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Is the Swede Human? Radical Individualism in the Land of Social Solidarity

A Lecture by Henrik Berggren and Lars Trägårdh

This spring Henrik Berggren and Lars Trägårdh are on tour discussing their book, *Is the Swede Human?* which was released in the Fall of 2006. This provocative book claims that the supposedly “socialist” Swedes are, in fact, individualists in extremis. At the heart of the Swedish social compact lies a deeply rooted conception, which the authors describe as “a Swedish theory of love”. According to this theory, authentic love and friendship is possible only between individuals who are independent and equal. The joining of the ideals of independence to those of economic equality and social solidarity, has been institutionalized in modern Sweden through a radical alliance between the individual and the state. This has liberated the individual from the ties of dependency that characterize the traditional family, churches, and charities; however, it has left the individual relatively powerless in relation to the state. According to the authors this social contract, differs dramatically from those of other modern, western democracies, notably the US and Germany.

Is the Swede Human? has been called:

“the most important book of the season” — *Aftonbladet*

“a classic” — *UNT*

a “must be read” if one is to “understand Sweden and the Swedes” — *Svenska Dagbladet*

Calendar of Scandinavian Events 2006/07

Events are free and open to the public, unless specified otherwise

Time	Location	Event
Tuesdays, February - May, 7 pm	Sons of Norway Lodge, 1836 Alder St, Eugene	Scandinavian Folk Dancing Instruction. Suggested donation is \$4.
Wednesday, May 9, 3-4 pm	282 Lillis	Scandinavian Studies Lecture: Henrik Berggren and Lars Trägårdh lecture on “Is the Swede Human? Radical Individualism in the Land of Social Solidarity.”
Thursday, June 7, 7-9 pm	282 Lillis	Nordic Night
Friday-Sunday, June 15-17	Astoria	Astoria Scandinavian Festival
Sunday, June 24, noon-4 pm	Shelter 1, Alton Baker Park, Eugene	Potluck Midsummer Picnic: Food, Costumes, Music and dancing!
Thursday-Sunday, August 9-12	Junction City	Junction City Scandinavian Festival

For more details and more information visit our website at
<http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu/friendsevents.php>