

English version

The effect in Sweden of the famine crises of the 1840s have been regarded as limited, although actual systematic local studies are lacking, a gap that we intend to fill by investigating the effects of crop failures in some parishes specialized in commercial grain cultivation. The crop failure in the mid-1840s proved to be total in the study area and the ensuing economic and religious crises exposed the local community to great stress. No less than 29% of the freehold peasants' households were economically knocked out or emigrated from the area. The 1845 crop failure in Torstuna progressed into a religious crises with national and international repercussions, involving thousands of people in Mälardalen, Dalarna, Hälsingland, and ultimately, America. Inspired by the work of Bruno Latour we tried to view the society in question as "flat" as possible and to put the actors side by side. This enabled us to understand how the religious and economic activities interacted. We have also, by starting the investigation in the decades before the crisis, been able to demonstrate that religious awakening facilitated for women and young people to act on equal terms. The failed crops of the 1840s were the fuel that made the radical ideas ingite into turmoil.