

## **FINAL VERSION**

### **Report for the Swedish Research Council (VR) Preliminary Results for Research Project on:**

#### **Dreaming Change: Women and the Creation of Civil Societies in Europe, Asia, and Latin America**

The research project has by and large been carried out in accordance with the originally proposed timeframe. Challenges have been handled when encountered and the project has already accumulated a large amount of data which are being processed and analyzed. The project, in addition, has generated a large number of conference papers, presentations, and articles in national and international journals and volumes. Central to the project is an ethnographic methodology which is used as an entry into grasping local ways of constructing social and gendered movements and the strategies which they employ to obtain gender justice. Project members thus have gathered data in Argentina, Chile, Germany, Iraqi Kurdistan, Japan, Pakistan, Taiwan, and Vietnam.<sup>1</sup> The gathered material is rich in diversity and provides a unique resource for comparisons of gendered movements in different parts of the world.

The cases studied in the project are situated at the crossroad between women's movements, gender studies, and feminism. The project, therefore, has been concerned about the ways in which current civil society debates tend to be Eurocentric and sidestep gender issues. An important aim of the project thus is to consider critically how to strengthen the notion of civil society by integrating gender perspectives and experiences from postcolonial locations in The Global South. Analytical efforts in the project revolve around first, elaborations of the notion of civil society considered from a feminist and postcolonial perspective and second, examinations of the dilemmas and ambiguities imbued in the notion of gender justice as experienced in particular sites.

#### **Gendering Civil Society**

Over the years, the notion of civil society has challenged feminist scholars thus also this research team. In gender and feminist studies, there has been a reluctance to engage in civil society debates because rigid distinctions between the public, private, and civil society appear to be insufficient as regards capturing women's contribution to the production of civil society. Project data clearly indicate that "women's issues" cannot be reserved to the private sphere which in mainstream civil society literature is separated from the public and marginalizes the family. Alternative spaces, counter spaces, and soft power organizations are critical to address as done in this project in order to highlight the ways in which women participate in the

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<sup>1</sup> As one project member very sadly passed away, the Arctic is no longer included in this project.

configuration of civil society. Civil society this project, therefore, approaches as a practice; as a *doing of the gendered social* in particular locations.

### **The Gendering of Social Justice**

Taking such findings into account, the following questions continuously are being discussed in the project. First, is the notion of civil society useful for explorations of the ways through which gender entangles with local women's movements dedicated to promote gender justice? Second, how does the notion of civil society relate to locations of women and feminism in The Global South? The linkages between feminism, civil society, and gendered justice are of significance in the project. An intersectional perspective hence has been applied as a kaleidoscope for understanding the multiple locations from where women of different ages, ethnicities, classes, and sexualities create, defend, and redefine networks which work for equal rights and justice.

The project examines the ways through which gender norms and specific forms of demands define the boundaries of civil society in urban and rural areas in the countries studied, and how these boundaries perpetually are challenged and transformed. Indigenous ways of practicing and, in so doing, constructing civil society, allow for articulations of gendered demands concerning justice, capabilities, and rights. The universality of the concept of civil society is challenged by this project when related to field sites in The Global South; project data highlight how the notion of civil society privileges western-centric definitions of the state, society, and citizens.

Despite its shortcomings, the project clearly indicates that the notion of civil society holds potentials for future feminist research in western as well as non-western societies. That is provided the notion is nuanced analytically by the aid of feminist and postcolonial perspectives and, moreover, by engaging into a dialogue with scholars and citizens located in The Global South.

Below project relevant activities are outlined and as is evident the impact factor is high.

## **RESEARCH OUTCOME**

### **Erika Alm; “Make/ing Room for Living: Organizational Strategies in Transgender Activism”.**

#### **Accepted Conference Papers**

Alm, E. Presentation of paper on “Values in motion: Gender, normativity and change, at the conference *On the move: ACSIS 2013*, Norrköping 9-11/6 2013.

Alm, E. Presentation of paper on “Make/ing room: The somatechnics of trans\* organization in Pakistan” at the conference *Missing Link: The somatechnics of decolonisation*, Linköping 17-19/5 2013.

(Alm joined the project late).

## **Catrin Lundström; “Swedish Migrants in the USA, Singapore, and Spain”.**

### **Fieldwork**

Interviews and focus group discussions with 66 Swedish women, and participant observation between 2006 and 2010 in a global network for Swedish speaking women.

### **Publications**

“I didn’t come here to do housework: relocating ‘Swedish’ practices and ideologies in the context of the global division of labor: the case of expatriate households in Singapore”. *Versita*, 2(2), 2012:150-158.

