

From the Periphery to the Centre

Mobility Patterns Among Young People in the Peripheral Sweden

Outline of lecture

- The logic of migration
- Key transitions
- Local globalisation
- Gender
- Method and material
- Results
- Conclusion

The logic of migration

- Structure
 - education,
 - labour opportunities,
 - housing (ability to an independent life)
- Culture,
 - relation to both a local culture (way of life) and images of global opportunities (mediated)
 - impressions of freedom and opportunities
 - 'to be normal'
- The outcome (migration as well as 'non-migration') as a process linked to the aim of
 - achieving...
 - Education, labour, life-style, integration in a particular setting, accumulation of social capital etc.
 - avoiding...
 - Unemployment, marginalisation, integration into a 'traditional and oppressive' community the individual do not appreciate, loneliness etc.

Key transitions

- Finishing school
- Entering labour market
- Nest leaving
- Family formation

Finishing school

- Prolongation in both directions
 - Education from the age of 6 until at least when people are around 18/19 (upper secondary). 50 percent of the cohorts in Sweden born 1982 – 1988 are predicted attend universities within 5 yrs from graduating from upper secondary education
 - Increasing demand of educated labour force at the same time as education are commodities on changeable labour market
 - Economic recessions (and increasing unemployment levels) vis-à-vis an well educated labour force. IT-sector in the beginning of 2000
 - 'Hotel man in Tromsø'

Entering the labour market

- Postponed labour market entrance
- Difficulties in finding regular employment
 - Long term economical marginalisation
 - Generation gap in expected life earnings
 - Contemporary youth in Sweden is the first generation in who is expected to have a lower material standard than the parental generation (Vogel 2005)
 - Social insurance systems
 - Child and sick leave insurances, unemployment subsidiaries as well as future pensions are related to previous labour market participation
- Social and political marginalisation as the result of legitimacy crisis

Nest leaving

- Postponed nest leaving

- Economy

- Supply of cheap housing as well as labour market opportunities providing financial means to move from parents
 - YoYo transitions (Walther 2006)
 - Insecurity
 - Vulnerability

Family formation

- Delayed – independent household
- Own children
 - Average age of when women have their first children has increased with more than 4 years during 1975 – 2005.
 - Plasticity in family formation
 - Available ‘models’ seems in some cases as ‘yesterdays paper’

The generation gap

- The pathway to an adult life is formulated by...
 - Parents (and other adults)
 - Experiences, investments in habits and traditions...
 - Social institutions (school, labour market agencies)
 - Legitimacy by attending school and other institutions
 - Structural demand since the individual can't afford not entering the school system as well as other institutions
 - Drop out
- Key transitions in relation to the possibility of have an reasonable outcome of
 - Education, labour market entry, nest leaving and family formation

Local globalisation

- Two dimensions
 - Level of attachment to local circumstances
 - Structure and culture (i.e. education, labour, housing, way of life, peer groups, habits, leisure activities etc)
 - Level of attachment to global conditions
 - Structure and culture (i.e. education, long distance travelling, openness to other cultures, etc...)

Gender

- Yong women in the North of Sweden has, at least since the beginning of the 1900th century, been more interested in living in the urban areas compared to men
- The rural life as one of the last 'male sanctuaries' (both labour and leisure gender typified)
 - Push: male domination in the rural area
 - Pull: opportunities in the city/urban area

