

# **The Vulnerable Society Visualized: The welfare state and societal change studied through Swedish TV-drama 1965–1975**

Project Abstract

In the mid 1960s, Swedish public service TV radically changed the policy of drama production. The strategy was introduced as an explicit ambition to affect public opinion and increase the awareness on societal matters.

The aim of the project is to examine Swedish TV-drama in the period 1965–1975. The project will contribute to the understanding of Swedish audiovisual culture in the period, where research hitherto has been dominated by studies of films for cinematic use.

One objective is to analyze institutional matters concerning the organization of drama department in the overall public service-organization. The public reception of TV-drama will be a prioritized field, as will aesthetical matters. Hypothetically TV-drama was a yet un-institutionalized field around which values and ideas from other adjacent fields circulated. Examples of TV-drama will be examined and analyzed from aesthetic and rhetorical angles. The concept of vulnerability will be a prioritized key to the analysis of both style and thematic patterns. Swedish social drama focused how efficiency and bureaucracy in the rapidly changing welfare state led to alienation and despair. Depictions of dysfunctions concerning societal institutions and legislations dominated. A preliminary observation is that the problems of the Swedish welfare state were considered as being primarily of immaterial kind.

The project will run for three years, results will continuously be published in articles and presented at conferences.