A literary overview of Swedish civil society research

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PREFACE

In 2004-2005 the Research Department at Ersta Sköndal University College participated in a Nordic project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, "Citizens' intermediate organisations and governance of the challenges of welfare services in Nordic societies," where the primary task was to create a complete database of civil society research publications in each country. This literary overview is a slightly revised excerpt from the Swedish database, with a short introduction by Johan Vamstad, doctoral student of political science. The Swedish database is available in full at the Ersta Sköndal University College website as well as in a composite Nordic version at the Nordic Council of Ministers website.

In terms of subject, scope and design, this literary review is the first of its kind in Sweden. It is our hope that it may be of use to all those who have cause to explore the subject.

Lars Svedberg
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This literary overview was conducted as part of the Swedish case in a Nordic research project, “Citizens’ intermediate organisations and governance of the challenges of welfare services in Nordic societies”, assigned to five research teams, one for each Nordic country, to create a complete database of civil society publications. The project was funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and led by Aila-Lena Matthies. The Swedish part of the project was conducted by Lars Svedberg and myself, Johan Vamstad, and the final results were presented at a conference in Magdeburg on November 23-24, 2005. Among these results were, besides the database, a chapter by Svedberg and Vamstad in the book Nordic civic society organisations and future of welfare services - A model for Europe? called The civil society and the provision of welfare – ideological visions and social realities. The database was constructed during the spring of 2005 with a minor update performed in the fall. The list of publications presented here is from the full and most inclusive version of the database, as opposed to the somewhat less extensive version used in the research report, for reasons of comparability within the project. The list is edited for clarity, it is, in other words, a slightly revised version of the database entries.

The selection criteria are essential for any literary review. The criteria for this particular review were common to all five country studies in the project, but the Swedish study used a more liberal interpretation of the criteria so that the publications presented here include a number that were excluded in the final version submitted to the Nordic project. The foremost selection criterion, of course, was that the selected publications should concern civil society. Civil society is here defined as encompassing activities performed neither in the public nor in the market sector. Since the project aimed at studying the area of welfare services, the civil society publications included were only those that concerned welfare services in some capacity. This is the criterion where the liberal, Swedish interpretation differs most from the definition that came to be commonly used within the project. In our country study, we applied a generally wider definition of what might be seen as concerning welfare issues and welfare services. The Swedish study includes, for instance, several historical works that we considered relevant for an understanding of civil society in the Swedish welfare context but that we excluded at the Nordic level. A second selection criterion was that the included publication should be a research product and not a popular work or one written as part of undergraduate studies.

Defining the time frame was difficult since there are no ‘natural’ boundaries for the period studied; but civil society research in its present form is a fairly recent phenomenon and all the publications included were written between 1988 and 2005. Stretching the time frame further back in history would have meant risking entanglement in something other than was originally intended. Publications on what is now understood as civil society were to some extent produced before 1988 but they were few and hard to categorize, not least since the term in its modern meaning was not used until the 1980’s. The phenomenon studied here is primarily the surge in civil society research during the late 1980’s and the establishment of this research area as we know it today. The choice of the specific year 1988 is coincidental, being the year that the first really relevant, modern publication on civil society was published.
The material in the database was collected according to a multi-track method of assembly. The four different methods used overlapped in many instances and several publications could be found using all four methods. These were:

The Snowball method. A few well-known works were included and consulted for references. Those references provided new entries in the database, leading in turn through their references to more entries and so on. This snowballing stopped, however, when the string of publications and references drifted beyond the selection criteria stated above.

The general search method. When the ‘snowball’ finally lost momentum, a more general search of library databases and other searchable collections took over using many different search terms; civil society, third sector, social movement, voluntary organisation, and so on.

Total studies of pinpoint areas. The general search was clearly just a skimming of the existing material, even if a hefty one. It seemed that more publications could be found by digging deeper into some specific sources of research on civil society. This assumption proved to be correct when the 3000 publications issued by the National Board on Health and Welfare from 1990 to 2005 were studied. Among other sources to also undergo a complete study were all departments of sociology, social work, business administration and political science at all Swedish universities, where dissertations and other publications were catalogued.

The collegial commentary method. This last method of collecting publications was used late in the process as a complement to the previous methods. A preliminary list of publications was circulated among fellow scholars with experience in the research field, which turned up a few additional publications by their recommendation.

The publications collected with these methods were entered into a database using the EndNote software. Each publication got an entry in the database with the basic data; author, year of publication, publisher, number of pages, etc. There may be some variation in which types of data that is displayed for each publication in this overview. This is due to the fact that the following list is generated from the database by the software and some entries in the database are more extensive than others, even if all have the basic, required data. All publications were also sorted into one of six possible categories for reasons of searchability and and keywords were added for the same reason. Brief summaries were added to some of the entries that was considered being of special interest. Original summaries were used where available, in some cases already in English, otherwise in translation from Swedish. Summaries were, in other words, added to those entries where they were readily available and to those considered especially significant for the studied research field. The matter of language was a concern in the construction of the database. The fact that the database is written entirely in English posed a problem since most of the titles were in Swedish. Replacing the Swedish titles with ‘homemade’ English ones was of course out of the question for several reasons, including research ethics. The Swedish titles were therefore kept but followed by the English translations.

The list of publications presented here is an overview of the material in the database, which contains many more variables, searchable by themselves or in combination. The database is available in full at the research website of the Ersta Sköndal University College and will be available together with the other Nordic databases in some form at the website of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The full database can be used to identify some developments in the writings on the civil society in a way that this list cannot. Some of these developments are easily detectable, such as the considerably higher number of publications at the end of the period surveyed than at its beginning. Some others might not emerge unless the database is searched using two variables,
which the EndNote software allows. Since EndNote is primarily a database program for easy access to citations, the primary user of this database library is probably someone engaged in writing about civil society as a student or researcher.
*Organisationer och samhälle* ("Organisations and society"). Lund, Studentlitteratur.

*Metaorganisationer - identitet och auktoritet* ("Federative organisations – Identity and authority"). Stockholm, SCORE (Stockholms centrum för forskning om offentlig sektor), Stockholm University.

*Pendelrörelser mellan frivillighet och tvång: organisationers kamp om regleringsstrategier* ("The pendular movement between volunteering and restrictions - Organisations’ struggle with regulation strategies"). Offprint / Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

*Organisationer med dubbla identiteter* ("Double identity organisations"). Stockholm, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

*Regelexplosionen* ("The regulation explosion"). Offprint / Stockholm, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

*Regler innanför och utanför organisationer* ("Internal and external rules of organisations"). Stockholm, EFI (Ekonomiska forskningsinstitutet), Stockholm School of Economics.

