

Nilsson Karina. *Migration among young men and women in Sweden*. Doctoral Dissertation in Social and Economic Geography at the Faculty of Social Science, Umeå University, Sweden, 2001.

**ABSTRACT:** Many important things take place during early adulthood, for example, education, starting a career and forming a household. What happens during people's 20s will for many set the path for what is to happen in their future life course. The life situations of young men and women in Sweden are similar at the age of 20 years. This homogeneity will, however, change during the next ten years, and the lives of those in their 30s will be more diversified. The income gap between men and women will have increased and many will have started a family and have children. Migrating or not is also a part of this change, as it is influenced by and affects income change as well as household formation. It is known that migration in Sweden, as in many other countries, is age dependent and that adults between 20 and 35 years migrate more than do older individuals.

The aim of this thesis is to empirically investigate migration among young adults in Sweden during the period 1985-1995. This is done with respect to gender differences that can be found in the migration pattern and the outcome of migration. One major focus of the thesis is the effect of applying a household perspective to migration. Four papers are presented.

In the first two papers, the gendered mobility patterns of leaving the parental home and moving into the city areas are in focus. It is found that early educational and labour market careers affect young women's nest leaving to a larger extent than men's. Parental background variables also have a gendered effect on the timing of nest leaving. Further, women are shown to be overrepresented among those migrating into the three city regions of Sweden. Whereas men's probability of city-bound migration is not affected by household variables, women's probability decreases with the presence of a partner and/or children. In the next two papers, the focus is shifted from the migration pattern to the monetary outcome of migration for young women and men. When comparing earnings development for men and women after migrating, it is shown that women do not have the same positive earnings development as men. Women with children are less positively affected by migrating. When the intra-household income gap among dual-university-graduate families is studied, migration between labour market regions is found to increase the households' income gap in absolute terms. Migration, thus, appears to have a negative effect per se on income equality, whereas the region migrated to does not appear to have such an effect.

**Keywords:** Migration, Young adulthood, Households, Gender, Sweden, Life courses, Nest-leaving, Income change

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