Method and material

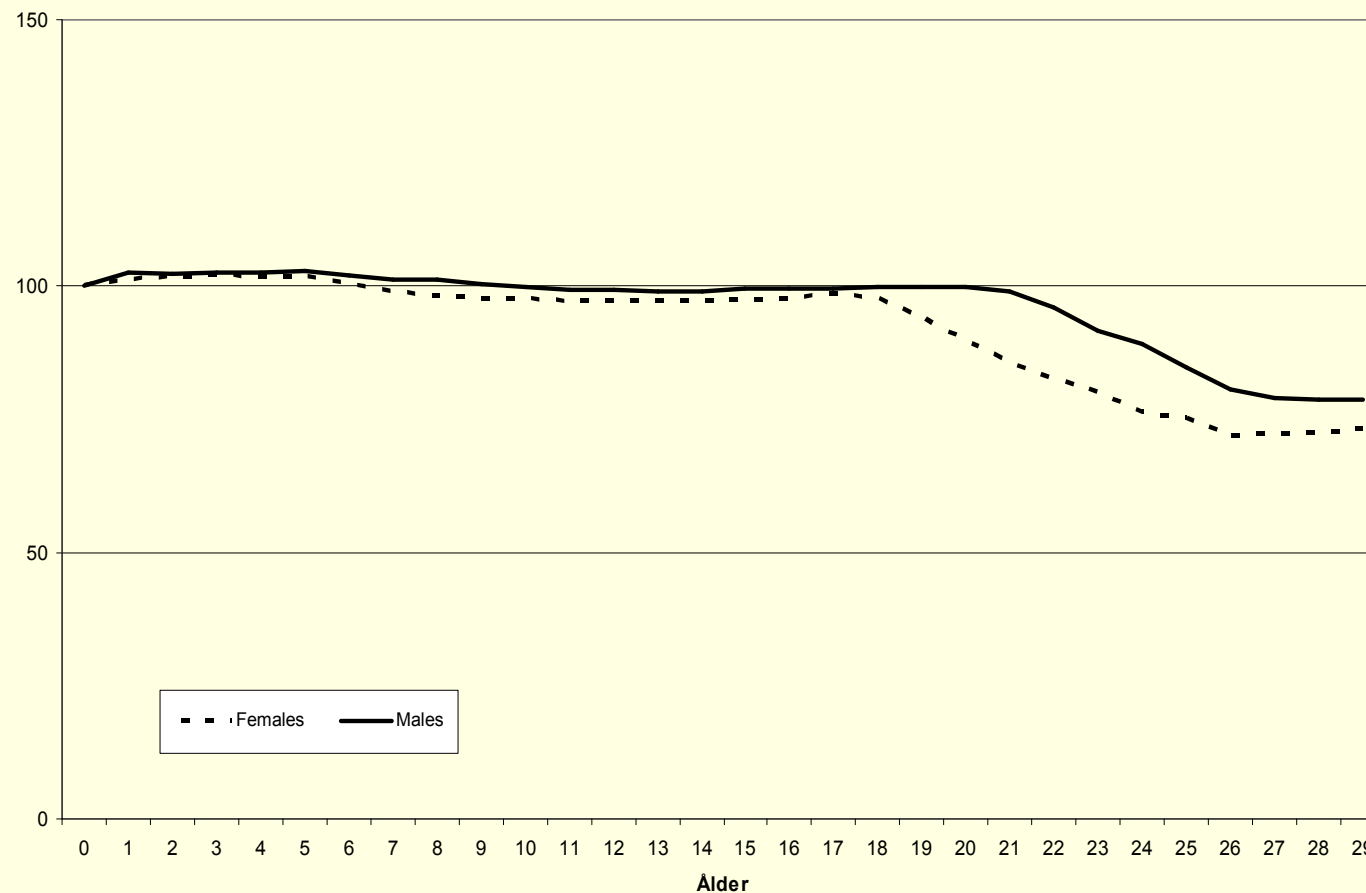
- National population register
 - Cohort analysis (born 1975/76)
- Survey 2005 (November – December)
 - 750 adolescents (around 60 percent answered the questionnaire) at the age of 15 (born 1990) and 18 (born 1987)
 - Strategic sample:
 - 15 year old: viewing the upper secondary education in the close future. Last year in primary compulsory school...
 - 18 year old: the end of upper secondary (both vocational and preparatory) education. At the threshold of adulthood...
 - Quantitative analysis
 - Cross tabulation
 - Logistic regression

