to the stigmatized "entity under foreign influence". Identifying a series of key events, critical moments in the relationship between the state and civil society, we demonstrate how they build up the process of regressive institutional settlements and explain Memorial's movement from incumbency to deviance.

Legal aid in a context of violent migration law – contradictions, limitations and possibilities

Anna Lundberg, Emma Söderman

Lunds universitet

This article reconceptualises legal aid through the lens of resistance lawyering. Drawing on qualitative interviews with 30 people seeking asylum in Sweden, and informed by our own experiences in voluntary legal aid, we investigate legal aid in the context of migration law. Our analysis highlights that these practices challenge both the structural violence embedded in the migration regime and the state's control over legal status. Building on Farham's (2019) concept of resistance lawyering, our analysis centres around efforts to navigate and challenge the system, and supporting others, amongst people seeking asylum. Thereby, the article reveals an underexplored dimension of resistance lawyering. We identify three intertwined practices: collecting documentation and other written proof which are needed in the asylum process; disseminating knowledge to others; and developing alternative infrastructures to enable a life. The emerging practices we depict do not simply transmit legal knowledge, they actively reconfigure the terrain of legal interpretation. In doing so, they expose and respond to the contradiction at the heart of legal aid: while the migration law framework is structurally inadequate and produces limited rights, it remains indispensable in struggles for legal recognition and residence. We argue that voluntary legal aid should not be seen merely as gap-filling or one-directional support. Rather, they constitute politically situated interventions that redistribute interpretive power and contest exclusionary legal infrastructures.

Everydayification of nativist political violence: a product of the political/discursive opportunity contradiction

Måns Lundstedt, Mattias Wahlström, Anton Törnberg

Göteborgs universitet

In the literature on the structural causes of political violence, a common conclusion is that open political opportunities decrease the risk that radical flanks resort to violence. The assumed mechanism is that available channels for political influence make 'radical' protest forms redundant. Activists that have access to political influence will have less incentive to take matters into their own hands. Applied to far-right and nativist movements, the hypothesis is that reduced marginalization and growing influence of far-right parties should lead to fewer acts of violence. However, existing research also supports an alternative hypothesis: that open discursive opportunity structures increase such violence. In other words, when acts of nativist violence are likely to gain attention, disseminate, and even gain support in public discourses, activists may perceive violent options as more legitimate. The contradiction arises because political and discursive opportunities for the far right often expand simultaneously. Do these effects cancel each other out? In this paper we argue for another outcome: that the combination of expanding political and discursive opportunities for nativist politics produces a qualitative shift in nativist political violence. Drawing on a unique dataset of reported nativist violent hate crimes in Sweden, we identify a trend towards the everydayification of such violence. This means that violence is less often committed by organized subcultural or political groups on evenings or weekends, and more often by individual perpetrators on weekdays and in everyday situations.

Too Scared to Protest? How Workfare Restrains Political Citizenship

Mikael Mery Karlsson, Nils Altermark

Umeå universitet

Welfare retrenchment and workfare policies has meant that it has become significantly harder for disabled and chronically ill people to get public support. Whilst a number of studies have mapped the effects on these groups in terms of living standards and quality of life, we suggest that welfare cuts may also have significant effects on how people exercise their political rights. As work capability assessments are getting increasingly strict, people relying on support may fear that political engagements will be seen as evidence of work capacity. As a result, people targeted by cuts may refrain from protesting. Examining online protests against sickness insurance cuts in Sweden, our interview study and netnography shows that fear of losing support is affecting how chronically ill and disabled people chose to organise. This is likely to contribute to a situation where groups severely affected by cuts remain unheard in debates about social policy.

“I am afraid that you lose substance and just perform symbolic acts” – Navigating legal dilemmas and contesting politics of ethics in the regulation of public officials moving from the state to the private sector in Sweden

Heraclitos Muhire

Lunds universitet

Abstract: Key officials joining the private sector after serving in public office has been studied as an issue of how to regulate the phenomenon to preserve the integrity of public office, as former public officials with privileged knowledge and contacts in government may seek to capitalize on it once they leave office (Cerrillo-i-Martínez 2017; Muhire 2025). Few studies, however, have investigated the legal experiences of those involved in the regulatory process, both decision makers and those subject to legislation, or the interaction between the actors involved. Through semi structured interviews with former public officials and incumbent decision makers and document analysis of the regulation process restricting government officials’ moves to the private sector, the study examines how the actors discuss transitions between state and private sector and navigate the regulatory procedure surrounding former public officials’ moves to the private sector. The present study is inspired by the legal consciousness theory that highlights how social groups navigate law’s hegemony (Ewick & Silbey 1998; 2020). This investigation finds that the actors when navigating and discussing regulation of public-to-private transitions (a) submit to and acknowledge its legitimacy but insist on the regulation’s legal dilemmas, (b) contest non-legal meanings of the phenomenon such as the politics of ethics in discussions of “revolving doors” and (c) resist “political” narratives emanating from media scrutiny. Thus, this study highlights the uniqueness of “regulating the regulators” (Hood et al. 1999) and contributes to the legal consciousness field by examining the legal experience of “elite” actors (Cornut St Pierre 2019).

Whose expertise? Expert knowledge in the field of education 1990-2023

Staffan Nilsson, Eric Larsson

Stockholms universitet

The social and actual political reality makes modern representative democratic processes complex. This is why political decision-making processes and organization of modern representative democracies rely on experts in different areas to function. One such, often debated area, is the field of education. During the last 30 years, we have seen a great variety of major decisions occurring within tertiary, secondary, post-16 and university level. Some of these have been more controversial, debated and criticized than others, such as the sequence of decisions focusing on marketization, commodification and commercialization of education since the 1990's and onwards. Yet, we know fairly little about how expertise influenced these decisions and what kind of expertise was used. This presentation explores who the experts are and how expert knowledge is defined and utilised in the political decision-making process in the field of education in Sweden, 1990-2023. Using network analysis and descriptive statistics, we focus particularly on the participation of academics and the use of citations to academic
knowledge. Our data consists of experts and citations in all Swedish Governmental official reports and ad hoc advisory commissions during the time-period 1990-2023. Among other things we analyse the expert's field of expertise and how this change over time. Furthermore, the affiliation of citations from certain disciplines, traditions, journals and groups of scholars.

Making Defence Matter: Towards a Just and Democratic Integration of Total Defence into Society

Philip Sääw

Lunds universitet

As the European Security context is rapidly changing, so is the relation between state and defence. The War on Ukraine and the second Trump presidency have made it evident that Europe needs to muster up its defences to safeguard its autonomy, safety, and the promise of a democratic life. While this reality has already taken political and financial hold in the EU, an important dimension of defence has been given far too little concern, namely of how to integrate the peoples of Europe into this project. An important concern for total defence is therefore to be able to not only ready budgets for war, but to make it a project that is actually integrated into society. This is the concern which this project addresses. Specifically, I intend to research how this can be implemented democratically and socially just in the framework of the open society which western states have purported in the last 30 years. Utilising an interdisciplinary framework with a mixed-methods methodology, this research seeks to contribute to the development of social defence and resilience through a re-evaluation of the interrelation between the military, state and civil sphere, and particularly younger generations. It seeks to build on existing literature and studies in the social sciences, particularly sociology and politics, to gain a greater understanding of how this interrelation is formed and how it can be reshaped today to make defence an integrated concern for future generations amidst an increasingly uncertain security environment.

The diffusion of May Day demonstrations in Sweden, 1890–1921

Magnus Wennerhag, Måns Lundstedt

Södertörns högskola

The labour movement's annual demonstrations on 1 May, which have been held in various forms every year since 1890 in Sweden, are a clear example of the successful ritualisation of political protests by social movements. It is also an illustrative example of a recurring campaign for democratisation, as demands for universal and equal suffrage were a recurring theme at demonstrations from 1891 until the first democratic election in Sweden in 1921. But what factors influenced the national diffusion of this form of protest in its early years, before May Day demonstrations became ritualised and one of its main claims was implemented? This paper uses protest event data from historical newspapers to analyse patterns in the gradual geographical diffusion of the labour movement's May Day demonstrations to different localities in Sweden during the period 1890–1921. We examine the extent to which this was influenced by the movement's local organisational resources and local economic conditions in the various locations, as well as possible competition from other actors – in particular the temperance movement, which attempted to establish 1 May as a day of protest against alcohol during the 1890s. In addition to protest event data, we use data on organisational resources from the Popular Movement Archive (1881–1950) and various economic history indicators.

The Political Feasibility of Degrowth versus Green Growth

Filippa Werner Sellbjer

Göteborgs universitet

In my paper, I examine the political feasibility of degrowth and green growth approaches to climate change. Previous research have primarily focused on thermodynamic constraints and historical evidence when evaluating the feasibility of these approaches. My contribution extends this literature by assessing the political conditions for realizing either paradigm within capitalist liberal democracies. Although scholars within the degrowth perspective tend to argue for alternative models of democracy to enable degrowth, others are open to the possibility of representative capitalist democracies restructuring toward a degrowth trajectory. Drawing on interview data with Swedish politicians at the national, regional, and municipal levels, as well as observational data from interactions between climate advisory bodies and politicians, I argue that the prospects for politically advancing degrowth within representative democracies are limited in the short to medium term. Rather than conflicting with climate action, politicians tend to understand growth as a precondition for advancing mitigating policies. The results suggest that pursuing degrowth requires alternative avenues of political influence that go beyond mainstream political parties or representative democratic institutions tout court. However, dismissing these institutions in turn raises questions about how to address climate change within the necessary timeframe.

Transnational abortion activism in the shadow of war (on women): the case of Ukrainian abortion support group in Poland

Katarzyna Wojnicka, Maja Miloszewska

Södertörns högskola

This paper explores a case study of a grassroots activist group that provides reproductive, legal, and psychological support to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. The study examines how transnational abortion activism operates under the highly precarious conditions of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the near-total abortion ban in Poland. Drawing on qualitative research methods: primarily individual interviews with activists, complemented by a netnographic observation of the group's Instagram profile, the research investigates the group's internal structure, members' motivations, and their visions for the future. The findings reveal that the organisation not only offers direct assistance but also produces educational content aimed at destigmatising abortion and encouraging help-seeking. Although their activities are localised, they are embedded in broader domestic and transnational networks of reproductive rights activism. Engaging with theories of structural intersectionality, transnational social movements, and affective economies, this presentation sheds light on how Ukrainian-Polish abortion activism is practiced today and how solidarity, care, and resistance intersect in times of crisis.

18. Religionssociologi

Russian Soldier Morale: Spirituality, Communality, Coercion

Pär Gustafsson Kurki

Totalförsvarets forskningsinstitut FOI

The purpose of the presentation is to make sense of Russian thought on soldier morale, spanning thirty years. What ideas about the concept of soldier morale are expressed in texts by Russian military analysts? The data material consists of 11 purposefully selected Russian-language texts. Based on a content analysis of the data, I will present a simplified model, called the Russian model of soldier morale, that I have developed in a report published by the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI, Rysk syn på stridsmoral – Grundidéerna från 1990-talet till 2022, Swedish edition 2022, The Russian Understanding of Soldier Morale: Essentials of key ideas from the 1990s to 2022, English edition 2023). A key aspect of the model is the role of Russian spirituality, dukhovnost, which distinguishes it from Western equivalents. On the other hand, the model's inclusion of the role of coercive power corresponds well to the concept of coercive power in texts by Western military analysts. Finally, I will discuss how the model fits within the pseudo-theological framework of the Russian World ideology.

Förklarar intern sekularisering religiös dealignment i Sverige?

Magnus Hagevi

Linnéuniversitetet

Studien testar om intern sekularisering på individnivå förklarar varför vanan att besöka gudstjänster uppvisar ett allt svagare samband med svenska väljares partipreferenser mellan 1988 och 2025. Ett svagare samband mellan gudstjänstbesök och partipreferenser är ett exempel på så kallad religiös dealignment. Som indikatorer på individuell intern sekularisering används individers gudstro, bönevana och attityd till frälsning bland gudstjänstbesökare. Studien besvarar tre frågeställningar:

Hur omfattande är religiös dealignment?
Ökar individuell intern sekularisering bland gudstjänstbesökare?
Förklarar individuell intern sekularisering bland gudstjänstbesökare religiös dealignment?
Data består av frågeundersökningar riktade till representativa urval av den vuxna svenska befolkningen, genomförda 1988–2025. Resultatet visar religiös dealignment, men inte någon individuell intern sekularisering eller att intern sekularisering förklarar religiös dealignment.

Närvaroupplevelser som förtrollning

Annika Jonsson

Karlstad universitet

I den här presentationen undersöks i vilken grad upplevelser där döda närstående framstår som närvarande, s.k. närvaroupplevelser, kan förstås i termer av förtrollning och därmed hur närvaroupplevelser bidrar till, och under lång tid har bidragit till, att förtrolla världen. Diskussionen kring västvärldens eventuella avförtrollning (disenchantment) och återförtrolling (re-enchantment) har pågått under lång tid, och i samband med lanseringen av nya begrepp, som resonans, har den bitvis bytt skepnad. Debatten som rör sekularisering, sakralisering m.m. har till viss del förts i ett parallellt spår, men det förekommer också överlappningar. Den här presentationen utgör ett bidrag till förtrollningsdiskussionen (och i förlängningen även till samtalet om postkristna samhällen, nyandlighet o.s.v.) genom att knyta den till forskningsområdet fortsatta band och i synnerhet till forskningen om närvaroupplevelser.

I ett första steg föreslås en definition av förtrollning som på många sätt ekar Webers förståelse, men som också bygger på samtida teorier och studier. I ett andra steg presenteras forskningsområdet fortsatta band och det görs en sammanfattning av ett antal studier där efterlevandes närvaroupplevelser kartläggs och analyseras. I ett tredje steg undersöks i vilken grad närvaroupplevelser kan förstås i termer av förtrollning och vilka implikationer svaret på denna fråga får.

Evangelikal diskursiv praktik i fallet med kriget på Gazaremsan

Anders Lundberg, Kristian Steiner

Linnéuniversitetet

7 oktober 2023 attackerade terrorgruppen Hamas en musikfest i Israel. Till en början var sympatierna för Israel starka. Efter hand har positionerna skiftat och det är nu Israel som anklagas för övergrepp.

Vi är intresserade av den bevakning av kriget på Gazaremsan som vi återfinner på en uttalat evangelikal nyhetssajt – All Israel News (allisraelnews.com). Vi vill undersöka hur ett evangelikalt tankegods inverkar på beskrivningen av kriget i Gaza. Vi har därför satt oss före att studera den diskursiva praktik som råder i All Israel News rapportering från kriget i Gaza.

