

Maria Liljas Stålhandske, MA, PhD
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Academic qualifications

Doctor of Theology 2005

Department of theology, Uppsala university.

Thesis in the Psychology of religion: *Ritual Invention: A play perspective on existential ritual and mental health in late modern Sweden*. Supervisor: prof Valerie DeMarinis.

Public defence of thesis at Uppsala university 06-05-2005.

Master of Arts 1997

Department of theology, Uppsala university.

Current and past posts at Uppsala university

Current post

Jan 2008 – Dec 2010: *Researcher* at Uppsala religion and society research centre, Uppsala university.

Jan 2007 – Dec 2010: *Senior lecturer* at the Department of theology, Uppsala university.

Past posts

Feb 2007 – June 2007: *Researcher and project leader* at Centre for the study of society and religion and the Department of theology, Uppsala university.

Jan 2005 – Dec 2006: *Researcher and senior lecturer* at the Uppsala institute for diaconal studies.

2002-2005: *Doctoral post* at the Department of Theology, Uppsala University.

2000: *Research assistant* at the Centre for Feminist Research, Uppsala University.

1999-2000: *Teaching assistant* at the Centre for Feminist Research, Uppsala University.

1997-1998: *Administrative assistant* at the Centre for Feminist Research, Uppsala University.

Research activities

Research projects

2009-2018: *Impact of religion: Challenges for society, law and democracy*, Centre of Excellence program funded by Swedish Research Council, at Uppsala university.

2008-2010: *Experiences of abortion* funded by Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och socialvetenskap (FAS), at Departments of Theology, Public health and caring sciences and Women's and children's health, Uppsala university.

2004-2006: *Rit och relevans* (Ritual and relevance) funded by Kyrkliga arbetslivsfonden, at the Uppsala institute for diaconal studies.

1997-2000: *Uppsala University cross-cultural project* at Bredäng school, Stockholm.

2000: *Kvinnor, hälsa och kultur* (Women, health and culture) at the Centre for feminist research, Uppsala university.

2000: *Crosscultural psychology and children*, at the Centre for feminist research, Uppsala university.

Research consultancy

2010: *Consultant* for the research project "Utveckling och Gestaltning av Minnesplatser i Samtida Stadsmiljöer" (Development and design of Memorial Places in Contemporary Urban Milieus).

Conference organization

- 2000: *Member of conference team* at European psychology of religion conference in Sigtuna, Sweden.
- 1997-2000: *Member of conference team* at a number of conferences at the Centre for feminist research, Uppsala university.

Editor

- 1999-2000: *Editor* for "Sofia", journal for the Centre for feminist research, Uppsala university.

Posts outside Uppsala university

- 2009-2010: *Religious consultant for Andersson & Jönsson Architects*, visting consultant for the planning of a new cemetery at Järvafältet, Stockholm.
- 2007-2009: *Project leader for ritual education program*, project employment at the Sigtuna folk high-school.
- Jan 2007 – Dec 2007: *Evaluator*, project employment at Diakonistiftelsen Samariterhemmet, Uppsala.
- 2007 – continuing: Partner of Omnikultur co-operative society, Leksand, Sweden.
- 2000 – continuing: *Lecturer and educator* within church, care and education.

Selected publications and papers

Books and articles

- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2011. Ritual. In Azari, Nina P. and Runehov, Anne (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Sciences and Religions*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- Maria Liljas Stålhandske; Maria Ekstrand; Tanja Tydén. Swedish women's existential experiences in relation to induced abortion. Submitted to *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, April 2010.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2009. "Jag tror inte på äktenskapet men längtar efter ceremonin": Om sex, kärlek och framtidsdrömmar hos unga i Sverige. In Mikael Lindfelt & Johanna Gustafsson (Ed.), *Kärlekens förändrade landskap*, Verbum. Stockholm.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2009. Necessary and impossible: On spiritual questions in relation to early induced abortion. In Tore Ahlbäck (red), *Postmodern spirituality*. The Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History, Åbo.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2008. Omöjligt och nödvändigt; Kvinnors livsfrågor och psykiska välbefinnande i samband med abort. In *Socialmedicinsk tidskrift*, tema Geografiska skillnader i psykisk hälsa, 85(2); 139-149.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2006. *Ett avgörande beslut: Om existentiella behov och uttryck i samband med tidig abort*. Forskningsrapport. Diakonivetenskapliga institutets skriftserie 15. Diakonivetenskapliga institutet: Uppsala.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2006. Riten i det existentiella tomrummet: om meningsskapande i dagens Sverige. I Göran Gunner (Ed.): *På spaning...; Från Svenska kyrkans forskardagar 2005*. Verbum: Stockholm.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2005. Fylld av nu: Hågkomster och reflektioner från ett rituellt experimentprojekt. *Kraftkällor: Årsbok för kristen humanism och samhällsyn 2005*. KHS, Uppsala.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2005. *Ritual invention; A play perspective on existential ritual and mental health in late modern Sweden*. Dissertation. Uppsala universitet, Uppsala.

Referee reviewed papers

- Maria Liljas Stålhandske; Maria Ekstrand; Tanja Tydén. 2010. Existential experiences in a clinical context: on abortion in secularized Sweden. *The Conference on Research in Faith and Health in Secular Society*. Odense, Denmark.

