



UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

ANAKRONA LIVSVILLKOR

**En studie av funktionalitet,
möjligheter och begär i den
föränderliga svenska
välfärdsstaten**

Christine Bylund

Akademisk avhandling

som med vederbörligt tillstånd av Rektor vid Umeå universitet för avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen framläggs till offentligt försvar i NAT.D.320, Naturvetarhuset, fredagen den 3 juni, kl. 10:00.

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Fakultetsopponent: Docent, Maria Bäckman,

Institutionen för etnologi, religionshistoria och genusvetenskap (ERG), Stockholms universitet, Stockholm, Sverige.

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Christine, Bylund

Title

Anachronistic Living Conditions: Dis/ability, Possibility, and Desire in the Changeable Swedish Welfare State.

Abstract

Since 2009 a decrease in support for dis/abled people provided by the welfare state has taken place. In this process, the concept of family and relationships are both overlooked and central. Cuts of support significantly impact family lives, rendering dis/abled people dependent on their partners, parents, or children. However, little research has been produced about how the needs, wants, and desires of dis/abled people are affected by the changing welfare state.

This thesis examines the connections between the changing forms of support in the welfare state, desire, and relationships through a crip-theoretical understanding of dis/ability and a phenomenological understanding of the welfare state as a structure for orientation in both a practical and existential sense. The material consists of interviews with dis/abled people based on the principle of cross-disability and autoethnographic writing.

The findings show that an ableist discourse shapes the welfare state's earliest support, resulting in segregation and isolation. These discourses were challenged during the period of deinstitutionalisation and through the passing of the LSS-act in the 1990s but never entirely dismantled. During the contemporary neoliberal austerity politics, it returns, positioning dis/abled people as a societal burden. Due to its intimate nature and its conditioning of everyday life, the relationship to the welfare state can be understood as a relationship of its own. Changes in the welfare state affect the physical and emotional movements, making certain lifestyles and relationships appear possible and others impossible. The thesis contributes to and nuances the previous research on the intersection of welfare state support and services and the practical and existential experiences of dis/abled people in Sweden.

Keywords

Disability, sexuality, welfare state support, austerity, crip time, crip phenomenology, ableism, autoethnography, Sweden, Swedish exceptionalism

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