Efter en genomläsning av ca 300 nyhetsartiklar skrivna mellan 7 oktober 2023 och 7 oktober 2025, och med referens till Steiners (2025) teori om fiendebilder menar vi att vi på goda grunder kan konstruera en fiendediskurs som dominerar i textmaterialet och utgör grunden för en diskursordning. Men vi ser också konturerna av vad vi vill kalla en evangelikal diskurs som interagerar med fiendediskursen. Vi frågar oss i fallet All Israel News och med fokus på den evangelikala diskursen:

Vilken är den diskursiva praktikens ideologiska, politiska och sociala konsekvenser?
Förstärker och döljer den diskursiva praktiken olika maktförhållanden eller sätter den maktpositionerna i fråga genom att framställa verkligheten och de sociala relationerna på ett nytt sätt?
Hur inverkar den diskursiva praktiken på den åtskillnad och marginalisering som följer på en fiendediskurs?
Hur kan vi förstå den evangelikala diskursen utifrån en bredare utveckling i kristenheten, främst i USA?

Postmortem social relations and cemetery practices

Magdalena Nordin

Högskolan Dalarna

We live in a period of history when the way we handle death is changing. This change is related to the societal dynamics of the liberal market economy, to globalisation, migration, and climate change, and to posthumanism and technical and biological developments blurring the boundary between life and death. Moreover, these changes in the handling of death are drifting away from traditional practices towards modern and late-modern ones (cf. Schuurman & Redmalm 2019; Caswell 2011; Venbrux, Peelen, & Altena 2009; Emke 2002; Howarth 2000; Walter 1994; Baumann 1992; Foucault 1967/1986). All these shifts make it relevant to explore in detail how people of today relate to the dead, in order to better understand how the dead in contemporary times influence and are influenced by society, which is the aim of this presentation focusing on funeral and cemetery practices and postmortem social relations.

Interfaith dialogue and its' potential to promote social cohesion

Sonja Rasiwala Hägglund

Stockholms Universitet

This paper outlines the early stages of a research project on interfaith practices, specifically dialogues held across religious boundaries, and their impact on social cohesion, as well as the tensions that can arise in Sweden's super-diverse society. The project consists of three interconnected studies, which explore different aspects of interfaith initiatives.

The first study investigates interfaith initiatives in Stockholm and how they operate within a diverse yet segregated context. It will aim to examine their potential to promote social cohesion through interviews with leaders and participants, complemented by observations of key interfaith events.
The second study focuses on interfaith practices in schools, exploring the motivations of educators and religious representatives for engaging in interfaith education. It also analyses how interactions between these actors and students, along with the pedagogical content, shape students' understanding of different faith communities.
The third study addresses the challenges faced by interfaith dialogue when tensions emerge among religious diasporas. It considers how experiences of religious conflict in migrants' countries of origin may hinder participation in interfaith activities and limit their capacity to foster cohesion.
Together, these studies aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of both the potential and limitations of interfaith practices in enhancing social cohesion within a superdiverse society. The qualitative data will be analysed abductively, conceptualising religious organisations as interstitial institutions engaged in translation processes across systems of belief and practice. This approach contributes to sociological debates on belonging, negotiation, and multicultural incorporation in contemporary Sweden.

19. Socialpolitik och Välfärdforskning

When Welfare Markets Trump Climate Ambition: Moderaterna's Realignment in Sweden's Growth Model Politics

Tomas Berglund, Mattias Bengtsson

Göteborgs universitet

Sweden has been regarded as predecessor in taking measures counteracting climate change. In the early 2020s, a coalition of the government, leading export companies and trade unions advocated a green growth model. However, after the 2022 parliamentary election, the right-wing government, supported by the Sweden Democrats, implemented policies counteracting key policies of the former government. Following this, we pose this question: How to explain that the conservative party (Moderaterna), formerly advocating views of large industrial export companies, have implemented policies contrasting strategies of some of their key allies? Our main hypothesis is that Moderaterna has successively adapted to the needs of 'welfare capitalists'. We argue that since the 1990s major institutional reforms (the Swedish krona transitioned to a floating exchange rate, the EU accession, and other major changes in line with monetarism) made the interest of large industrial capitalists less salient in relation to the interest of welfare capitalists. However, with increased criticism directed at the malfunctioning of welfare markets, new political allies – in the form of closer cooperation with the Sweden democrats – has increasingly been perceived necessary for Moderaterna to safeguard welfare markets. Thus, former more ambitious measures to decrease carbon dioxide emissions has been abandoned, e.g., lowering the prize on fossil fuels. To explain this development and a new alliance of actors, we use institutional theory and growth model theory, particularly Erixon's and Pontusson's (2022) analysis of Sweden as a 'balanced growth model' to understand how different coalitions compete for political and economic power.

Bridging the gap or creating a rift? Minimum wages and inequality in comparative perspective

Daniel Fredriksson

Uppsala universitet

Labour markets are becoming more polarized, with increasing dualization between precarious and stable employment. There are many institutions that cater to labor market insiders, such as such as employment protection, unionization and unemployment benefits. These are often associated with greater inequality between disadvantaged groups and insiders. In this study we focus on another key institution, minimum wages, and analyze whether the level of the minimum wage is associated with various aspects of labour market inequality. One fundamental question is if the development of minimum wages is able to reduce in-work poverty, i.e., reducing the distance between insiders within the labour market. From a more general perspective of inequality, minimum wages may also affect poverty with respect to those currently not in employment. Here, we examine whether the interrelationship between minimum wages and social insurance and its effects of poverty among the unemployed. Are overall poverty risks contingent on the level of the minimum wage in conjunction with, e.g., unemployment insurance? A key contribution of this study is to include countries that set minimum wages in collective bargaining agreements. While previous research typically omits such countries, or define wages as some arbitrary percentage of the median or mean wage, we use a unique dataset that details the negotiated minimum wages in collective agreements in three different sectors (retail, hotel & restaurants and construction) between 2000-2025. The minimum wage data is combined with individual level data from Luxembourg Income Study to examine the effects on labour market inequality.

Responses and resilience following early career job displacement

Olivia Granström

Stockholms Universitet

Research on the adverse effects of job loss has a long history in sociology, and an extensive literature explores the consequences of unemployment, finding that it leads to lower earnings and continued unemployment, as well as lower life satisfaction and well-being. Likewise, experiencing establishment closures is shown to have negative effects on later labor market outcomes–mainly earnings–both in Sweden and elsewhere. However, most Swedish research focus only on earnings trajectories, leaving unanswered questions about what drives these lower earnings and how responses to job displacement differ across groups. In this paper, I aim to map out different responses to early career job displacements due to establishment closures in Sweden. I focus on individuals who experience job displacement within the first five years after leaving education, following their earning trajectories for at least ten years after displacement. Drawing on Swedish full-population administrative data covering the years 1991–2023, I use growth curve analysis to disentangle the relationship between responses to job displacement and sociodemographic characteristics, including socioeconomic background, immigration background, and gender. I examine what types of responses–focusing on work stability versus instability, occupational upward versus. downward mobility, and continued education–are more common among different groups. Additionally, I will explore local labor market characteristics that may explain these different responses. From a policy perspective this is essential: if some groups face structural obstacles in recovering from early career shocks, it may lead to persistent inequalities between groups.

The Green Risk Shift: The Limits of the Swedish Green State

Tomas Gustavsson

Göteborgs universitet

The accelerating green industrial transition places mounting fiscal demands on public authorities at multiple levels of government, as needs for energy provision, transport infrastructure, and reskilling intensify. While corporate, national and EU-level actors shape the trajectory of the transition, responsibility for enabling infrastructure and services is widely dispersed across government levels. This paper therefore examines both how the institutional architecture responds to such cost pressures, and how subnational public actors deploy to manage the fiscal trilemma of enabling green investment, maintaining welfare provision, and upholding budgetary discipline.

The empirical focus is on West Sweden, where the automotive industry, anchored by Volvo Group and Volvo Cars, is undergoing rapid electrification. This industrial restructuring has triggered large-scale investment needs in strategically located municipalities such as Mariestad. Drawing on theories of state rescaling and fiscal consolidation, the study develops an analytical framework to map subnational fiscal strategies along two dimensions: cost allocation, whether costs are absorbed or deflected, and fiscal adjustment, whether they are managed through austerity or revenue expansion. The analysis is based on interviews and document analysis of budgets and investment plans from 2018 to 2024.

Findings show that municipalities perceive the national state as both cost-deflective and fiscally austere, actively decentralizing risk downward. In response, they adopt similar cost deflective and austere measures. However, these are based on an expansionary logic of future revenues. This in turn has implications for how the fiscal trilemma is navigated, and the notion of Sweden as a green state.

Retirement Timing in Europe: Gender and Education Differences in the Influence of Institutional Factors Across 26 Countries

Caroline Hasselgren Bune, Björn Halleröd, Anna Brydsten, Linda Kridahl, Robin Jonsson

Södertörns Högskola

European governments' policies to prolong working lives are beginning to show results, yet which measures truly affect retirement behaviour and how they influence different social groups remains underexplored. This study responds to calls for comparative, multilevel analyses by examining how individual and institutional factors are associated with retirement timing, and whether these associations differ by gender and education, two dimensions shaping labour market opportunities. Using data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) on individuals born between 1956 and 1960 (n = 11,170), we link individual information with five institutional factors: public pension generosity, adult learning participation rate, replacement ratio, unemployment rates among older workers, and statutory pension age (SPA). Results show that being female, experiencing poor health, having a partner, and possessing lower household wealth are associated with earlier retirement, whereas tertiary education, greater household wealth, and being male predict later retirement timing. At the institutional level, higher SPA and higher adult learning participation rate delay retirement. Interaction analyses reveal that high unemployment is more strongly associated with early retirement among women, while increases in SPA are more strongly linked to delayed retirement among women and lower-educated individuals. These findings suggest that women and less educated workers are more sensitive to institutional and labour market conditions. Policies aiming to extend working lives should therefore account for unequal distributions of health, education, wealth, gender, and family circumstances to be both fair and effective, as these shape older workers' ability and willingness to adapt to such reforms.

Who Can Afford Everyday Mobility? Minimum Income Protection, Car Dependence, and Eco-Social Inequality in Europe.

Arvid Lindh

Stockholms universitet

Climate mitigation and adaptation policies may recalibrate existing inequalities or generate new ones. Mobility is both a basic need and a key axis of disadvantage. Structural-economic and institutional path dependencies have shaped Europe into “car societies”, where lacking car access signals material deprivation – especially in rural areas – while reliance on combustion vehicles exposes households to eco-social risks from rising fuel costs and maintenance. Situated within eco-welfare regimes, this comparative study adopts a programmatic focus on specific policy instruments. While income protection reduces “old” social risks, its role in addressing “new” eco-social risks is unclear. We examine how minimum income benefits – together with car-related subsidies and economic factors such as the role of the car industry – shape inequalities in mobility and car use across all 27 EU member states. Linking Eurobarometer data with the Social Policy Indicators database, we find car ownership widespread among high-status households. By contrast, affordability among low-status households varies substantially with the generosity of minimum income benefits, which particularly supports car use among rural residents. Yet significant eco-social inequalities persist: electric and hybrid ownership remains concentrated among high-status households. Minimum income protection thus mitigates transport deprivation but is less effective in equalizing access to sustainable transport.

Diskursiva överenskommelser och motståndshandlingar inom statligt arbete för att bekämpa mäns våld mot kvinnor

Elin Lindsmyr

Högskolan i Jönköping

Sedan 90talet har den svenska välfärdsstaten i allt större utsträckning tagit ansvar för att bekämpa det våld kvinnor utsätts för av män. Trots att det idag tas förgivet att staten ska ta detta ansvar ifrågasatte feministiska forskare tidigt statens förmåga att förändra patriarkala maktstrukturer – givet att samma maktordningar genomsyrar staten. Det här papret tar sikte mot att, genom ett teoretiskt resonemang om diskurser som könskonstituerande, bidra med kunskap om statens förutsättningar att respondera på mäns våld mot kvinnor.

I papret, som bygger på intervjuer med tjänstepersoner vid landets länsstyrelser som arbetar för att bekämpa mäns våld mot kvinnor, utforskas hur diskurser rörande mäns våld mot kvinnor och motstånd mot dessa kan förstås synliggöra ett paradoxalt förhållningssätt gällande kön och makt i offentlig verksamhet. Å ena sidan finns en stark förståelse av jämställdhet som eftersträvansvärt – å andra sidan verkar påtalande av patriarkala maktförhållanden mötas av motstånd. En sådan diskrepans, eller spänning, återfinns i Eva Lundgrens teori om könskonstituering. Lundgren har menat att kön är både föränderligt och relativt stabilt – regulativa regler, ytregler, är föränderliga och möjliga att sätta ord på. Konstitutiva regler, grundregler, utgör det förgivettagna. I mitt paper prövar jag tanken om diskursiva överenskommelser om jämställdhet går att förstå som uttryck för regulativa regler för kön, medan diskursiva moståndshandlingar går att förstå som uttryck för konstitutiva regler för kön.

Does Aiming High Pay Off? The Effects of Tertiary Enrolment for Low-Performing Students

Andreas Ljungström

Stockholms universitet

School performance strongly predicts transition to tertiary education: the higher the grades, the higher the transition rates. Yet with tertiary expansion, tertiary institutions in Western countries now recruit large numbers of students whose grades are around or even below average. This raises the question of whether going to tertiary education is, on average, a net good for low-performing students, or if they would be better off by ending their educational careers after upper secondary education. In this paper, we use a causal triangulation approach, applying both a fuzzy regression discontinuity design and an instrumental variables difference-in-differences design. While both target the causal effect of tertiary enrolment on future outcomes, they draw on different samples defined by the institutional rules each design exploits. We use individual-level data from Swedish registers, with data on those who graduated upper-secondary school from a preparatory academic track between 2003 and 2018. The outcomes that we measure are cumulative ECTS credits, completion of tertiary education, labour earnings, and labour market attachment, all measured from 3 years post-graduation until maximum 15 years post-graduation. For both models we see a substantive and significant effect of enrolment on both educational and labor market outcomes. We also find substantive effect heterogeneity on labor market outcomes by gender, foreign-background, and by parental SES.

Just institutions matter? A subnational analysis of social trust, institutional trust and self-rated health in 184 European Regions, 2002-2023

Jan Mewes

Lunds universitet

Social trust, the belief that most people can be trusted, has been shown to predict better self-rated health and longevity. Importantly, this association holds both on the individual level - with trusting individuals reporting better health outcomes than misanthropes - and on the contextual level, i.e. individual health outcomes tend to be better in high-trust contexts than in low-trust environments. Focusing on the latter, more social-capital oriented approach where the positive consequences of social trust may even spill over to distrusting misanthropes, my contribution brings back in trust in institutions - a well-established individual-level determinant of social trust - as an overlooked factor in studies concerning the relationship between trust and health. Drawing on cross-country survey data from the European Social Survey 2002-2023 and harmonizing data from all available rounds into a dataset comprising of 184 European regions, I analyze, firstly, whether the multi-level association between social trust and self-rated healths holds between and within countries over time. Using three-level multilevel analyses with country-level fixed effects, I find that social trust predicts self-rated health in a threefold way: At the individual level (level 1), within regions over time (level 2) and between regions (level 3). Importantly, this correlation is attenuated when controlling for institutional trust. Provided that institutional trust reflects institutional quality, I thus provide further evidence for Bo Rothstein's hypothesis that just institutions matter, even for health.

