

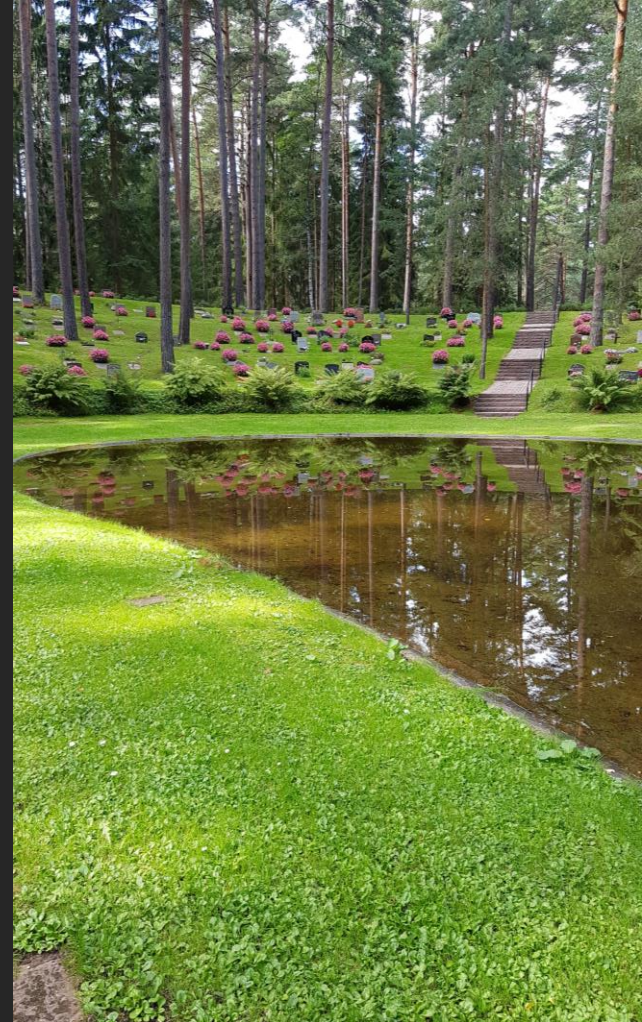
# The future significance of graveyards for the living - six societal spheres to be aware of



