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Follow the Science?: Covid and Climate Change in Sweden and the United States

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

Covid and Climate Change are two of the major challenges facing the world today, but nations struggle to develop a common approach. Some observers believe this problem would be solved if people would “follow the science,” deferring to experts with regard to both crises. But this suggestions if of limited utility, since scientific expertise must be filtered through different cultures and political systems, which are never entirely neutral in their evaluation of scientific evidence, particularly when issues of this magnitude are concerned.

This paper considers the treatment of Covid and Climate Change in the United States, Sweden, and other countries, emphasizing the role of culture in interpreting scientific evidence in both societies. The model of culture developed by the Welsh scholar Raymond Williams, including high, mass, and social culture serves as a basis for the inquiry. Neighboring countries (Canada for the USA and Norway and Denmark for Sweden) serve as a basis for comparison. The implications of comparative law, in particular the convergence and the so-called Legal Transplant concept, are also considered.

The paper follows up on my books *Tax and Culture* (2019) and *Dreamworld or Dystopia: The Nordic Model and Its Influence in the 21st Century* (both Cambridge Press), applying the lessons of these works to two specific policy areas.

Note: This subject can fit in either the 4th (Images of Norden) or conceivably the 1st (regional comparison) research areas. It seems particularly close to the Hilson et al. Panel on Nordic Models in global perspective. I will let you choose where best to place it.

Thank you for considering my proposal

Michael A Livingston

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion