Colloquium - Safety, resilience and community: Challenges and opportunities beyond the city - 29 September 2020

Blue light in green surroundings: Challenges and opportunities for emergency and rescue services in rural Sweden

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Research group

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A critical perspective on ambulance service ability areas in Sweden, KTH, Sweden

Tobias Andersson Granberg, Associate Professor, Linköping university, Sweden
Comparing planned and real response times for fires services in Sweden, Linköping university, Sweden

Richard Stassen, Researcher, KTH
Police Accessibility in Sweden: An Analysis of the Spatial Arrangement of Police Services

Susanne Stenbacka, Professor, Uppsala University
Blue light in green surroundings: Challenges and opportunities for emergency and rescue services in rural Sweden

Vania Ceccato, Professor (PI), KTH
Police Accessibility in Sweden: An Analysis of the Spatial Arrangement of Police Services

In depth interviews in Norrbotten county 2018-19

- Local police (6)
- Neighbouring police (1)
- Rescue services (1) (räddningstjänst)
- Neighborhood watch (1)
- (Grannsamverkan)
- Upper secondary school / elementary school (2)
- County Government, nature conservation (1)
- Social services (3)
- Women's shelter (1)
- Ambulance services (2)
- Politician (2)
- Same village (1)

- LRF (Stockholm, security responsible, 1)
- Police regional level (2)

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Bluelight in green surroundings: connecting rurality, police work, access to welfare and rural/urban relations

- Police work in a rural context

- Police absence or presence – impact on local societal functions

- Impact on centre-periphery relations: partcipation, trust

Police work in a rural context

Police organisation

- Police initiated investigations decrease
- Preventive and police outreach work is not initiated
- Strategies of "stepping back"
- Immediate inventive acting
- Impact on intra-organisational relations

Society

- Suspiciousness and speculations?
- Decreased will to report crime?

Long term adaptation to changing circumstances

Police absence or presence – impact on local societal functions

- Impact of distance
- Networks: strenghtening of networks among and between professionals
- Competence: Increased broad competence, less possibilities for specialisation
- Vulnerability: limited possibilities for back up

Police absence in relation to centre-periphery: cohesion questioned

- Effects on discourse: "Wild west"

- Decreased sense of participation following an unequal distribution of resources, access to police services and justice

- Risk of reduced trust

"We should also get our share from Swedish welfare. It should not be the case that if you live in XX you have to wait 2-3 hours for the police to arrive. It should not be like that when something serious happen, it is very sad."

A mapping of rural and regional research in Sweden (SLU, Uppdrag Landsbygd)

- Urban-rural relationships
- Entrepreneurship and business development
- Innovation
- Demography and migration
- Natural resource management
- Local development
- The role of civil society
- Integration
- Government
- Employment and labour market
- Agricultural restructuring
- Energy and climate change adaption
- Bioeconomy, tourism, gender studies…..

The most pressing issues for Swedish localities and regions (SLU, Uppdrag Landsbygd)

- Planning for services and welfare
- Spatial justice between urban and rural areas
- Inequalities and gender imbalances
- Economic development and entrepreneurship
- Climate adaptation
- Skill and competence development
- Demography
- Fair access to natural resources
- Infrastructure
- Opportunities and challenges of digitalisation

Summary

- Close-knit networks, high levels of trust between diverse occupational groups

- Elastic professionalism among several groups

- Physical context and rural context has an impact on formulations of strategies

- Crime is visible: drug abuse, violence in school, drunk drivers

- Decreased sense of participation following an unequal distribution of resources, access to police services and justice

Thank you!