- Maria Liljas Stålhandske; Maria Ekstrand; Tanja Tydén. 2009. Existential challenge in a secularized culture – abortion as a case. *The 2009 Congress of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion*. Vienna, Austria.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria; Maria Ekstrand & Tanja Tydén. 2009. Necessary and impossible – on existential needs and expressions in relation to induced abortion. *Welfare and Values in Europe: Transitions related to Religion, Minorities and Gender*, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2008 Choosing induced abortion: an existential event? *Reproductive health and responsibilities*, Berlin, Tyskland.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2008. Necessary and impossible – on spiritual questions in relation to early induced abortion. *Postmodern Spirituality*, Åbo Akademi, Finland.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2007. Omöjligt och nödvändigt: Om kvinnors existentiella upplevelser och uttryck i samband med tidig abort. *Reproduktiv Hälsa 2007*, Svenska Barnmorskeförbundets konferens i Stockholm.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2007. A crucial decision: On existential and ritual needs in relation to early induced abortion. *Religion on the Borders: New Challenges in the Academic study of Religion*, Södertörns högskola, Stockholm.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2006. Religious and ritual development in postmodern Sweden: The second naïveté in the lack of a first one. *IAPR – International Association for the Psychology of Religion*, Leuven, Belgien.
- Liljas Stålhandske, Maria 2005. Rotlöshet och ritlöshet i dagens Sverige: Den andra naiviteten från ett rituellt marginaliserat perspektiv. *Svenska kyrkans forskardagar*, Svenska kyrkans enhet för forskning och kultur, Uppsala.

University management

- 2010: *Website administrator* for the Uppsala religion and society research centre: www.crs.uu.se
- 2007-2008: *Website administrator* for the Centre for the study of religion and society.
- 2000: Board member at the Centre for feminist research, Uppsala university.
- 1995-1996: Chair at the Student council at the Department of Theology, Uppsala university.

Teaching

Main areas

- Psychology of religion
- Religious studies
- Existential and spiritual issues in secularized societies
- Worldviews and health
- Ritual studies

For a complete list of teaching qualifications, please contact me at maria.liljas@crs.uu.se

Invited guest lecturer

- 2010 – Department of Arts and Theology, *Högskolan Dalarna*.
- 2008 – Faculty of Arts, *Åbo Akademi University*.
- 2007 – *Royal Institute of Technology*, Stockholm.
- 2007 – Department for Public health and caring sciences, *Uppsala university*.
- 2006 – Department for Social work, *Umeå university*.
- 2006 – Research department at the *Church of Sweden*, Uppsala.
- 2005 – Department of education, *University of Gävle*.
- 2002 – *Uppsala institute for diaconal studies*, Uppsala.
- 1998 – *European University Chaplains Conference*. Tartu, Estland.

Knowledge exchange

Lectures and workshops – selected

- 2010 Lecture for teachers in the Church of Sweden, Rättvik, Sweden.
- 2010 Lecture and workshop for art therapists, Sigtuna, Sweden.
- 2009 Lecture for teachers, Sigtuna, Sweden.
- 2009 Lecture for students at folk high-school, Leksand, Sweden.
- 2008 Lecture for hospital chaplains, Uppsala, Sweden.
- 2008 Lecture and workshop at Church service conference, Östersund, Sweden.
- 2007 Lecture for obstetrics and gynaecologists, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2007 Lecture and workshop for social workers, Grötö, Sweden.
- 2007 Lecture and workshop at Pedagogic conference of the Church of Sweden, Sigtuna, Sweden.
- 2006. Lecture at National psychiatry conference. Ronneby, Sweden.
- 2006. Lecture and workshop for ministers in the Church of Sweden. Vårdnäs, Sweden.
- 2006. Lecture for deacons in the Church of Sweden. Åkersberg, Sweden.
- 2005. Lecture at the pain clinic at S:t Göran's hospital. Stockholm, Sweden.

Invited guest teacher – selected

- 2005. Education of fine arts, Sigtuna folk high-school.
- 1999, 2001-2002, 2008-2009. Preparatory course for the Church of Sweden, Sigtuna folk high-school.

Media – selected

- 2008. Om äktenskap och bröllop, In *Amos* (Swedish Christian magazine).
- 2008. Riten i det existentiella tomrummet, In *Alba* (Swedish magazine for culture, science and society).
- 2007. Om ritens betydelse i det moderna sekulariserade samhället, *Sveriges Radio* (Swedish national radio), channel P1: "Människor och tro".
- 2006. Desperat jakt på ett normalt liv, In *Dagens Nyheter* (Swedish national newspaper).
- 2006. Om hur moderna riter tar över när de gamla inte duger, In *Sveriges Television* (Swedish national television): "Existens".
- 2005. Fra troens centrifuge. *Kristeligt Dagblad* (Danish national newspaper).
- 2005. Gör din egen rit och lämna det gamla bakom dig, In *PS! Populär psykologi och medicin* (Swedish health magazine).
- 2005. Moderna bröllopsriter – säg ja på nytt vis, In *Femina* (Swedish women's magazine).
- 2005. Riten – påminner om något som är större än oss själva, In *Fönstret: Kultur, folk, bildning* (Magazine for the Workers' Educational Association).
- 2005. Möt vardagen och dig själv i riten, In *Svenska Journalen Dagen* (Swedish Christian newspaper).
- 2004. Riten kan hela oss, In *Svenska Dagbladet* (Swedish national newspaper), Idagsidan.