Transnational social capital and educational attainment

Olav Nygård, Alireza Behtoui

Linköpings universitet

School-age children of immigrants tend to report larger and more resource rich contact networks than children of non-immigrants, despite on average growing up in more disadvantaged circumstances. One plausible explanation is that the migration process leads to more transnational ties, and that dispersal causes the occupations and life situations of these contacts to become more diverse. Another plausible explanation is that the better access among immigrant families is an effect of migrant selectivity. Regardless, this raises questions about the fungibility of such contacts as social capital: resources embedded in social networks that can be mobilized for favourable outcomes. In this article, we contribute by answering the question: To what extent does transnational social contacts contribute to higher educational attainment among young Swedes with or without immigrant background? Data on social contacts come from a survey administered to youth in the last year of compulsory school, which was combined with information on grades and family background from administrative registers. Regression results show that both Swedish contacts and transnational contacts were associated with higher grade points and higher university aspirations. For grade points, the estimate for Swedish contacts was larger. For educational aspirations, however, there was no difference between the estimates for Swedish and transnational contacts. This indicates that local contacts are more helpful for educational attainment, but that transnational contacts can be equally important for promoting educational aspirations.

Explaining the penalties: A comparative analysis of social policy as a determinant of the association between social risks and relative poverty

Sebastian Sirén

Uppsala universitet

In many affluent countries, low incomes lag behind the median among working-age individuals and their children. Against this background, this study explores the role of social policies in explaining temporal and cross-country variation in relative poverty in the non-elderly population across affluent welfare states. Drawing on the prevalence and penalties framework (Brady, Finnigan, et al., 2017), the study examines to what extent changes in relative poverty rates can be explained by changes in the prevalence of poverty-associated risks versus a stronger link between these risks and poverty.

The study combines data from the Social Policy Indicators (SPIN) database with information on households' socio-demographic characteristics and living standards from the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS). Variation in the prevalence of significant social risks—lone parenthood, immigrant status, unemployment, and young headship—is calculated using LIS data from a broad set of welfare states across multiple waves. Changing poverty risks associated with these characteristics are estimated using linear probability models of poverty. Comparative institutional data from SPIN is then employed to examine whether differences in social policies can help to explain variation in penalties.

The analyses extend earlier work on determinants of relative poverty in contemporary welfare states by assessing social policies' role in protecting at-risk groups from economic disadvantage. Specifically, the study seeks to disentangle the role of structural changes from institutional explanations of poverty. The study also contributes to welfare state research by testing how well institutional data on social policy capture the poverty-reducing function of contemporary welfare states.

Can Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Buffer Life-Course Labour-Market Risks? Evidence from SHARELIFE and SPIN

Ola Sjöberg

Stockholms universitet

Life-course exposures to unemployment and long-term sickness absence have been linked to poorer health in later life, yet we know surprisingly little about whether income protection can mitigate their long-term health consequences. This paper uses retrospective life-history data from SHARELIFE combined with policy indicators from the Social Policy Indicators (SPIN) database to examine how unemployment and sickness benefit systems shape health in later life across ten European countries.

We construct complete labour-market and health trajectories from first labour-market entry to retirement, including yearly information on unemployment and long-term sickness absence. These individual histories are merged with annually measured indicators of the generosity of unemployment and sickness benefit schemes, as well as a summary index of combined income protection. The main outcome is self-rated health in later life.

The paper has three aims: (1) to examine whether more generous unemployment and sickness benefits moderate the association between these exposures and later-life health; (2) to assess “scarring effects” by testing whether earlier versus later episodes are differentially associated with health; and (3) to analyse how joint exposure to both unemployment and sickness absence is linked to health, and whether high benefit generosity can offset the combined risk.

By integrating individual life courses with long-run institutional trajectories, the paper speaks to a central question in comparative welfare research: to what extent can unemployment and sickness insurance buffer the health impacts of labour-market risks over the life course?

Explaining the penalties: A comparative analysis of social policy as a determinant of the association between social risks and relative poverty

Andrey Tibajev

Institutet för framtidsstudier

Immigrants' labour market strategies and behaviour are shaped by the context of the destination country. This is especially true for immigrant women, who often experience double disadvantage in the labour market stemming from the interaction between ethnic stratification and the gendered division of labour. The present study examines how gender differences in applications for recognition of foreign credentials are shaped by destination-country contexts. Credential recognition offers a distinct lens for analysing how immigrants navigate national opportunity structures, as it reflects a proactive individual strategy, less dependent on employer decisions than employment or occupational attainment. Gender differences in the pursuit of recognition thus reveal how immigrant women respond to broader societal expectations and support in shaping their labour market trajectories.

The analysis draws on data from the 2021 European Union Labour Force Survey, combined with comparative indicators of destination-country contexts. A sample of 22,000 immigrants across 24 European countries is analysed using multilevel models. Results show that immigrant women are more likely than men to pursue credential recognition, particularly in countries with narrower gender gaps in labour force participation and stronger labour market integration policies. In these contexts, immigrant women are both expected to participate in paid work and benefit from institutional support, making recognition a more viable and attractive strategy to pursuit. This study highlights the importance of promoting both gender equality and immigrant integration in countries of destination, particularly relevant as immigrant women's labour market opportunities are shaped by the intersection of gender and integration policies.

20. Socialpsykologi

Att inte få svar

Ingrid Bosseldal

Lunds universitet

När Bob Dylan får nobelpriset i litteratur 2016 utbryter förvirring. Först över valet av pristagare, men snart än mer över att Svenska Akademien inte kan nå honom. Fyra dagar efter tillkännagivandet, 17 oktober, ger Svenska Akademien upp sina försök att kontakta pristagaren. SVT meddelar att ”världen väntar på ett svar”. Akademiledamoten Per Wästberg ilsknar till och beskriver Dylans beteende som arrogant och oartigt. Dagens Nyheters kulturchef Björn Wiman tycker händelseförloppet är våldsamt underhållande, ”rena kärleksromanen, med obesvarade telefonsamtal och ångerfulla brev”.
Den här händelsen väcker min intellektuella nervositet: Vad gör det med oss att inte få svar – eller, som i Dylans fall, att inte svara? Är det ett växande fenomen? Ett problem? Och i så fall varför? 2015 utsåg Collins English Dictionary ”ghosting” – detta att utsättas för att någon plötsligt bara försvinner och slutar svara på ens kontaktförsök – till årets ord. Beteendet är förstås äldre, men det är kanske signifikativt att vi nu har ett särskilt ord för det, som dessutom utvidgats till sådant som workplace ghosting, friendship ghosting och organizational ghosting.
Den här presentationen berör det inledande kapitlet i ett bokprojekt. I projektet fördjupas olika aspekter av att inte svara eller inte få svar, från det personliga och emotionella till mellanartsliga och demokratiska sammanhang. Med utgångspunkt i framför allt Asplunds teori om social responsivitet (1987a, b) och Donna Haraways begrepp response-ability (1988, 2008, 2016), undersöks hur uteblivna svar påverkar relationer och sociala processer och kan användas både i kontrollerande syfte och som en etisk omsorgshandling.

Hardcore and single, patterns of dividing political tendencies and relational singlehood.

Jasper Darin

Stockholms Universitet

With increased political polarisation between young men and women in many western societies, its consequences are still to be understood. Writers and journalists alike has drawn parallels between processes of political polarisation and increasing singlehood. Research shows that loneliness have been on the rise together with decreasing interest in dating and relationship formation, and that similarities being one of the most important factors young adults look for in potential partners, with political similarities being one of the most central. It remains however to be established if political opinions are connected to singlehood in polarised environments. For instance, it might be that the polarisation creates difficulties for men on the right and women on the left, but also that this polarsiation only affects those with staunch relationships to their political beliefs. Sweden is an interesting case of study as it is one of the countries with most evident political polarisation across gender lines among young adults. If the hypotheses of lower partnership formation and retention for men on the right and women on the left are true, then we can expect continued difficulties for young adults on the dating market. If the hypotheses are not true, it raises questions about that perception, but also what the real-world consequences of this polarisation actually are, and if we should continue to worry about it.

Moral Imagination and the Search for Meaning

Emma Engdahl

Göteborgs universitet

In an era marked by emotional detachment, fragmentation, and rising political polarization, Moral Imagination and the Search for Meaning explores the moral and democratic urgency of empathy. Drawing from sociology, philosophy, feminist theory, and moral psychology, the book offers a lyrical yet analytically grounded meditation on the emotional foundations of ethical life. Central to the work is the argument that empathy is not a private sentiment, but a public virtue—an essential precondition for moral responsibility and communicative democracy.

This presentation will focus on how empathy enables recognition, dialogue, and moral imagination, all of which are crucial to sustaining democratic practices in times of disconnection. Through engagement with thinkers such as Arendt, Habermas, Honneth, and Weil, the book reclaims empathy as a relational force that resists the logic of control and efficiency. Rather than reducing ethics to abstract principles or procedural norms, Moral Imagination and the Search for Meaning insists on the affective, embodied, and vulnerable dimensions of being-with-others.

By inviting participants to reflect on the role of emotional resonance in public life, the presentation offers not only a theoretical intervention but also a call to reimagine ethics and democracy as grounded in attention, care, and the courage to be affected.

Resonans i mänskliga möten: En studie av interaktiv teater på äldreboenden

Satu Heikkinen, Markus Arvidsson

Karlstads universitet

I såväl forskning som policy har det lyfts fram att kultur främjar hälsa och välbefinnande hos äldre personer. Merparten studier är av kvantitativ karaktär där effekter studeras på hälsa. Få studier har följt processer om i vilka situationer och hur välmående skapas respektive inte skapas hos äldre. Det saknas djupare kunskap om vad som i en kulturupplevelse, exempelvis teater, formar välmående eller inte. En teori som vi menar kan bidra till att skapa förståelse för vad kulturupplevelser kan innehålla och som kan forma välmående är Hartmut Rosas resonansteori.

Denna studie utforskar därför hur resonans som teoretisk referensram fungerar för att förstå upplevelser av teater hos äldre personer på äldreboenden. Studien har följt en professionell teatergrupp som genomfört interaktiva teaterföreställningar inom en region i mellansverige, totalt 39 boenden. Genom 31 intervjuer på 8 äldreboenden med personal, aktivitetssamordnare, äldre boende och teatergruppen lyfter studien fram situationer med resonansupplevelser respektive alienation. Vi pekar på dilemman, svårigheter och förutsättningar för resonans och diskuterar huruvida teatersituationen är gynnsam för sådana upplevelser.

Omvälvande möten efter migration: migrerade singelmäns föreställningar om nya relationer

Andreas Henriksson

Karlstads universitet

Omvälvande möten är idén att individers tillvaro kan förändras drastiskt och positivt på grund av en ny, oväntad relation. Den har varit ett viktigt ideal och bland annat präglat idéer om romantisk kärlek. I en globaliserande värld där människor rör sig över gränser och hamnar i oväntade möten är det möjligt att idealet både stärks och utmanas. När krafter som vill stärka gränser och minska rörlighet blir starkare, hur påverkas föreställningar om omvälvande möten och idéer om romantisk kärlek? I denna text presenteras data från en intervjustudie om migrerade singelmän (n=48) i Sverige och Italien, där deras erfarenheter och föreställningsvärldar med avseende på singelskap och intimitet beskrivs. I analysen används en socialpsykologisk förståelse av föreställningsvärldar, på engelska imagination. I data beskrivs omvälvande möten som ett slags nödvändighet för migranter. Samtidigt förekommer både misstänksamhet mot och nostalgisk romantisering av mötena i männens berättelser. Resultaten sätter fokus på emotionella och interaktionsmässiga förutsättningar för idealising av omvälvande möten.

21. Sociologi för lärare

Sociologiundervisning som public sociology

Pontus Engström

Hedda Anderssongymnasiet

Ginnerskov (2023) beskriver hur undervisning länge betraktats som "profan" i den svenska universitetsmiljön, i kontrast till den "heliga" forskningen – en rest av 70- och 80-talens utbildningsskepsis. Han uppmanar sociologer att inspireras av det arbete som bedrivits i USA, där undervisning erkänns som en central del av disciplinens självförståelse. En parallell diskussion i den amerikanska sociologin är den om public sociology – ett begrepp lanserat av den nyligen bortgångne Michael Burawoy (2021) som innebär att sociologisk kunskap förs ut ur den akademiska världen och in i det offentliga samtalet.
Sociologin i Sverige växer snabbt på gymnasiet men det saknas en etablerad ämnesdidaktisk tradition, i min presentation vill jag därför relatera de amerikanska erfarenheterna till svenska förhållanden. Med utgångspunkt i Burawoys och hans efterföljares idéer och erfarenheter föreslår jag två sociologididaktiska utvecklingsområden:
För det första behövs en praktiknära undervisning som inte bara förmedlar sociologisk kunskap, utan också skapar sociologiska subjekt. En sådan pedagogik utgår ifrån att eleverna befinner sig i en väv av relationer och att sociologin ska vara relaterbar och praktisk för dem. Utmaningen (och möjligheten) är att elevgrupperna är heterogena, vilket aktualiserar den didaktiska frågan sociologi för vem?

Det andra helt avgörande området är en kollektiv professionsutveckling. Granskaningar av High School-sociologin i USA (DeCesare, 2023) visar på vikten av 1. akademiskt skolade lärare och 2. samarbetet mellan gymnasielärare och universitet, vilket krävs för att bygga en hållbar ämnesdidaktisk infrastruktur och säkra en professionell stomme i undervisningen. Utmaningen (och möjligheten) ligger i det spänningsförhållande som existerar mellan det Burawoy kallar för professional och public sociology – en relation som kännetecknas av antagonism och ömsesidigt beroende.

Modeller och statistik för förundran och förståelse

Katarina Friberg

Handelshögskolan i Stockholm

Vad vinner man och vad riskerar man när man använder modeller och statistik i gymnasie- och högstadieundervisning om samhällsvetenskapliga företeelser och förlopp? Modeller har en potential att utveckla elevernas förmåga att se samband och att utveckla ett laborativt samhällsvetenskapligt tänkande. Denna möjlighet behöver dock diskuteras i relation till riskerna att de kan förvilla och försvåra för elever. Modeller är tveeggade, de kan, som Ann-Sofie Jägerskog (2020, 2021) skriver, både hjälpa och stjälpa elevers förståelse av det ämnesinnehåll eller frågor man arbetar med. Det är viktigt med val av rätt modell och att fenomenet eller ämnesinnehållet man vill åt hamnar i förgrunden i modellen.

