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Social Dimensions of Climate Change

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Nordregio

- Nordic Centre for Spatial Development
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- regional development and planning
- research, applied research, commissioned studies, competence development, dissemination, Nordregio Academy, 2 Journals
- the Nordic countries and Europe
- about 25 researchers holding 11 different passports
- www.nordregio.se













JVAB



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Social Dimensions of Climate Change

Framework for Qualitative
Research: A Work-In-
Progress

OUR OBJECTIVE

is to study and understand how concrete action is taking place at community level in response to climate change



"Mariestads kommun anser att den övre dämningegränsen enligt gällande vattendomar skall gälla och att staten får ansvara för åtgärder som innebär att den i vattendom fastställda dämningegränsen kan hållas. Sådana åtgärder är av stor betydelse för kommunens befintliga strandnära bebyggelseområden inte bara i tätorten utan inom hela kommunen och för tillkommande områden som t ex Sjöstaden. Kommunen har därför inte för avsikt att ändra översiktsplanens rekommendation för lägsta grundläggningsnivå."

Från miljöbedömningen





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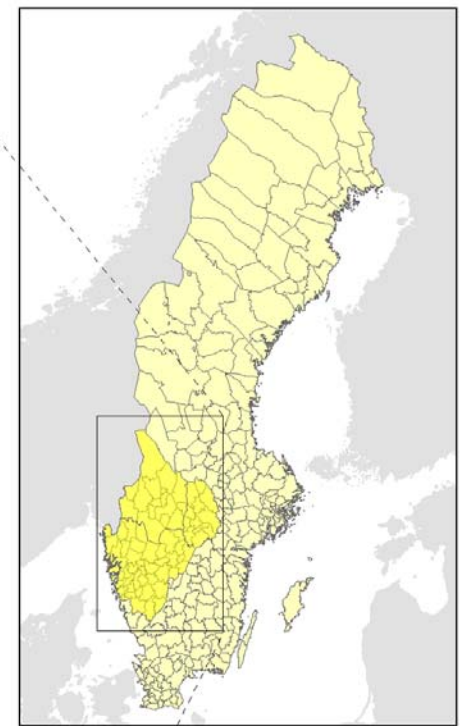
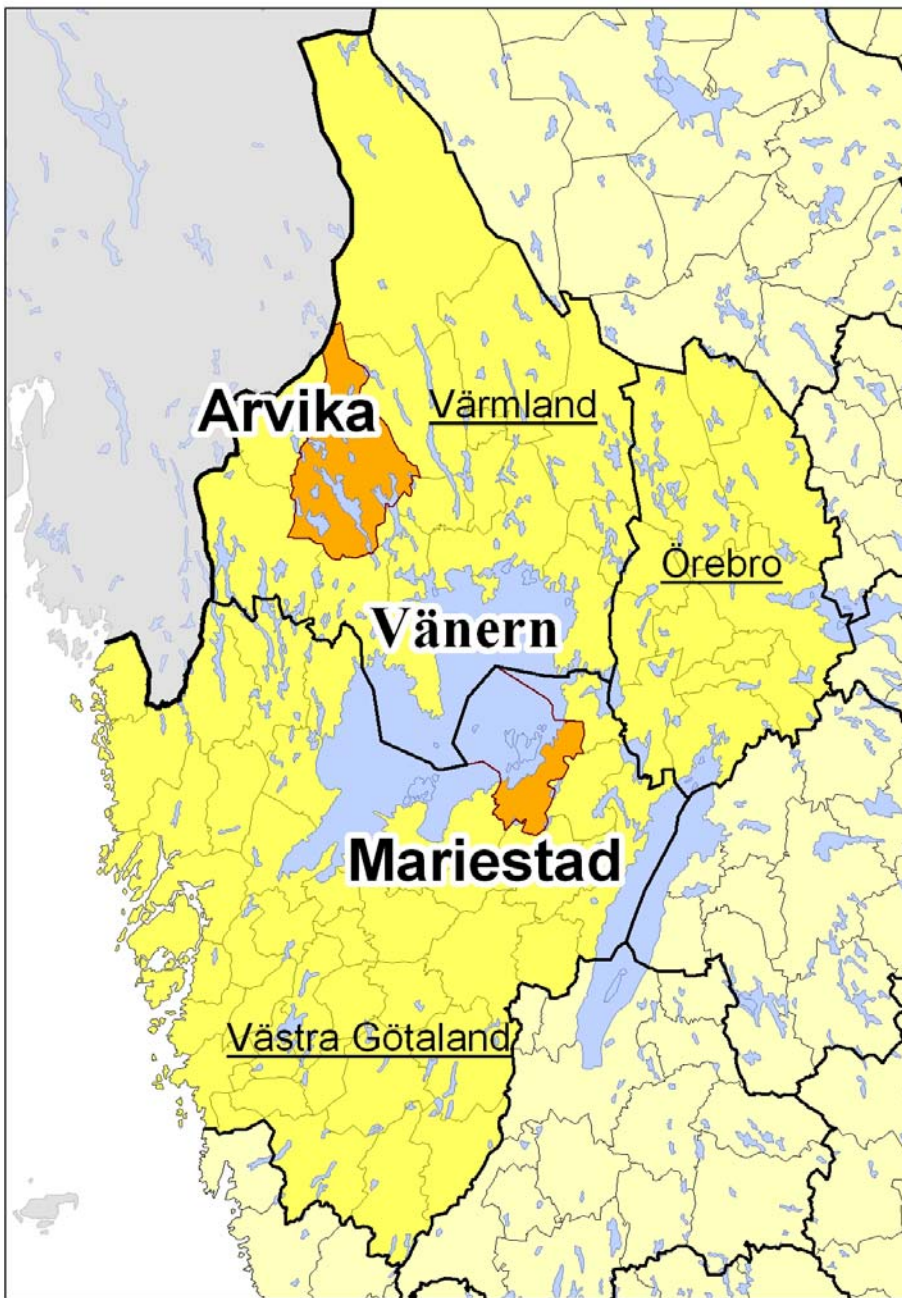
Another climate: gendered structures of climate change response in selected Swedish municipalities

