

# **An intersectional perspective on segregation, integration and “equal city”**

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November 2019

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# Swedish welfare in comparative perspective

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- In an international perspective, Sweden have one of the best welfare system with a strong and comprehensive welfare regime, a fast growing economy, and a progressive democratic system based on citizens' rights.

- Statistical data and research show that foreign-born immigrant generally have **poorer health, lower income, and lower rates of employment than Swedish-born persons of the same sex, age, and socio-economic background. They are also less active in political life, are marginalized, excluded and segregated**

# Population of immigrant

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- Today, almost one fifth of Sweden's population is of foreign origin. About **15 percent** were born abroad, while about **6 percent** were born in Sweden to two foreign-born parents.

Compared to many other European countries, Sweden has a **high proportion** of foreign-born persons in relation to the total population

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- Today, the greater part of foreign-born persons in Sweden comes from **non-European countries**. Statistics show that the number of people who moved to Sweden for **humanitarian reasons was proportionally higher** than in many other European countries such as England, Italy, Germany, and France.

# Table 1: Number asylum seekers 2014-2017

## Data from Migration Board, 2018

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>TOTAL</b>	29648	43887	54259	81 301	<b>162 877</b>	28 939	21606
<b>Children</b>	9699	14151	16252	23 110	<b>70 384</b>	10 909	7263
<b>Unaccompanied</b>	2 657	3 578	3 852	7 049	<b>35 369</b>	2 199	1334

# Employment among immigrant

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The **native-born employment rate has been ca. 80** percent or higher throughout the 2000s, while the corresponding figures for foreign-born immigrants are on average less than **65 percent** for the same period.

The average employment rate **for persons born outside of Europe** was even lower, and in 2009 it was about **59 percent**.

The employment rates **for foreign-born men and women were about 67 and 58 percent**.

- **In 1975, foreign-born and native-born persons had similar** rates of employment, but the employment gap increased during the economic crisis of the 1990s, and was still large in 2009

# Employment rate for immigrant in an international perspective

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- **Statistical data also show that of 19 OECD countries , Sweden have the highest have in employment rates between native- and foreign-born persons 12.1% in 2009.**

Employment rates are lower for women than for men in Sweden and the **gap between men and women is greater among the foreign born than the native born.**

# Unemployment

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- In Sweden, **unemployment is higher among immigrants** than native-born persons.

**Foreign-born men have the highest** proportion of unemployment while native-born men have the lowest percentage.

When it comes to age, unemployment has been greatest in the age category of 15–24 years. Combining age, gender, and ethnicity, statistical data for 2009 show that youth unemployment was highest among foreign-born **young men (37.6 percent)** and lowest among young women born in Sweden (22.8 percent).

- At the international level, unemployment is high among foreign-born immigrants in Sweden. While Spain has the highest rate of unemployment among foreign-born persons, **Sweden ranks nr 15 out of the 21 OECD countries**

# Income

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- **Foreign-born** persons who have **lived in Sweden** for more than **20 years** still have **lower incomes** than persons born in Sweden. **Foreign-born women have lower incomes** than foreign-born men. Income levels **are lower among those born outside Europe** than those born in Europe.
  
- Study has also found that **unreasonable income** exist between foreign- and native-born persons. This shows that **changing one's foreign-sounding surname to a Swedish-sounding one** results in **higher income** after the name change. The average increase in annual **income associated with a name change ranges from 10,000–15,000 kr**. This applies to people born in **Africa, Asia, or the Slavic countries**.

# Education

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- Statistical data show that **38 percent of native born 25–64** years of age had **post-secondary education**, while the corresponding figures for **foreign-born were about 36 percent**.
- Among the native-born **21 percent had lower secondary education**, compared to **13 percent of the foreign born**. **A larger part of women** than men are highly educated both among native and foreign born persons.

**By international standards, Sweden has a high proportion of college graduates among its foreign citizens, 31 percent.**

# Health

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- **In 2008–2009, the proportion of people with ‘good health’** among native-born men and women aged 16 and older was about **84 percent**. The corresponding figures for foreign-born persons were about **73 percent**.

**Only 69 percent of foreign-born women** report being of good health, while the corresponding figure for **native-born men** was **85 percent**.

- **During 2000–2005, the proportion of native-born persons reporting poor or very poor health was around 4 percent**. The corresponding figure for **those born outside Europe** was about **17 percent**.

When controlling for socio-economic factors (socio-economic group, type of housing, and possession of a cash buffer), the proportion who reported poor or very poor health among **persons born outside Europe** was found to be **10%**, which is two-and-a-half times higher than among native-born persons.

# Residential Segregation

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**Residential segregation** is a growing problem that has attracted increasing attention lately.

The National Board of Health and Welfare reports that during the period **1990-2002 there has been a marked increase in ethnic segregation in Sweden.**

**During the period, the poverty rate has increased significantly in very resource-weak areas where people often have their origins in Southern Europe, Asia, Africa, or Latin America.**

This means that the populations in these areas have come to be poor ‘visible’ immigrant groups.

