

Progressive Cosmopolitanism: The Role of Civil Society in Sweden

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Research Question, Thesis and Methodology

- How does civil society maintain or advance cosmopolitanism in Sweden?
- Thesis: Due to increased demands for global responsibility, specifically human rights and the right to asylum, civil society in Sweden plays a significant role in the advancement of the cosmopolitan ideal—a shared world.
- Methodologically, the paper is heavily conceptual. Through the lens of cosmopolitanism it looks into civil society in Sweden and human rights, in more general. cosmopolitanism. For my data, I utilize four types of pro-immigration advocacy: Think tanks, Faith Based Organizations, Universities and Grass Roots Organizations.

What is an Advocacy Group

- “A transnational advocacy group network includes those actors working internationally on an issue who are bound together by shared values, a common discourse, and dense exchanges of information and services”(Keck and Sikkink 1999, 89).
- “One reason why MEPs and their staffers are open to input by NGOs is that they are arguably “more in need of expert advice...and rely on NGOs on legislative measures...for amendments and justifications. Over the past 20 years, EU institutions have been relatively responsive to input from NGOs” (Thiel and Uçarer 2014, 104-5).

Cosmopolitanism Today

- Modern Cosmopolitanism: It does not require or believe, as did Kant, that all human societies are organized into state-controlled communities.
- “It postulates a rational entente and a common will which are operative for the whole world. It is based on the concern, most natural at the beginning of the twenty-first century, for responsibility on a world scale” (Canto-Sperber 2006, 271).
- Human Rights Literature: (Anderson-Gold 2001, Benhabib et al 2006, Pogge 2008, Fine 2009 etc.)

The Public Sphere toward an Imagined Community

- Habermas's Public Sphere: is a virtual or imaginary community, which does not necessarily exist in any identifiable space
- It is "made up of private people gathered together as a public and articulating the needs of society with the state" (Habermas 1991, 176).
- A Deliberative Medium separated from the Elite
- Habermas famously attributes the emergence of the public sphere to 17th and 18th century French salons, which were famous for bringing the social to the political.
- Goodman *Republic of Letters* (1994)
- Benedict Anderson's Imagined Community: "because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion (Anderson 1991, 6; Seton-Watson 1977, 5).

International pro-migration advocacy

- A major question facing the European Union is can it ensure respect for the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees (Geddes 2000)? These questions are of direct relevance to the 20.5 million non-EU citizens (2011), third country nationals (TCN), or 4.1% of the total EU27 population. Statistic provided by EuroStat
- According to the OECD in 2013, Sweden had the highest number asylum seekers per-million, with 5700. Switzerland came in second with 2,457, Germany 1337, the UK 461 and the US 217.
- Additionally, according the OECD, roughly 14% of the total population is foreign born and 62% of the foreign-born population are employed (67 and 57% of men and women, respectively), which is lower than the OECD average.

Swedish Civil Society and its Role

- Migro: A think tank that insights ideas and debates
- It is fundamentally governed by classical liberal tenets: If a state restricts its migration then it fundamentally limits its output.
- They denounce any form of barriers in existence today.
- With policy makers, in Sweden they work to deepen and widen the migration policy debate.
- Caritas Sweden: a Catholic Faith Based Organization that works specifically the Middle East and Africa
- “Refugees are fellow human beings who have been forced to abandon everything to find an ounce of security. We are called to help our neighbors who are suffering” (caritas.se).

Flyktinggruppernas Riksråd (FARR)

- Swedish Network for Refugee Support
- Grassroots pro-migration advocacy group
- Push-Backs –In Direct Violation of UN Refugee Convention
- The Dublin Regulation: The Issue of the Burden of Proof

Lund

- Anti-discrimination bureau of Lund closed down in 2005—reallocation of funding by the Swedish Integration Bureau (SIB)
- The University has acted as an advocate for diversity

Measuring Their Effects and Potential Threats to Cosmopolitanism in Sweden

- Measuring the effectiveness of advocacy is difficult for several reasons:
- Political processes can be chaotic and often can take years to unfold, it is therefore difficult to use traditional measures of evaluation (Stanford Social Innovation Review) Steven Teles (Johns Hopkins) and Mark Schmidt (UBC).
- Advocacy is important, typically ideas that work to change society for the better do not happen over night.
- Advocacy evaluation should be seen, therefore, as a form of trained judgment—a craft requiring judgment and tacit knowledge—rather than as a scientific method.
- The relationship between the work to create those outcomes, and the actual results or signs of that progress, can be elusive, because advocacy by its nature is complicated and its impact often indirect

Conclusions

- Based on the increase need to integrate refugees, civil society is aiding policy development which maintains and advances cosmopolitanism in Sweden: Public Sphere, New Imagined Communities, Breaking Down Barriers
- Researchers need to practice greater, hands on, evaluative research, which utilizes increased methodological plurality.
- Determining Efficacy