

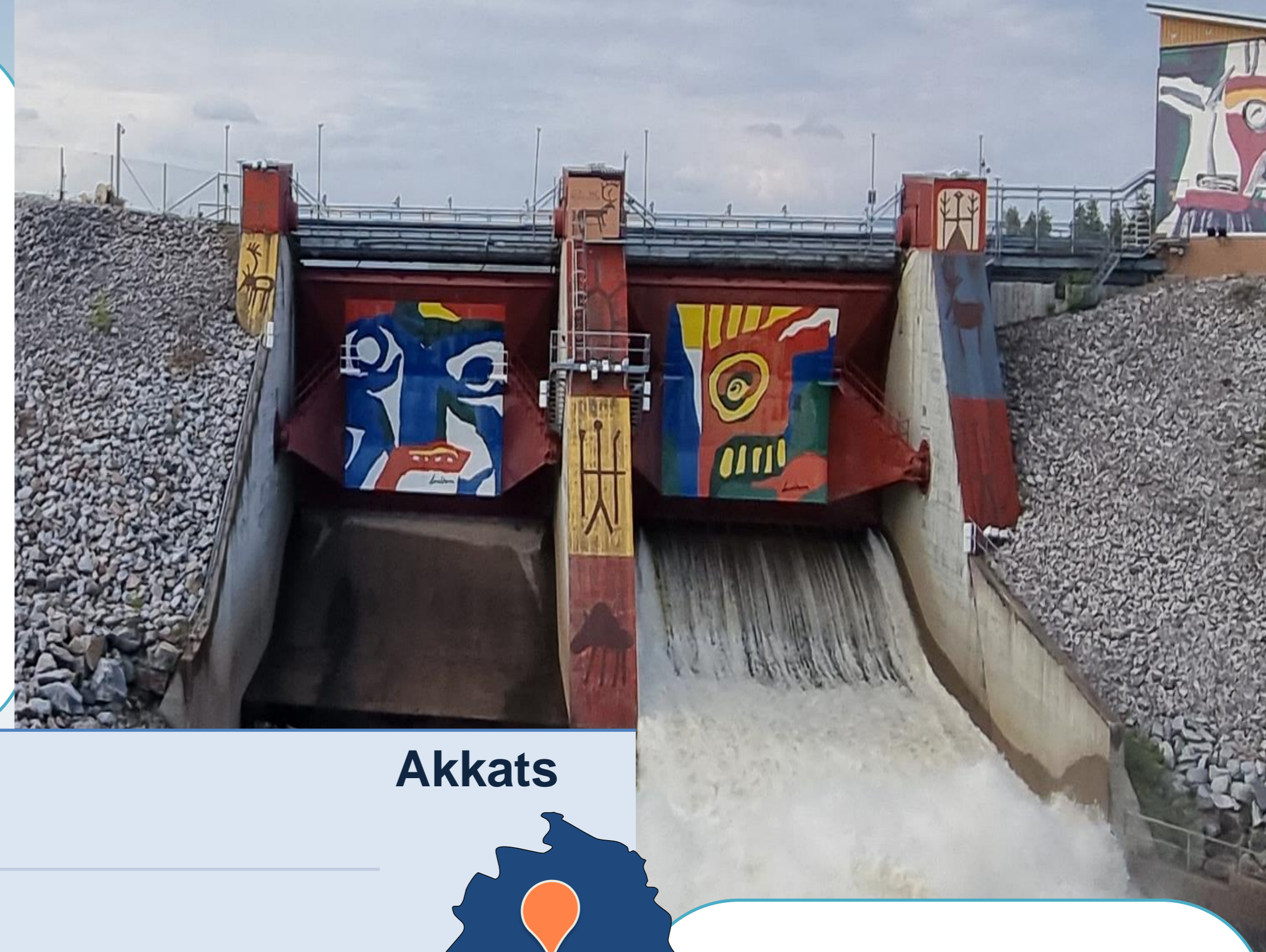
Stories of Hydropower in the Swedish Arctic and Swedish South

Cross-regional perspectives

Felicia Söderqvist

Case analysis

- Two Swedish cases of hydropower, one Southern and one Arctic.
- Representing different phases and different socio-geographic contexts



