Halvtidsseminarium

God or the Welfare State:
Different Means to Security and Trust?

Föreläsare: Doktorand Joel Gruneau Brulin, Psykologiska institutionen, Stockholms universitet.

Titel: God or the Welfare State: Different Means to Security and Trust?

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Plats: Konferensrum 357, Frescati Hagväg 14, plan 3.

Ansvarig avdelning: Personlighets-, social- och utvecklingspsykologi

Presentation/abstract:
Religion and a public welfare system have been suggested to function as alternate insurance systems for providing security (eg. Gill & Lundsgarde, 2004; Scheve & Stasavage, 2007). Consequently, there is a negative correlation between the amount of GDP spent on public welfare and levels of religiosity in a country. However, previous research has solely been based on correlational and self-reported data.

In the dissertation project, we use experimental methods to investigate ways that religion and public welfare might provide security, and we also investigate religious cognition in a non-religious context. Among other ways that religion provides security is by the relationship with a deity. Through the religion-attachment framework the relationship with God can be seen as a symbolic attachment relationship that one turns to as a safe haven when experiencing threat, and embark from as a secure base when exploring the world.

In the first set of studies we replicated and expanded two different experiments (Granqvist et al., 2012; Kupor, et al., 2015) in both a religious context (the US) and a secular context (Sweden) to study whether the participants used their relationship with God and/or the welfare state as a safe haven and secure base. We will further elaborate upon the negative relation between religion and public welfare in a future study, but instead focus on their relation to trust. Previous research has indicated that both religion and public welfare are connected to increased trust between people.