FORTE Network Meeting, Örenäs slott, Glumslöv, Skåne, 17 – 18 September 2015

Methodological issues in registry-based research

Agenda

Thursday 17 September 2015

12:00 **Lunch**

13:00 **Introduction to the FORTE network. Expectations. Presentation of participants.**
(Organizers: Anders Ahlbom, Jonas Björk, Kirk Scott)

13:30 **Theme 1 – Life-table analysis and competing risks**
Anders Ahlbom, Institute for Environmental Medicine (IMM), Karolinska institutet
Roland Rau, University of Rostock
Kirk Scott, Centre for Economic Demography, Lund University

17:00 **Relaxation**

19:30 **Dinner**

Friday 18 September 2015

09:00 **Theme 2 - Subgroup analyses and heterogeneity of exposure effects**
Jonas Björk, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Lund University
Maria Feychting, Institute for Environmental Medicine (IMM), Karolinska institutet
Jonas Helgertz, Centre for Economic Demography, Lund University

12:00 **Summing up. Future network activities.**
(Organizers: Anders Ahlbom, Jonas Björk, Kirk Scott)

12:15 Lunch

FORTE Network Meeting – General information

Aim

The aim of the FORTE Network is to strengthening the position of Swedish register research, partly through increased knowledge and shared experiences regarding adequate scientific approaches and partly by forming new long-term partnerships between significant research groups in Epidemiology and Economic Demography.

Format

This is by no means a traditional conference where you just go and listen to lectures and presentations. Instead, the format will be informal introductions within two different themes, followed by lively discussions. Active preparation and participation is expected from everyone. The two themes are presented on next page. Please indicate any substantial contributions that you might have in advance to the session leaders (Theme 1 – Anders Ahlbom anders.ahlbom@ki.se , Theme 2 – Jonas Björk, jonas.bjork@med.lu.se)

Expected outcome

New insights and methodological ideas that merit further work and publication as short communications or original papers.

Participation

The funding will cover accommodation but not travelling costs.
You should notify Anna E Larsson, Lund University, your participation by e-mail (anna_e.larsson@med.lu.se) no later than 30 June 2015.
Inform Anna about any special dietary requests that you might have.

Travelling to Örenäs

Please see http://www.orenasslott.com/en/meta/map/ for information on how to get to the meeting.

Theme 1 – Life-table analysis and competing risks

Demography and epidemiology have many things in common both with respect to subject matter and methodology. The purpose of this section is to discuss some topics of mutual interest in a setting that can provide input from both disciplines. Life table analysis has always been central to demographers and is becoming of increasing interest to epidemiologists. Below are examples of issues related to life table analysis that will be discussed. One is that it has become increasingly common to report excess risks of disease in terms of effects on life expectancy rather than in terms of relative risk or similar measures. Another example is estimations of lifetime risk of disease, which are of interest when assessing burden of disease, and that have to address the issue of competing risks. Related to these examples is the question of how life expectancy would be affected if a particular disease were eradicated. There are obvious relations between life table analysis and survival analysis to explore. Life table analysis at the end of life when death rates are high and few people still alive is associated with an additional set of issues.

Theme 2 - Subgroup analyses and heterogeneity of exposure effects

In life course studies, long term effects on health or social conditions of exposures occurring earlier in life are investigated. Commonly tested hypotheses include the accumulation hypothesis, the critical period hypothesis and the social mobility hypothesis. Multiplicity issues inevitably arise, e.g. when different exposure windows or different markers of individual susceptibility are tested. Similar problems are often encountered in other types of longitudinal studies if the aim is to investigate how associations differ across subgroups of the investigated population. Based on real-life examples, this theme will discuss use and misuse of subgroup analysis and analysis of heterogeneity. Presentation and interpretation issues, as well as different analytical approaches, will be covered.