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# “som een privat och eenschylt saak anlanger”

## The concept of ”privat” in Swedish parliamentary records, 1521-1800

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The early modern era sees critical changes in the relations between individual and society, home and community, self and other. The notion of privacy, both as a potential threat against communal welfare and stability, and as something worthy of protection, is gradually emerging and can be traced in politics, religious practices, ideas on family and personal relations, as well as in architecture and spatial organization. This development is also reflected in terminology and can be traced through the increased use of words with the root *priv-*, such as *privat*, *privy* or *privauté*,

In this article I explore the different and changing meanings of the concept “privat” in Swedish parliamentary records from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. I analyze how the concept was used in different contexts, such as questions concerning e. g. private and public religious practices, relations between individuals and communities, regulations of domestic behavior, and relations between households and the common good. I will also investigate how notions such as private person (*privatz person*), private things (*privat saker*) or private spheres (e. g. *privat huus*) were defined and how these definitions changed over time.