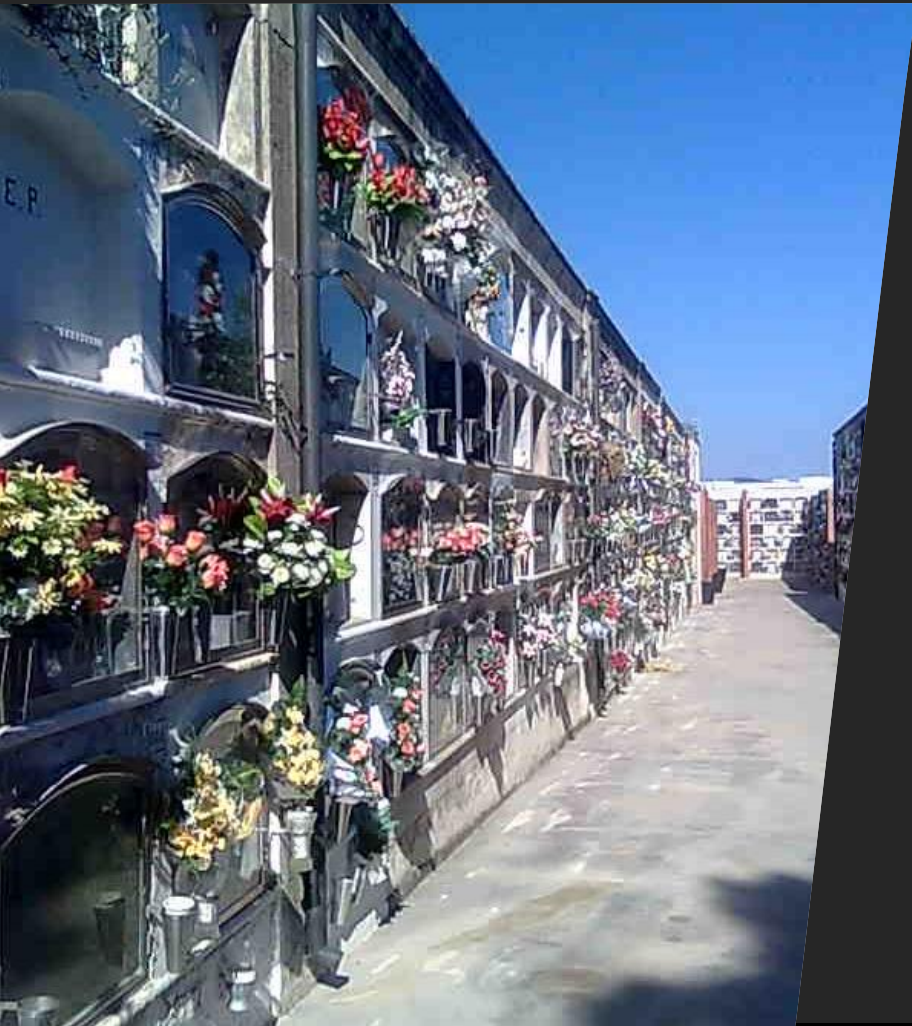
Ph.D. Magdalena Nordin

# Societal spheres – important changes

1. Urbanisation
2. Migration
3. Social cohesion
4. The post-modern individual
5. Climate changes
6. Neo liberal market economy

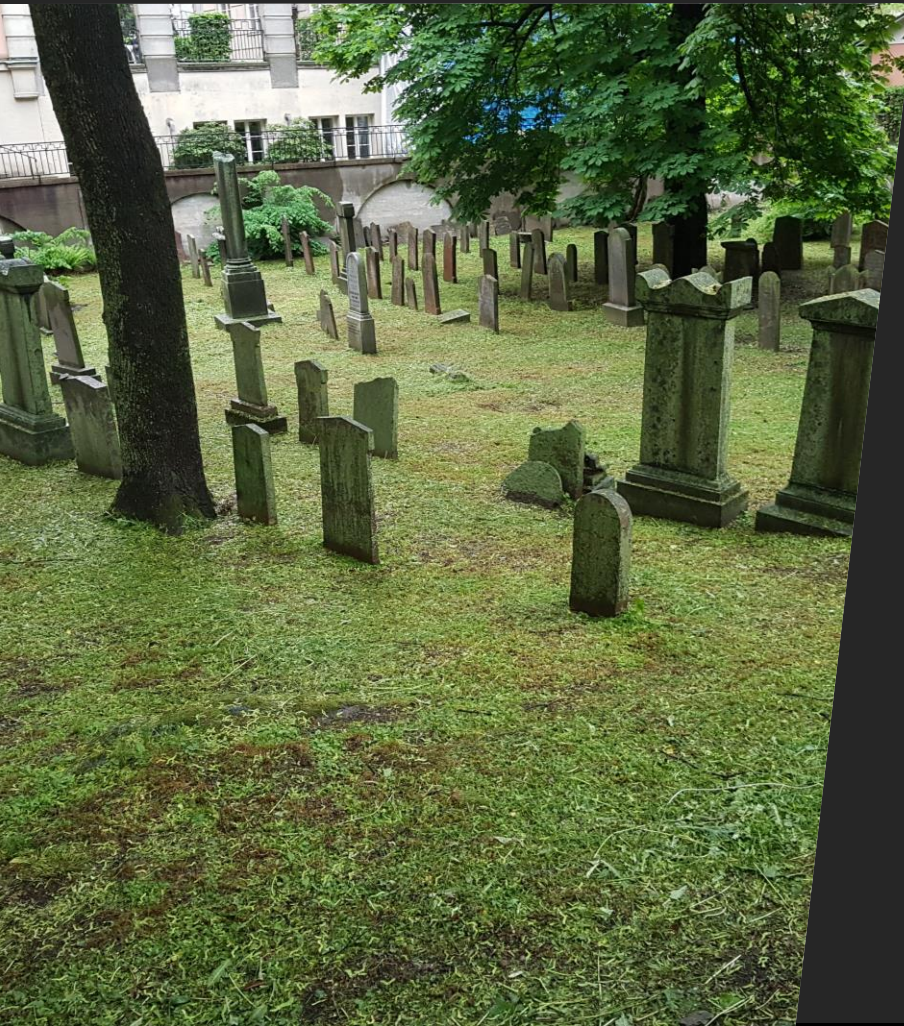






# 1. Urbanisation

- A public space to be shared
- Condensed cities
- Park or cemetery?