Norrbotten



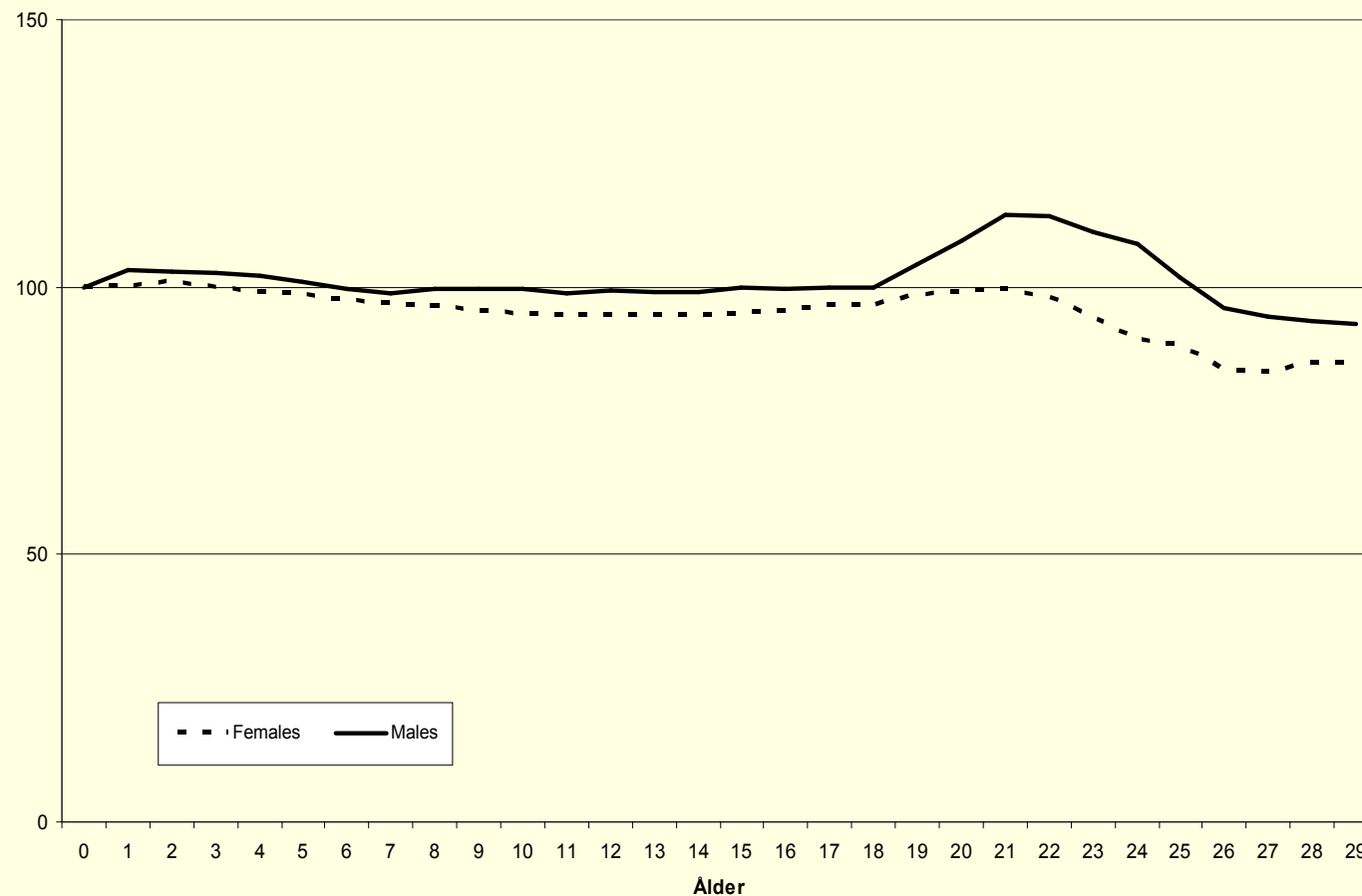
The county of Norrbotten.