*Meningen med föreningen: vad är frivilligt med frivilligorganisationer?* ("The meaning of associations. What is voluntary about voluntary organisations?"). Stockholm, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

*Organisationer, samhälle och globalisering: träghetsmekanismer och förnyelsens förutsättningar* ("Organisations, society and globalisation. The mechanisms of inertia and the prerequisites for renewal"). Lund, Studentlitteratur.

*Demokrati underifrån: om folkrörelser, delaktighet och bistånd* ("Grassroots Democracy – About social movements, participation and aid"). Stockholm, Kooperation Utan Gränser.


This book is a historical account of the emergence of social movements in the early 20th century. Ambjörnsson studies the rural working class environment of northern Sweden to discover the driving forces behind the organisation of popular mass education in reading societies and ”study rings”. The book concludes that the flourishing voluntary education and self-education in the northern hamlet of Holsund was a means of working class emancipation, where the voluntary organisations aided the working class population to break the ruling class hold over education and thereby ultimately their power in society.


This report was initiated by the government in 1993 when a majority in Parliament supported a proposal to develop a national action plan for research on the non-profit sector. The commission to write such a research plan was offered to Erik Amnå at Örebro University and this book is the result of his efforts to categorise, describe and analyse the non-profit sector and the existing research on the sector. The book both presents the results of Amnå’s study as well as policy recommendations for national research in the subject area.


This book is one in a series of thirteen books that constitute the extensive democracy study ordered by the Swedish government in 1997. This particular book deals with the role of civic society in Swedish democracy. The aim of the book is to define contemporary civic society as well as to analyse its role in a future Swedish welfare state. It is also a stated purpose to clarify and develop the definition and terminology of civic society in Sweden. The book collects contributions from a wide range of researchers and academic disciplines.


This collection of five articles written by social scientists from different academic disciplines is another contribution to the governmental democracy study initiated in 1997. The purpose of the book is to add depth to the study of civic society within this project of estimating the state of Swedish democracy. The articles try to identify not only the actual role of civic society in Swedish democracy but also what role it should have. A critical view is applied, also from a feminist perspective.

Bergmark, Å. (1994). *Från bidrag till ersättning? Om kommunernas stöd till de frivilliga organisationerna inom den sociala sektorn* (*From subsidy to funding? About municipal support of voluntary organisations in the social sector*). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

This report addresses the emerging research field of voluntary organisations as producers of welfare services. The issue of voluntary organisations as producers of welfare has gained in significance as public funding for these services has declined and the organisation of the present social security system has increasingly become the subject of scrutiny. This report deals with the question of how the municipalities distribute economic support to voluntary organisations and what changes can be identified in the extent of that support, its conditions and organisational framework. Bergmark also reviews how municipal decision makers and the voluntary organisations view these changes. The publication is the first in the Sköndal research series.


This contribution to the national "welfare audit" project in Sweden deals with the highly politicised field of child care in the Swedish welfare state. The authors especially address the issues of decentralization and "privatisation". "Privatisation" in the field of child care is largely a movement towards third sector services rather than for profit.


This report provides a generic presentation of research on the work of relatives and their need for support. A few models for support are presented, both from local authorities and from voluntary organisations. This report also presents the results from two studies on how the care giving relatives experience these support structures. One of the studies is based on interviews carried out in the rural municipality of Vansbro, while the other draws conclusions from a study in equally rural Gagnef.


This report deals with women’s and men’s participation in civic society organisations and social networks. Are there differences in women’s and men’s work and influence in civic society organisations? If yes, are there patterns to these differences? This study aims at making such differences visible, both through studying different types of organisations and the population as a whole.


The question raised in this dissertation is how the recent tendency towards policy convergence in European health care can be explained. It is argued that the two main types of health care systems found in Europe, the social insurance-based systems of the Rhine countries and the tax-based systems in the UK and Scandinavia, grew more similar in their internal organisation during the 1990s, as they both assumed more market-like features. Particularly, within both systems efforts have been made to increase the degree of competition among health care providers. This policy outcome is important not least because it opens the way for a Europe-wide commercial market for health services, a development that may undermine the solidarity ideals on which national health care systems in Europe were once founded.


Forum for Voluntary Social Work is a joint project for several of the voluntary sector's organisations for social services. A research team at the Sköndal institute was assigned to follow and evaluate the organisation and its activities during its first three years. This report describes and analyses the conditions of the Forum during those first years. Also tied in is a more general discussion of the conditions for organisations of this sort and alternative ways of developing forums for voluntary social work.

"Om relationen mellan stat och civilsamhälle: miljöorganisationers interaktion med statliga och politiska organisationer" ("On relations between the state and civil society. The interaction of environmental organisations with governmental and political organisations"). Stockholm, SCORE, Stockholm University.

"Miljörörelsens mångfald" ("The manifold environmental movement"). Lund, Arkiv.
Few still question the sincerity of environmental issues. Public authorities, political parties, businesses and individuals all deal with environmental problems in different ways; but the different stakeholders have all become less confrontational and more co-operative. The various environmental organisations exert influence in different ways, complement each other and make use of each other's knowledge, interests and practices. Does this development mean that environmental organisations have become too far integrated into mainstream society or can they still challenge environmentally harmful power-centres through the independent, critical pursuit of environmental issues?

"Voluntary rule-making in the environmental field. New alliances between the state, enterprise and environmental organizations." Stockholm, SCORE, Stockholm University.

"Den organiserade frivilligheten" ("Organised volunteering"). Lund, Liber.
It is an increasingly recognized understanding that voluntary organisations play an important economic, social and democratic role in today's society. Examples are the voluntary use of ecolabels, multinational corporations that voluntarily follow social and environmental guidelines, and an increasing voluntary influence in medical and health care. Den organiserade frivillighetens analyses this tendency from a critical organizational perspective.


"Väljard i samverkan: om kommunerna och frivilligsektorn" ("Welfare in co-operation – About municipal co-operation with the voluntary sector"). Stockholm, Svenska kommunförbundet.
This report provides a descriptive account of co-operation between municipalities and voluntary organisations in contemporary Sweden. Tendencies in the present development are identified and the report includes a concluding discussion on how this co-operation could be further developed, both in terms of quantity and quality.

"A matter of choice: A micro-level study on how Swedish New-agers choose their religious beliefs and practices." Stockholm, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.
"En folkrörelse med många röster: en studie av Svenska kyrkans körverksamhet "("A mass movement of many voices - A study of Church of Sweden choirs"). *Tro & tanke. Supplement, 1997*

*Medlem i Svenska Kyrkan* (“Member of the Church of Sweden”). Stockholm, Verbum förlag.