Studier om modellernas potential och risker är min utgångspunkt i detta paper. Vi ska dock inte stanna vid detta utan även undersöka möjligheten att använda modeller och statistik för att väcka förundran hos eleverna. Ett digitalt verktyg, ofta använt i skolundervisningen, som verkligen lyckats med detta är bubbeldiagrammet på Gapminders hemsida. En annan illustration av befolkningsstatistik som man även kan få i digital form, är befolkningspyramiderna.

AI och undervisning av sociologi

Ivan Kljucevic

Filbornaskolan

Det som utmärker sociologi som ämne på gymnasiet är fältstudien. I ämnesplanen för sociologi beskriver skolverket att elever genom fältstudier ska få en inblick i sociala sammanhang och levnadsmiljöer. Eleven ska även genom sina teorikunskaper utveckla ett kritiskt förhållningssätt. Enkelt utryckt ska eleven sätta på sig sina sociologiska glasögon.

Vi som lärare ska förbereda eleverna till att bli framtidens sociologer. Men hur hanterar vi undervisningen när eleven ersätter sitt eget arbete och sitt kritiska förhållningssätt med AI? Vad lär sig eleven då? Och hur vet jag som lärare vad som är elevens kunskap och vad som är AI?

Elever använder sig idag i allt större utsträckning av AI i alla ämnen. Jag har sett att elever ber AI skriva intervjuguider och sedan sätter dessa i relation till kursinnehållet. Nästa steg är kanske att eleven ber AI skapa en fiktiv transkriberad intervju eller observationsanteckning?

Jag vill fortsatt använda mig av inlämningsuppgifter som examinationsform. Den lärprocess som kommer av att eleven först genomför sin fältstudie och därefter bearbetar och analyserar sitt material går inte att ersätta med en salstenta. Särskilt när jag som lärare kontinuerligt kan bistå i skrivprocessen. Frågan är hur vi ska fortsätta arbeta med fältstudier på ett kvalitativt sätt när elever ersätter sina sociologiska glasögon med AI?

Hur lär man ut sociologi? Reflektioner från 15 års erfarenheter på gymnasiet och universitetet

Henrik Larsson, Björn Karlsson

Katedralskolan i Lund

Sociologins införande som gymnasieämne ställde omedelbart frågan till de lärare som konfronterades med ämnet: hur lär man egentligen ut sociologi till gymnasieelever? Denna session behandlar författarnas försök att besvara denna fråga i relation till att översätta sin ”beprövade erfarenhet” till skrivandet av ett nytt läromedel för sociologi på gymnasiet.
Sessionen utgår därmed från erfarenheter av gymnasiedidaktik men kontrasteras även med försteförfattarens erfarenhet som universitetslärare. För att analysera dessa erfarenheter använder vi oss av Vygotskij (1989) för att reflektera kring det vi uppfattar som gymnasiesociologins styrkor, såsom ämnets förmåga att utveckla samhällsvetenskapliga koncept och därmed kritiskt tänkande.
Vi lägger särskild emfas på att sociologins didaktiska styrka ligger i att lära ut och låta eleven själv praktisera sociologisk metod och analysera sin egen empiri, vilket vi menar är en av de mest glädjefyllda och pedagogiskt givande sätten att undervisa i ämnet.
Vidare så diskuterar vi också våra erfarenheter av att gymnasieelever är innovatörer i sociologin i mycket högre grad än universitetsstudenter. Vi länkar denna något ironiska situation till att gymnasieeleven saknar inlärd respekt för kanoniska figurer såsom Goffman, vilket innebär att gymnasieeleven är mer benägen än universitetsstudenten att leka med begrepp och öppna sig för den sociologiska fantasin (Mills 1999). Vi reflekterar därmed kritiskt också kring hur högre utbildning tenderar till att reproducera gängse samhällsvetenskapliga paradigm(er) (Kuhn 1970), snarare än att nödvändigtvis förmedla verktyg för individuell kritisk reflektion och förståelse, vilket vi kontrasterar med gymnasieskolans unika möjligheter till detta.

Sociologididaktikens utmaningar inom akademi och på gymnasieskola

Karina Petersson

Linnéuniversitetet

Sociologi har under 2010-talet fått en etablerad plats i gymnasieskolan, men undervisningen präglas av stora variationer i kursutbud, lärarkompetens och didaktiska strategier. Ämnet erbjuds främst inom samhällsvetenskapsprogrammet, samt saknar en enhetlig ämnesdidaktisk tradition och tydliga nationella riktlinjer. Läromedel och undervisningspraktiker varierar kraftigt, vilket leder till en fragmenterad ämnesidentitet och varierat innehåll i undervisningen. Dessa förhållanden väcker frågor om hur svenska lärosäten ska anordna utbildningar i sociologididaktik samt aktualiserar diskussioner om utveckling av sociologins kärna och en gemensam didaktisk grund, för att möta både gymnasieskolans behov och akademins krav. Genom att reflektera över dessa aspekter är syftet att förstå sociologiämnets och sociologididaktikens utmaningar och behov samt hur ämnesdidaktikens teoretiska och praktiska grunder kan stärkas och förenas i samverkan mellan akademin och gymnasieskolan.

Nyckelord: Sociologididaktik, Gymnasieskola, Undervisningspraktik

22. Sociologisk kriminologi

Exploring Equality in the Virtual Court

Helena Andersen

Lund University

This presentation will be on my doctoral research about gender and intersectionality in virtual courtrooms.
In recent years, Sweden has experienced a large increase of women entering the criminal justice system. The Swedish prison and probation services have proclaimed a need for 5 times the amount of prison spaces for female inmates, compared to what they have now. Simultaneously, the courtrooms, through which many of these women will journey, are becoming increasingly digitalized. This means that courtroom participants are often attending via video-link instead of presenting physically. This project aims to investigate the meeting and interplay between these two societal changes.
Courtrooms and courtroom professionals operate with specific roles, hierarchies, and formalised procedures. They are also affected by expectations and biases, which can take form via perceived ideal types of offenders and victims. The traditional courtroom procedures and formalities are challenged by remote participation, while ideal types are challenged by an influx of female defendants and offenders. Moreover, biases can affect participants based on more factors than gender and gendered stereotypes in the criminal justice system. Racial, cultural, ethnic, and other minority representations can affect the perceptions and expectations of participants in courtrooms, why an intersectional approach contributes to the framework in a most relevant way. Thus, it becomes important to investigate whether virtual elements in courtrooms, such as video-link participation, makes a difference for participants - and in which way.

The research will be conducted qualitatively, by employing courtroom ethnography, semi-structured interviews, and shadowing.

Playing Stigma: Play, humor, and Counter-Narratives in Drag Culture

Filippa Flaherty

Linnéuniversitetet

Drag culture is often associated with spectacle and humor, yet beneath its glitter lies a complex moral world where stigmatized identities are negotiated and reimagined. While previous research has explored drag as art performance and gender resistance, less attention has been given to how play itself functions as a cultural logic for transforming stigma and sustaining belonging. This research examines how drag artists in Scandinavia use play, humor, and the creation of counter-narratives to navigate stigma. It asks how these practices enable performers to rework the meanings attached to identities such as gender and deviance, and to construct moral and emotional orders of recognition and solidarity. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork and interviews with drag artists, and grounded in cultural sociological and cultural criminological perspectives, the study situates drag as a site of meaning-making, moral boundary work, and collective identity construction. Preliminary findings suggest that play operates as a moral and emotional order that shapes belonging, transforming stigma into a shared source of creativity, resilience, and joy. Through exaggeration, parody, and irony, drag artists reframe marginalization as a space of belonging and critique. By approaching drag as play, this research highlights how stigmatized groups use performance to construct meaning, reframe deviance, and imagine social alternatives where vulnerability and pleasure coexist.

Remote, but Not Alone: The Challenges and Possibilities of Supporting Witnesses via Video Link

Lisa Flower

Lunds universitet

The increasing use of video links for witness testimony in criminal trials is reshaping traditional courtroom dynamics, the experience of giving evidence, and the ways in which crime victim organisations are able to provide help and support for witnesses. This paper examines how witnessing via video link reconfigures the temporal, spatial, and relational dimensions of providing help and support for witnesses with implications for participation and procedural justice. Drawing on socio-legal scholarship, interviews with respondents working as victim support coordinators and victim support volunteers, together with ethnographic observations, the analysis explores how remote testimony shapes the everyday practices of these key actors in providing support for witnesses. The paper highlights tensions between efficiency and fairness, technological mediation and legal tradition, and argues that the normalization of remote witnessing requires careful consideration of its procedural, ethical, and symbolic consequences for victim support.

Sweden and the rise of Darknet dead-drops

Tove Gustavsson

Lunds universitet

In late 2024, I was invited to an encrypted chat group a respondant believed would interest me. He explained that it was connected to a Swedish cryptomarket vendor. Cryptomarkets are darknet drug markets on Tor, functioning like online consumer platforms where vendors sell products for cryptocurrency. Trust and reputation are central, and deliveries are usually made through postal services

I accepted the invite and was transported to a Swedish cryptomarket vendor that proclaimed “VENDOR DEAD DROPS SWEDEN! Bulk buy Cocaine · 50g ..... 24 000:- (480:-/g) to · 500g ..... 165 000:- (330:-/g)”.

What immediately stood out in this case was the use of dead drops. Instead of postal delivery, a courier hides the package near the buyer and sends its location by photo. While this method is common in Eastern Europe, it has been noted in the UK and Greece. It avoids postal interceptions but brings risks, such as theft or disputes over delivery. Daly and Shortis (2024, p.13) argue that "And in terms of product supply, unlike the tricky logistics and foreign contacts required when importing illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine, the fact that many drug vendor networks make the product themselves means less risky movement of large stashes of drugs across such a huge country."

In Sweden, however, the situation is different: dead drops are used for synthetics but also for imported drugs, including cocaine. What can Sweden’s adoption of dead drops tell us about evolving drug distribution methods?

What should we do? The solutions to gun violence and gang crime in Swedish news coverage

Petter Ingemarsson

Uppsala universitet

In my research, I examine how gun violence in Sweden has been constructed as a social problem and what role social work is assigned in dealing with this problem. This presentation aims to discuss the second empirical chapter of my thesis, where the focus is on how proposed solutions to gang-related gun violence is constructed and articulated, as well as which actors are portrayed as responsible for handling the problem. The empirical material consists of editorials from Sweden ´s largest newspapers (Aftonbladet, Dagens Nyheter, Expressen and Svenska Dagbladet) covering three time periods: 2013–2018, 2019–2021 and 2022–2024. The analytical approach draws on Loseke's theory of social problems as a claims-making activity, with focus on so-called prognostic frames. This concerns not only what should be done, but also who should do it.

The findings suggest that there are two main types of solutions: reactive and proactive measures, with a change over time. The reactive measures focus on a “tough on crime” approach, which has become increasingly strict, – but also include a restrictive migration policy, especially during 2022–2024. Social services are mentioned as part of the proactive measures in 2013–2018, although their expected role is not clearly specified. A line of argument that emerged in 2019–2021 suggests that social services should adopt a more repressive approach, which becomes increasingly evident in 2022–2024.

Legal narratives and the reframing of gang discourse into evidence and intent in Swedish homicide cases

Henrietta Johansson

Linnéuniversitetet

Over the past decade, Sweden has experienced a continuous escalation in gun homicides and bombs linked to criminal networks. In the political discourse, attention has been directed towards contra-actions – such as stricter sentencing and expanded surveillance – whilst previous research has focused on socioeconomic factors and risk behaviours. Few studies have, however, examined the communication that precede, reproduce and sustain such violence.

This article is part of an ongoing dissertation that consists of two interrelated sets of empirical material on criminal networks: (a) actual communication from encrypted platforms and (b) reconstructed communication as presented in court documents. The present article focuses on the latter, addressing a key research gap regarding how communication between offenders is represented and reframed in Swedish general courts.

Theoretically, the study draws on Luhmann's systems theory and cultural criminology. Hence, the analysis focuses on the court's narrative and describes it as a communicative subsystem observing another system (the criminal network) through its own codes. Whilst individuals in the networks communicate through their own symbolic forms, the legal system re-codes these expressions into categories of evidence and intent. This process addresses broader sociological perspectives on knowledge production and meaning-making processes of gang violence in Sweden.

THE GOOD COP: YOUTH PERFORMING HEROIC POLICE WORK IN TRUSTBUILDING INITIATIVE

Rickard Jonsson, Anna G. Franzén

Stockholms universitet

The relationship between youth and the police has been the subject of extensive research, much of which paints a troubling picture. A central theme in this literature is the profound lack of trust that often characterizes police–youth interactions. This paper examines how trust-building between youth and the police is enacted and narrated within the Swedish initiative Person behind the uniform (Människan bakom uniformen, MBU). MBU engages young people through a voluntary program led by uniformed professionals, including police officers. Drawing on data from a video ethnographic study of an MBU program in a medium-sized Swedish town, the paper analyzes a role-play exercise in which young participants dress in police uniforms and take on the role of officers. In doing so, we explore the collaborative construction of a narrative of heroic and effective police work, with particular attention to (a) the use of reported speech in small stories, especially its role in shaping subjectivities and constructing authentic police work in interaction, and (b) the symbolic value of the uniform in the youths' performances of being "the good cop."

Penal Sanctions at the Margins of Adulthood: Evidence from an Institutional Discontinuity in Sweden.

Anna Kahlmeter, Julia Sandahl

Stockholms universitet

Traditionally, there has been a strong consensus that young offenders should get special treatment in the justice system. However, recent legislative changes and propositions suggest a movement towards a more punitive and adult-oriented approach in the treatment of young offenders in Sweden. While there is no separate juvenile justice system in Sweden, children and young adults are funnelled mainly into different systems. We interpret the legal majority threshold at age 18, a transition invoked as a central policy argument in recent debates on youth reduction, as an institutional shift: youths below 18 are mainly diverted to child welfare services for more serious offences (youth care or youth service). In contrast, sanctions for youths >18 generally are administered by the prison and probation services.

The study utilises rich administrative data and focuses on three mid-range offence types (theft, assault and drug offence) to 1. assess how penal responses differ between youths just below and just above the age of 18, 2. assess if young people adapt their offending behaviour in anticipation of turning 18 and facing a different penal regime, and 3. estimate the causal impact of adult-oriented sanctions (administered by the Prison and Probation Services) compared to youth-oriented sanctions (administered by the Child Welfare Services). The findings are discussed in relation to welfare service versus control and deterrence versus rehabilitation.