“Gender, Culture, and Work in Global Cities”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*. 36, 2013:1-4.

“‘Mistresses’ and ‘maids’ in transnational “contact zones”, *Women’s Studies International Forum*. 36, 2013: 44-53.

(Lundström joined the project late).

## **Lena Martinsson; “Human Rights. Women’s Rights”.**

### **Fieldwork**

2011, March and December 2012, March, 2013 February March 2-5 weeks each time.  
Guest researcher at Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan, March 2012.

### **Accepted Conference Papers and Keynote Talks**

Martinsson, L. CSM- conference, *University of Gothenburg, How to study transnational social movements*, Paper: “Women movement in Pakistan” *September 2011*.

Martinsson, L. Atgender: The Politics of Location Revisited: Gender@2012, 8th European Feminist Research Conference. Budapest, May 2012, Paper: “Global Concepts-Local Struggles”.

Martinsson, L. G12, *National konferens för genusforskning*, Paper on “Ekonomi, kroppslighet och territoriella riktningangivelser”. Gothenburg November 2012.

Martinsson, L. AERA, 2013 [Education and Poverty: Theory, Research, Policy, and Praxis](#)  
Arranged symposium on: Neoliberal Education and Political Subjectivity, together with the project Class in Neoliberal Education, (VR, The Swedish Research Council) and Professor Eva Reimers. Paper: “Neoliberal educational development aid—a (non) political issue”, San Francisco, April, 2013.

Martinsson, L. ACSIS, *On the Move*, Keynote, together with Erika Alm and Pia Laskar on the Plenary session: “Values in Motion: Gender, Normativity and Change”, Linköping University, Campus Norrköping June 2013.

Martinsson, L. Seminar, together with Kajsa Widegren and Erika Alm, Department for Cultural Sciences, spring 2013.

### **Popular Science Presentations**

8 mars 2013-08-13, “Kvinnorörelser I Pakistan”, University of Gothenburg.

December 2012, Akademisk kvart, bokus, “Kvinnorörelser I Pakistan, finns dem?”.

January, 2013, Om kvinnorörelser och postkolonialitet – BLLF Sweden.

February, 2013, Om kvinnorörelse och postkolonialitet II, BLLF Sweden.

### **Publications**

Martinsson, Lena. Together with Karlsson Rixon, Annica, 2013, “Trots allt”, *Tidskrift för genusvetenskap* nr 1.

Martinsson, Lena. “Stökiga platser” *Kulturella Perspektiv*, 2012 nr 3-4.

Martinsson, Lena. TGV 2013 (Imagining Change & Class in neoliberal Education Discourse)

Martinsson, Lena, 2012, “Globala klasser”. *Fronesis*, nr 40-41.

Martinsson, Lena. Together with Karlsson Rixon, Annica, 2011, Översättningar i rörelse, *Kulturella Perspektiv*, 3-4.

## **Diana Mulinari; “Feminism in Latin America. Between Reformism and Revolution”.**

### **Fieldwork**

Argentina 2011-2012-2013 (three months) affiliated at the Department of Anthropology. University of Buenos Aires.

### **Accepted Conference Papers and Keynote Talks**

Mulinari, D. The future of Labour Studies. “Global Precariat” University of Cape Town. 10-12 October 2011.

Mulinari, D. “Dialogos imposibles. Feminismos exilados” La antropología feminista hoy: Desafios teoricos y politicos en un mundo globalizado. Buenos Aires. Argentina. November 29- December 3. 2011.

Mulinari, D. “Muchachas no more!”NOLAN. Latin American in Movement. Power, Spaces and Subjectivities. April 26 -28 2012. Stockholm. Sweden.

Mulinari, D. "The Mothers of the Plaza" at the Civil Society Program Conference. VR. Stockholm. May 2012.

Mulinari, D. "Southern Theory and the post-human shift in feminist theory. (together with Irene Molina. G12, Nationell konferens för genusforskning. Gothenburg. November 2012.

Mulinari, D. "Introduction" to "Civil Society Studies in a Global Context", at "Global Gender Matters Workshop on Civil Society, Politics, and Opposition", Department of Gender Studies, Lund University, May 21, 2013.

Mulinari, D. 2011. Plenary participant. Labor Unions and Internationalism. *Global civil society. Shifting Powers in a shifting World*. 12-13 April.

Mulinari, D. 2011 Keynote speaker: "Transnational dialogues. A Latin American perspective". The 4th Sino. Nordic Conference. Travelling Theories within the Context of Globalisation. October 25-27 Aalborg Denmark.

Mulinari, D. 2012 Plenary participant, "Göran Therborn, The World: A Beginner's Guide" Sociologidagar. Stockholm University. 15-17 March.

