Abstract – Malin Lennartsson

**Swedish parish records in comparative perspective**

Parish records have attracted little to no attention in Swedish research. Parts of them have been used by demographers and social historians but they have never been studied in their own right. Questions about their origin, character and what they say about early modern local relations thus remain unanswered. Based on the case study of a southern Swedish diocese, this paper reveals when they appear in the archives, what was entered into the various registers and protocols and whether this reflected central administrative demands. The findings suggest that parish records-keeping started much later in Sweden than in England. While similar in content, furthermore, the sources were written by rectors rather than parish officials, pointing to different responsibilities and lay-clergy relationships in Sweden compared to England.

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