This dissertation builds on a research project focusing on privately employed industrial white-collar workers in Gothenburg, Sweden. The project was initiated following signs of changes in the way employees perceive and act in relation to their union. The aim of this thesis is to study the causes behind individual patterns of action in relation to union membership and activities. The ambition is to increase our knowledge of the conditions of unions in contemporary working life, as well as of organisations of interest more generally. The problem is tackled in two steps: First, the individual motives behind different patterns of action are described and analysed. Second, contextual causes – both in the workplace and in society at large – behind changes in motives evidenced today, are analysed. The point of departure is theories about value change and individualization. The concept of value is here used to analyse how the individualization process changes the conditions for organized collective behaviour.


*Partier och organisationer* (“Parties and organizations”). Stockholm, Norstedts juridik.

*Diakoni mellan kyrka och samhälle: program för diakoniforskning* (“Diaconia between church and society: A program for diaconia research”). Uppsala, Uppsala University

*Diakoner med annan arbetsgivare än Svenska kyrkan* (“Deacons with other employers than the Church of Sweden”). Uppsala, Diakonivetskapliga institutet, Uppsala University.


This study focuses on the role of co-operative organisations for human development in the Third World. The origin and development of co-operative methods and objectives are reviewed and a theoretical model is presented, comprising the concepts of the co-operative structure and the co-operative process, which together influence the character and viability of real-life co-operatives, altogether referred to as the co-operative project.


Since Sweden is one of the most comprehensive of welfare states, the role of voluntary organizations active in the field of welfare is often neglected. The unique Swedish non-profit sector is characterized by 1) the tradition of popular mass movements in which members are central and the real owners of the organization, 2) large volunteering memberships, but low employment levels, 3) dominance in the fields of culture and recreation, but of relative marginalization in welfare. This Ph.D. dissertation empirically studies work and the perception of work in voluntary welfare organizations (VWOs) in Sweden. The study includes a series of
38 interviews of employees and volunteers in four VWOs: 1) a children’s’ rights organization; 2) a women’s’ centre; 3) a volunteer bureau; and 4) a humanitarian organization. A quantitative survey of some 200 VWOs supplements the qualitative data. Looking at the internal work setting and interactions between workers one realizes that work in VWOs is influenced not only by the popular mass movements (folkrörelser), which are the foundation model of all Swedish voluntary organizations, but also by paradigms emerging out of the public and for-profit sectors: 1) the public paradigm permanently shapes voluntary welfare organizations through the action of paid workers who often have public sector work experience; and 2) work in voluntary organizations is partly integrated into the regular labour market, and interfaces emerge between volunteering and professional life (for-profit paradigm). The private sphere also interferes with volunteering. Finally, this sheds a new light on the claims of VWOs that they are autonomous, free entities, and their contribution to social integration and strengthening of social ties.


Sweden is often described as a country with a strong welfare state and little voluntary work. This is as would be expected according to substitution theory, in which extensive welfare systems are assumed to crowd out voluntary activity and thereby limit the potential for voluntary work; imputing an inverse relationship between voluntary and statutory activity. A second perspective is welfare pluralism, which is purposive duplication activity by different actors resulting in increased choice for service users. A third perspective is offered, complementarily theory. In this theory, different actors are assumed to have different characteristics, strengths and weaknesses, which make them suitable for performing different tasks. Dahlberg analyses these three theories through the case of voluntary organisations and local authorities that support relatives of older people in Sweden. This book is Dahlberg’s Ph.D. dissertation.


This report aims to investigate the work of voluntary organisations in supporting relatives of elderly care takers. The study was conducted between 1999 and 2002.


This article is published as the fifth chapter in Civilt samhälle kontra offentlig sektor, edited by Lars Trägårdh. Dahlkvist provides a critical analysis of the use of terminology in civic society research, arguing that the notion of a “civic” society is commonly misused. The article is based on the proposal that political language is of considerable significance for understanding political theory, which leads the author to criticize the use of the term ”civic society” (civilt samhälle) in contemporary Swedish social science and public debate.


The objectives of this study are to explore the ethnic and organizational aspects in the formation and development of Iranian voluntary organizations in Sweden. Based on a case study of 61 Iranian associations this dissertation focuses partly on the motives and needs that brought Iranians together, partly on difficulties the associations experience in adjusting to the dominant model of voluntary organizations in Sweden.


This twentieth contribution to the Sköndal research series looks at the Swedish diaconia movement. Engel summarises seven studies performed in inner city congregations in Stockholm and Gothenburg. Each of the seven cases studies the diaconia’s conditions in the individual congregations. The purpose of the book is to examine recent developments in diaconal services. Engel concludes that the Church of Sweden is in the process of reconsidering its social services in what is considered a time of renewal of the traditional values of the diaconal.


Beliefs and values pertinent to the nature and aims of individual organizations, viz. perceptions of identity, are obviously crucial in the context of the work of change in organizations. This study therefore seeks to examine an organization – the Swedish Consumers’
Co-operative – that is actively engaged in ”the work of change” and focuses particularly on the important actors’ views of the nature and aims of their organization.


The global objective of this ethnographic study is to examine the social patterns and significant structures of a local (West Swedish) biker club. A newly formed club, Vagabond MC, constitutes the primary research object and is at the same time my entrance into the biker culture, generally speaking. A qualitative method is used, consisting of two years’ participatory observations in said biker club and 21 interviews with bikers and other people with great cultural insight.

This book, which is the nineteenth publication in the Sköndal research series, is the final report of an extensive research project on the Basta co-operative for drug rehabilitation. Basta is a non-public social service group with specialised organisation and work methods, and the aim of this book is to place the Basta co-op in a wider, societal context. The authors analyse the position of Basta according to such different terminology as civic society, social economy, volunteering, and non-profit sector.


This book presents some results from a research project in political science that is unusual both in terms of empirical material and theory. It is one of thirteen books resulting from the large democracy project that the Swedish government initiated in 1997. The project had two general objectives, to survey recent years’ research in the field and to stimulate the public debate on democracy. These are the reasons why numerous scientists specializing in democracy issues have travelled the country, leading seminars on democracy as well as for the publication of this book. In other words, this book is part of a wider effort to vitalize Swedish democracy, specifically dealing with the dismantling of the corporatist system and the changing situation of civic society, seen from a democracy perspective.


The point of departure for this thesis is the fact that the Swedish Consumers’ Cooperative – the central organisation *Kooperativa Förbundet* (KF) and its local consumer associations – is both a popular movement and a business enterprise. The purpose of the thesis is simply to analyze the tensions to which this double nature has given rise in the internal and external activities of the movement in the post-war period 1945-1990. Internal tensions are considered to arise when the demands for democracy are weighed against the demands of economic efficiency, whereas external tensions arise when in the political decision making process in Sweden, the movement must strike a balance between representing consumer interests on the one hand and guarding its own interests as a producer on the other. The thesis also aims to show how the development of the consumers’ cooperative has been marked by these internal and external tensions.

