



Awarded COFAS Marie Curie fellows – For the FOIP programme



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Project: Civic participation in late modern society – the case of volunteering in hybrid organisations

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to open up and contribute to a research agenda dealing with the meaning of civic participation in late modern society. The project consists of a study of volunteering in hybrid organisations. Overall questions are: What characterize hybrid organisations as volunteer settings and what meaning do volunteers in hybrid organisations attribute to their efforts?

Volunteering is carried out in civil society organisations that foster civility and produce welfare service. When they become influenced by principles belonging in other spheres or when civil society principles are adopted by organisations in other spheres so that defining characteristics are altered organisations becoming hybridized. The quest is for new forms of volunteering, re-embedded in hybrid organisations, and how the interplay between individuals and the society is perceived from that perspective.

To alleviate the lack of comparative discussions on late modern volunteering across different welfare regimes, the project is a part of an international research network. It is aiming to develop a common theoretical and conceptual framework of volunteering in hybrid settings to make comparisons possible.

Theoretically, the project's point of departure is the relationships between institutional structures and the perceptions and values that guide actors. Therefore, the project will take studies in worldviews as one of its theoretical and methodological approaches and will investigate individuals' interpretations of reality and how these are shaped as contextually dependent schemata. The project will take a phenomenological perspective and involve: The Stockholm police department, Stockholms Stadsmission, a corporation using corporate volunteers and a local sports club for children and youth.

Career plan: My goal with the COFAS outgoing post doc and the position in University in Ghent is to deepen my international networks with researchers in Europe and the US to be able to do comparative studies between Sweden, other European countries and the US. These resources will allow me to join and/or initiate research projects including cross-national collaborations. My plan is to publish at least two articles in A rated international journals, edit one anthology and write two chapters or more in domestic anthologies. After my COFAS position I will write a monograph based on my research. The project will make me an assistant professor and from that position I will be competitive for positions in domestic and international Universities.