Age cohort born 1975/76

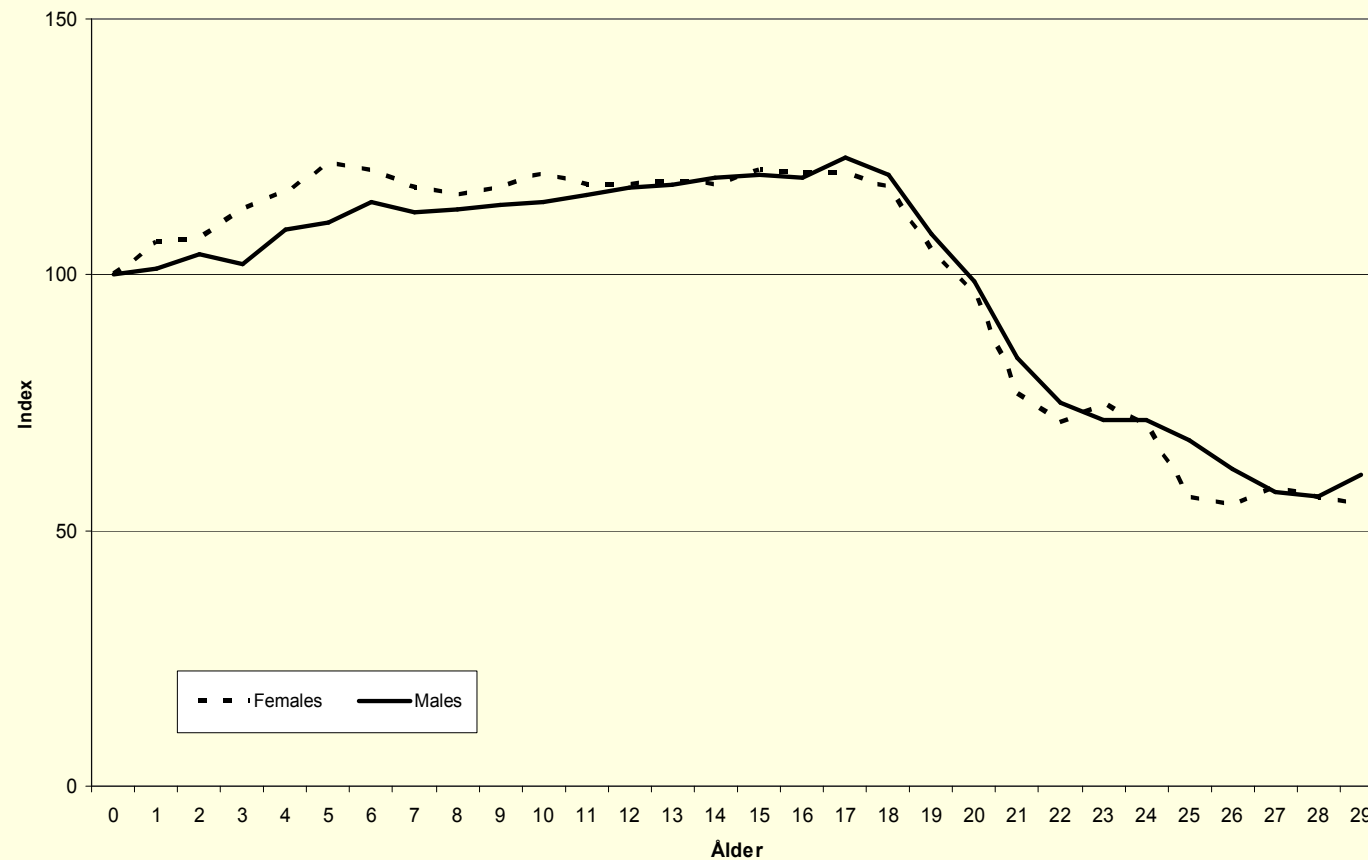


Three largest municipalities.

Age cohort born 1975/76



Four smallest communities. Age cohort born 1975/76.



Summary so far...

- Clear differences between different types of municipalities
 - Rural areas: diminishing population base (within age cohorts 50 percent or more)
 - Urban areas: increasing (20 – 22 years), peak at 23 then decreasing to a level close to 100 (Index)
 - Mobility phase: 19 – 28 years. After that small variation – correlates to family formation process
 - A pattern that is stronger for age cohorts born 1979 and 1982
- Females departure at an early age (as soon as they can), males are, in general around three years delayed, but they do also migrate from smaller towns toward larger urban areas.
- Different reason and outcomes (Nilsson 2001)
 - Females: education and life style – outcome (weak material though strong social)
 - Males: labour and education – outcome (strong material weaker social)

Survey 2005

- The dependent variable is formulated from the question
 - Do you think that you within five years from now will have moved away from your home town?
- Independent variables
 - **Individual characteristics**: gender, age, interest in further education at the age of 35, local attachment, interest in international affairs
 - **Structural characteristics**: educational opportunities in home town, average age in home town
 - **Family characteristics**: educational level in family

Results

- 68 percent females and 48 percent males believe that they will move from their home town within five years.
- 70 percent 18yrs and 49 percent 15yrs believe that they will move from their home town within five years.
- Highest proportion among females age 18 yrs (78 percent) and lowest among males 15 yrs (39 percent)

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- Gender affects the outcome stronger than age
 - Gender in combination with education shows that males who have interest in education have a stronger association to migration than a comparable group females.
 - Local attachment has a stronger effect among males than among females
 - International interests has a stronger effect among females than among males
 - Educational level in family (parents) is not significant.
 - Closeness to educational opportunities have a strong negative effect among males (not among females)
 - High average age in home town has a positive effect for both males (not significant) and females (significant)

Conclusion

- At an early age adolescents regard migration as one of the pathways of becoming adult.
 - Nest leaving becomes attached to migration particularly among those living at distance from a larger urban area
- Males seem to have a more pragmatic view concerning migration than women
 - Association to either labour or education
 - Higher education is both a restraining and a encouraging factor for males migration
- Females argue that education and labour are important factors, but they have in general an interest also in life-style related matters
 - Push: male culture as well as an subjective apprehension of lack of opportunities in the home town area
 - Pull: supply of options in the urban area
- In general: size of home town in combination with lack of education opportunities are the most important factors explaining interest in migration from home town

- Correspondence between actual migration (the cohort analysis) and young peoples view concerning their future
 - The establishment of 'role models' (i.e. older siblings, friends and relatives that already have migrated from their home town.
- Images of living in the North, in the periphery
- Attraction or ?