# 1. Urbanisation

- A public space to be shared
- Condensed cities
- Park or cemetery?



# Park or cemetery?

Three spaces at the same time: (Moberg & Kardemark 2021)

## 1. Cemetery space

- visiting graves, planting flower, placing candles and flowers at urn- and memorial gardens
- ritualized
- slow and contemplative walk
- socialization with family, avoiding contact with strangers





# Park or cemetery?

Three spaces at the same time: (Moberg & Kardemark 2021)

## 2. Park space

- outdoor sport activities, picnics, consumption of alcohol, dog walks, sunbathing
- socialization with peers
- slightly louder and more cheerful, pace of activities higher
- not among the graves, larger roads, green areas in the peripheral areas



# Park or cemetery?

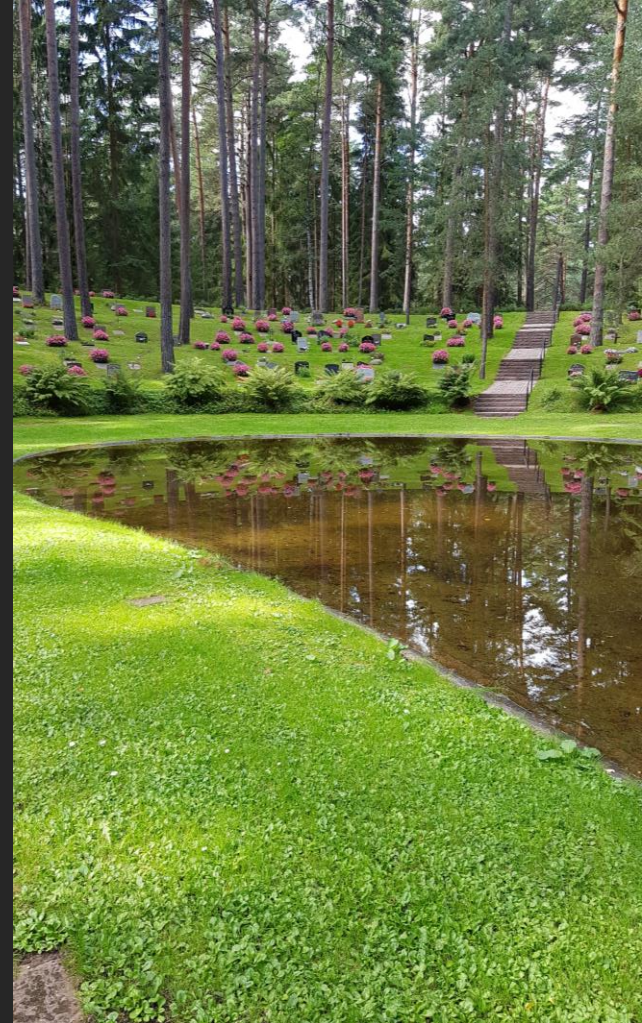
Three spaces at the same time: (Moberg & Kardemark 2021)

## 3. Tourist space

- visits to famous people tombs
- individually or collectively through guided tours

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## 2. Migration

- Movements
  - regional, national, international
- Anchorages (ankarplatser) (Sorgenfrei, 2021)



## 2. Migration

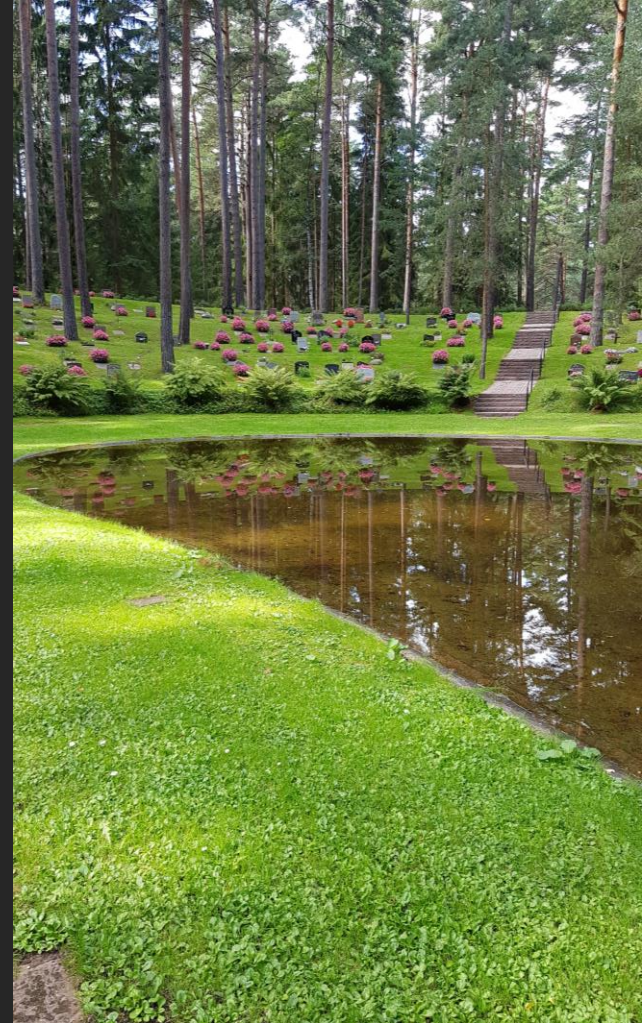
- Movements
  - regional, national, international
- Anchorages (ankarplatser) (Sorgenfrei, 2021)
- Syncretism