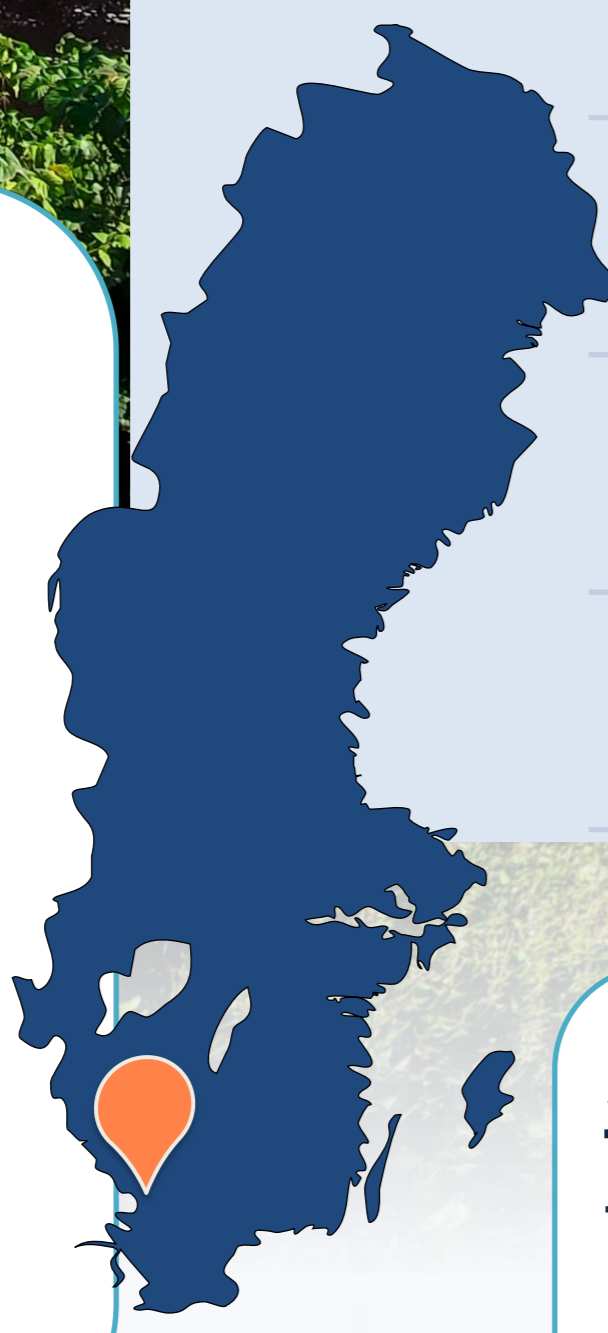
Laholm

Built: 1932

County: Halland

Companies: The State Power Board, Sydkraft, and Statkraft

River: Lagan



Akkats

Built: 1973

County: Norrbotten

Companies: The State Power Board

River: Lilla Luleälven



Aim

Describe and explain consequences of hydropower for people, landscape, and society over time.

Why is this important?

- To clarify case characteristics
- Inform about the long term consequences
- Inform about the challenges with renewable energy

Swedish hydropower – a short history

Throughout the 20th century, hydropower spread further northwards. Arctic Sweden was integrated following WWII – when technological, economic, and societal interests aligned.

Hallberg
1890

Knäred
1910

Karseforsen
1930

Letsi
1967

Parki
1970

Randi
1976

Majenfors
1909

Skogaby
1922

Laholm
1932

Seitevare
1967

Akkats
1973

Large Sociotechnical Systems

Hydropower is part of a system made up of social and technical elements.

Actor Network and Social Construction of Technology

Involved stakeholders form networks and perceive technology differently.

Narratives of Place and Space

Perceptions of place and technology take part in shaping them based on different ideas of the past, the present, and the future.

Preliminary results:

Laholm: Hydropower has become the 'new normal' and local industrial heritage. Actors seeking to restore the river face actors that are dependant on the current conditions (such as the salmon hatchery) and narratives of heritage and renewable energy.

Akkats: People still remember the conditions from before. Hydropower has become a key component for 'green' industrialisation. People often have a multifaceted relationship to hydropower. Hydropower was once a major provider of jobs and income, but it has also represented the destruction of nature and Sámi cultural heritage. While there are efforts to bring forth such aspects, hydropower has yet to become heritage.

Contact:
felicia.soderqvist@ltu.se

