

## Abstract

Title: Place, Place Attachment and Mobility: Three Sociological Studies.

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This thesis presents results from three studies that, in different ways, examine experiences, conceptions and opinions of place, place attachment and mobility in contemporary society. Questions within two areas are of particular importance. Firstly, all three studies investigate different understandings of the relationship between place attachment and mobility. Secondly, two of the studies also involve questions about multiple place attachment, transnationalism and cultural diversity. The studies are based on qualitative analyses of interviews and documents. After an introductory section that provides general discussions about concepts, theories, data and methods, results from the three studies are presented in five different papers.

*Study 1* is an exploratory interview study (n=14) investigating what places mean to people. Paper I develops an analytical framework for understanding what different meanings places may have, and how the attribution of meanings occurs. Paper II investigates the relationship between place attachment and mobility in the interviews. Some respondents regarded place attachment and mobility as contradictory and felt that they had to make a choice; some regarded them as opposites but tried to find an equilibrium; some regarded them as complementary and enjoyed both. These different findings provide the starting point for the two following studies.

*Study 2* uses interviews to examine experiences of place, place attachment and mobility among Swedish retirees (n=46) who pursued seasonal migration between Sweden and Spain. Paper III suggests that different forms and aspects of place attachment and different ideals of mobility among the respondents were related to different strategies for managing the cultural differences that they encountered in Spain. This variation is discussed in terms of different "transnational lifestyles". Paper IV analyses the relationship between seasonal retirement migration and tourism. It describes a number of strategies that the respondents used in order to dissociate themselves from tourists, and suggests some contextual explanations of this attempted dissociation.

*Study 3* is a documentary study of the discussions that preceded Sweden's recent acceptance of dual citizenship. Paper V examines the arguments used by proponents and opponents of dual citizenship, and the different views of migration and national belonging inherent in these arguments. The analysis suggests that the opponents regarded citizenship from a national perspective, whereas the proponents balanced the national perspective against, on the one hand, a global or international perspective and, on the other hand, the perspective of individual migrants.

Keywords: place, place attachment, mobility, migration, globalisation, tourism, dual citizenship, Sweden.