Richard Langlais, Project Leader
(Vetenskapsrådet, Formas,
Rymdstyrelsen, 2008-2011)

- Are there changes in the gendered structures of sustainable development that affect the concrete climate change responses of Swedish municipalities?
- Why have some Swedish municipalities responded actively to the issue of climate change, when the vast majority of municipalities in Sweden have not?
- What explains the shift of climate change to the centre of sustainable development? Is it a turning point?
- uses the methods of actor-network-theory, and analysis based on gender theory







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Mariestad

“Burying one’s head in the sand (ie becoming concrete)”



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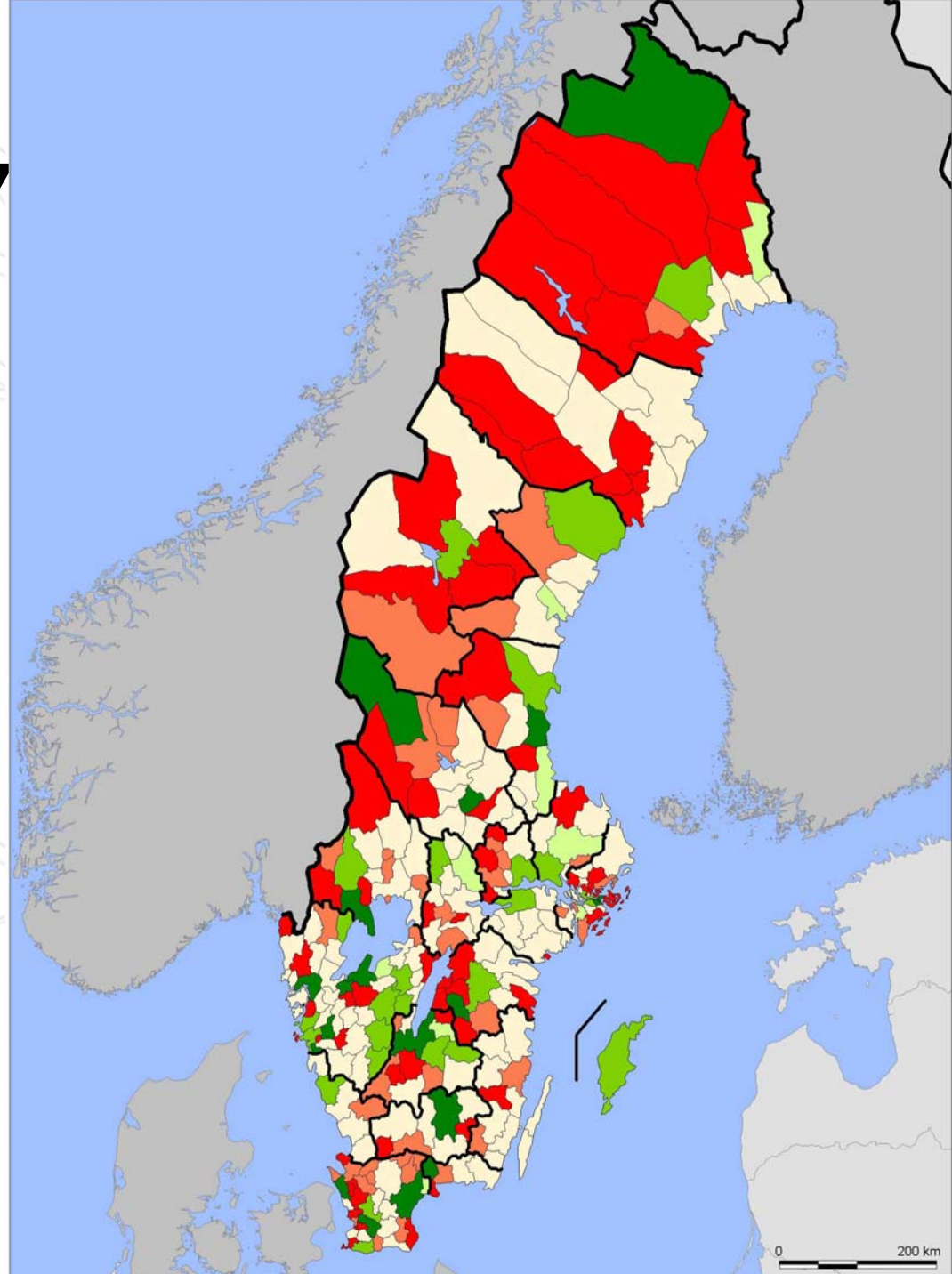


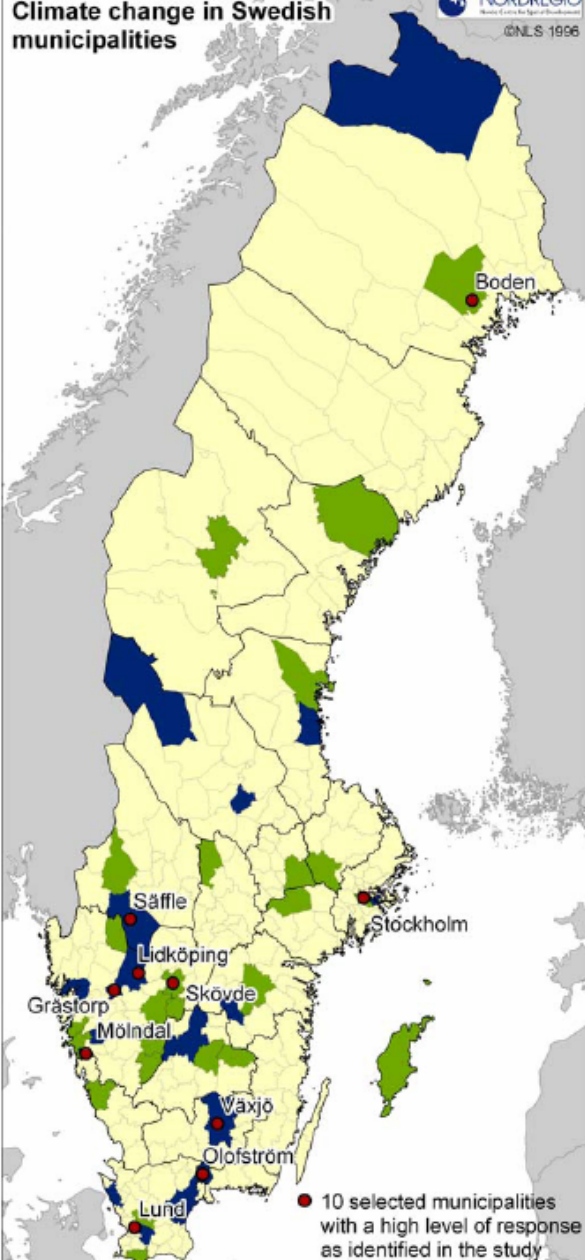
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Categorisation 2007





