



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW

Dynamic Regional Competitiveness in the Creative Economy – Can Peripheral Communities Have a Place?

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Introduction

- The creative work force—generate the ideas and knowledge that are the driving force in both advanced manufacturing and knowledge intensive service economies (e.g. Castells, 1996; Illeris, 1996; Bryson et al., 2004)
- Larger places have an inherent advantage (e.g. Sassen, 2001).

Objectives

- Test the applicability of the creative class thesis within a different geo-political context
- Document the spatial variation of creative workforce, the high technology sector, and the social environment in Sweden
- Compare to studies of creativity in Canada



Theoretical foundation

“The Rise of the Creative Class” debate...

...but the importance of creativity for regional economic systems are neither new nor without criticism

- The k-society; communication (kommunikation), culture (kultur), knowledge (kunskap), and creativity (kreativitet). Andersson and Strömquist, (1988)
- Questioned the theoretical definition and methodological application of the creative class concept Markusen (2006) and Pratt (2008)
- ‘Hip’ cities for a segment of the population overlooks the significant economic, social, and environmental problems



Method

Indicators: definitions and sources.

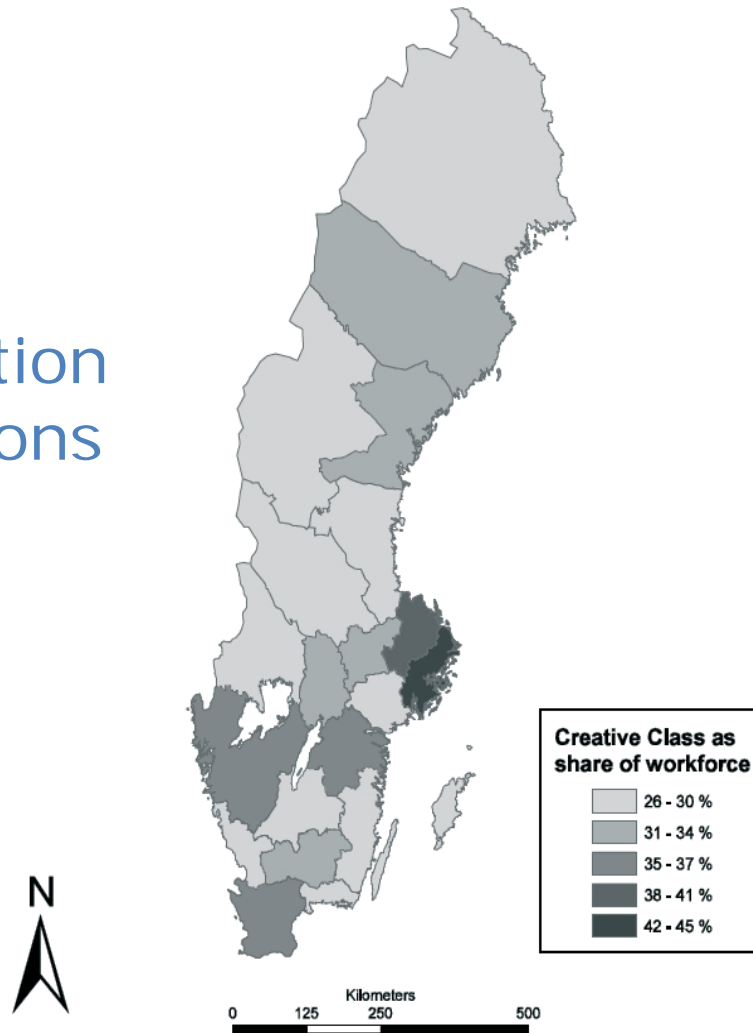
<i>Dimension</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Year(s)</i>
TALENT	Human Capital	Percentage of Population 16-74 with tertiary education	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1990, 2005
	Creative Class	Percentage of Workforced engaged in "Creative Occupations" (ISCO-88)	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1990, 2003
	Researchers	People employed in R&D institutions per 10,000 population	SCB / Statistics Sweden	2003
TECHNOLOGY	Innovation	Patents Applications per 10,000 population	PRV / Swedish Patent and Register Office	1990, 2005
	High Tech Innovation	High Tech Patents applications per 10,000 population	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1990, 2005
	High Tech Industry	Share of workforce employed in High Tech Industry, subdivided into three distinct groups: a) Hardware & Products; b) Software & Services; c) TLC and Video Ind.	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1993, 2005
TOLERANCE	Foreign Borns	Percentage of foreign born population	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1990, 2004
	Diversity Index	Fragmentation Index based on presence and ethnic background of foreign born population	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1990, 2004
	Gay Tolerance	Rating on a scale of five dimensions based on surveys: 1) School curriculum and plan of action 2) Municipality activities and personnel 3) Infrastructure of LGBT-society 4) Hate crimes with homofobic motives 5) Attitude of local population	RFSL / The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights	2006
	Bohemians	Percentage of workforce enaged in artistic activities (artists, writers etc.)	SCB / Statistics Sweden	1990, 2003



