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Comparative Gender Studies
Key Points in short Presentation

What impact our research has had?
The contributions of our research group
• To sociology and the social sciences
• To debates in Swedish society
• To developing an international research profile

What are the future challenges? Importance of
gender research in the Europeanization of education and research
A Visible Gender Profile

CGS: Comparative Gender Studies:
• first research school at Stockholm University Gender, Citizenship and Welfare States: Research Program
• 4 international book projects; 9 dissertations
• numerous courses interdisciplinary courses:
  --Gender and Work; Gender and Citizenship, Contested Concepts in the Social Sciences
• international Seminar, EU networks
• international journal, Social Politics: International Studies of Gender, State and Society
• Rank # 1 gender issuesss and # 3 in social
Dissertations

Margreth Nordgren, Läkarprofessionens feminisering – ett köns- och makt perspektiv Statsvetenskap 2000

Anna Gavanas, Masculinizing Fatherhood: Sexuality, Marriage and Race in the US Father Responsibility Movement, Socialanthropologi 2001

Livia Sz. Oláh Gendering Family Dynamics: The Case of Sweden and Hungary, Sociologi, Demography Unit 2001


Helena Bergman Att fostra till föräldraskap: Välfärdspolitik, genuskonstruktioner och professionalisering, Historia 2003

Sanja Magdalenic, Gendering the Sociology Profession: Sweden, Britain and the US, Sociologi 2004

Marcus Carson, From Common Market to Social Europe? Sociologi 2004

Maria Törnqvist Tal och Kring förslagen om varannan damernas och Tham Professurerna, sociologi, 2005

Michelle Ariga, The social construction of membership: Citizenship, Immigration and transnational adoption. sociologi
Value of a Strong Research Milieu for Young Scholars

- International Publications
- Mentors and network contacts
- They had a competitive edge in a tough research funding environment
  -- six doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships
  -- EU sixth Framework participant
  -- Marie Curie Fellow
  -- Forskarassistent in Demography
Contribution

- Field of Sociology: agenda setting
  -- Work Life Balance
    Discourses, politics and practices of men and fathering across different countries (first comparative study)
  -- How the multidimensionality of gender--race/ethnicity, class, and sexual preference shape claims women and men make (comparative study)
  -- Role of supra-national organizations/institutions influencing gender politics and movements
Wider debates in Swedish Society

- Nordgren’s study addressed: Feminization of the medical profession, arguing that it does not produce a loss of status or low wages.
- Oláh’s study addressed: Fertility decline and importance of institutional contexts for childbearing decisions.
- Research fatherhood: newspapers, radio, TV
Where we are today

• With fewer resources, shrinking funding possibilities, we continue to maintain a visible research profile, at our department, university, and internationally
• Professor Packet has been crucial
  -- Forskarassistent and doktorand, active and productive
  -- Innovative doctoral courses: *Gender and globalisation, EU Through a Gender Lens.*
  -- Integration of gender: sections of A, B and C courses
• POSITIONS MATTER, Without the Packet, we would lose the gender profile:
• Key: INTEGRATION WITH A GENDER PROFILE
Why we need a core of researchers

Critical mass of gender research
Enables us to continue to develop our research area
• to recruit highly qualified doctoral students:
• to apply for external grants

More and more funding transferred to EU levels
--These frameworks require larger and larger projects. Without a research core, you are not asked to participate.
Internationalization and the Bologna Process

• Sweden is a magnet for scholars interested in gender and sociology

• At Stockholm, we have had Fulbright scholars, informal exchange with London School of Economics; Oxford, Utrecht, Harvard and Wisconsin

• Bologna Process: makes formal what has been informal—official partners with European Universities
• Will the flow of researchers in sociology coming to Sweden (considered the paradigm of the gender equal society) meet a strong and vital gender research?

• Do we tell our Bologna partners and their students (who want to come to Stockholm) that there is no core of gender researchers for collaboration and exchange?
Long term consequences

When the Gender professorships were announced in the mid 1990s

- No professor in gender and sociology, no women professors in my department, no gender research
- Sweden was lagging behind the international sociological commmunity

Investment in gender research has made a difference. Does it make sense to abandon programs where resources have been invested that have achieved recognition, legitimacy and visibility?