

LUND UNIVERSITY

In Need of Conceptual Clarification

Lindgren, Lena

Published in:
Places and Non-places of Modernity: Movement, Memory and Imagination in Contemporary Europe

2015

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):
Lindgren, L. (2015). In Need of Conceptual Clarification. *Places and Non-places of Modernity: Movement, Memory and Imagination in Contemporary Europe*, *2015*, 6-6.

Total number of authors:
1

General rights
Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.
• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Download date: 17. Nov. 2026

CBEES Conference, Södertörns Högskola Stockholm 2-3 December 2015: Places and Non-Places of Modernity. Movement, Memory and Imagination in Contemporary Europe.

12. **In Need of Conceptual Clarification**

Author: **Lena Lindgren**, Lund University

Abstract: It has become common knowledge that what we are now experiencing is a supposedly Late Modernity. The history of the notion of modernity is brief, but the branding of it has been highly successful. What was initially, in the late seventies, a neologism aimed at subverting the new *postmodernism*, soon became an indispensible and rarely questioned term frequently employed in social theorising. (Both the adjective 'modern' and the verb 'modernise' were already there of course, but they were something quite different; the term 'modernism' applied to art and to literature should also be distinguished conceptually from 'modernity'.)

The present paper deals with three basic questions: (i) Does the notion or concept of modernity enhance a critical analysis of post-89 Europe with all its historical and regional diversity? Modernity can be seen to appear now in multiple versions. Nevertheless: Eastern and Western Europe, the Baltic Sea region and the Balkans are in regard to each and every aspect of the social and political life as divergent that it would seem a utopian project to put them all together in a European Modernity.

(ii) Does the concept of modernity have anything substantial to add to studies involving use of concepts like those of a market, of politics, of globalization and of ideology for example?

(iii) How is the conceptual dichotomy of places and of non-places related to modernity? Can one envisage here a return to ideas stemming from the postmodern framework of the seventies? If so, this could be regarded as an example of what has been discussed within sociology in terms of a generational conceptualisation or of a 'metamorphosis of generation' (Beck 2015).

E-mail: Lena.Lindgren@soclaw.lu.se