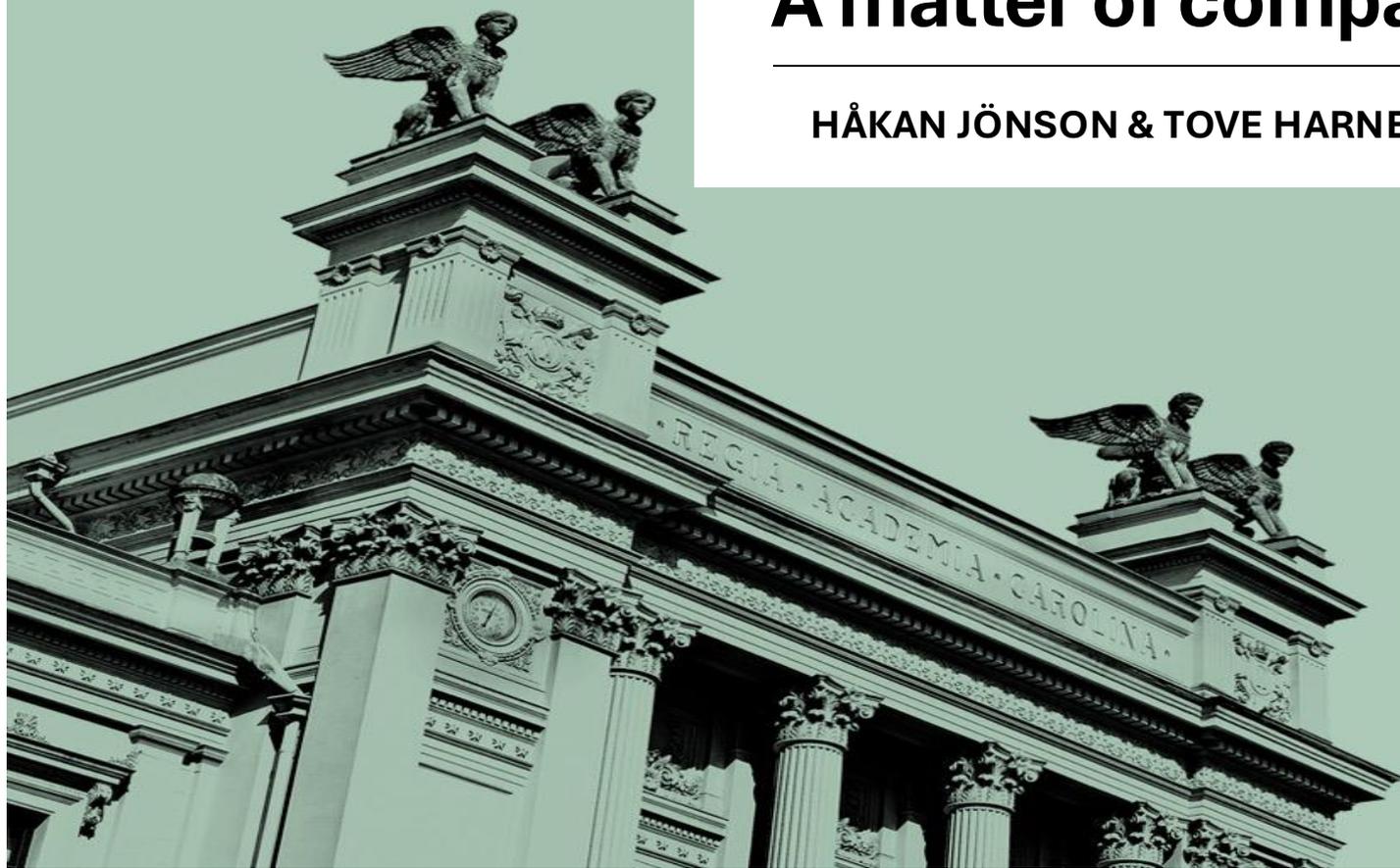


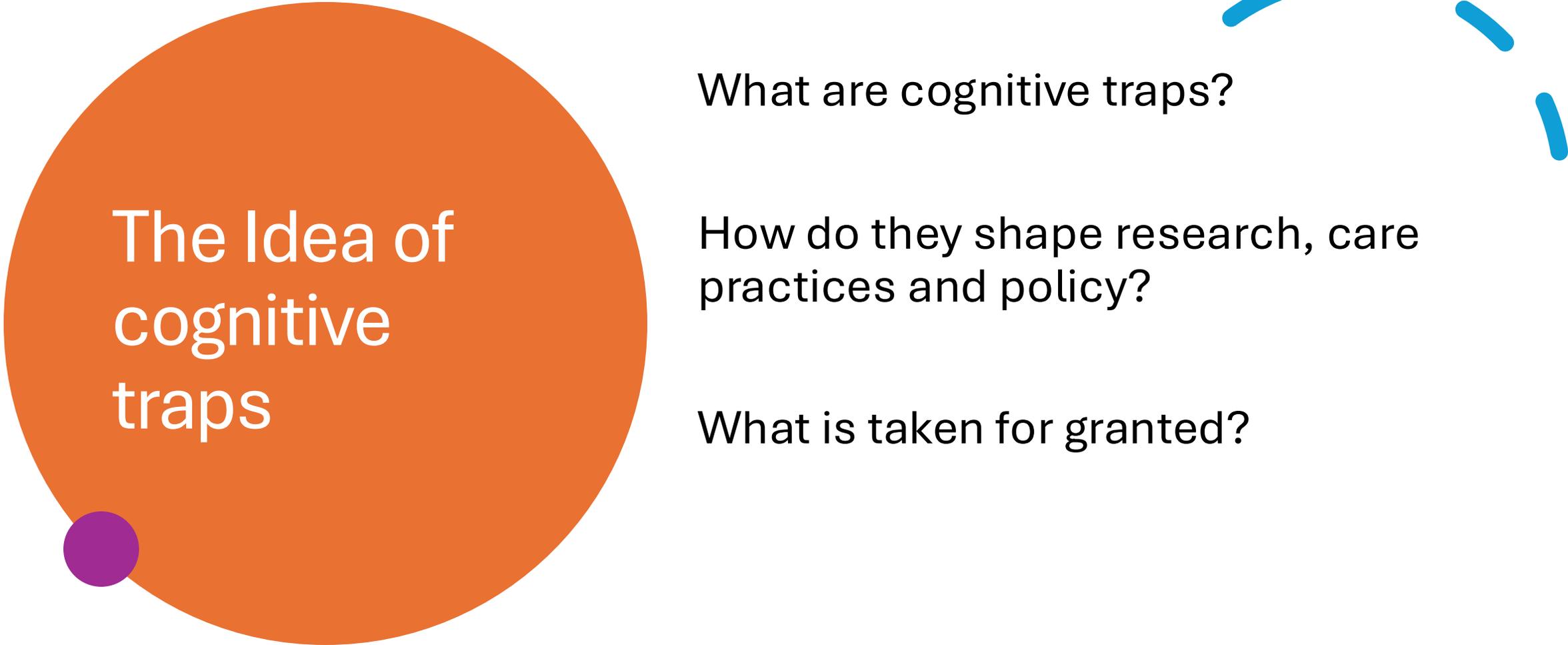


LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

The rights of older people in long-term care: A matter of comparisons

HÅKAN JÖN SON & TOVE HARNETT





The Idea of cognitive traps

What are cognitive traps?

How do they shape research, care practices and policy?

What is taken for granted?

Trap 1: The framing of the problem

Ageing and LTC: Research applications – the selling points

“The number of older people is increasing, particularly those over 80, who need the most care. Currently, around 300,000 older adults in Sweden receive formal eldercare, and this number is expected to rise substantially over the next decade, creating challenges in both costs and staff recruitment”

SILVER TSUNAMI



Another way of framing the problem

Disability: Research applications – the selling points

“Disabled people continue to face significant barriers that prevent them from living as full citizens in society. Despite the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which affirms that all persons with disabilities are entitled to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, these rights are often not realized in practice.”



Trap 1: Framing the problem

The apparent relevance of demographic challenges reinforces the portrayal of older people as a threat to society.

Alternative perspectives – particularly those centered on the human rights of older adults – are rarely used.

Trap 2: The framing of justice and equal living conditions

“Today there are vast differences depending on where in the country you live – and they include anything from home care fees to residential care and attitudes towards care users. Legislation may be necessary *in order to create equality*” (PRO-Pensionären).

“It should be the same for all, that everyone should have to wait” (Ruth, resident in a nursing home).

Disability policy

To be able to live "like others"



Disabled people should be provided with living conditions that are as similar as possible as those of other members of society

Trap 2: The framing of justice and equal living conditions

- Justice for older people who use long-term care is to have similar conditions as others who use eldercare.
- Other comparisons to be used in demands for equal rights are made invisible.



Summing up

Comparisons – a tool for rethinking eldercare.

To make visible cognitive traps - how we think and talk about older adults - may help us rethink and improve societal support for older people.



Thank you!

Håkan Jönson

Hakan.jonson@soch.lu.se



Tove Harnett

Tove.Harnett@soch.lu.se