

# I fäders och mödrars spår - landsortsungdomars vuxenblivande och identitetsutveckling i ett livsformsperspektiv

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## Abstract

Title: Following in their Father's and Mother's Path: Young people's steps to adulthood in a Swedish municipal community from a life form perspective.

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This dissertation examines young people, aged 16-24, their life expectations and steps towards adulthood. Life form analysis of their families plays a central role in understanding how social and cultural reproduction continues in traditional class-patterns in Swedish late modern society during the 1990's. Theories of the 'individualized society' are considered to have less validity for interpreting how these young people look at different aspects of their everyday lives. In this study, five groups (types) of young people are distinguished. Four types demonstrate discernible patterns related to the career life form and the wage-labour life form. The young people with this two life-orientation were then separated according to gender for further interpretation. The fifth group of young people seems to be less connected with cultural socialisation in the family; their every-day engagements and their life expectations are devoted to a special interest. The empirical study, grounded in semi-structured interviews, focuses on growing-up in a Swedish rural community. Data was collected during a turbulent time in Swedish society. The first occasion of data collection took place at the beginning of the 1990's when entering adult society had a relatively low threshold. The second occasion, the follow-up study some years later, took place when the unemployment rates of the 1990's economic crises had reached their summit. This societal changes complicated, particularly for the wage labour-oriented, young people's integration into adult society.

Keywords: Youth, young people, life form, life expectations, social and cultural reproduction.