Logics in Police Youth Work

Charlotte Lebeda Henriksson

Linnéuniversitetet

Introduction

Police work involves the intersection of professional judgment and creativity within the framework of a complex mission. The Police officers are not only responsible for preventing and intervening in crimes, but they also promote safety, remain accessible, and provide service to the public. Further youth-specific work requires special consideration of age-related maturity under the Swedish Youth Offenders Act (LUL). This study examines how different logic in field-based youth work can help us understand police functions and rationalities.

Methods

The empirical material consists of interviews with police officers who interact with young people and collaborate with other societal actors in various ways. Additionally, a document analysis based on historical themes examines how expectations of police conduct have evolved over time and cross different contexts.

Results

Preliminary results indicate that youth police work occurs in various phases. The first phase involves identifying, categorizing, and managing suspected norm-breaking or criminal behavior. Urgent interventions characterized the second phase, and the third consists of investigating potential culpability. Furthermore, strategic collaboration with other societal actors—such as schools, social services, and businesses—is emphasized, and this collaboration also progresses through distinct phases.

Conclusions

The study reveals how various logics—legal, practical, and collaboration-oriented—together shape the police's instrumental rationality in youth work. The preliminary findings of the study contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex trade-offs and strategies that characterize police youth work, which in turn support the development of preventive and emergency interventions.

Boundaries and Sacred Objects in Conflicting Collaboration: Interacting on Documents in a Swedish crime-preventive GIRFEC Project

Agneta Mallén, Veronica Burcar Alm, Goran Basic

Lunds universitet

This paper examines a pilot project in a major Swedish municipality, "Ourtown," where the testing of a crime-preventive model that works according to early interventions, and by collaboration, resulted in challenges for the organizations involved. The crime-preventive model is inspired by GIRFEC and aimed at children and youth aged 0-15. Participating organizations were preschool, primary school, social services and child psychiatry. Based on ethnographic material, the paper explores how collaboration is constructed through meeting interactions involving project documents. The significance of boundary work, conflicts, and the role of documents is highlighted as both sacred and boundary objects in fostering or hindering collaboration. Findings reveal that while organizational agreements and formal meetings provide a framework, successful collaboration is dynamically built through everyday interactions, including discursive exchanges and joint efforts. This underscores the importance of understanding cultural differences in participating organizations and the impact of co-creation processes on collaboration.

Crime Prevention & The appearance of the Public: Reflections on Malmö's Public Health approach

Carlo Pinnetti

Linnéuniversitetet

Accepted standards of crime prevention within the public sector have undergone significant changes over the past decade. Explanations for this shift vary: some scholars attribute it to nationalist ideological concerns, while others point to the transnational condition of "post-politics." To date, there has been no comprehensive analysis of this transition across Sweden's local municipalities at the national level. This paper addresses that gap by examining Malmö municipality and its implementation of two initiatives: Ceasefire and Communities That Care. Drawing on my participation in Malmö's public presentations and other published materials, the paper analyzes the forms of social ontology embedded in these practices, the theories they embody, and their political ramifications through the lens of Hannah Arendt's political phenomenology. It concludes by exploring explanations for this change, by first drawing on Max Weber's concept of elective affinity.

När syskon begår brott: Syskonskap mellan omsorg och utsatthet

Carolin Valizadeh, Veronica Burcar Alm, Sara Eldén

Malmö Universitet

Syskon till unga i kriminella miljöer utgör en dold men växande riskgrupp. De löper inte bara ökad risk att själva dras in i kriminalitet, utan befinner sig ofta i social och ekonomisk utsatthet. Samtidigt är syskonskap en central relation under uppväxten, med betydelse för identitetsskapande, omsorg och förmedling av socialt kapital.

Detta paper undersöker syskonskapets dynamiker i kontexten av kriminalitet, med utgångspunkt i forskningsprojektet Syskonskap som stöd och risk (Forte: 2025-00792). Papret lyfter fram den specifika situationen för ungas syskonskap i dagens kriminalpolitiska landskap, samt presenterar forskningsprojektets design, där två grupper intervjuas: unga syskon till kriminella (10–19 år, 25 informanter) samt unga som själva begått brott (15 informanter). Genom biografiska intervjuer, dagboksintervjuer och metodverktyg som livslinjer och koncentriska cirklar, undersöks hur syskonskap formas, förändras och påverkas av kriminalitet. Analysen vilar på ett teoretiskt ramverk som förenar familjesociologi, barndomssociologi och kriminologi, med särskilt fokus på syskonskapets roll i familje- och vardagspraktiker.

Projektet bidrar med ny kunskap om hur unga förstår och förhåller sig till sin syskonrelation, sin familj och sin sociala omgivning när ett syskon är involverat i kriminalitet. Resultaten är av stor samhällsrelevans, särskilt för aktörer inom socialtjänst, skola, ungdomsmottagningar och civilsamhälle, samt för beslutsfattare med ansvar för sociala insatser och brottsförebyggande arbete. Genom samverkan med barnrättsorganisationen Barn och ungdom med förälder/familjemedlem i fängelse (BUFFF) säkerställs både access till informanter och kontinuerligt kunskapsutbyte.

The modern trial, and the modern gang: An analysis of security, justice and the rule of law in relation to digital participation in gang trials

Jesse Wiles

Lunds Universitet

The courtroom has long held a central position in society, serving as a practical and symbolic site where justice is enacted and social norms are reinforced. Historically rooted in physical presence and ritual, the judicial process has, in recent decades, experienced a profound transformation through the introduction of digital technologies, particularly the use of video-links for both legal professionals and laypeople.While legislation in the early 2000s (En modernare rättegång I & II) enabled the use of video-links as a tool at the dispense of the court, it was not until the COVID-19 pandemic that this practice became commonplace. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of trials using video-links more than doubled compared to the previous decade, signaling a lasting procedural shift.

This research project investigates how digital participation influences the judicial process, with a focus on gang-related trials in Sweden, a context characterized by heightened security concerns, political attention, and public interest. Drawing on existing research that questions how digital mediation may affect legitimacy, fairness, non-verbal communication, and emotional engagement, this study examines whether such challenges manifest differently in complex, high-profile criminal cases. The project situates gang-related trials as a revealing case study: while courts mirror society's collective order, gangs reflect its fractures. By exploring the intersection of digitalization, justice, and organized crime, this study seeks to understand how digital participation and presence reshape courtroom dynamics, impact perceptions of fairness and authority, and ultimately redefine what it means to administer justice in a digitized judicial landscape.

Separate but not Secluded? Specially Reinforced Units at SiS Institutions

David Wästerfors, Susanne Boethius

Lunds universitet

Since 2021, “specially reinforced units” have been introduced as a new form of care within SiS (the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care), designed for individuals with autism spectrum conditions and/or intellectual disabilities. These units aim to meet the growing need for adapted care for individuals with complex psychiatric and neuropsychiatric problems (sometimes combined with substance use), such as ADHD, PTSD, and self-harming behavior.

This group has previously been overrepresented in violent seclusion practices within institutions (avskiljningar), which underscores the need for far-reaching adjustments in institutional relations and treatment. The formal expectation is that these new units will reduce violence and tailor treatment to the individual.

This presentation introduces a new research project examining these specially reinforced units. The aim is to analyze everyday conditions and interactions in these units through (a) Anselm Strauss’s perspective on organizations, where negotiations play a central role; (b) Erving Goffman’s perspective on interaction and everyday dramaturgy, where actors shape their conduct according to situational definitions; and (c) the ethnomethodological perspective on order, in which everyday practices and accounts constitute social settings. A gender perspective will be integrated across these three approaches.

The presentation illustrates some initial findings from the project using narratives and descriptions from qualitative interviews. These concern what might be called techniques of integrity, self-based institutional analysis, and violence as contrasts.

Stöd vid romansbedrägeri: en studie om samhällsinsatser och informationsbehov i Sverige

Sophia Yakhlef, Isabelle Johansson

Högskolan Kristianstad

Romansbedrägerier är ett växande område inom den digitala brottsligheten som hittills har fått mycket begränsad uppmärksamhet inom kriminologisk forskning i Sverige. Brottet kännetecknas av en kombination av ekonomisk exploatering och emotionell manipulation, vilket ofta leder till att offren skuldbelägger sig själva och avstår från att anmäla. Internationella studier visar att många brottsoffer inte bara drabbas av ekonomisk förlust, utan också djup skam, isolering och långvarig psykisk påfrestning. Samtidigt finns stora kunskapsluckor kring hur samhället organiserar stöd och prevention.

Denna studie utgår från en sociologisk och kriminologisk förståelse av brottsoffer och undersöker hur stödinsatser och samhällsinformation kring romansbedrägerier utformas och används i Sverige. Fokus ligger på aktörer som arbetar med brottsofferstöd, såsom brottsofferjourer, civilsamhällesorganisationer och myndigheter.

Projektet består av två delar: semistrukturerade intervjuer med professionella aktörer och en innehållsanalys av informationsmaterial som dessa aktörer riktar till allmänheten. Syftet är att kartlägga befintliga arbetssätt, identifiera hinder och utvecklingsmöjligheter, samt bidra med underlag till fortsatt forskning om brottsoffers erfarenheter och behov.

Preliminära insikter från en tidigare pilotstudie visar att stödet till offer ofta är bristfälligt och att kunskapen om brottets psykologi och dynamik är låg hos flera aktörer. Offren riskerar därmed att bemötas på sätt som förstärker skam och tystnad.

Studien kommer att bidra till forskningsfältet genom att lyfta ett underrapporterat brott, problematisera bilden av det "ideala offret" och belysa samspelet mellan institutionella aktörer och offer för dessa brott i Sverige.

23. Sociologisk teori

Till försvar för en marxistisk klassteori

Johan Alfonsson

Högskolan i Halmstad

Debatten om klass inom sociologin präglas av en spänning mellan empiristiska ansatser och marxistiska teoribildningar. Moderna klassanalyser, såsom de utvecklade av Goldthorpe och Oesch, behandlar i stor utsträckning klass som ett empiriskt fenomen reducerat till empiriska regulariteter, medan de ontologiska grunderna för klassrelationer förblir outredda. Marxistisk teori, å andra sidan, förankrar klass i det kapitalistiska produktionssättet med fokus på relationen mellan kapitalister och löntagare och hur den värdeskapande relationen präglas av dominans och exploatering. Trots detta har marxistiska analyser ofta stannat på en hög abstraktionsnivå och sällan kombinerat en teoretisk förståelse av kapitalismens logik med empiriska sociala positioner. Erik Olin Wright är ett viktigt undantag, men lämnar samtidigt kapitalismens värdeskapande dynamik underutvecklad.

Denna text försvarar en marxistisk klassteori genom att formulera en teori baserad på tre analytiska abstraktionsnivåer. På den högsta nivån dominerar värdelogiken alla samhälleliga subjekt, kapitalister såväl som löntagare, vilket skapar det strukturella landskap där klassrelationer existerar. På den andra nivån framträder den grundläggande klassrelationen mellan kapitalägare och arbetare, där exploatering och dominans konstituerar värdeskapandet och där klasskampen formar villkoren för båda parter. På den tredje nivån analyseras de kvantitativa skillnaderna bland löntagarna, där olika grupper utsätts för olika grader av dominans och exploatering beroende på den värdemängd och maktposition som deras arbetskraft är förenad med.

Genom att integrera dessa tre nivåer argumenterar texten för en förnyad marxistisk klassteori som återför klass till sina ontologiska grunder och samtidigt möjliggör empiriska analyser av klass.

Existential Nausea: A Sociological Concept for Understanding Lived Experiences of Social Inequality

Mattias Bengtsson, Marita Flisbäck

Göteborgs universitet

Within sociology, the exploration of existential facets of human experience has often been neglected or left unarticulated. In dialogue with existential philosophy, American existential sociology, and classical as well as contemporary sociological theory, we propose an alternative approach that we call ‘a sociology of existence’. This approach aims to broaden the scope of sociological thought by extending empirical studies of existential themes, e.g., human beings' orientations towards life and death, anxiety, suicide, alienation, as well as developing new sociological concepts. In this paper, we outline the concept of ‘existential nausea’ in relation to key ideas within existential philosophy and classical and modern sociological theory. Our analysis takes its starting point in Jean-Paul Sartre’s literary classic Nausea. The main character, Antoine Roquentin, is struck by a feeling of nausea toward things and existence. He realizes that objects and people simply are, without meaning or purpose, which gives rise to existential anxiety. While Sartre’s depiction concerns a potentially universal human experience of meaninglessness and uprootedness in an ‘absurd’ world, we argue that such experiences are not timeless abstractions but relate to social inequality through unequal distribution of power and resources. With the concept of existential nausea, we explore how unequal distribution of resources and coercive norms and institutions result in lived experiences of disorientation and homelessness, where meaning and direction in life become difficult to sustain. By revisiting a classical existential question through a new sociological lens, we address the conference theme by demonstrating how persistent concerns inspire novel sociological approaches.

Calculability – Fate of Our Times

Dominik Döllinger

Örebro universitet

In my paper, I identify calculability as a defining feature of contemporary society and theorize it through a synthesis of classical and modern social theory, complemented by insights from a wide range of historical and contemporary case studies. As calculability becomes a central quality of social processes, from bureaucratic procedures to digital infrastructures and algorithmic governance, it functions as a rationalizing technology designed both to enhance predictability and efficiency and to guide and legitimize decision-making. By tracing its diverse forms and historical articulations, I show how calculability has become central to what Weber described as the process of societal rationalization, shaping not only how we organize activities and knowledge but also how we imagine and understand ourselves.

A conceptual discussion about what 'commitment' could (and should) entail

Linda Soneryd

Örebro universitet

This paper discusses the concept of "commitment", from two rather different ideas about what it could mean. One idea is expressed by Rosabeth Moss Kanter who in 1972 discussed commitment in relation to community and belonging: "To some extent a person's identity is composed of his commitments". Another idea is that commitment is about consistency between intentions and actions, an approach that seems to lie behind Howard Becker' s reasoning, in his Note on the Concept of Commitment, in 1960. While the first notion acknowledges potential tensions, since the combination of different kinds of commitments can be a source to ambivalence, the second notion (not necessarily fully ascribable to Becker) rather seems to be closing down the possibility of tensions, uncertainties and ambivalence. However, what is commitment worth if action doesn't follow from what is promised or stated beforehand (i.e. utfästelse = in English translates as commitment) (which is the problem Becker tries to solve in his notes). In this paper I will try to argue that there are merits in both Moss Kanter's and Becker's ideas and that it matters whether we apply these ideas on individuals, groups or organisations. It also matters how we think about consistency – as some kind of absolute resemblance between intention and action, or in a more flexible way; asking what it means to act in accordance with your commitments when circumstances are changing (and perhaps – as a consequence – your commitments too). Finally, temporalities matter – commitments have pasts, presents and futures.

