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Conference: Communities of Communication II: Newspapers and Periodicals in Britain and Ireland from 1800 to 1900, Edinburgh, Sept 2015.

Abstract, Cecilia Wadsö Lecaros

Transnational exchange between British and Swedish periodicals in the 1830s and 1860s

The focus of this paper is the migration and transnational influence of British nineteenth-century periodicals concerned with social reform. Several Swedish nineteenth-century periodicals were modelled on British forerunners, and translations and adaptations of British articles were published in order to present and promote new ideas. By analysing how social reform ideas first presented in British periodicals were transferred to Sweden, this paper will discuss the role thus played by the British press in the development of a Swedish movement for popular adult education in the early 1830s and in the development of a Swedish debate on the woman question in the early 1860s.

Swedish translators and publishers of social-reform texts often had an agenda of their own, which affected the way in which British source texts were translated and presented to the Swedish audience. In this paper, I will argue that the way in which texts were translated as well as other forms of communicative exchange between British and Swedish writers and publishers with joint interests in social reform must be taken into account for an assessment of the transnational exchange of ideas.

The first part of the paper will show how periodicals that were published through the agency of *The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge* in the early 1830s (*The Quarterly Journal of Education* and *The Penny Magazine*) were important not only for the formation of a similar society in Sweden, but also for setting up Swedish journals with the purpose of educating adult, often working-class, readers. Swedish periodicals incorporated translations and adaptations of British material, and, importantly enough, the transnational exchange was to some extent reciprocal, as *The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge* commissioned articles about Scandinavian circumstances from Swedish writers for its widely read periodical publications.

The second part of the paper will discuss how the British periodical press thirty years later, in the early 1860s, provided the emerging Swedish emancipation movement with inspiration and argument. Sweden's first feminist periodical *Tidskrift för hemmet* contained numerous translations from British periodicals, which were adapted to suit a Swedish readership. *The English Woman's Journal* was held up to Swedish readers as a model, and pieces of fiction were derived from *Cornhill Magazine* and *Household Words*, for instance.