Talent

Strong concentration
to larger city regions

Creative class
average 35 percent





Tolerance

<i>Län (Region)</i>	<i>Tolerance Index</i>	<i>Gay Index (rank)</i>	<i>Boho Index (rank)</i>	<i>Foreign Born (rank and share)</i>
Stockholms län	0,996	2	1	1 (18.5%)
Skåne län	0,636	6	2	2 (14.4%)
Västra Götalands län	0,570	5	3	4 (12.8%)
Uppsala län	0,541	4	5	6 (11.7%)
Kronobergs län	0,414	14	2	9 (10,2%)
Södermanlands län	0,366	15	12	5 (12.2%)
Örebro län	0,366	12	12	8 (10.4%)
Hallands län	0,364	9	9	11 (9.0%)
Östergötlands län	0,353	13	10	10 (9.6%)
Västerbottens län	0,345	1	7	18 (5.8%)
Västmanlands län	0,343	19	17	3 (13.8%)
Gotlands län	0,296	3	4	21 (4.1%)
Blekinge län	0,293	10	19	12 (7.9%)
Jönköpings län	0,283	18	20	7 (10.6%)
Gävleborgs län	0,261	7	16	17 (6.5%)
Dalarnas län	0,230	11	8	16 (6.7%)
Värmlands län	0,213	16	18	14 (7.8%)
Jämtlands län	0,211	8	6	20 (4.6%)
Västernorrlands län	0,161	17	10	19 (5.5%)
Kalmar län	0,132	21	15	15 (7.0%)
Norrbottnens län	0,119	20	12	12 (7.9%)



