



ERSTA
SKÖNDAL
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE



Invitation

Contemporary European Perspectives on Volunteering: Civic Virtue vs. Social Movement Activism

Conference held at Ersta Sköndal University College
Stockholm, Sweden, September 10-12, 2008

The struggle for democracy and the rise of the welfare state in Europe has historically both rested on and challenged the active participation of its citizens. On the one hand, social movement activism has been and remains crucial in the continuing efforts to extend democracy and include marginalized and powerless members of society. Concurrently the forms and types of activism have changed considerably over time. On the other hand, voluntarism based on ideals of civic virtue, associated with formal and informal social work, charities and philanthropy, has been challenged by the rise of the welfare state and a new ethos emphasizing professionalism, universalism, and the role of the state. However, acts of private charity as well as civil society based philanthropy have remained important nonetheless, and given the limitations of the welfare state there are signs that this is a tradition that is undergoing a revival.

This conference seeks to further investigate the current trends with respect to volunteering and social activism in Europe. Of particular interest is to consider the extent to which these are practices that not only have changed and continue to change in form and structure, in aims and motivations, but also differ in important ways in the many corners of “Europe” – East/West and North/South.

To further capture what may be distinct about the European patterns and traditions, the conference also aims to make room for perspectives from the United States with its rich and diverse traditions of charity, philanthropy, and social movement activism.

A further theme to be explored concerns the convergences and divergences when it comes to the two strands of volunteering we would like to consider. To what extent is the distinction between social volunteering based on notions of charity and virtue, on the one hand, and political social movement activism, on the other, a valid and useful one?

Who

The conference is open to everyone.

Where

The conference will be held at Ersta Sköndal University College, campus Ersta in Stockholm, Sweden. It is situated in the heart of Stockholm. For more information, please see www.esh.se/volunteering.

Organizers

The conference is collaboratively organized and funded by Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation), the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence on Civil Society and New Forms of Governance in Europe, and Ersta Sköndal University College.

Costs

Conference fee 90 euro, including dinner Wednesday evening.

Conference fee 60 euro, excluding dinner Wednesday evening.

Registration and further information

For registration and practical matters, please contact Lena Blomquist,

e-mail: lana.blomquist@esh.se

telephone +46 8 55505130

Deadline for registration is August 10th. Your registration is binding.

Program

Wednesday afternoon 13.00-13.15

I) Welcome

Wednesday afternoon 13.15-18.00 – Plenary Session

II) Competing Normative Visions

A. Lecture. The American Tradition: Civic Virtue, Community, and Voluntarism; Kristin Goss, Duke University, USA.

B. Lecture. Social Movement Activism in Europe, Donatella Della Porta; European University Institute, Italy.

C. Lecture. Civic Virtues in Europe, Paul Dekker, Tilburg University, Holland.

D. A Commentary, Lars Trägårdh; Ersta Sköndal University College, Sweden.

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday morning 9.00-11.00– Plenary Session

III) Changing Values and New Forms of Volunteering and Activism

A. Lecture. Value Changes in Europe, Loek Halman; Tilburg University, Holland.

B. Lecture. New Forms of Volunteering and Activism in Europe; Lesley Hustinx, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

C. Questions and Open Discussion

Thursday morning 11.15-12.45- Seminar

IV) Paper session 1 and 2

Thursday afternoon 14.00-16.00 - Plenary Session

V) Comparative Studies on Volunteering and Civic Activism

A. Lecture. Comparative studies on volunteering, Karl Henrik Sivesind; Institutt for samfunnsforskning, Norway.

B. Lecture. Citizen Participation and Civic Activism in a Comparative Perspective, Marilyn Taylor; University of the West of England, England.

C. Questions and Open Discussion

Thursday afternoon 16.30-18.00 – Parallel seminars

VI) Paper sessions 3 and 4

Friday morning 9.00-12.00 Plenary Session

VII): Wither Volunteering: Path Dependency vs. Discontinuity

General Discussion with introductory comments from Europe and Beyond, Thomas Boje; Roskilde University, Denmark, Yilmaz Esmer, Bahcesehir University, Turkey and Thomas Janoski, University of Kentucky, USA.

Friday morning 12.00

VIII) Closing

Lunch