

Resettled refugees' integration process in Sweden and the role of bonding and bridging social ties

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Context of research

Time after resettlement as integral part of resettlement process

Integration = a process towards building up a new life (economic, soc, cult)

Importance of social capital for integration

Integration literature: favouring bridging ties over bonding ties



- 1. Bonding ties can be essential for the integration process**
- 2. Resources-strong individuals are crucial for the integration process**



ERF study 2013-15 Brigitte Suter and Karin Magnusson

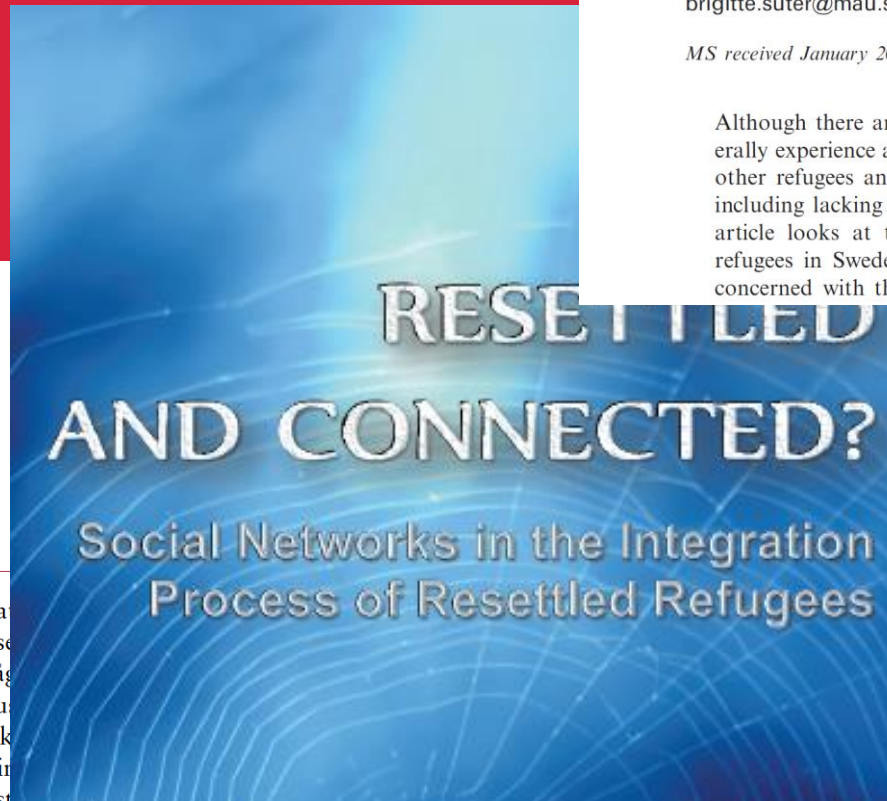
”Before and after – New perspectives on resettled refugees’ integration process”

POLICY BRIEF

Före och efter: Nya perspektiv på vidarebosatta flyktingars integrationsprocess

Inte sedan andra världskriget har så många människor befunnit sig på flykt från sina hemländer som idag. Många av dem försöker ta sig till Europa och många, vilket har uppmärksammats i den senaste raden av fartygskatastrofer på Medelhavet, dör på vägen. Den svenska regeringen framhåller vidarebosättning som ett bra verktyg för att

flyktingar. Detta har till viss del lyckats men antalet vidarebosättningsplatser i Europa är fortfarande relativt lågt (jämfört med USA, Kanada, och Australien) och domineras av de nordiska länderna Sverige, Danmark och Finland som står för 75 % av EUs fast kvotplatser (se Krasniqi & Suter 2015). En oro bland nya vidarebosättningslän-



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Social Networks and Mobility in Time and Space: Integration Processes of Burmese Karen Resettled Refugees in Sweden

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Although there are exceptions, refugees from protracted refugee situations generally experience an overall slower integration process into the new country than other refugees and immigrants. Often the circumstances in the refugee camps, including lacking education and social networks, are used to explain this. This article looks at the post-resettlement integration process of Burmese Karen refugees in Sweden through a capital approach. Consequently, the analysis is concerned with the accumulation of resources—such as social networks—both



Methodology

		Burmese	Somalis
Interviews		Sweden (15) and Thailand (12)	Sweden (25)
Total nr resettled to SE		Ca 1700	Ca 1700
Year of arrival		2000-12	2000-12
Gender		Equal	equal
Age		Equally spread between <25, 26-39, and >40	
Family constellation		Arrived mostly in 'core' families (parents with underage children)	
Years in camps	1-10	5	7
	11-21	9	4
	>21	0	5
Placed in nr of municipalities		33	92

The formation of the Karen Swedish Community (KSC)



“(One year later) more people came, among them Zoya. Zoya used to have a high position in one of the camps. So, she knows almost all Karen from there, Muslims as well. Zoya was very popular in the refugee camp. So, when she came (...) more people from that refugee camp also joined us. So, then all of sudden we were around 60 members.”



“We had to build this organisation with statutes. [My friend] didn’t know how to do it but he is really great with contacts, he knows many that know about association building. So we got help from a person who used to work with the Baptist church. (...) So he kind of educated us in association building.”



Findings

Networks based on a sentiment of belonging (in this case ethnicity and language) can have a beneficial impact on the individual integration process.

Ethnic social networks can lead to establishing bridging ties, connecting individuals from different backgrounds

Skilled, resource-rich individuals are crucial for enabling these bridging ties