Meeting utopia halfway: A hauntological approach to resonant conversations with utopian futures in times of climate crisis

Christian Ståhl

Linköpings universitet

The current political discourse on climate change is either prone to solutionism, via technological fixes, or fatalism, which sees collapse as inevitable. In this presentation, I will offer theoretical arguments for how to start travelling toward a third way, focusing on how we may use utopian ideas in conversations about the future. The overall assumption in the article is that ideas about the future are performative since they affect our actions in the present, and that this calls for a dialogue with utopian futures.

I build my argument based on Derrida's term hauntology, Rosa's concept resonance, and Willener's imaginaction. By engaging resonantly and hauntologically with utopias, I argue, we may enter into constructive conversations that inspires the use of imaginaries to promote action. This requires meeting utopias halfway, with openness to transformation of both ourselves, and the utopian ideas.

Two examples are used for illustration: The European Green Deal is discussed as lacking the necessary openness, while the degrowth movement to a larger extent approach utopias hauntologically. By establishing dramaturgies of change, arenas can be created where utopian ideas are related to familiar symbols. One such symbol is the idea of progress, which we need to recognize both as a powerful with significant political traction, and as an idea ripe for reinterpretation in light of the limits of growth. If introduced into resonant conversations, such symbols can be given new meanings in relation to future imaginaries.

Metaforer – ett verktyg för sociologisk förståelse

Joakim Thelander

Högskolan Kristianstad

Metaforer, att se något som något annat, är viktiga inom samhällsvetenskapen. Inte bara som språkliga uttryck, utan som analytiska verktyg för att förstå samhälleliga fenomen. De kan bidra till att formulera betydelseangivelser, något Johan Asplund (1970) beskrivit som en grundläggande aspekt av sociologisk förståelse. Syftet med presentationen är att belysa metaforens roll inom sociologin, med särskilt fokus på dess implikationsrikedom, risken för ”bias”, och dess förmåga att förena rationalitet med kreativitet. Erving Goffmans (1959) teatermetafor illustrerar hur en implikationsrik metafor kan generera en hel begreppsapparat (roll, scen, publik, framträdande, backstage osv.) och därigenom bidra till förståelsen av social interaktion. Samtidigt riskerar metaforer att skapa ”bias” genom att betona likheter mellan fenomen men dölja skillnaderna. Metaforer hjälper oss att se men också i vissa fall att förbise. De bör därför användas med eftertanke. Metaforer kan förstås som en kreativ skärningspunkt mellan förnuft och känsla, där analytisk rationalitet förenas med imaginativ insikt (Lakoff & Johnson 1980). I bästa fall kan det leda till sociologiska aha-upplevelser, där metaforens tankesprång öppnar för ny förståelse av sociala fenomen. Metaforer bör därmed inte bara ses som retoriska stilgrepp, utan som analytiska verktyg som kan göra samhället mer begripligt.

Stahlhartes Gehäuse?

Sverre Wide

Högskolan Dalarna

På senare tid har det förts en del diskussioner om Webers begrepp ”stahlhartes Gehäuse”, om dess ursprung och betydelse och om hur det har kommit att översättas – framför allt till engelska. Hur talar vi om det på svenska? De flesta använder nog, kanske utan att reflektera så mycket däröver, uttrycket ”järnbur” efter Parsons inflytelserika engelska översättning. Men är det så klokt? I denna korta uppsats ligger fokus på frågan om hur man ska förstå det tyska ”Gehäuse” i detta sammanhang, och hur det bäst bör översättas till svenska. Uppsatsen utgår dels från ett rent språkligt perspektiv, dels från ett tolkningsperspektiv som sätter det i relation till 1) relevanta avsnitt i Den protestantiska etiken och kapitalismens anda och 2) mer allmänna drag i Webers vetenskapslära.

Pan-Nordic Marxism, Pashukanis, and the Critique of Law: A Forgotten History from the 'Long 1968'

Carl Wilén

Lunds universitet

This paper revisits a forgotten chapter in the history of Marxist legal theory: the vibrant pan-Nordic debates on Evgeny Pashukanis and the Marxist critique of law during the 'long 1968'. Despite their prominence at the time, the writings of these Nordic Marxists have faded into obscurity. I aim to reassess these interventions through three lines of inquiry. I provide a contextual overview of the broader historiography of the 1968 conjuncture. Moreover, I contribute with a focused case study on five protagonists in the debates about the Marxist critique of law – Torben Wanscher (Denmark), Lars D. Eriksson (Finland, writing primarily in Swedish), Raimo Blom (Finland, writing primarily in Finnish), Hans I. Kleven (Norway), and Anders Fogelklou (Sweden) – examining their positive and negative engagements with Pashukanis, in contrast to their relation to other strands of Marxist theory, such as various positions within the Neue Marx-Lektüre and Althusserian theory. Finally, I reflect on the methodological and historiographical implications of revisiting these debates today. A significant result of the analysis is that the Marxist protagonists of the study deserve far more consideration than they have received. Neglecting these pan-Nordic debates renders the intellectual history of the 1968 conjuncture incomplete. Furthermore, this rich history of ideas can serve as an important resource for achieving greater politico-theoretical precision, scope, and effectiveness in the contemporary field of Marxism and law. Lastly, the basic questions that it engaged in are enduring – such as whether, why, how, and to what extent human rights should be defended when under threat.

24. Urbansociologi

Utbildningshorisonter utanför storstaden: platsens betydelse i valet till högre utbildning

Anna Bennich-Björkman, Emil Bertilsson, Astrid Collsiöö

Uppsala universitet

Den svenska utbildningsexpansionen har tillgängliggjort högre utbildning för allt fler men samtidigt skapat ett utbildningslandskap där utbudet av lärosäten och utbildningar är starkt geografiskt differentierat. I motsats till betydelsen av klass, kön och nationell härkomst för studenters utbildningsval har betydelsen av deras geografiska hemvist inom Sverige fått begränsad uppmärksamhet. Den här studien kombinerar kvalitativa och kvantitativa data för att undersöka hur ungas utbildningshorisonter och -strategier formas i en miljö där högre studier fortsätter att vara ovanligt, trots att det geografiska avståndet till ett flertal lärosäten är relativt kort. Kombinationen av metoder blottlägger betydelsen av geografi och geografiska avstånd för hur unga resonerar och orienterar sig i det högre utbildningslandskapet, samt hur de följaktligen ansöker till högskolan.

Artikeln undersöker ungas förhållningssätt och ansökningar till högre utbildning bland gymnasieelever i Söderhamn, en svensk småstad med geografisk närhet till flera lärosäten men låg utbildningsnivå i befolkningen. Genom att kombinera totalpopulationsdata över ansökningar till högre utbildning med kvalitativa intervjuer utvecklas en typologi över olika sökmönster till högre utbildning kombinerat med ungas resonemang kring utbildning, möjligheter, plats och framtid. Analysen visar hur utbildningsval påverkas av det geografiska och sociala avståndet till olika typer av utbildningar, och hur lokala normer och föreställningar om “rimlig” mobilitet samverkar med den nationella utbildningsstrukturen och hur förhållningssättet till högskolestudier skiljer sig åt mellan pojkar och flickor. Artikeln bryter ny mark i forskningen om svensk högre utbildning genom att systematiskt undersöka betydelsen av geografi när unga söker sig till högskolor och universitet.

Understanding and Defining Homelessness: Conceptual Considerations in the Academic Discussion 1984-2024

Carl Russel Reyes, Matilda Hellman

Uppsala universitet

Homelessness resists simple definition. Its meaning spans from literal rooflessness to a wide range of living situations, experiences, and social-structural constellations. Policymakers, practitioners, and scholars have affirmed (or rejected) this conceptual expansion by espousing multiple and oftentimes contending definitions of homelessness. Paradoxically, these actors' efforts to pin down the concept have emphasized its nature as a boundary object.

Besides partaking in the definitional debates surrounding homelessness, scholars are also charting shifts in definition as products of socioeconomic factors, powerful actors' assumptions, and diversifying conditions of homelessness within and across societies. These are often expressed in the literature through dualities: old-new, narrow-broad, individual-structural, and Global North-Global South. While such works have contributed in capturing the conceptual landscape of homelessness, not much has been done to analytically take on the considerations and social imageries underpinning the conceptual variations within homelessness.

This paper aims to further understand the attempts to define and characterize homelessness within the scholarly literature. Through a sample of 149 journal articles and book chapters published from 1984 to 2024, we explore how scholars have contended with homelessness as a social category. We address this aim in two steps. First and following previous works, we report trends in academic definitions to illustrate its definitional landscape. Then, we use a social constructionist perspective to analyze changes in defining homelessness as an interplay of: mental categories comprising the concept's content; the referent object of homelessness as it materializes in different forms; and the social conventions for communicating both content and referents.

Workspace Struggles: Sociological Insights into the Mobilisation of Market Traders

Francesca Ru

Uppsala universitet

This article examines market traders' mobilisation in response to threats posed by urban regeneration, focusing on the case of La Plaine market in Marseille, which was displaced for three years to allow for the renovation of the public square where it was located.
The article identifies two key dynamics. First, the displacement triggered a phase of collective organisation among traders, who mobilised to defend their businesses. During this phase, a temporary solidarity emerged among traders; however, it proved fragile: once traders returned to the market, their collective identity weakened, and many reverted to identifying primarily as individual entrepreneurs rather than as members of a unified workforce.
Second, the article highlights a disjuncture between traders and activists. While traders emphasised their struggle as one of economic survival, activists framed it as an anti-gentrification mobilisation. This tension reveals the divergent narratives surrounding market spaces and the competing interests they represent.
Building on Taylor (2020), this article conceptualises the mobilisation of market sellers as a struggle for workspace, distinguishing it from workplace struggles. While the latter address labour conditions within a defined site of employment, workspace struggles revolve around access to, control over, and rights to affordable sites of economic activity – such as urban markets – thus extending beyond conventional labour concerns.

The article draws on ethnographic research conducted in the Plaine market, including four months of participant observation and 39 semi-structured interviews with street vendors, shopkeepers, square employees, policymakers, and municipal staff.

Fast moving urban policies

Anders Westerström

Institutet för språk och folkminnen

Since its founding as a startup at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in 2001, the smart city company Spacescape has gained significant influence in northern European urban planning contexts. The company is part of larger “new urbanist” ideological trends in planning that are derived from urban thinks tanks, consultancy agencies, as well as universities and tech-companies. One common denominator of these is the simplistic drive to use big data to define and delimit totalizing “urban qualities” to certain “key performance indicators”. An explicit assumption for Spacescape is that these “key performance indicators” are “key” because they effectively corroborate with increased real-estate values. Thus, in the smart city imaginary of Spacescape cities and citizens are reduced to data points in information systems that can be instrumentalized, used and commodified: complexity and reflexivity is flattened into scaled systems far away from the dialectical reason that Henri Lefebvre envisioned or the relational mixed city that activist and theorist Jane Jacobs fought for. Spacescape promotes its space syntax models and prediction tools as research-based methods for sustainable urban development. However, I argue that Spacescape’s policies prioritize exchange value over use value, contributing to segregation, gentrification, and land speculation—hallmarks of neoliberal financialization strategies. Numerous studies have proved that the neoliberalization of urban space undermines housing rights, restricts public space, and impedes democratic functions. Consequently, there is a pressing need to examine the variegated policy mobilities of smart cities, particularly the role of Spacescape in contemporary European neoliberalization processes.

25. Utbildningssociologi

Education Studies as Sociology of Knowledge: Émile Durkheim, the birth of laïcité, and the Shape of Philosophy

Ola Agevall

Linnéuniversitetet

Émile Durkheim has long been read as a sociologist of knowledge, particularly the Elementary Forms of Religious Life and its predecessor Primitive Classification, co-written with Marcel Mauss. There is, however, a different kind of sociology of knowledge elsewhere in Durkheim's work, viz. in his lectures on the history of educational organization and ideas in France. In contrast to Elementary Forms, where Durkheim takes pains to eliminate all historical contingencies in order to investigate, in as pure a form as possible, the social production of man's most fundamental cognitive categories, these lectures contain a historical sociology of decidedly more situated cognitive structures. Why is it that primary school is organized around one or two teachers in charge of all the educational needs of the child, whereas in secondary school, education is dispersed over subject specialists? How did it come about that an education closely associated with the Church became a carrier of secular content and contained the seeds of secularism? And from whence came the tendency to focus exclusively on the universal in the writings of ancient philosophers? This paper aims to charter the anatomy of Durkheim's argument on these points, and to frame the historical sociology of knowledge it exemplifies.

Changing composition of SweSAT test-takers and their applications to higher education

Emil Bertilsson, Yann Renisio, Astrid Collsiöö

Uppsala universitet

The SweSAT (högskoleprovet) has gained increasing policy and public attention in recent years, partly due to growing criticism of grading practices and concerns about grade inflation in upper secondary schools. These developments have coincided with institutional responses from higher education actors - most notably, the introduction of SweSAT results as an admission requirement at the Stockholm School of Economics. Previous studies show that men, particularly those from highly educated backgrounds, are more likely to take the test and achieve higher scores, raising questions about the SweSAT's role as an equitable alternative route to higher education. Because roughly one third of all higher education applicants are admitted through the SweSAT quota, changes in who takes the test and how they perform have significant implications for access and selection. Against this background, this study takes a longitudinal approach to examine (1) the association between school grades (GPA) and SweSAT scores among all upper secondary graduates from 1997 to 2024, (2) the shifting social and gender composition of test-takers, and (3) how these participation patterns relate to application behaviour and admission outcomes.

Using population-level register data linking school performance, test participation, and all higher education applications and outcomes, the analysis provides a comprehensive picture of the changing role of standardized testing in the selection to HE. Preliminary results reveal a growing alignment between school-based GPA and SweSAT performance, but also distinct social and gendered trajectories in both participation and subsequent application behavior.

Towards a Typology of Student Dropout Pathways in Higher Education

André Bryntesson

Göteborgs universitet

As publicly funded higher education has transformed from elite to mass education, increasing attention has been directed towards student dropout. The research on student dropout from higher education, however, suffers from divergent definitions and conceptualisations of the phenomenon (cf. Behr et al., 2020). Tinto (1993) differentiates voluntary from involuntary dropout – the former being a personal choice, the latter driven by factors such as academic failure or financial hardship. In a recent literature review, Kehm et al. (2019) distinguish dropout (leaving the system) from transfer (changing programme or institution), noting that voluntary dropout more often results in transfer, whereas involuntary dropout typically ends in leaving the higher education system. Kehm et al. (2019) also highlight temporary dropout due to, for example, health-related issues, where the student later returns to complete their studies. Another distinction is between early and late dropout, as timing often reflects different causes; early dropout may, for example, be linked to a mismatch between expectations and content, whereas late dropout might be triggered by opportunities such as job offers (cf. Kehm et al., 2019). In the session, I will present preliminary results from a national statistical overview of the dropout phenomenon in Swedish higher education and discuss methodological challenges in ongoing work that employs sequence analysis of student trajectories before, during and after higher education with the aim of identifying and classifying typical dropout pathways. The session invites critical discussion on the methods, feasibility and value of constructing a descriptive, statistically based typology of student dropout pathways in higher education.