The main aim of this paper is to line out, describe and analyse one of the most central elements in a wider and dominant civil society framework in Sweden, membership. In this paper we will argue that a certain group of non-profit organizations in Sweden, the popular movement organizations (folkrörelserna), have so many organizational attributes in common that they constitute an institutionalized organizational field in the way for example DiMaggio and Powell use the term. The main empirical material used in the paper is in-depth interviews with top-level national leaders in a number of large Swedish federations often understood to be popular movement organizations. In the analysis of the interviews the focus is on the use of two central aspects that often are seen as central for the understanding of the popular movement concept – membership and democracy. These features are repeatedly used and given meaning both by top-level leaders of Swedish voluntary or non-profit organizations and others. A second purpose of the paper is to point at and discuss the relation between this wider civil society framework and the non-profit or voluntary organizations found in a particular country.


In this second report from the study of support for relatives of elderly care takers in the Stockholm area, Jegermalm reconnects to his and Whitakers 2000 study on this theme.
The issues are unchanged. Focus is still on how the support is conducted, but more attention is given to the possible co-operation between local authorities and voluntary organisations in this report, where a purpose in bringing up this question is to face a growing need of finding adequate means of dealing with an aging population.


This report summarizes the findings of a research project on the support offered by municipalities and voluntary organisations to the relatives of elderly care takers in Stockholm. The empirical material is largely from questionnaires directed to the municipalities as well as the voluntary organisations, but Jegermalm and Whitaker have also consulted municipal action plans for the specific policy field. The issue of support to relatives of elderly care takers is a relatively new field of empirical study and the recent attention to the matter by local authorities is part of the motivation for the study. A principal question, therefore, was what forms of support were there before the newfound interest in the issue. Jegermalm and Whitaker look into whom the support is aimed at and how decisions are made as to who is in need of support. Special attention is directed to the existing and possible future relations between municipalities and voluntary organisations in providing these services.

Jensen, C. and M. Löfström (2003). *Ideella organisationer i välfärdsystemet - exemplet ICK* ("Non-profit organisations in the welfare system - The example of ICK"). Göteborg, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration.


This report addresses the issue of Third Age volunteering in social care in the Swedish society. Results from a population study are presented as well as a number of case-studies of organizations in which Third Age volunteers are involved. The issue of volunteering is presented within the broader framework of the welfare state, the Swedish voluntary sector, policy changes concerning voluntary work and current shifts in attitude as presented in the public discourse. This publication is the second in the Sköndal research series.


Möta hiv, möta sig själv: en studie av arbetet vid Stiftelsen Noaks Ark-Röda korset (“To meet HIV, to meet one self: A study of the work at the Red Cross Noah’s Ark Foundation”). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

Det lilla extra (“That little bit more”). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

Saligare att ge: om givandets problem - ett missionsexempel (“More blessed is it to give: On the problems of giving – an example from a mission”). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

För mycke jag, för lite Jesus: LP-stiftelens vård av missbrukare sedd ur ett socialantropologiskt perspektiv (“Too much me, too little Jesus. The Levi Petrus Foundation’s care of substance abusers seen from a social anthropological perspective”). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.


Each year, the National Board of Health and Welfare distributes funding to a number of voluntary organisations in the social service sector. The funding is distributed according to criteria established by the Swedish government, based on the 1998 report Vad får vi för pengarna (What do we get for our money?). Staffan Johansson has evaluated the model for distribution of funding by asking two principal questions: “Does public funding influence the content of
the voluntary organisations’ work?” and “Does public funding in fact threaten the independence of voluntary organisations?”


This study covers the work of voluntary organisations with the elderly in the municipality of Leksand in the region of Dalarna. Focus is on the work performed but also on the organisations’ efforts to exert influence, raise relevant issues, and safeguard interests. The study is based on in-depth interviews with representatives from six different voluntary organisations and shows that these organisations produce a significant body of work, even if it is difficult to fully appreciate the extent of this work effort since much of voluntary work is never accounted for, either by the volunteers or the beneficiaries.


What principles of management are developed in popular movements? Such organisations are characterized by a democratic structure, an ideological base and a voluntary membership. In addition, popular movement organisations exist in a tight institutional and political context. How do these institutional preconditions affect their management principles? The study shows that popular movements develop an interactive management logic, exhibited in a dialog on ideological issues. The study also shows that the institutional perspective is meaningful for understanding management in popular movement organisations. This publication is the author’s doctoral dissertation.


This is the final report from the Ministry of Culture’s working group on social economy, whose purpose was to map the conditions for social economy in Sweden as well as to evaluate its relevance for contemporary society. The authors provide a rich account of social economy in Sweden from a state perspective, where emphasis is placed on the importance of the social economy in Swedish society as well as questions of how best to govern this social economy.


In 1982, the disease that was later to be labelled AIDS was diagnosed for the first time in a Swedish hospital. Although the number of patients was rather low in the first years, the reports from the USA were carefully monitored by the health authorities, by specialist groups within the medical profession and the voluntary organisation whose members were most closely affected to begin with - the Swedish Federation for Gay and Lesbian Rights (RFSL). This article examines the role of the non-profit organisations in the fight against the HIV virus and the care giving for those already infected with the disease. The paper relates the voluntary organisations to the public sector’s welfare services and concludes that the non-profit organisations are complements, supplements and alternatives but that they in no way compete with the public sector.


A book about the interaction between the three predominant popular social movements in the modern history of Sweden


The aim of the study is twofold. First, to provide a picture of what happens when groups of citizens co-operate with municipalities and administrations to produce services essential to the community, i.e., elderly care or road maintenance. Second, to compare this picture with the picture of citizens' involvement that the civil society theories describe. This is done by comparing four different co-operation projects. The empirical material has been gathered through four qualitative case studies – two elderly care cases and two road maintenance cases – and the analytical frame has been drawn mostly from organization theory, especially the resource dependence and the institutional perspectives. In the dissertation, it is shown that in the projects with fewer complications the processes developed in a way that balanced, to some extent, the asymmetry in the dependence relation, i.e., the resources controlled by
the groups became more interesting for the administrations and municipalities. As the group of citizens really involved was small, the consequences, greater solidarity and responsibility, and a decentralized democratic process, only comprised a few, mostly resourceful, citizens. Finally, the study shows that the groups’ contributions to the democratic process were limited by their involvement in actually solving the problem in question, i.e., to build and run an elderly home or to work with the improvement of the roads. The findings suggest that the picture of citizens’ involvement often put forward in the political debate in Sweden, as both a complement to the service provided by the public sector and a way to improve the democratic process ought to be the subject of further research.