# Societal spheres – important changes

1. Urbanisation
2. Migration
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5. Environmental
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### 3. Social cohesion

- A shared practice
  - All saints' day





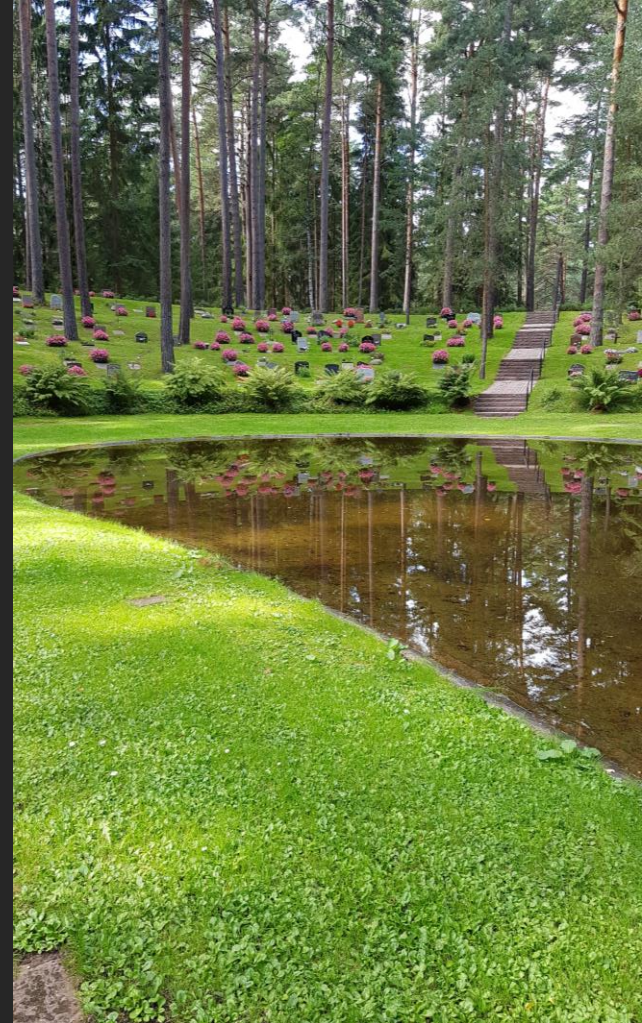
### 3. Social cohesion

- A shared practice
  - All saints' day
- Separated areas
  - religions
  - religious/not religious
  - age
  - burial practices



