

## ABSTRACT

Hans Nilsson and Lars-Göran Tedebrand, *Familjer i växande städer. Strukturer och strategier vid familjebildning i Sverige 1840-1950 (Families and Growing Cities. Structures and Strategies in Family Formation, Sweden 1840-1940)* (Umeå 2005).

This book originates from a research program on the urban family in Sweden 1840-1940. It examines the family at the centre of life during Sweden's transition to a modern industrialized and urbanized country. The proportion of singles and married people as well as ages at marriage are analysed against the background of economic development, social structure, housing situation and "male breadwinner-ideology". Generational relations and the different family and household forms in urban areas are discussed.

By using the potential of the Demographic Data Base, Umeå university, in combination with population registers from the 20<sup>th</sup> century eight marriage cohorts from the 1840's to the 1930's are created for two middle-sized Swedish cities, Linköping and Sundsvall. The authors explore quite in detail the new fertility regimes which emerged rather quick in urban Sweden during the first decades of the last century. The concept "family strategies" is used to understand the behaviour of individuals and families within all social classes during the fertility transition. Smaller families were achieved through an increased use of spacing and stopping and mainly by pre-industrial forms of fertility control. However, the authors also stress the importance of bourgeois debaters and early feminists as well as left wing female associations for bringing down the birth rate.

Finally, the book raises central issues concerning the economic, social and psychological forces that shaped the modern family and the interrelationship between history and demography and other related sciences.

Keywords: contraceptives, family building, family planning, family strategies, fertility, household structure, migration, nuptiality, spacing, stopping, urbanization, urban Sweden 1840-1940.

Report no. 27 from the Demographic Data Base, Umeå University.

ISBN 91-7305-998-6

ISSN 0349-5132

Umeå 2005