Voluntary social work has only in the last ten years become established as a new research field in Sweden, while other countries have a much longer tradition of research on such voluntary organisations’ outer conditions and inner life. This publication focuses on the development of this new field of research in Sweden. The purpose is to present the most significant issues and theoretical perspectives. The author also brings up some challenges for research on voluntary social work and voluntary organisations, given contemporary societal conditions.

This publication is a special issue of *socialvetenskaplig tidskrift*, a Swedish periodical for research in social work and social science. This issue was edited by guest editors Lundström and Svedberg, who gathered articles from some of Scandinavia’s foremost experts on social volunteering. Contributors are: Eva Jeppsson Grassman, Lars-Erik Olsson, Bo Rothstein, Anna Meeuwisse, Sune Sunesson, Jan-Åke Hansson, Filip Wijkström, Jan Magnusson, Håkon Lorentzen and the two editors themselves.


The purpose of this paper is to capture a few vital features of the Swedish voluntary sector and to place them in an institutional perspective. The size and composition of the Swedish voluntary sector is discussed against the background of dominating theories in voluntary sector research. Special attention is given to the role of the sector in the field of social welfare. The authors present results from comparative research projects on the voluntary sector carried out in the latter part of the 1990’s. It is shown that the size of the Swedish sector is as large as in other industrialised countries, although the composition and the form of the sector differ when compared to many other countries. In weighing the importance of the sector, the authors point out that voluntary organisations make a crucial contribution in certain areas, combining work for interest and values with contributions for members and others. The characteristics of voluntary organisations and new trends in the field of social welfare are presented with the help of three ideal types. Finally, the authors discuss some conceivable scenarios for the future of the Swedish voluntary sector.

*Svensk frivillighet i internationell belysning - en inledning* ("Swedish voluntarism in an international perspective: An introduction"). Offprint/Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

*The Swedish nonprofit sector*. Stockholm, EFI, Stockholm School of Economics.

*Från röst till service? den svenska ideella sektorn i förändring* ("From voice to service? The Swedish non-profit sector in a time of change"). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

This publication, which is number four in the Sköndal research series, provides an extensive survey of Swedish civic society in a time of significant change and renewal of the sector. The purpose of the book is to give a fair estimate of the voluntary sector’s size, structure and composition. The authors also discuss reasons why the Swedish voluntary sector is constituted differently from that of other comparable countries. Lundström and Wijkström also examine tendencies in recent developments within the sector and provide an analytic representation of Swedish voluntary organisation, past, present and future.

*The nonprofit sector in Sweden*. Manchester, Manchester University Press.
In international research, Sweden has often been described as a country with an extremely small nonprofit or voluntary sector. In this book such a viewpoint is subject to in-depth questioning. Based on a comprehensive set of first hand empirical data, Tommy Lundström and Filip Wijkström provide the first systematic, consolidated account of the sector’s development and current position in Sweden. The authors begin by defining the Swedish nonprofit sector and then outline its history and legal framework. The overall composition and structure of the sector, its resource bases as well as the relations between the nonprofit sector and the state are presented and analysed. The book concludes with a discussion of policy issues, including the crucial question of the future role of nonprofit organisations in society.


The theories of social capital claim that voter participation benefits from a high level of participation in voluntary organisations. Susanne Lundåsen tests whether this is the case in Sweden in this Ph.D. dissertation. That organisational life is of great importance for the vitality of Swedish democracy is a deeply rooted understanding in Swedish debate and in research. How general and how real is this assumed connection? This study compares density of voluntary organisations and voter participation in local elections. The result shows that the supposed positive impact of social capital cannot be found in actual levels of voter participation.


Mannheimer, D., H. Wallén, et al. (2002). *Att mötas i facket: en systemteoretisk analys av möten i två av TCO:s medlemsförbund* ("Meeting in the union: A system theoretical analysis of meetings in two sections of the Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO)"). Stockholm, Department of Psychology, Stockholm University.


Anna Meeuwisse, Ph.D. in Social Work, has in her dissertation studied the club house movement, a movement originating in the Fountain House organisation in New York. The basic tenet of the organisation is that building self-confidence rests on friendship, work and empowerment. The Fountain House movement has spurred the creation of new, similar organisations in many other countries, among them Sweden. This book provides a historical, socio-political and ideological context for the movement. It also contains a case study on how a Swedish club is organised. The book depicts a dynamic organisation of the powerless, who nevertheless refuse to be marginalised in society.


This publication analyses the introduction of the ‘civic society’ concept in the Swedish mass media as well as in Swedish social science. The reader is shown how the use of the concept ties into changes in how the welfare state is regarded. The author also relates the Swedish context to the international situation, focusing especially on the debate in America. Meeuwisse shows how this reinvented word has been brought up as a slogan with both positive and negative connotations and this study is an attempt to position this phenomenon in a social policy context.


This publication is number eighteen in the Sköndal research series. The object of study in this book is the Basta worker co-operative for drug rehabilitation. The book is a largely sociological study of how the co-operative organisational form can be used for self-help and readjustment to society of people suffering from drug related problems. The purpose of the book is to identify the risks and possibilities of a co-operative model for rehabilitation, meaning that it also is of relevance for other branches of the ”new” co-operative movement.
Sweden is currently reconsidering its national objectives, as are many other countries. The social democratic hegemony has been undermined and emerging political powers are shedding new light on past political developments. Swedish history is being re-written. Det civila samhället och staten examines this process by analysing the significance of civic society from the mid-1800’s to the 1990’s. The purpose of this study is to bring clarity to the issue of the role of interest groups, popular movements and action groups. The old, traditional, popular social movements are compared to modern movements. The consequences of a corporative system, the growth of the welfare state and the dismantling of the corporative system is particularly closely studied, along with internationalisation and the emergence of a voluntary sector.

Civil society and state relations in Sweden. Aldershot, Avebury.


Brukare och klienter i välfärdsstaten ("Users and clients in the welfare state"). Stockholm, Norstedts juridik.

The trade union as a people’s movement. Stockholm, Swedish Trade Union Confederation


*Kan kooperationen klara konkurrensen? Om marknadsorientering i livsmedelssektorn* ("Can co-operatives cope with the competition? On market orientation in the agrifood sector"). Uppsala, Swedish University of Agricultural Science.

*Frivilliga organisationers insatser för hemlösa* ("Voluntary organisations’ efforts for homeless people"). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

This report is a survey of Swedish voluntary organisations working with homeless people. Thousands of people in Sweden lack permanent housing and only recently has homelessness been mapped on a national level. This report focuses specifically on the role of voluntary organisations. The purpose is to find what characterises the voluntary organisations’ efforts for the homeless and their relation to the public sector. This publication is the third in the Sköndal research series.


