



# LUND UNIVERSITY

## How Do You Become a Successful Beggar in Sweden?

An inquiry into the images of begging and giving 2011 to 2016

Parsberg, Cecilia

2016

[Link to publication](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Parsberg, C. (2016). *How Do You Become a Successful Beggar in Sweden? An inquiry into the images of begging and giving 2011 to 2016*. Malmö Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Lund University.

*Total number of authors:*

1

### 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

# *How Do You Become a Successful Beggar in Sweden?*

An inquiry into the images of begging and giving  
2011 to 2016

Cecilia Parsberg



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

by due permission of the Malmö Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Lund University, Sweden.

To be defended at Umeå Academy of Fine Arts, Umeå University, on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 12 in Flexhallen, Strandvägen 32, 90187 Umeå.

*Faculty opponent*

Dr. Professor Stefan Jonsson, Linköping University

Cecilia Parsberg presents the six staged works from her dissertation 10-11 am.

Organization LUND UNIVERSITY	Document name DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
	Date of issue 14 November 2016
Author(s) Cecilia Parsberg	Sponsoring organization

Title and subtitle: How do You Become a Successful Beggar in Sweden?

An inquiry into the images of begging and giving 2011 to 2016

Abstract: My first encounter with a begging person led me to spend five years investigating the new situation regarding begging and giving in Sweden. The premise is that every-day actions and reactions to another person can be made visible through aesthetics with ethical underpinnings. My investigation takes place mainly in the urban landscape and in the media. The images always constitute the point of departure for the reasoning and for the staged works. Images that separate as well as connect bodies. Which images are at play in the social choreography of begging and giving? In this context, how can images be activated in new ways? How can new images be generated? Begging is a call to social interaction, and regardless of whether the giver interacts socially with the begging person on the street, the giver is implicated in the asymmetrical value systems of the European Union. In my first staged work I hire a professional market researcher to find out how a beggar in Sweden should behave to be successful. This becomes a film that I then show opposite another film in which begging people talk about how givers give. This is followed by a number of staged works and an interdisciplinary theoretical discussion involving, among others, Judith Butler, Sara Ahmed, and Hannah Arendt, as well as a number of artistic works concerning how images – and bodily actions – are linked to the social image and the body politics. The arrangement of the choirs in the staged work *The Chorus of Begging and The Chorus of Giving*, indicates a space for social interaction and thus demonstrates a different order that demands different actions in terms of language, movement, and attitude toward each other. It's a *social choreography*: when the choirs rehearsed and sung together a political form emerged. My hope is to make visible a space for action between the begging and the giving that can be used for continued ethical negotiations and new staged works.

Key words: fine arts, images, begging, giving, beggar, giver, successful, solidarity, empathy, affect, space of action, free movement, borders, politics of waiting, gestures, urban life, participating art, filminstallation, asymmetry, symmetry, place, house, *co-presence*, *framing*, social choreography, power, activate the image, ethics, aesthetics, ethics, video documentation, artistic research, phronesis, Hannah Arendt, Judith Butler, Sara Ahmed, Sven-Eric Liedman.

Classification system and/or index terms (if any): 60401

Supplementary bibliographical information

Language

Swedish and English

ISSN and key title: 1653-8617 Doctoral Studies and Research in Fine and Performing Arts

ISBN

978-91-7623-977-3

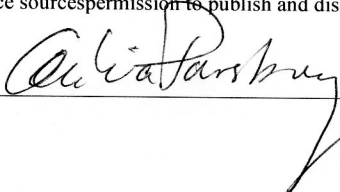
Recipient's notes

Number of pages

Price

Security classification

I, the undersigned, being the copyright owner of the abstract of the above-mentioned dissertation, hereby grant to all reference sources permission to publish and disseminate the abstract of the above-mentioned dissertation.

Signature  Date 06-10-2016