● 10 selected municipalities with a high level of response as identified in the study

Municipal Categorization

- "Normal"/ declining activity level (238/9 municipalities)
- Wide variety of activities on a rising/stable level (25)
- Wide variety of activities with exceptional engagement (18)

Category 5

Arvika
Boden
Eksjö
Enköping
Eskilstuna
Eslöv
Falköping
Gotland
Göteborg
Hudiksvall
Hällefors
Kungälv
Linköping
Nässjö
Skövde
Stockholm
Tidaholm
Tranemo
Trelleborg
Ulricehamn
Varberg
Västerås
Åmål
Örnsköldsvik
Östersund

Category 6

Borlänge
Boxholm
Grästorp
Helsingborg
Jönköping
Kiruna
Kristianstad
Lerum
Lidköping
Lund
Mölndal
Nacka
Olofström
Säffle
Söderhamn
Uddevalla
Växjö
Älvdalen

2007

2008

Category 1	26 %	15,5 %
Category 2	15 %	11 %
Category 3	41 %	37,5 %
Category 4	3 %	1 %
Category 5	9 %	20 %
Category 6	6 %	15 %



Some challenges and problems

- mass media has boosted work related to climate change
- small municipalities ask for assistance from regional and national authorities
- Who should be the responsible actor for work related to climate change in the municipal organisation?
- small municipalities cooperate in their organisations
- small municipalities feel disregarded in KLIMP
- in earlier years economic profit legitimised work related to energy- now climate change is on the agenda as well!
- transport infrastructure is a main issue



Swedish organisation and strategies

- LIP and KLIMP important
- "uthålliga kommuner" (Energimyndigheten)
- "Ekokommuner"
- "Klimatkommuner" - Coaching municipalities
- Energy and climate strategies
- Comprehensive plans (Översiktsplaner)
- National, regional and local environmental goals



Reflections on the Municipal Perspective

- the old “long term” is the new “short term”
- the next 30 years or so are already “locked in”
- perception of cost now, benefit later
- Because of the very long term basis of climate change perspectives, nations and states are faced with a value vacuum, for validating the choices required

- knowledge about global, macro-regional and national scales is beginning to stabilize
- knowledge at local scales is called for
- as the results of new studies emerge, at finer levels of resolution, the scale of impacts appears to be even larger than earlier anticipated



Reflections on the Municipal Perspective (2)

- climate change and energy issues appear to be coupled
- the gendered character of response is emerging
- the opportunity for innovation payoffs is enticing
- direct local impacts of climate change have diffuse global sources and, conversely
- difficulty of seeing that small-scale local responses (mitigation) have impacts on the global scale
- the local is seen in isolation: ie “Iceland will profit from it”
- sustainability context, climate change content

Some observations (challenges and problems identified by municipalities)

- mass media has boosted work related to climate change
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- Who should be the responsible actor for work related to climate change in the municipal organisation?
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- in earlier years economic profit legitimised work related to energy—now climate change is the new buzz on the agenda
- transport infrastructure is a main issue





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K-Base: Knowledge-Based Tools for Sustainable Governance of Energy and Climate Adaptation in the Nordic Periphery

TKK, Janne Hukkinen, Project Leader
(Nordic Council of Ministers, Nordic
Research Program 2007-08)









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