*Kartläggning och analys av det nya systemet för statsbidrag till handikapporganisationer* ("A mapping and analysis of the new system for state funding of handicap organisations"). Stockholm, National Board on Health and Welfare.

This report covers a very specific part of the Swedish municipalities’ contracting of social services from voluntary organisations. How does it affect the users in terms of security, freedom of choice and quality? Who is to be considered the user? The answers to these fundamental issues are rather a matter of speculation than actual fact. This report deals with the ”soft” values, such as whether users are treated in a hospitable atmosphere, and not values that can be measured in numerical data.

Partner sökes: samverkan mellan kommuner och frivilliga organisationer (”Partner wanted: Cooperation between municipalities and voluntary organisations”). Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College

Strategiska förändringar i kooperationer: fallet Lantmännens (”Strategic changes in co-operative organisations: the case of Lantmännens”). Stockholm, EFI, Stockholm School of Economics.

Medlemsägda företag: organisering av strategiska förändringar (”Member owned businesses: The organisation of strategic change”). Stockholm, Stockholm School of Economics


Social ekonomi: om kraften hos alla människor (”Social economics: About the power in us all”). Stockholm, The correspondance school in cooperation with the Swedish Institute for Social Economy.

Entreprenörer och agitatorer i frivilliga organisationers tjänst: en frivillig organisations tillkomst och mognad (”Entrepreneurs and agitators in the service of voluntary organisations: The emergence and maturing of a voluntary organisation”). Stockholm, Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

Från idé till handling: en sociologisk studie av frivilliga organisationers uppkomst och fallstudier av Noaks Ark, 5i12-rörelsen, Fursor och morsor på stan (”From idea to action: A sociological study of the emergence of voluntary organisations and case studies of Noah’s Ark, the 5 to12 Movement, Mums and Dads on Night Patrol”). Stockholm, Almqvist & Wiksell International.
The origin of voluntary organisations has not been studied much in sociology. This study develops a three-phase model of a voluntary organisation's origin and three case studies are conducted to try out the model. The aim of the study is to describe and analyse the birth of a voluntary organisation and its development. The empirical material has been obtained from three voluntary organisations from the mid-1980’s. The organisations are: Noaks ark (working with HIV), 5i12 rörelsen (working with refugees) and Farsor och morsor på stan (working with teenagers in Stockholm city). All three organisations still exist. The empirical material was collected through interviews and other written material. The book is the author’s Ph.D. dissertation.


Cooperation between local authorities and voluntary organisations have since the late 1990’s become a field of study that attracts a lot of attention and a lot of projects in the area are under way. Voluntary social work is no longer regarded with scepticism by politicians and civil servants, but more often as an interesting complement or alternative to public sector services. The voluntary organisations in this area of expertise are therefore increasingly often invited to participate in services within the municipalities. This report points out that the relations between local authorities and voluntary organisations tend to be more complicated that initially envisioned. The report especially tries to show which specific areas are problematic in this co-operation.


*Between markets and politics: Co-operatives in Sweden*. Frankfurt am Main, Campus Vlg.

Can co-operatives successfully combine the features of voluntary associations and commercial enterprises on a large scale in a market economy? Are they a successful hybrid between markets and politics in the welfare state? This study of Swedish consumer, building and tenant, and agricultural co-operatives offers an answer from three of the world's most successful co-operative movements. It combines both theoretical and empirical analysis, political science and sociology. All major walks of Swedish co-operatives are represented.


*Citizens as co-producers of social services in Europe. From the welfare state to the welfare mix*. Stockholm, School of Business, Stockholm University.

*Beyond the market and state: Social enterprises and civil democracy in a welfare society*. Aldershot, Ashgate.

This book explores the concept of civil democracy in Sweden and how it ties into social enterprises and the ”new” co-operatives in the social service sector. Pestoff provides a theoretical account of the link between social enterprises and civil democracy as well as an analysis of an extensive empirical study of social enterprises in the field of childcare services. The purpose of the book is to provide a richer understanding of the potential for civil democracy among social enterprises. Pestoff also ponders the importance of such civil democracy in contemporary Sweden, suggesting that a stronger civil democracy through social enterprises might not only improve work environment and gender equality but also work to empower citizens in general in a time of faltering interest in traditional democratic institutions.


This book begins by introducing in the first chapter certain aspects of the topic of Making Citizenship Meaningful. The importance of co-operatives for their members and membership for co-operatives is then examined in the second chapter. The development and future of the Swedish social economy is introduced in the third chapter. A theoretical discussion of the concept of ‘profit’ and the importance of balancing it against the social goals of social enterprises is introduced in chapter four. The role of third sector organizations in improving the service quality of public financed personal social services is explored in chapter five. The relationship between the social economy and civil society are examined in chapter six. Alternative medical health care in Japan is the topic of chapter seven. Institutional change and the role of Swedish business associations in bringing them about are discussed in chapter eight. Globalisation and Swedish business associations in the 21st century are explored in chapter nine. Finally all the threads of the story of Making Citizenship Meaningful are brought together in the final chapter on the politics of participation in a welfare state.


*Information technology for non-profit organisations: extended participatory design of an information system for trade union shop stewards.* Linköping, Linköping University.


This thesis analyses how the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) dealt with its concerns regarding IT-development in the period 1976 to 1996, how it framed the socio-political importance of IT and how it sought to reformulate internal and external relationships in order to sustain its identity as a progressive and responsible political force. We can follow how political concepts of technology, established in the age of industrialisation by the union, the state and the employers’ organisation, were challenged as a result of IT development, institutional change, international competition and the growing importance of knowledge and education for productivity and personal development.


Sweden is internationally recognised as a thoroughly organised country. Especially recognised are the interest organisations and their close relation to the state. This book aims to answer why the interest organisations in Sweden are so politically strong and so close to the state. Why are they given such extensive authority? Why are some organisations better represented in state functions than others? Have parts of the state sector been taken over by organised interests? Rothstein provides a new interpretation of Swedish political history in order to answer these questions. Special attention is directed at the Swedish state’s relation to early political ambitions. Rothstein compares the development in nine different political sectors in order to study methods of co-operation that are established between the state and the interest organisations.


This article is the fourth chapter in *Civilta samhälle kontra offentlig sektor*, edited by Lars Trägårdh. Rothstein presents a condensed and revised version of some of the chapters from his book *Vad bör staten göra?* Rothstein’s primary object of study is the Swedish welfare state, its history and ideological origins. The role of civic society in Sweden is presented in relation to the wider question of the role of the welfare state, or in Rothstein’s own words, what the state should (and should not) do.


A mainly historical account of the development of the "Swedish model" and the corporatist state.