# How segregation and immigrant low position can be explained?

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1. A culturally conditioned perspective that stresses **cultural differences** and a **lack of cultural competence**.
2. A **class-based perspective** in which generally the **ethnic minority background** have poorer health, a lower position in the labour market, and worse housing conditions.
3. **The intersectional theory of ethnic discrimination that emphasizes the role of exclusion mechanisms in explaining the marginalized status of foreign-born persons in Sweden.**

# An intersectional perspective to segregation and multiculturalism

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- An intersectional perspective would be a better starting point for analyzing **power relations and possibilities for integration and against segregation** than the approaches that emphasize cultural characteristics.
- An intersectional perspective can study the **complexity of discrimination**.
- Key concepts in analyzing segregation from the perspective of power will be **discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion**.
- From a **power perspective, ethnic relations** – like class, age and gender relations – are generally part of a social stratification based not only on a dichotomy between ‘us’ and ‘them’, but also on a hierarchical power relationship.

**Categorization of people as ‘immigrants’** can contribute to having a **negative image** of themselves and **feeling of marginalization**.

Therefore, **ethnic minoritys power, status, participation and representation** are some of the important elements that should be addressed to **the idea of the ‘multicultural society’**.

# Integration policy From assimilation to multiculturalism

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- A policy of assimilation was officially pursued (eliminated) in Sweden until the **mid-1970s**.
- It failed because many foreign-born persons **lacked the 'will'** to assimilate in their new country.
  - Some studies (Friedman and Friedman) believe that a **weakening of the nation state and its ideology together with a lack of integration** lead to the way for **multi-ethnic ideas**.
- The Immigration Commission formulates the following goals for Swedish policy on immigrants and minorities: **equality, free choice, and collaboration**.
  - Immigration policies were not successful, **questioned in the late 1990s, and a new policy**.

# Multiculturalism, transnational cultures, and an anti-discrimination perspective

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- For a long time there was an established belief that the integration issue mainly concerned how **‘immigrants’ should be integrated into society**. It was believed that society was composed of two groups with different characteristics, namely **‘Swedes’ and ‘immigrants’**.

- In this way, the integration question was reduced to a special policy for **‘the others’**.

**The question is whether one also must begin to speak of integrating Swedes into a “multiethnic society”, instead of just integrating immigrants into Swedish society.**

# Multiculturalism, transnational cultures, and an anti-discrimination perspective

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- The term ‘**trans nationalism are challenging both the Swedish national cultural** and contemporary cultural segregation.

- **Segregated integration**’ may in fact be a result of multicultural and transnational society, as it does not place enough importance **on participation** as the key measure of integration.

**Ethnic discrimination** and structural barriers are very **significant for segregation and isolation.**

- The point of emphasizing exclusion mechanisms and discrimination is to shift the focus from individual actions to structural conditions.

# securitization discourse

The 2015 immigration wave to EU and specifically to Sweden have made several political and social challenges on human rights, citizenship, power, democracy and integration, also in the perspective of refugee children's rights.

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Sweden, as well as other European countries have started to stress the countries in the name of **national security (securitization)** instead of human rights in relation to refugees.

In this perspective immigration is defined as a **threat** against national culture, social welfare and unity. Even in media, the groups of refugees have been described with different cultural pictured as a threat towards Swedish values.

# “refugee crisis”?

Wondering if there was a refugee crisis in 2015-2017.

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In what ways have these profound changes impacted their psychological and social conditions?

What can be considered as a crisis, and how Swedish authorities could handle the considered crisis in last years?

How are we to cope with unaccompanied vulnerability in the current refugee context?

Who are mostly engaged with the local and national to give support unaccompanied young refugees?

## From openness to restrictive policies

Sweden has been recognized as one of the most generous countries in terms of governance of migration.

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The governance was described as lacking hard pressures put on migrants for self-reliance and focused on multiculturalism, rather than assimilation as a form of inclusion of migrants in society.

Swedish people's attitudes toward the reception of refugees for a long time has been most positive, and characterized by a tension between openness and generosity on the one hand, and control and restrictions on the other.

# STABILITIES AND CHANGES IN ATTITUDES TO DIVERSITY IN SWEDEN 2005-2018

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A longitudinal study it has been carried out every year since the initial survey in 2005 -2014 and 2016, 2018.

This annual survey that took place between 2005 and 2013 show a stable picture without any dramatic changes.

Attitudes towards ethnic diversity are therefore relatively constant over this period despite the economic crisis in 2008. **But it changed after 2015 to more negative attitude.**

However, some statistical differences have been established: diverse attitudes between men and women, as well as among high and low educated individuals. Women are more positive than men, a pattern that has followed all measurements.

The group who report having had very or relatively positive experiences of contacts with people with an immigrant background in the areas of work and study are clearly in the majority during the entire period.

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In the past few years, there seems to be a risk that this extreme, anti-immigration group may be growing for the first time.

The proportion reporting very or relatively negative experiences of immigrants has amounted to approximately 11 percent during the past few years. In 2013, this proportion fell somewhat.

**But increased after 2015.**

Nevertheless, one in ten Swedes reported a very or relatively negative experience of immigrants. Close examination of the data on positive or negative experiences reveals that a certain **polarization** has occurred.

The variables used to clarify the situation regarding experiences of ethnic diversity are gender, age, education, place of residence

It is for the most part women, the young, university graduates and inhabitants of big cities who have reported positive experiences of working or studying with people who have a foreign background.