ABSTRACT

GENDER CONSTRUCTIONS OF INTERCULTURAL COUPLES IN THE PERIPHERY OF SWEDEN

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Intercultural families or couples are rapidly increasing in number in a globalised world. In the periphery of Jämtland, Sweden, there are living a visible and discussed group of intercultural couples consisting of women from Thailand and men from Sweden. The aim of this PhD is to focus on how these couples are constructing and reconstructing gendered identities in different gender regimes in their daily life in this very specific context, and how gender thereby intersect with other sociocultural dimensions (or identities) such as ethnicity, sexuality and class. How are the conditions for these couples formed, and how do they create meaning due to the complex intersection of these power structures? And what becomes the effect of this in their daily life?

This theoretical perspective, in the context described above, will be presented and discussed in this paper. The ambition is to focus on the importance of understanding how much more complex gender constructions are then what gender studies up until now too often have assumed. During the last years the interrelatedness between several social dimensions have become more casual. In social work though, this perspective is still very seldom seen, so this study could be highly important for research in social work.