The 1990’s are regarded by many as a change in tide or even a setback for the Swedish welfare state. Poor economic growth had led to cutbacks in the public sector, not least in the area of social policy. Simultaneously, voluntary social organisations began to emerge, both as critical commentators of the public sector’s social services as well as providers of social services in their own right. This report asks the question of how the municipalities view the voluntary organisations and how their financial and organisational relationship has developed. The report shows that the municipalities’ interest in and reliance on the voluntary organisations has increased. It also shows that the division of labour between the public and the third sector is gradually changing.


The National Board of Health and Welfare is assigned by the Swedish government to oversee national policies for the disabled. Part of this assignment is to develop a routine for estimating the standard of living of handicapped people. The voluntary handicap organisations are an important stakeholder in this work. This publication is a report from the consulting effort the National Board of Health and Welfare directed to the voluntary organisations. Organisations were invited to "brainstorm" sessions that resulted in a number of suggestions for policy initiatives in the field of handicap issues.


The interest in non-profit organisations has increased in recent years, both for the work performed by unpaid volunteers and the work produced by paid employees. A reason for the increasing interest is that an increasing number of voluntary organisations produce social services by contract to Swedish municipalities or simply on the basis of remuneration for special services. A main question in this study is how people and institutions come together in the voluntary experience. The study concludes that the voluntary organisations have a better chance than public social services of meeting people on their own level and on their own terms.


This article is published as the sixth and last chapter in *Civilt samhälle kontra offentlig sektor*, edited by Lars Trägårdh. The article is a theory analysis from a gender perspective, where the debate on civic society is viewed as a possible expression of gender roles. Sommestad critically analyses the other contributions in Trägårds’s book and finds that the predominantly male theorists in the subject area are perpetuators of a typically male point of view, lacking the female perspective.


An evaluation of voluntary efforts as seen by both users and producers, using conjoint analysis.


*The challenge of new co-operatives*. Stockholm, Department of Business Administration, Stockholm University.


*Partier och intresseorganisationer i Norden* (“Parties and interest organisations in the Nordic countries”). Copenhagen, Nordic Council of Ministers.

*Studiecirkeln och det aktiva medborgarkapet* (“The study group and active citizenship”). *Årsbok om folkbildning*. Stockholm,: Föreningen för folkbildningsforskning, 14-35.

*Äldrondet, staten och civilsamhället* (“Aging, the state and civil society”). Lund, Studentlitteratur.

Svedberg, B. and Ideella beredningen (1994).


This report from the Committee on Social Services published in the Swedish Official Government Report Series was ordered by the government in 1993. The purpose of the report was to study voluntary service efforts in the welfare state with special attention paid to voluntary service production in relation to the Social Services Act. This report was one of the first comprehensive efforts to study social service production in Sweden beyond the public sector.

*Frivillighet som ideologiskt slagträ och faktisk verksamhet.* (“Volunteering as an ideological battering ram and actual activity”). Offprint/ Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College.

*”Introduktion till svensk frivillighet, ideologi och verksamhet (“An Introduction to Swedish voluntarism, ideology and activity”).” Tro och tanke 1996:7(7).*

*Spelar ideella och informella insatser någon roll för svensk väljord?* (“Do non-profit and informal contributions matter in Swedish welfare?”). Särtryck/Sköndal, Ersta Sköndal University College

Voluntary and informal contributions to the production of welfare services in Sweden are often considered mere footnotes in works on the Swedish welfare state. There is little
previous systematic knowledge in the subject area but the conditions for writing about these contributions and their importance are better now than it was just a decade ago. This publication deals with voluntary and informal work efforts in Sweden - how they have gained in contemporary relevance, how significant they are, what they consist of, how they have developed during the 1990’s, and how we should value these efforts in an improved understanding of the Swedish welfare state. Additional attention is directed towards explaining and analysing the problematic terminology in the field of study.


A governmental decree from February 4, 1999 authorized Minister of Social Affairs Lars Enquist to form a research committee to make a ”welfare audit” of the 1990’s. This book is the first in a series of ministerial publications that present the results of the committee’s work. The purpose of the book is to provide a correct information basis for a balanced debate about the condition of the welfare state in Sweden.


Söderholm, J., F. Wijkström, et al. (2002). *Offentlig sektor, näringsliv eller ideell regi: hur påverkar valet av institutionell form vården av missbrukare?* (“Public sector, market or non-profit administration: How does the choice of institutional form affect the care of substance abusers”). Stockholm, National Board on Health and Welfare. This report discusses a ”dynamic institutional mix” of actors from different areas or spheres, the public sector, the market sector, the family sector, and the third sector. In order to understand how this mix works, one has to combine studies of generic changes with empirical case studies. The authors of this paper do just that. How do the values and practice of the ”alternative” providers influence the services? This pilot study aims to capture and analyse how the institutional form of services - in this case for persons with problems of substance abuse - affects the service and ultimately the values that transpire among users and staff.


This report is a case study of a single worker co-operative with a school. The Pre-school was established in 1991 and the school was added in 1995. This study describes how the enterprise is developing; how day-to-day activities change and the problems that arise. The report shows that working in a parent-co-operative takes a lot of persistency and a
broad knowledge of several different fields on top of great pedagogical skills for the core service of actually caring for the children. The changes in this case also reflect changes in the Swedish society in the 1990’s.


This publication is one of the central works in Swedish civil society research, which is not the least illustrated by the fact that most of the individual chapters of the book are entered into this database. Each chapter approach a different aspect of civil society, in most cases from very different viewpoints. Dahlkvist, for instance, provides a critical analysis of the concept civil society itself, while Zetterberg explains the role of civil society in the welfare state through a far reaching theoretical analysis. Rothstein adresses the question of what the welfare state should do with a civil society angle and Sommestad considers the issue of civil society and gender.


This article is the opening chapter in the Trägårdh edited book on civil society, *Civilt samhälle kontra offentlig sektor*. Trägårdh introduces the reader to the specifically Swedish significance of civic society and civic society theory, using both adaptations of international terminology and uniquely Swedish concepts and contexts.


What is needed for an interest organization to gain access to the political decision-making process? Do certain organizational characteristics give some organizations privileges in terms of access? These questions are at the centre of the dissertation, with the empirical focus on Swedish environmental politics. The purpose is to shed light on the problem of whether the presence of interest organizations in political life jeopardizes the idea of equal
opportunity for all citizens to influence public policy. By studying interest organizations’ possibilities of gaining access to the political decision-making process and not the actual influence of the organizations, the perspective used here differs from the influence perspective used in most Swedish research on interest organizations. To gain a full picture of interest organizations in Swedish democracy, we do, however, need both the influence and the access perspectives. In international research on interest organizations in democratic political life, the access perspective is more frequent. Despite this fact, three different theoretical approaches, pluralism, corporatism and the Political Process Approach, provide us with different theoretical pictures of the possibilities of gaining access. The dissertation tests these different theoretical assumptions. Three Swedish political decision-making processes are investigated.


