

## Abstract

*Stadens tidsbilder. Om minnen, erfarenheter och förväntningar  
utifrån stadens omvandlingar i Sverige 1880 - 1990*

(City images of time. About memories, experiences and expectations  
connected with the transformations of Swedish cities between 1880 and 1990)

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This thesis is a study based on nine collections of press-cuttings from daily papers. Theoretical tools and methods are assembled from studies of ethnology, anthropology, museology, history and sociology. The inquiry is centred around problems concerning historical time-consciousness and the process of collective remembering in relation to changing cities in Sweden between 1880 and 1990. These two aspects are about how present time in the city becomes part of both the future and the past.

I have looked through 20-30,000 press-cuttings. Of these I have marked approximately 3,000 specific articles. My thesis is based on 300 press-cuttings. The method used in the first phase was based on an interest for the content of articles that are firmly grounded in time and space. In the second phase, I have focused on recurrent themes, and descriptions of these themes in words and images. The method used in the second phase was the key that made it possible to use and compare cuttings from different times, different places and collections with different principles of classification.

The book shows that historical time-consciousness and the process of collective remembering are problematic. Ideological motives and disagreements are present in the articles, but not always in a clear and open way. One important aspect of this is that memories have the potential to threaten and change historical narratives, established interpretations or other kinds of ready-made cultural constructions. Concrete memories, images and descriptions must be considered as important tools for historical interpretations and reinterpretations.

The study demonstrates that historical perspectives and historical interpretations are based on a multitude of sources. This result has relevance for institutions and others that are interested in the use and preservation of the cultural heritage. The study also shows that a changing society generates an interest to interpret the past, the present and the future. It is therefore of great importance that a wide range of sources is made known and available to enable interpretations. The Resource project in the United Kingdom and the corresponding ABM projects in Sweden and Norway are in this respect urgent matters. These projects make use of information technology to co-ordinate resources and make archives, libraries and museums more accessible to the public. However, it is equally important to recognize the role of collected press-cuttings. Collections of newspaper articles contribute to a understanding of historical perspectives as something that hold intentions and meaning, which can be either confirmed or called in question.

**Keywords:** press-cuttings, collections, museality, descriptions, images, concepts, frameworks, meaning, binary opposites, historical time-consciousness and collective remembering.

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