Svenska landsbygder: utbildning, utveckling och utmaningar

Mikael Börjesson, Andre Bryntesson, Felix Bengtsson, Ida Lidegran

Uppsala universitet

Svensk landsbygd har fått en förnyad aktualitet. Pandemiåren 2020 och 2021 medförde ett intresse för att bo större och jobba på distans och ledde till en utflyttningsvåg från storstäder till rurala platser. Rysslands invasion av Ukraina 2022 och det svenska NATO-inträdet 2024 skapade ett ökat tryck på upprustning och utbyggnad av försvaret över hela landet. Reglementen som lagts ned återetableras nu. Geografin omvärderas och försvaret har börjat köpa in mark igen. Till detta ska läggas de ökande klimatförändringarna och de utmaningar de ställer på omställning av livsstilar, infrastrukturinvesteringar och industrisatsningar. Samtidigt har den gröna omställningen mött större motstånd än tidigare. I denna kontext avser EU-programmet RURALITIC studera förändringar av landsbygder i vid mening. Inom ramen för det svenska bidraget sätts fokus på utbildningens betydelse för utveckling av rurala miljöer. Det handlar om allt från hur för- och grundskola kan erbjudas i tillräcklig omfattning och med god kvalitet för att det skall gå för barnfamiljer att stanna kvar eller etablera sig på rurala orter, till ortens tillgång till mer kvalificerad utbildning och till rätt kompetenser för sina arbetsmarknader. Av särskilt intresse är även att analysera hur konflikter mellan olika grupper och intressen tar sig uttryck. Hur balanseras turister och tillfälliga gästers behov mot lokalbefolkningens? Vilka avvägningar görs när militära och ekonomiska agendor ställs mot miljöhänsyn? Vi kommer genomföra fallstudier på Gotland, i Västerbotten, Dalarna och Småland. Projektet är i uppstatsfasen och dess upplägg och preliminära resultat kommer att presenteras.

Time as a resource: temporal dimensions of higher education investments in Sweden

Ricardo Cevallos

Uppsala Universitet

This paper focuses on implications of time in higher education investments in Sweden. Prior research shed light on social and educational differences across institutions and fields of study, but less attention has been paid on how timing, sequencing and duration produce differences in trajectories engaging at any point in the system. The aim is to understand the simultaneous unfolding of educationally- and occupationally-related trajectories by the identification of temporal patterns in which higher education is embedded in life courses. Using administrative data from Statistics Sweden, sequences running from 2001 to 2018 were constructed for individuals born in 1981 and enrolling tertiary education along this period and covering four domains: educational status, educational level, occupational status and income percentile. Multidomain sequence analysis enabled to quantify pairwise distances; and produce a typology of temporalities representing varied modalities of investment, accumulation and conversion of educational assets into occupational and rewards structures. Findings show that temporal patterns in trajectories primarily differ by the duration in higher education; and secondarily by timing of arrival, order of investments, and simultaneous occupational engagements and rewards that impact on the temporality of the investment. Furthermore, results suggest that educational upgrades lead to occupational and income advances contingent on the intensity of investment. In sum, earliness and lengthening in higher education further the advantage into subsequent social arenas by reaching high-status and profitable occupations; contrary to belatedness and shortening that undermine the value of the investment and, in turn, restricts its conversion into less rewarded positions.

Program, Place, or Prestige? Modeling How Students Select Higher Education

Tobias Dalberg, Emil Bertilsson, Astrid Collsiöö

Uppsala universitet

Universities and colleges shape identities, occupational opportunities and life chances. Since an increasing share of each generation now enrolls in higher education, choosing a post-secondary pathway has become a fateful decision for a growing number of people. These fateful decisions are often made in environments that encourage individuals to choose freely among available options, but the outcome of these decisions tend to reflect past experiences and accumulated inequalities.

A now sizeable body of literature has examined how educational decisions are socially structured, but standard models of decision-making have yet to account for the sequential nature of decision-making and the geographical contingencies that shape them. Geographical contingencies refer to both sides of academic selection: institutions of varying prestige are located in specific places, while social groups are themselves unevenly distributed across space.

In this study, we use both formal and empirical modeling applied to prospective survey data -- capturing how students consider the educational supply -- and to register data on how they apply and ultimately enroll after admission. This approach allows us to examine the impact of institutional and program prestige, as well as geographical frictions (distance) on students' selection of programs. We analyze these effects at different stages of decision-making -- consideration and choice (aspirations and preferences), admission, and enrollment -- to decompose how much social stratification occurs at each stage. Preliminary results suggest that these stages are closely aligned, with similar patterns of social and gender stratification evident throughout.

Skolans roll i den könssegregerade arbetsmarknaden

Per Dannefjord, Ylva Ulfsdotter Eriksson

Linnéuniversitetet

Sedan 90talet har den svenska välfärdsstaten i allt större utsträckning tagit ansvar för att bekämpa det våld kvinnor utsätts för av män. Trots att det idag tas förgivet att staten ska ta detta ansvar ifrågasatte feministiska forskare tidigt statens förmåga att förändra patriarkala maktstrukturer – givet att samma maktordningar genomsyrar staten. Det här papret tar sikte mot att, genom ett teoretiskt resonemang om diskurser som könskonstituerande, bidra med kunskap om statens förutsättningar att respondera på mäns våld mot kvinnor.

I papret, som bygger på intervjuer med tjänstepersoner vid landets länsstyrelser som arbetar för att bekämpa mäns våld mot kvinnor, utforskas hur diskurser rörande mäns våld mot kvinnor och motstånd mot dessa kan förstås synliggöra ett paradoxalt förhållningssätt gällande kön och makt i offentlig verksamhet. Å ena sidan finns en stark förståelse av jämställdhet som eftersträvansvärt – å andra sidan verkar påtalande av patriarkala maktförhållanden mötas av motstånd. En sådan diskrepans, eller spänning, återfinns i Eva Lundgrens teori om könskonstituering. Lundgren har menat att kön är både föränderligt och relativt stabilt – regulativa regler, ytregler, är föränderliga och möjliga att sätta ord på. Konstitutiva regler, grundregler, utgör det förgivettagna. I mitt paper prövar jag tanken om diskursiva överenskommelser om jämställdhet går att förstå som uttryck för regulativa regler för kön, medan diskursiva moståndshandlingar går att förstå som uttryck för konstitutiva regler för kön.

Science diplomacy och utbildning för ett internationellt akademiskt ledarskap

Henrik Edgren, Felix Bengtsson

Uppsala universitet

Denna presentation utgör en del av ett pågående forskningsprojekt som handlar om att följa och beforska ett forskningssamarbete mellan fem svenska universitet (Uppsala universitet, Lunds universitet, Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan, Umeå universitet och Göteborgs universitet) och tre sydkoreanska dito (Korean University, Seoul National University och Pohang University of Science and Technology). Projektet i fråga – ”Sweden, Korea Education, Research, and Innovation Collaboration” (SKERIC) – står på tre ben (work packages): konkreta forskningssamarbeten mellan svenska och sydkoreanska forskare (”Emerging researchers”) inom natur- och samhällsvetenskap, utbildning av yngre akademiska ledare med utgångspunkten ”science diplomacy” (Future Academic leaders”), samt stärkande av samarbeten mellan universitet och företag genom entreprenörssatsningar av olika slag (”Research-based start-ups and university spin offs”). I vår presentation kommer vi att ta upp det andra arbetspaketet, det vill säga det som handlar om hur svenska och sydkoreanska ledare utbildas och stärks för att bli framtida kompetenta akademiska ledare. Vi kommer särskilt att diskutera och belysa de olika akademiska kulturer som finns i Sverige och Sydkorea och hur detta påverkar synen och utövandet av ledarskap på universiteten. Därtill ska vi dryfta operationaliseringen av ”science diplomacy” och hur detta blir allt viktigare i internationella forskningsprojekt av olika slag. Inte minst anslagsgivare tycker ofta att detta är särskilt betydelsefullt när man fördelar forskningsmedel till internationella samarbeten.

Bonden, naturen och landsbygden i byggandet av skolans nationella identitet i ett historiskt och nutida perspektiv

Henrik Edgren

Uppsala universitet

När man idag pratar och skriver om ”det moderna” utgör staden ofta norm och plats. Där finns kultur, mångfald, och en stor valfrihet både vad gäller varor och tjänster. Det är framförallt i staden som det finns möjligheter för utveckling, självförverkligande och karriär, samtidigt som ett kraftigt urbaniserat Sverige har stärkt behovet av att definiera landsbygden som en motsats till staden; en landsbygd som idag många gånger kämpar för sin existens och överlevnad. Sedan 1990-talet krymper ungefär hälften av landets kommuner. Mellan 1995 och 2015 förlorade till exempel Sveriges landsbygdskommuner runt 30 000 statliga jobb. Men, när Sverige för dryga hundra år sedan blev en modern, industrialiserad och rik stat hade landsbygden en avgörande betydelse. De flesta människor kom därifrån, liksom det välstånd i form av jorden, skogen och vattnet som tillväxten byggde på. Den svenska naturens och landsbygdens betydelse – inte minst dess bönder – hade också en stor betydelse när man formerade den nationella identitet som Sveriges alla elever skulle lära sig i skolan, och som de sedan förväntades bära med sig som vuxna medborgare. Denna presentation kommer att handla om just detta, det vill säga hur man i folk- och senare i grundskolans läromedel – samtidigt som Sverige kraftigt moderniserades och urbaniserades – höll fast vid landsbygden och naturen som kärnan i det nationella. Presentationen utgör en del i ett EU-projekt – Ruralitic – med fokus på att i ett historiskt och nutida perspektiv jämföra europeiska landsbygdsområden utifrån ekonomiska, sociala, kulturella och inte minst historiska utgångspunkter.

Personality types among students at elite business education

Laura Giorio, Nils Gustafsson, Anna Tyllström, Ida Lidegran

Uppsala Universitet

Elite business schools are highly selective environments where students are exposed to subtle and overt signals about the expectations of elite positions, and function as sites of anticipatory socialization, where professional orientations, values, and social skills are fostered. In this study we look at the (self-perceived) personality profile of students at elite business schools over their studies and ask whether and how socialization in their education can play a role in shaping their traits and anticipatory dispositions towards elite careers.

Our analysis draws on a longitudinal survey of students at Finland's and at three of Sweden's leading business programs. We analyse psychometric items with multiple correspondence analysis to investigate the spread of self-perceptions amongst first-year students at these programs and how they intersect with self-confidence, studies-related stress and perception of wellbeing.

We explore their responses on personality factors as sociological hints of anticipatory dispositions and we attempt to situate them in a longitudinal perspective by comparing our analysis with responses at year 2 and 3 of their studies.

Our analysis shows that there is a strong pole of highly sociable students in all schools and preliminary results suggest that students' personality follows a distinct trajectory over the course of their studies towards higher sociability, with this trend consistent for all schools and genders. The findings contribute to a more nuanced understanding of self-perceived personality as an element in elite formation that evolves along students' educational trajectories.

Nordic Erasmus+ Students and the European Dimension in Education

Ashley Haru, Mikael Börjesson, André Bryntesson

Uppsala universitet

The Erasmus programme, launched in 1987, was established to enhance cross-border mobility for students and teachers within Europe. Over the years, the programme's scope and ambitions have expanded, though one consistent aim has been to strengthen Europe as a unified entity for all European nationals. From its inception, the Erasmus programme has played an integral role in advancing the European dimension in education, and our study aims to analyse patterns in how Erasmus+ participants from a particular region – the Nordic countries – perceive their study abroad exchange as impacting European dimension-related outcomes – such as feeling European, awareness of political and social concepts like democracy and civil rights, and enhancing intercultural cooperation – and how these patterns relate to students' valuations of their exchange. We base our study on exit survey data with nearly 95 percent of all Nordic outgoing Erasmus+ students who applied for their exchange in 2016 and 2017 (N=25,079). As a first step, we use specific multiple correspondence analysis to map the students' valuations based on their motivations to go abroad, criteria for selecting receiving institution and perceived academic satisfaction. The results reveal three key thematic differentiations among Nordic students as a group: degree of academic valuation, degree of labour market valuation, and degree of cultural valuation. In a second step, we perform an ascending hierarchical cluster analysis where it is demonstrated that the more positive the valuations of studies, the more alignment with the European dimension, but where academic valuations and high satisfaction are the most associated.

Polisutbildningens akademisering

Hampus Hörberg

Linnéuniversitetet

Polisutbildningen har sedan början av 1970-talet, med varierande intensitet, varit inbegripen i en akademiseringsprocess. Under 2000-talet har den svenska polisutbildningen genomgått organisatoriska förändringar. En betydande utveckling är integreringen av polisutbildningen i universitetens fakultetsorganisation, vilket indikerar en pågående akademisering av svensk polisutbildning.

I mitt avhandlingsprojekt undersöker jag polisutbildningens akademisering och dess konsekvenser för studenter och lärare. Särskild uppmärksamhet riktas mot relationen mellan teori och praktik. Empiriskt baseras studien på intervjuer med en studentpanel bestående av 14 polisstudenter, samt intervjuer med lärare och observationer av undervisningstillfällen. En dokumentstudie har också genomförts för att kontextualisera utbildningens förändringar.

Jag kommer att presentera preliminära analytiska fynd med fokus på hur lärare och studenters värderingar och ideal gestaltar sig på utbildningen och hur dessa i viss mån förändras. Analysen visar att det finns olika förväntningar representerade hos lärare respektive studenter avseende utbildningens innehåll. Jag avser därför även belysa hur diskrepansen mellan olika ideal överbryggas genom att aktörerna tillgriper olika strategier.

Disciplinens konturer: En analys av polisvetenskapens akademiska framväxt

Cecilia Jonsson

Linnéuniversitetet

Polisforskning har förekommit i mer omfattande form i Sverige sedan 1990-talet. Det är åtminstone det årtionde som oftast anges som den tidpunkt då akademikers intresse för polisfrågor, polisverksamhet och polisorganisationen började göra avtryck inom fältet. Det akademiska ämnet ’polisvetenskap’ eller ’polisiärt arbete’, som det också benämns i Sverige, är dock av senare datum. Det etablerades som huvudområde vid svenska universitet på kandidatnivå år 2015 och på forskarnivå år 2025. Internationellt har akademiskt engagemang i polisverksamhet, särskilt i länder som England och USA, en längre historia och brukar spåras tillbaka till 1950- eller 1960-talet. Trots att ämnet existerat sedan mitten av 1900-talet är det fortfarande otydligt definierat och betraktas som omoget som vetenskaplig disciplin.

