

Religious heritage is currently in a state of transformation. In many countries, changed religious practices and secularization are causing membership numbers and funds of religious congregations to decrease. The negative development has consequences for the cultural heritage of these congregations. Although Swedish churches are in good material condition, the Church of Sweden faces similar challenges. At present, heritage practitioners and Christian congregations are exploring new approaches to use and develop churches. In parallel, paradigms in heritage management and theory are evolving, which call for new perspectives and question the role of expertise.

Departing from two case studies of Swedish development projects that connect to the Cathedral of Strängnäs and Hamra Church, the thesis describes how ecclesiastical heritage is constructed and understood by public heritage - institutions and the Church of Sweden. Parallel discourses on heritage among the actors were negotiated to reach a consensus on opposing values. However, different interpretations of governing frameworks and objectives also cause tensions. Contemporary transformations of management and policy shed light on how heritage discourse relates to professional and institutional roles and their capacities. Given the prominent position of Swedish ecclesiastical heritage, the results reflect tendencies in the wider field of public heritage management.



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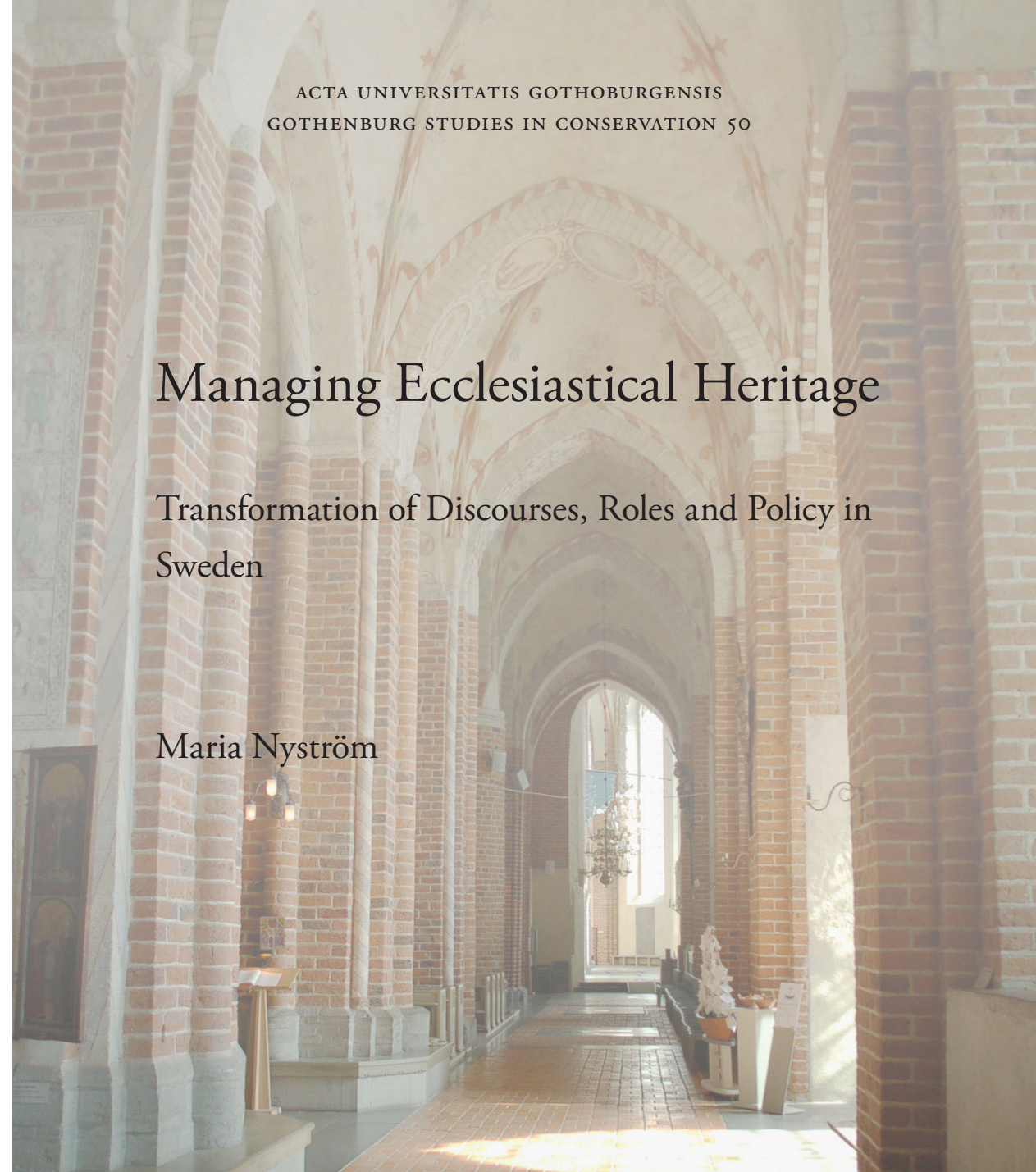
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MANAGING ECCLESIASTICAL HERITAGE

Managing Ecclesiastical Heritage

Transformation of Discourses, Roles and Policy in Sweden

Maria Nyström



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG