The latest decade has seen a debate about the “resurgence” of religion in the public sphere of Western European societies. Yet, few studies have scrutinized these claims through systematic and longitudinal empirical work. Our presentation focuses on findings and methodological considerations from a quantitative and qualitative content analysis of indicators of religion and of values associated with modernity in Swedish editorials between 1975-2010. We analyze changes in the frequency of references to religion over this period as well as how these are related to the most frequent modernity values. Our results indicate an increase in the numbers of editorials mentioning religion, but it would be too hasty to interpret this as new political interest of religion in Sweden. The picture is more complex, which calls for a discussion of methods as well as perspectives in studies of the public presence of religion in contemporary society.

Alf Linderman is the Executive Director of the Sigtuna Foundation, and also an associate professor of the Sociology of Religion at Uppsala University. Linderman is specialized in research at the nexus of media, religion, and culture. He has worked on media reception, on comparative studies of media and religion, and on various kinds of content analysis primarily on Swedish newspapers.

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Discussant: Dr. Alparslan Nas, Faculty of Communication, Marmara University, Istanbul

For attendance, registration at helins@sri.org.tr is necessary with your name and university or other affiliation

Refreshments are served after the lecture