This publication is a report from a project on co-operative elder care in the homes of the care takers. It consists of two parts: a comparison between co-operative and municipal elder care based on user interviews and an evaluation of the elder co-operative Snopptorp, which is also based on telephone interviews. The results show that the two forms of elder care are comparable and of equal quality, even though the sense of continuity is less in the co-operative form, especially for patients with special needs.


*Social ekonomi i Sverige* ("Social economy in Sweden"). Stockholm, Fritzes.

A new concept, social economy, has emerged in the Swedish debate. What does it mean? How extensive is social economy in Sweden? Are there regional differences in the extent of the social economy? Is the social economy helping employment and can it be a means of labour market policy? These and other questions are dealt with in this book, which is a first mapping of social economy in Sweden. A fundamental issue in the book is the distinction between social economy in the legal sense and mere social aspects of the economy. Social economy in the legal sense is restricted to certain organisational and business forms, while the other form of social economy is much more diverse.


*Den sociala ekonomins bidrag till lokal sysselsättning: forskningsrapport* ("The social economy’s contribution to local employment: a research study"). Stockholm; Östersund, Kooperativa institutet; Institute for Social Economy.

This report from The Swedish Cooperative Institute studies the work performed by social economy support organisations, especially organisations promoting new co-operative businesses. Focus is on the extent to which these support organisations have helped to create new job opportunities in their regions. This report is one of twelve country reports in a wider European research project financed by the European Commission through the DG V. The Swedish case studied support organisations in large cities as well as in rural areas and in several different service sectors. The broad approach is described as an asset as well as a methodological hurdle for the report. One of the principal findings is that the social economy produces new job opportunities not only in the social service sector but also in fields such as industry and crafts.


*Frivilligmedverkan i vården* ("Voluntary participation in health and social care"). Stockholm, National Board on Health and Welfare.


*Den svenska ideella sektorn och pengarna!* ("The Swedish non-profit sector and money!"). Stockholm, EFI, Stockholm School of Economics.
This is a dissertation in two parts. In addition to the four papers found in this volume, *Different Faces of Civil Society*, the major publication is a book entitled *The non-profit sector in Sweden*, a joint effort by Tommy Lundström and this author. Our points of departure in the book were that Sweden in much of previous international research was described as a country with a small nonprofit sector. Based on a comprehensive set of first-hand empirical data, the book provides the first systematic, consolidated account of the Swedish sector, where its development, legal situation and current position and results are questioned. The two initial texts found in this volume focus on conceptual tools. The first article, *The Swedish Nonprofit Sector in International Comparison* is based on a critique of the dominant US/economics perspective found in mainstream nonprofit literature. In the article it is argued that earlier attempts to understand the Swedish nonprofit sector have been biased by a cultural ethnocentrism. The purpose of the article is to broaden the understanding of this part of society by using a socio-economic approach. The second paper, *Hate groups and outlaw bikers: part of civil society?* addresses the issue of definitions. The aim of the paper is to test two existing definitions of organizations in civil society. This test is conducted on two extreme forms of organization, the white hate group and the outlaw motorcycle club. It is shown that – according to existing definitions – both of these organizations, in their ideal-typical form, can be regarded as civil society organizations. The final two essays are more explorative and the author has taken the freedom to experiment. In *Strategic dilemmas for Swedish popular movement organizations*, the object of study is the Swedish popular movements (folkrörelserna) and an experienced sense of crisis in some of the organizations within these movements (PMOs). It is argued that a number of major external shifts have had a profound impact on the traditional Swedish PMOs. Underlying reasons for the reactions of the PMOs are discussed and some interpretations of the effects are presented. In the final essay; *Outlaw biking in alternative frames of interpretation* – an even more limited and empirically derived phenomenon is taken as point of departure. The study focuses on outlaw biking and approaches this social phenomenon from three different angles with the help of metaphorical images derived from the outlaw literature. The purpose was not to develop a best possible frame for the study of outlaw biking, but rather to lay bare some already existing images of outlaw motorcycle clubs, found in the previous literature.


Wijkström, F., S. Einarsson, et al. (2004). Staten och det civila samhället: idétraditioner och tankemodeller i den statliga bidragsgivningen till ideella organisationer ("The state and civil society: Traditions and patterns in the state funding of non-profit organisations"). Stockholm, the National Board on Health and Welfare. This report deals with how the Swedish state regards private, value-based organisations. It analyses a public funding system and how it has developed over the years. The question asked is: What values and morals have guided public financing? Are there any patterns to how the funding has developed? This report takes a broad and creative stance on the work of developing welfare financing systems, considering views from both the public sector and the voluntary organisations. The purpose of this report is to provide perspectives and constructive information for a debate on the welfare state that considers both historical and theoretical traditions.


Wijkström, F. and T. Lundström (2002). Den ideella sektorn: organisationerna i det civila samhället ("The non-profit sector: The organisations of civil society"). Stockholm, Sober. This book attempts an all-encompassing grasp of the Swedish voluntary sector, its history, structure, politics, importance and debate. Wijkström and Lundström provide a rare, scientific take on the Swedish voluntary sector as a whole, something previously unknown in Swedish social science. Concepts and contexts are problematised and analysed according to academic principles. The purpose of the book is to add to the modest body of theoretical research on the Swedish voluntary sector, a field of study where almost all material is empirical.


Special attention is directed to the issue of changes in participation in voluntary activities between 1992 and 2000. More than 30 different forms of organisations are considered, based on the Bureau’s living conditions surveys. The report was jointly financed by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication, and the Statistics Sweden program for social welfare statistics.


This article is the third chapter in *Civila samhälle kontra offentlig sektor*, edited by Lars Trägårdh. Zetterberg provides a relatively wide theoretical framework for civic society research, reaching back to the Greek classics and the philosophers of the Enlightenment. This theoretic framework is used as a means of further understanding the role of civic society and its relation to the modern welfare state.

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Börjeson Martin och Hansson Jan-Håkan (under utgivning). "Om behoven av att bygga andras kunskap" i Nordisk Sozialt Arbeid.


This literary overview of the Swedish civil society research is collected from a new database created by the author for a Nordic research project called "Citizens intermediate organisations and governance of the challenges of welfare services in Nordic societies". The literary overview covers Swedish research publications on the civil society from 1988 to the present date. The survey on which the database and the overview are based was conducted during 2005, covering research literature about civil society regardless of academic discipline or format. The result is a rare collection of references in English, in special cases with an added short abstract for further understanding. The literary overview is designed to work as a tool for anyone who writes about or work with issues concerning the civil society, as a student, researcher or in some other capacity.