Mulinari, D. 2012 Plenary participant, Reviewer. Mona Abazza Critical Sociology. Lunds University. Lunds University. 8 Maj.

### **Publications**

Mulinari, D. "The Mothers and the field of the political", article to be submitted.

Mulinari, D. "Att ifrågasätta det sekulära" Teologiska debatter och funderingar. Kristina Hellqvist (ed): DAIDALOS. (forthcoming December 2013).

Mulinari, D. "Muchachas No more. Bortom Horisonten. Fackets vägval i en globaliserade värld". Lindberg and Neergaard (ed). ATLAS. Stockholm. 2013 (together with Irene Molina).

### **Workshop Organization**

Global Gender Matters on "Civil Society, Politics, and Opposition", Department of Gender Studies, Lund University, May 21, 2013. (Co-organized together with H. Rydström).

Global Gender Matters on "Gendered Developments: Imaginings, Politics, and Practices; A day with Wallström, Kabeer, and Harcourt", Sept. 19, 2013. (Co-organized with Eklund, Farsakoglu, and Rydström).

### **Seminar Series**

"Comparative Studies", Global Gender Matters Network, 2011-2012. (Co-organized together with H. Rydström).

### **Research Network**

Faculty of Social Sciences network for research on civil society. Supported by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University.

## **Helle Rydström; “Civil Society: Gender, Family and Violence in Vietnam”.**

### **Fieldwork**

Partners of collaboration: Institute of Family and Gender Studies, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi, Institute of Educational Sciences (Ministry of Education and Training), Hanoi, Dept. of Anthropology, Hanoi University.

Data collection in Ha Dong and Hanoi, winter 2012-2013. In-depth interviews with representatives of national Non-Governmental-Organizations, Women’s Union, and governmental organizations/ministries about civil society, violence, and gender.

Data collection in Ha Dong and Hanoi, spring 2012. In-depth interviews with young people about their experiences of gendered and aged violence. In-depth interviews with representatives of the national Women’s Union, national Non-Governmental- Organizations, and governmental organizations.

Data collection in Ha Dong, summer 2011. In-depth interviews with representatives of Women’s Union, Reconciliation Unit, Elderly People’s Association, Youth Union, Fatherland Front, Security Unit, Family Planning Program, Residential Planning, and the Health Care Clinic.

### **Accepted Conference Papers and Keynote Talks**

(Forth.). Rydström, H. Keynote, “Colonialism/Postcolonialism and Brutality”, UCLA, USA, Spring, 2014.

(Forth.). Rydström, H. Keynote, “Civil Society and Women’s Movements”, Max Planck Institute, Halle, Germany, Spring 2014.

Rydström, H. “Indigenizing Civil Society: Gender, Family, and Vietnam Women’s Union”, to be presented at the Ida Blom Conference, “Gendered Citizenship: History, Politics, and Democracy”, Bergen, October 14-15, 2013.

Rydström, H. “Maneuvering in Relative Autonomy: The Vietnam Women’s Union, Civil Society, and the Family”, presented in Panel on “Civil Society in Southeast Asia”, European Association for Southeast Asian Scholars (EUROSEAS) Conference, Lisbon, July 2-7, 2013.

Rydström, H. “Maneuvering in Relative Autonomy: The Vietnam Women’s Union, Civil Society, and the Family”, presented in Panel on “Civil Society in Southeast Asia”, European Association for Southeast Asian Scholars (EUROSEAS) Conference, Lisbon, July 2-7, 2013

Rydström, H. “Repertoires of Gendered Intervention: Vietnam Women’s Union, Civil Society, and the Family”, presented at “Civil Society Program Conference”, Vetenskapsrådet, Stockholm, May 16-17, 2013.

Rydström, H. Introduction to “Civil Society Studies in a Global Context”, at “Global Gender Matters Workshop on Civil Society, Politics, and Opposition”, Department of Gender Studies, Lund University, May 21, 2013.

Rydström, H. Special invited presenter. Presentation on “Gendered Conflicts in Zones of Exception”, SEAsian Network, Copenhagen University, April 18-19.

### **Publications**

Rydström, H. 2012. “Gendered Corporeality and Bare Lives”. Issue on “Unfinished Revolutions”, *SIGNS: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, Uni. of Chicago Press, vol. 37:2, pp. 275-301.

Rydström, H. 2012. “Foreword” to monograph on *Taboos and Realities: Rape in Present-day Vietnam*” by Nguyen Thi Thu Huong. Hanoi: Social Sciences Publishing House.

Rydström, H. “Navigating the Socio-Political Plateaus” article manuscript (submitted).