Det råder ingen tvekan om att polisvetenskapen i Sverige ännu inte har nått status som vetenskaplig disciplin. Syftet med detta paper är att beskriva och analysera framväxten av, samt det aktuella utvecklingsläget för, polisvetenskapen som vetenskaplig disciplin i Sverige. Detta görs med utgångspunkt i teorier om de klassiska vetenskapliga disciplinerna där en uppsättning av sex kriterier som utgör ett socialt system för vetenskaplig kommunikation har urskilts: vetenskapliga gemenskaper, institutionella strukturer och roller, differentiering från närliggande ämne, standardiserad vetenskaplig publicering, etablering av vetenskaplig forskning som särskild handlingsform samt koppling till utbildningssystemet. Med polisvetenskapen som exempel kan analysen bistå med att identifiera förutsättningar och hinder för etablering av nya vetenskapliga discipliner i den svenska akademien.

Cecilia Jonsson, lektor i polisiärt arbete, institutionen för kriminologi och polisiärt arbete, Linnéuniversitetet.

Male Sprezzatura and Its Discontents: Gendered Attitudinal Profiles in Swedish Secondary Schools

Alexander Kennerley

Uppsala Universitet

Males have underperformed females in the Swedish education system for generations and are consistently unrepresented – in absolute terms – in higher education. While this phenomenon has gained significant social and political traction, the underlining mechanisms behind these differences remain elusive. Hypotheses in previous research are expansive: biological, social, economic, pedagogic, psychological, and cultural explanations have all risen and fallen in potency and popularity overtime, with minimal consensus and even less effective intervention. Understanding and potentially mitigating the dependencies of the gender gap in education requires analysing all these factors relationally – thereby giving them their full potency. Identifying how students across the performance and social spectrum construct their identities, school engagement, futures, and even leisure activities are all sources of potential advancement or hinderances to a fully realised education. This paper analyses how student attitudes, identities, backgrounds, and education metrics coalesce into a coherent a social room. The Evaluation Through Follow-up (cohort 1998) dataset has been utilised, whereby a range of survey items have been applied to a Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) to generate attitudinal contingencies between 4,000+ Grade 9 pupils. The analysis reveals a range of intra-and inter-gender struggles, with four dominant attitudinal profiles arising: dilettante males, recusant males, aspirational females, and emotionally despairing females. These profiles are highly congruent with particular social backgrounds, self-conceptions, school performance, leisure investments, and future orientations. These results offer ways in which pupils manage their schooling and performance in relation to themselves and one another.

The Social Uses of Medical Labels among Mothers of Long-Term School Absent Children

Emma Laurin

Stockholms universitet

Much research on school absenteeism has been conducted within psychology focusing on individual-level explanations (Kreitz-Sandberg & Fredriksson, 2023) and consistently associating school absence to medical conditions such as depression and anxiety (Finning et al., 2019). Drawing on the concept of social uses (Bourdieu 1991) this paper reconsiders the dominant framing of school absence in relation to medical conditions.

The purpose is to analyse the social uses of medical labels among mothers of children with long-term school absence, focusing on the significance of social position and how mothers' uses of medical labels interact with the taken-for-granted belief (doxa) that all children must attend school. The study builds on 27 interviews with Swedish mothers of children with long-term school absence.

The mothers actively mobilised medical labels such as ADHD, autism and depression to obtain support for their children, though translating the recognition of these labels from the medical to the educational field was difficult. In doing so, they both contested and reproduced the doxa of school attendance.

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Recasted Family Dynamics? The Impact of Education, Profession and Gender during the Pandemic in Sweden

Uppsala universitet

Ida Lidegran, Helena Braga Kestener, Emma Laurin

This study aims to understand the reconfiguration of gender dynamics within families with diverse educational resources and professions during the pandemic. Considering Sweden's unique approach to managing the pandemic the Swedish case provides a distinct and interesting context for examining how education and professions within households may influence the reconfiguration of gender and family dynamics in times of societal crisis.

Within the framework of a European project (ANR-20-COV4-0002), in the autumn of 2020 and the spring of 2021, we conducted interviews with 28 Swedish families from different social strata, as well as from urban and rural environments. Most of the families came from the broad middle class.

In the interviews, it was striking how the family dynamic was deeply affected by what sort of education and professions the parents had. The dynamic was in turn strongly linked to gender. For example: the fact that the father was suddenly positioned at home with distant working and the mother went to school for work, had consequences for the family's routines and interactions. Based on the character of education and the occupation, we have classified professions into three groups: teaching professions, professions that quickly transformed to distance work and professions in healthcare. In at least two of these groups, women gained time since the household tasks could be shared more equally.

Forced Habitus Transformation Fast Track to Employment for Newly Arrived Academics

Ida Lidegran

Uppsala universitet

The study concerns interventions aimed at newly arrived highly educated migrants in Sweden. I have investigated participants attending a so-called 'establishment program', with the optimistic designation 'The fast track'.

From a theoretical point, the individuals' encounter with the establishment program, 'The fast track', is seen through the lens of Sayad: the immigrant must be understood in relation to previous emigrant status. As Sayad clearly points out, the immigrant is above all a migrant whose social history sets the conditions for immigration. Bourdieus's concept habitus, is used in the study to understand the forced habitus transformation that migrants experience during their establishment in a new community.

The empirical material consists of 60 interviews with newly arrived academics. For the participants, their educational background is important, understood as a matter of honour: education is the resource that makes one honorable and that one hopes will be recognised. The participants wish to rehabilitate their cultural capital with the emigrant's feeling that the background is important, but learn to cope with being just an immigrant. In general, education is closely connected to cultural values and traditions, but this link is here decoupled, which leads to a process of misrecognition of the immersion of education in culture.

To handle a group of individuals from different parts of the world, with various needs, the solution becomes an acculturation process in 'the Swedishness' which at the same time means a deculturation process for the migrants, in short a forced habitus transformation process.

"By Reason or by Force": Compensatory Higher Education Strategies and Elite Reproduction in Chile

Pablo Lillo Cea, Emil Bertilsson

University of Borås & University of Uppsala

This study examines how elite Chilean students with comparatively weak academic resources navigate a highly stratified higher education system. Using administrative registry data on university applications, we analyse how students from elite backgrounds mobilise non-academic resources to sustain elite trajectories. Through correspondence analysis, we identify a set of institutions and programmes—exclusive private universities and high-cost baccalaureates—that serve as "sanctuary schools" and "roundabout routes": pathways that lower academic thresholds while maintaining symbolic legitimacy and social exclusivity. These findings revive and adapt Bourdieusian concepts of compensatory strategies to a national, massified higher education context. In doing so, we demonstrate how institutional differentiation and geographical centralisation facilitate elite reproduction through non-meritocratic means. The dual logic captured in Chile's national motto—Por la razón o la fuerza—illustrates how access to legitimate educational positions can be secured either through merit ("reason") or through economic and social capital reconversion ("force").

Likvärdighetsbidraget 2019–2023: En studie av kommunal implementering och ekonomisk stabilitet

Madeleine Michaëlsson

Högskolan Dalarna

I den offentliga debatten betonas ofta det moderna samhällets dynamik och potential till ständig förändring och utveckling. En central fråga är dock hur politiska interventioner, vars uttalade syfte är att åstadkomma social omdaning, interagerar med och påverkas av djupt rotade strukturer av kontinuitet och stabilitet på lokal nivå. Föreliggande projekt utgår från perspektivet om School finance, med fokus på finansieringens ekonomiska och politiska aspekter av hur resurser skapas, omfördelas och används i skolan.

Det kompensatoriska Likvärdighetsbidraget infördes med målet att bryta mönster av resurs- och resultatmässig ojämlikhet inom skolan. I denna pilotstudie undersöker jag hur fem kommuner hanterade bidraget genom att analysera kommunalt kameralt material för åren 2019–2023. Syftet är att undersöka om bidraget hade potential att störa eller befästa ekonomiska och sociala mönster.

Resultaten indikerar att bidragets kompensatoriska effekt inte är entydig. Studien ger inget tydligt stöd för att bidraget har minskat skillnader i resurser, såsom lärartäthet, eller studieresultat mellan skolor. Istället tyder studien på att den kommunala implementeringen varierar betydligt.

Dessa resultat pekar på att bidragets intention att åstadkomma förändring kan dölja en underliggande ekonomisk stabilitet och att medlen fungerar som en ersättning för, snarare än ett tillskott till, befintliga ekonomiska strukturer. Studien understryker vikten av en detaljerad analys av kommunala ekonomiska flöden, före och efter införandet, för att på djupet kunna svara på frågan om interventionen leder till verklig social omdaning eller om den snarare resulterar i att gamla mönster reproduceras. Studien utgör en del av det VR-finansierade projektet Statsbidragens fördelning och effekter, 1990–2025.

Immigrant Parents' Choice of School: Agency, Protection, and recognition

Ali Osman, Anna Lund

Stockholm Universitet

This study investigates how immigrant parents in Sweden choose schools for their children and participate in their educational experiences. Drawing on Jeffrey C. Alexander's civil sphere theory, the research examines how modes of incorporation, symbolic boundaries, and civic participation shape school decision-making among immigrant families. The study is based on qualitative interview method and thematic analysis of interviews with 8 immigrant parents at a primary school in a segregated urban area with a large non-Western population. The findings highlight the complex negotiation of practical, moral, and cultural factors, with parents seeking environments that support dual identities, foster academic achievement, and provide social and cultural recognition. Parents reject assimilationist models, instead favoring multicultural incorporation and mutual adaptation, expressing civic virtue through active engagement in school life. The study's insights contribute to understanding inclusion, agency, and educational equity in multicultural contexts, revealing both the transformative potential and the persistent limits of integration in Swedish schools.

Frågan om lärarnas professionella habitus på den svenska skolmarknaden

Magnus Persson, Per Dannefjord

Linnéuniversitetet

I denna presentation återvänder vi till Bourdieus och Boltanskis (1975) fråga huruvida ”läraren som är son till en lärare verkligen är lärare i samma bemärkelse som sin far?”. Denna fråga har aktualiserats i kölvattnet av de senaste decenniernas växande sociala och organisatoriska skillnader mellan skolor vilket i sin tur bidragit till påtagliga skillnader i arbetsvillkor för lärare beroende på vilken skola läraren arbetar på.

Tidigare studier (Dannefjord & Persson, 2022) har visat att lärares första anställningar formar deras professionella habitus på ett sätt som gör att de, i samband med byte av jobb, navigerar mot skolor som strukturellt och pedagogiskt liknar den skola där de hade sin första mer varaktiga tjänst. Resultatet blir att lärare tenderar att bli inlåsta till begränsade delar av den differentierade skolmarknaden vilket bidrar till hur deras karriärer struktureras.

I denna presentation fokuserar vi empiriskt på hur formningsprocesser kan gestalta sig och formera professionella habitus. Vi diskuterar också teoretiskt hur begreppet professionellt habitus kan bistå till att förklara hur lärarnas yrkesrelaterade värderingar och beteenden kan förbindas med de strukturella och organisatoriska villkor som präglar skolmarknaden samt hur begreppet förhåller sig till Bourdieu’s traditionella habitusbegrepp.

Studien bygger på en panelstudie med 9 nya lärare som intervjuats fem gånger under sina första fyra år som yrkesverksamma lärare. Intervjuerna har främst fokuserat på yrkeserfarenheter och föreställningar om karriärer på både kort och lång sikt.

Sociologisk AI-litteracitet inom högre utbildning -en möjlig väg framåt?

Lisa Salmosson

Mälardalens universitet

AI-litteracitet är en nödvändig nutidskompetens driven av ett demokratiskt imperativ att motverka ojämlikhet i samhället (Sperling et al., 2024, p. 3, 4). Samtidigt riskerar den ojämlika möjligheten till AI-litteracitet att reproducera etablerade maktmönster inom högre utbildning mellan de som har detta kapital och de som inte har det. I studier som undersökt AI-litteracitet i lärarutbildning har man använt Aristoteles kunskapsformer: episteme (teoretisk kunskap), techne (praktiska färdigheter) och phronesis (professionellt omdöme/etik) (Sperling et al., 2024, p. 2, 7) för att förstå olika dimensioner. Denna pedagogisk fokuserade forskningen visar att AI-litteracitet är ett snabbt växande men underforskat område och litteraturen har en övervägande inriktning mot datavetenskap (Sperling et al., 2024, p. 55-56) och starka inslag av episteme och techne (Ding et al., 2024, p. 189; Salhab, 2024, p. 377; Sperling et al., 2024, p. 7). Sociologisk forskning om AI ställer till viss del andra frågor än pedagogisk forskning och betonar till exempel faran i "underkastelse" (surrender) det vill säga att samhället tillskriver AI en överdriven intelligens och därmed anpassar sig till dess begränsningar (Collins, 2018, p. 203ff.; Lidskog, 2020, p. 114, 115) och betonar att mänsklig social intelligens (phronesis) är implicit, kontextuell och svår att artikulera – något AI ännu inte kan utveckla (Collins, 1990, 2018, p. 107; Lidskog, 2020, p. 106). AI-etik(phronesis) är den mest förbisedda dimensionen (Salhab, 2024, p. 334, 335; Sperling et al., 2024, p. 63) och där har vi som sociologer ett bidrag att göra för våra studenter och de samhälle vi försöker förstå.

Education “Anew”: A Post-Structuralist Analysis of Education Problematizations in Post-1979 Iran

Fatemeh Yazdani

Lund University

The 1979 Revolution, which marked a radical political shift and the establishment of an authoritarian theocracy in Iran, positioned education as a central arena of change. This reorientation has profoundly shaped how education and its goals are envisioned, as well as how the student subject is imagined. This research revolves around discourses on changing education. It examines how “change” has been constructed, politicized, and moralized within education policy over time, and how these constructions have been contested through the emergence of counter-discourses. To this end, the thesis engages with the analysis of education problematizations that have created possibilities for both domination and resistance.

More concretely, three interconnected questions guide this study:

What problem representations have shaped Iranian education policy since the 1979 Revolution?

What events and practices have contributed to the domination of these problem representations in the Iranian context?

How, when, and by whom have these representations been contested or destabilized, and what possibilities for resistance have emerged in this process?

Theoretically and methodologically, the study draws on the “What’s the Problem Represented to be?” (WPR) approach; Carol Bacchi’s Foucauldian post-structuralist framework for discourse analysis. Drawing on a wide range of materials, including policy documents, newspaper archives, and social media content, this study brings into light the interrelations between education, power relations, and resistance.