

A challenged society:

Constructions of vulnerable and resilient subjects in
Swedish total defence policies

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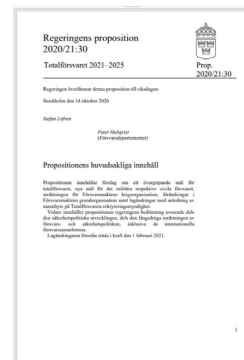
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Research questions

How are desirable, and non-desirable, subjects constructed in contemporary Swedish total defence policies?

In which ways does such constructions intersect with constructions of vulnerability and resilience?

Swedish total defence policies



Swedish total defence and civil preparedness

- Swedish total defence rests on two building blocks:
 - Military defence
 - **Civil defence**
- In civil defence policies, citizens are emphasized as a central actor in keeping both themselves and their communities safe from harm.



A
poststructural
policy analysis

**Whats the problem
represented to be?**

***"rather than focusing
on how people make
policy, attention turns
to the way policy
makes people."***

(Bacchi & Goodwind, 2016
p.8)

Problem representations in total defence policies

A challenged society

"Sweden's civil preparedness must be further strengthened in order to manage the wide range of serious threats and risks facing our society. The strains that society must be able to deal with include climate change, health threats, cyber attacks, disinformation and the consequences of international conflicts and destabilisation [...]."(Strengthening civil preparedness , p.1)

A resilient society

"Defending Sweden and safeguarding our security, freedom, independence and freedom of action is not only a military task, but a responsibility for the whole of society that ultimately requires the personal efforts of the population"
(Resilience, p.81)

Subject positions

The resilient subject

- Capable, assumes responsibility for his or her safety as well as for society

The vulnerable subject

- Those who lacks the ability to take responsibility for their own safety
- When vulnerability becomes a threat

What are the silences?

The image of the challenged society is largely based on a description of various kinds of social problems as 'democratic challenges' - social problems that according to contemporary total defence discourses, are to be solved with the means of total defence rather than with investments in welfare

