

Welcome to the

# Workshop on Welfare, Health and Social Change

Linköping, Sweden, August 24-26, 2006



STATENS  
FOLKHÄLSOINSTITUT

Organised by:

Linköping University, PHOENIX Thematic Network on Health and Social Welfare Policy  
and the Swedish National Institute for Public Health.

## Introduction

Understanding the relationship between welfare, health and social change is an important field of interest from both theoretical and practical points of view. In comparatively affluent western societies, the changing demographic composition of the population is creating new challenges for health policies. In the former socialist states of Central and Eastern Europe, the transformation to democracy has had a dramatic effect on people's health and life expectancy. Developing countries are facing divergent trends, where globalisation and local circumstances are playing important roles for the outcome. Looking back in history, we find similar processes of profound social change, with visible effects on welfare and health.

The Department of Health and Society is an interdisciplinary multi-faculty unit at Linköping University. It includes a wide range of competences within humanities, social sciences and medicine. One of its strategic research programs is dedicated to "Social change, Everyday Life and Health", making it natural to accept the role as coordinator of a working group on "Welfare Health and Social Change" within the second cycle of the Erasmus Thematic Network PHOENIX.

The aim of this workshop is to establish a mutual exchange of ideas, experiences and inspiration, as invited participants represent eminent expertise in academic research, policymaking and practical work in the field of welfare and health.

## Program

### Friday August 25:

#### 10:00-12:30 Long-term perspectives on welfare, health and social change

Dr. Annika Sandén, Linköping University, Sweden:

*Local welfare strategies and social capital in Early Modern Sweden*

Associate professor Olöf Gardarsdottir, University of Reykjavik, Iceland:

*Social and individual implications of epidemics and other mortality crises in virgin soil environment. The case of Iceland during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

Associate professor Eugenia Bournova, University of Athens, Greece:

*Welfare and health in the city of Athens: from the Balkans Wars to the 1960's.*

Associate professor Sam Willner, Linköping University, Sweden:

*Change and continuity in the regional mortality pattern and socio-economic conditions in Sweden from pre-industrial to post-industrial society*

Dr. Ana-Claudia Bara, National School of Public Health and Health Services Management,  
Bucharest, Romania:

*Recent critical mortality trends among the Romanian elderly and health care changes*

Professor Nazan Bilgel, Uludag University, Turkey:

*Mother and Child Health Care in Turkey: a historical perspective*

#### 12:30-14.00 Lunch

#### 14:00-15:30 Topics and projects

Professor Mariapia Viola Magni, University of Perugia, Italy:

*Social change and vulnerable groups*

Associate professor Thomas Faresjö, Linköping University, Sweden,  
and lecturer Hans Nilsson, Linköping University, Sweden:

*Social environment and health in the Twin Cities – a comparison as a classical experiment*

Associate professor Thomas Faresjö, Linköping University, Sweden:

*Social change and health assets -  
comparison between a cardiovascular low risk population on Crete and Swedish populations*

Dr. Anna Prestjan, Örebro University, Sweden:

*The Local Doctor. A regional study of Swedish district physicians  
between Central Authorities and Local Problems, 1812-1962.*

#### 15:30-16:00 Coffee

**16:00-17:30 From biography to biology: Psychosocial factors and health**

Moderator: Associate professor Margareta Kristenson, Linköping University, Sweden

Dr. Mikael Rahmqvist, Linköping University:  
*The increase of psychological distress  
and the cyclic birth and employment rates in Sweden 1990 to 2004*

Professor Bengt Starrin, Karlstad University, Sweden:  
*Shame - from fairy tales via theory to data*

Professor Holger Ursin, University of Bergen, Norway:  
*CATS – How are individual experiences mediated into biological systems*

PhD student Peter Hjalmarsson, Linköping University, Sweden:  
*Life circumstances and psychobiology; empirical data on stress and vulnerability*

**19:00 Dinner**

**Saturday August 26:**

**8:00-9:15 Social security, local justice, and registration: English institutions,  
health and development**

Professor Simon Szreter, University of Cambridge, U.K.

**9:15-10:30 Why some societies do better than others**

Professor Richard Wilkinson, University of Nottingham, U.K.

**10:30-11:00 Coffee**

**11:00-12:15 Public Health in Practice - The policymaker's perspective**

General Director Gunnar Ågren, Swedish National Institute of Public Health:  
*Swedish Public Health Policy - focus on social determinants and multisectoral interventions*

Head of Unit for Public Health Policy Analysis Bernt Lundgren:  
*Implementation and Monitoring of the Swedish Public Health Policy*

**12.15-13.30 Lunch**

**13.30-15.30 Welfare, health and vulnerable populations**

Professor Vladimir Shkolnikov, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research,  
Rostock, Germany:  
*Patterns of extreme mortality - alcohol and vulnerability among working-age Russian men:  
outcomes of the Izhevsk study, 2004-5*

Associate professor George Poede, Romania  
*Key challenges to social policy in Romania*

Lecturer Adina Rebeleanu, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania:  
*Vulnerable groups, health and health care in Romania*

Associate professor Janos Sandor, Pecs University, Hungary:  
*Social determinants of the health of Down-babies*

**15.30-15:45 Coffee**

**15.45-17.30 PHOENIX Working Group – future activities**

**19:00 Dinner at Ekoxen Hotel**