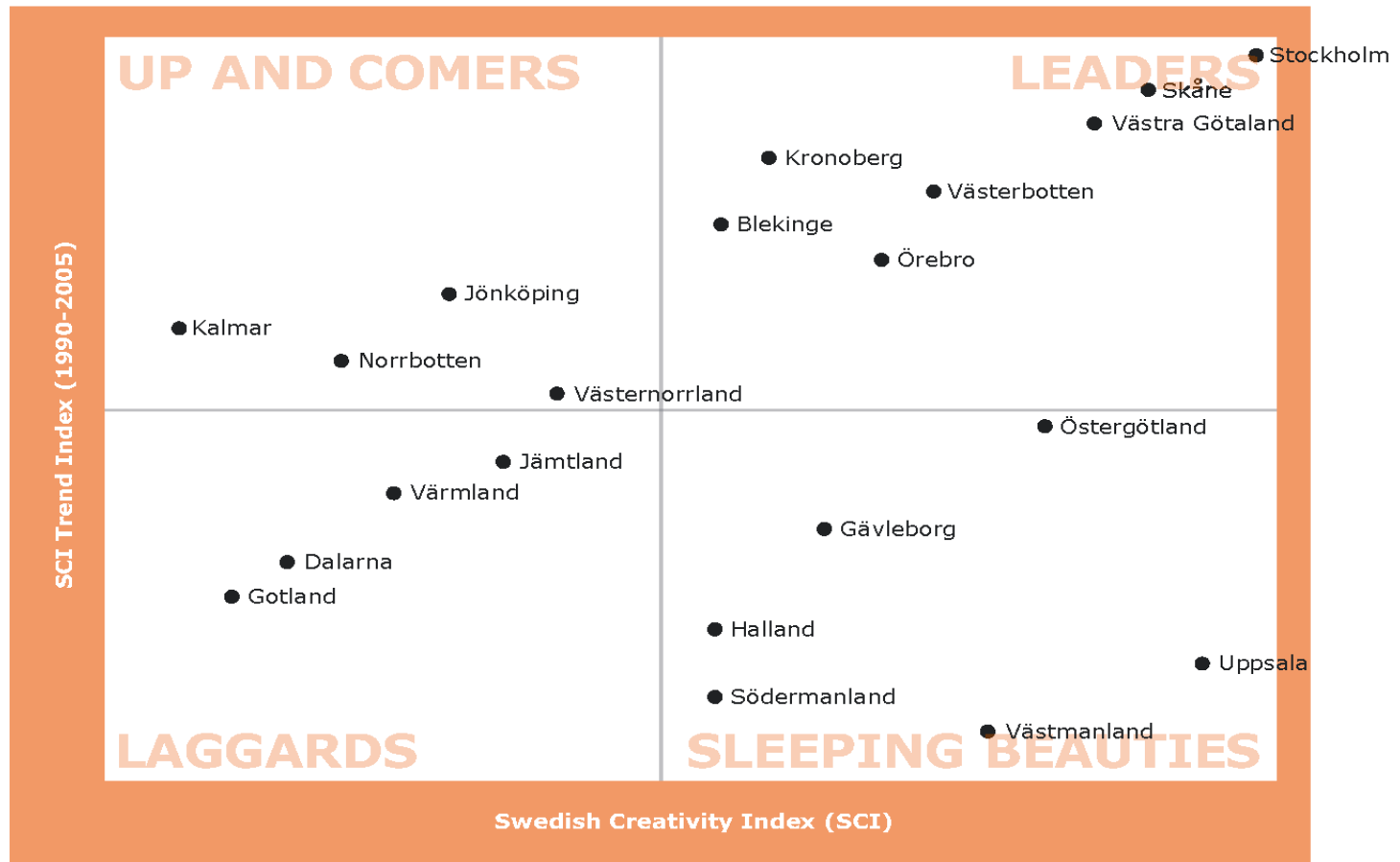
Bohemian Index

Län (Region)	Bohemian Index	% Boho on Workforce
Stockholms län	1	2,28%
Kronobergs län	0,299	1,15%
Skåne län	0,299	1,15%
Västra Götalands län	0,231	1,04%
Gotlands län	0,218	1,02%
Uppsala län	0,205	1,00%
Jämtlands län	0,145	0,90%
Västerbottens län	0,141	0,89%
Dalarna län	0,093	0,81%
Hallands län	0,085	0,80%
Östergötlands län	0,076	0,79%
Västernorrlands län	0,076	0,79%
Södermanlands län	0,065	0,77%
Örebro län	0,065	0,77%
Norrbottnens län	0,065	0,77%
Kalmar län	0,056	0,75%
Gävleborgs län	0,054	0,75%
Västmanlands län	0,051	0,75%
Värmlands län	0,043	0,73%
Blekinge län	0,028	0,71%
Jönköpings län	0	0,66%
<i>Total Sweden</i>		1,23%



The Swedish Creativity Index

Figure 15: The Swedish Creativity Matrix





Correlations (1)

	<i>R&D people</i>	<i>Human Capital</i>	<i>Creative Class</i>	<i>Creative Class (excl. Bohos)</i>	<i>Patents</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	-0,151	-0,273	-0,264	-0,251	0,146
<i>GRP</i>	0,093	0,709	0,809	0,790	0,542
<i>GRP per capita</i>	0,089	0,667	0,762	0,737	0,513
<i>Disp. Income</i>	0,305	0,662	0,672	0,648	0,457
<i>Apt. Sales</i>	0,165	0,758	0,858	0,839	0,596
<i>Apt. Avg. Prices</i>	0,424	0,836	0,795	0,773	0,437
<i>Apt. Median Prices</i>	0,491	0,800	0,737	0,716	0,378



Correlations (2)

	<i>High Tech Patents</i>	<i>High Tech Industry</i>	<i>Gay</i>	<i>Bohemian</i>	<i>Foreign Borns</i>	<i>Diversity Index</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	-0,117	-0,102	0,024	-0,349	-0,373	-0,499
<i>GRP</i>	0,703	0,624	0,415	0,859	0,735	0,737
<i>GRP per capita</i>	0,677	0,582	0,265	0,880	0,609	0,605
<i>Disp. Income</i>	0,657	0,432	0,518	0,805	0,580	0,649
<i>Apt. Sales</i>	0,775	0,680	0,436	0,898	0,750	0,740
<i>Apt. Avg. Prices</i>	0,752	0,489	0,628	0,884	0,639	0,684
<i>Apt. Median Prices</i>	0,701	0,417	0,628	0,822	0,589	0,659



Discussion (1)

- 1) strong correlations between the summary creativity index and other measures of economic growth,
 - 2) the high explanatory significance of the tolerance index and in particular the Bohemian dimension, and
 - 3) the concentration of the creative class at the top of the urban hierarchy.
- The premise of the big city strategy is that a country's largest cities are instrumental to national well-being and economic competitiveness.
 - This policy emphasis has encouraged some smaller cities in Sweden to re-think their development strategies.
 - Infrastructure
 - Cultural and experience economy



Discussion (2)

- Complicated definition of key variables
- The creative class indices thus provide a poor mechanism for assessing the kinds of amenities upon which smaller cities or region typically base their cultural economies
- The challenge for policy makers is to devise alternative tools for assessing and directing these lower order, but nonetheless, creative sectors

More comprehensive assessment of regional development strategies for sustained economic growth



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Thank you!

