

VID Colloquium

Vienna Institute of Demography
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2
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2:00 - 3:00 pm

"A reversal of the socio-economic gradient of nuptiality during the Swedish midtwentieth century baby boom"

Research into the causes for the mid-twentieth century baby boom have concluded that the main proximate cause for the fertility increase during the 1940s was earlier and more universal marriage in the cohorts born after 1910 and that this association between nuptiality trends and fertility was particularly strong in Sweden. However, we do not know if this was a general trend or if some groups spearheaded the change towards earlier marriage. To investigate this issue the present study analyzes the marital histories of 100,000 individuals in Northern Sweden, born 1880-1934 to determine how socio-economic differentials in nuptiality developed during the period 1900-1960. The analysis show that the sharp increase in nuptiality was not driven uniformly across different social strata, but rather took the form of earlier and more universal marriage among mid and upper social strata men and among economically active women, while marriage probabilities decreased among male unskilled workers and women outside the labor market. The results indicate that sector specific economic growth after the depression and the breakthrough of the Swedish welfare state benefitted couples that could aspire to a middle-class identity and that pronativist policy's made female economic activity more compatible with marriage..

About the presenter

Glenn Sandström is a senior researcher at the Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research (CEDAR) at Umeå University. In his research, he uses historical data to study fertility, family transitions, and migration.