



# LUND UNIVERSITY

## Restrictions on RC Extraction

Heinat, Fredrik; Wiklund, Anna-Lena

2014

[Link to publication](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Heinat, F., & Wiklund, A.-L. (2014). *Restrictions on RC Extraction*. Abstract from Grammar in Focus, 2014, Lund, Sweden.

*Total number of authors:*

2

### General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

### Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117  
221 00 Lund  
+46 46-222 00 00



## KNOWING MEN WHO SELL FLOWERS AND ESCAPING THEM

FREDRIK HEINAT & ANNA-LENA WIKLUND

Since Ross’s discovery of syntactic islands (Ross 1967), extraction from islands has been the topic of intense research in both theoretical linguistics, e.g. Starke (2001); Boeckx (2012), and psycholinguistics, e.g. Hofmeister & Sag (2010); Sprouse & Hornstein (2013). It was early recognized that the Mainland Scandinavian languages (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish) are peculiar from a cross-linguistic perspective in allowing extraction from relative clauses, exemplified by Swedish in (1). Early references include Erteschik-Shir (1973), Allwood (1975), Engdahl & Ejerhed (1982); Taraldsen (1981), and Maling & Zaenen, (1982). Complex DPs with a relative clause are otherwise considered *strong islands* (cf. The Complex NP Constraint of Ross 1967); syntactic configurations from which movement is never possible. In this sense, Mainland Scandinavian is peculiar whereas English and other languages are well-behaved, cf. (2).

- (1) [Såna blommor]<sub>i</sub> känner jag [en man [som säljer t<sub>i</sub>]]. (Swe.)  
such flowers know I a man that sells
- (2) \*[Those flowers]<sub>i</sub> I know [a man [who sells t<sub>i</sub>]].

In this talk, we will leave theoretical interpretations of Scandinavian island violations aside and instead scrutinize the restrictions that have been claimed to hold for these extractions, some of which have been used to formulate arguments in analyses of these. We will show that none of these restrictions are specific to relative clause extractions. In fact some of them vanish under closer scrutiny. Given this, any theoretical interpretation of these alleged island violations assuming the existence of such restrictions cannot be on the right track.