Rydström, H. “The Politics of Violence”, article manuscript (submitted).

Rydström, H. “Gendered Violence in the Family”, (article manuscript in process).

Rydström, H. “Recognition, Organizations, and Rights in India and Vietnam”, (article manuscript in process; together with P. Horton and M. Tonini).

Rydström, H. “Conducting Fieldwork” (volume in process, edited together with L. Drummond).

Rydström, H. “Postkolonialismen och svensk genusforskning” (debatt).

### **Workshop Organization**

Global Gender Matters on “Civil Society, Politics, and Opposition”, Department of Gender Studies, Lund University, May 21, 2013. (Co-organized together with D. Mulinari).

Global Gender Matters on “Gendered Developments: Imaginings, Politics, and Practices; A day with Wallström, Kabeer, and Harcourt”, Sept. 19, 2013. (Co-organized with Eklund, Farsakoglu, and Mulinari).

### **Seminar Series**

“Comparative Studies”, Global Gender Matters Network, 2011-2012. (Co-organized together with D. Mulinari).

### **Research Network**

Faculty of Social Sciences network for research on civil society. Supported by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Lund University.

## **Tiina Rosenberg; “Negotiating Gender Equality and Feminism in Post-Social Democratic States of Sweden and Germany”.**

### **Accepted Conference Papers and Keynote Talks**

Rosenberg, T. 2012 “The Soundtrack of Revolution: Voice, Affect, and the Power of Protest Songs”, *Somatechnical Figurations: Kinship, Bodies, Affects*, International Symposium, Södertörn University/Södertörns högskola, 12-14/4 2012.

Rosenberg, T. 2012 ”The Post-Social Democratic Condition: Feminist Activism in Sweden and Germany”, *Civil Society in a Global Context*, Vetenskapsrådet /Swedish Research Council, 10-11/5.

Rosenberg, T. 2012 “The Soundtrack of Revolution: Voice, Affect, and the Power of Protest Songs”, *Mediating Performance: Scène, Média et Médiation*, FIRT/IFTR Annual Conference, Santiago de Chile, 22-28/7.

Rosenberg, T. 2013. “Don’t Be Quiet, Start a Riot! Anarchy, Affect, and Activism in Pussy Riot’s Performance”, *Re-Routing Performance*”, FIRT/IFTR (International Federation for Theatre Research), Institut del Teatre, 21-26/7.

### **Publications**

Rosenberg, T. 2013. “The Soundtrack of Revolution: Memory, Affect, and the Power of Protest Songs”, *Culture Unbound*, Volume 5, Art. 13, pp. 175-188.

Rosenberg, T. 2012 a. “Identity Politics”, *Theatre Research International*, Cambridge University Press, Vol. 36, Number1, pp. 80-82.

Rosenberg, T. 2012. *Ilska, hopp och solidaritet. Med feministisk scenkonst in i framtiden*, Stockholm: Atlas (376 s.)

Rosenberg, T. 2013 a. “Tysk feminism: upp till postpolitisk kamp”, *Magasinet Arena: politik, kultur & idédebatt*, nr 1, pp. 23-25.

Rosenberg, Tiina (2013 a) “Tysk feminism: upp till postpolitisk kamp”, *Magasinet Arena: politik, kultur & idé debatt*, nr 1, pp. 23-25.

## **Katrine Scott; “Everyday Student Life in a Transforming (post)-conflict Society—Higher Education, Nation Building, and Gender in Kurdistan (Iraq)”.**

### **Fieldwork**

Field work in the private American University of Iraq (established 2007) and the public University of Sulaimani (established in 1968, reopened in 1992) during two periods of time (4 months).



### **Doctoral Dissertation**

Writing of chapters and texts for Ph.D. thesis. Presentation of papers at conferences and workshops.

### **Kajsa Widegren; “Imagining Change in Japanese Society”.**

#### **Fieldwork**

April 2013, planned fieldwork: October November 2013.

(Widegren joined the project late).

### **Chialing Yang; “Introducing the ‘Swedish Model’ in Taiwan”.**

#### **Accepted Conference Papers**

Yang, C. 2013. ‘The metaphor of ‘Home/Family’ in introducing the Swedish model in Taiwan’, Civil Society, 5-6 September, VR, Göteborg.

Yang, C. 2011. ‘Low birth Rate, welfare state and “legitimate mothers”’. *Focus Asia*. October, Lund, Sweden.

Yang, C. 2013. ‘Participation in the workshop Civil Society in a Global Context’, 16-17 maj, VR, Stockholm.

Yang, C. 2013. Global Gender Matters Workshop on ‘Civil Society, Politics, and Opposition’, 21 May, Genusvetenskap, Lund.