# Societal spheres – important changes

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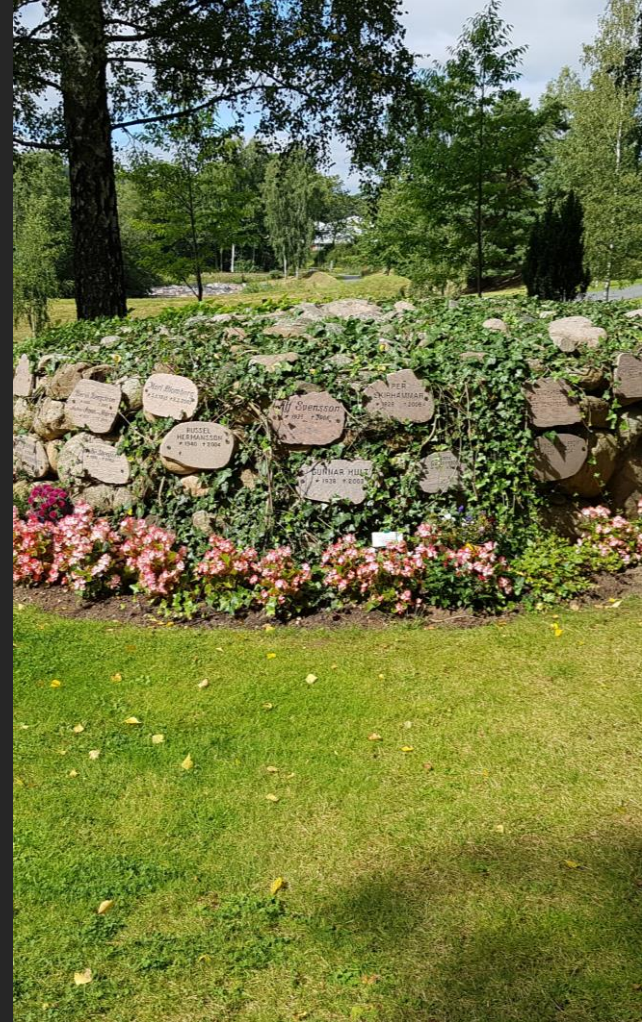


## 4. The post-modern individual

### Individualisation

- afterlife beliefs

- Anonymous memorial areas →
  - named memorial areas  
(askgravlundar, navnet minnelund)



## 4. The post-modern individual

### Individualisation

- Anonymous memorial areas →  
named memorial areas
- Funerals without ceremony





## 4. The post-modern individual

### Individualisation

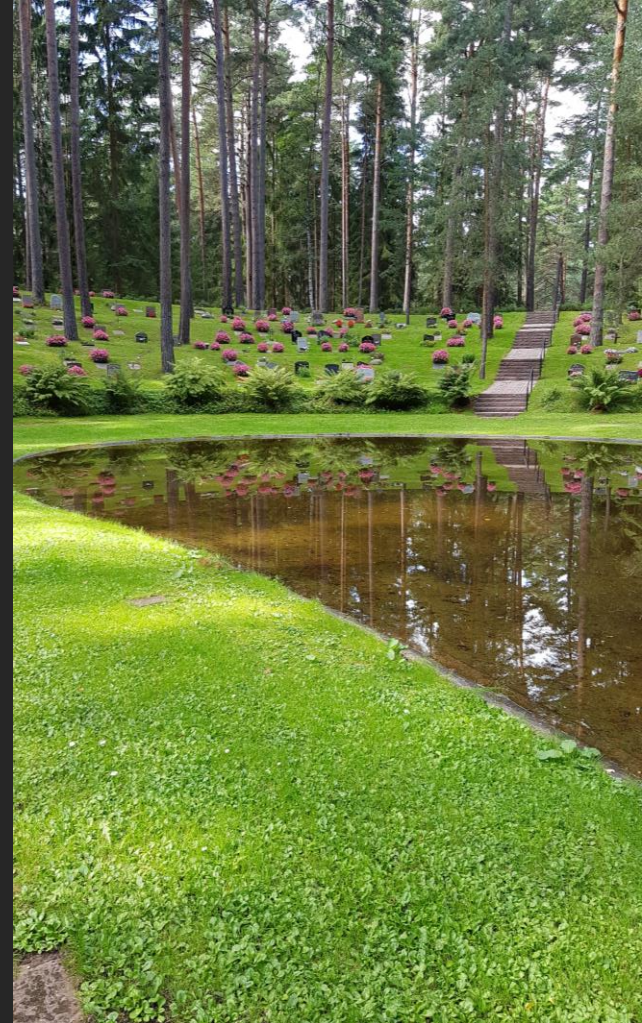
- Anonymous memorial areas →  
named memorial areas
- Funerals without ceremony

...will we even care about the deceased ones when we mostly care about ourselves (in this life)?



# Societal spheres – important changes

1. Urbanisation
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5. **Climate changes**
6. Neo liberal market economy



## 5. Climate changes

- Old cemeteries
- New cemeteries
- New practices
  - cremation or not
  - flowers, trees
- Nature or culture?

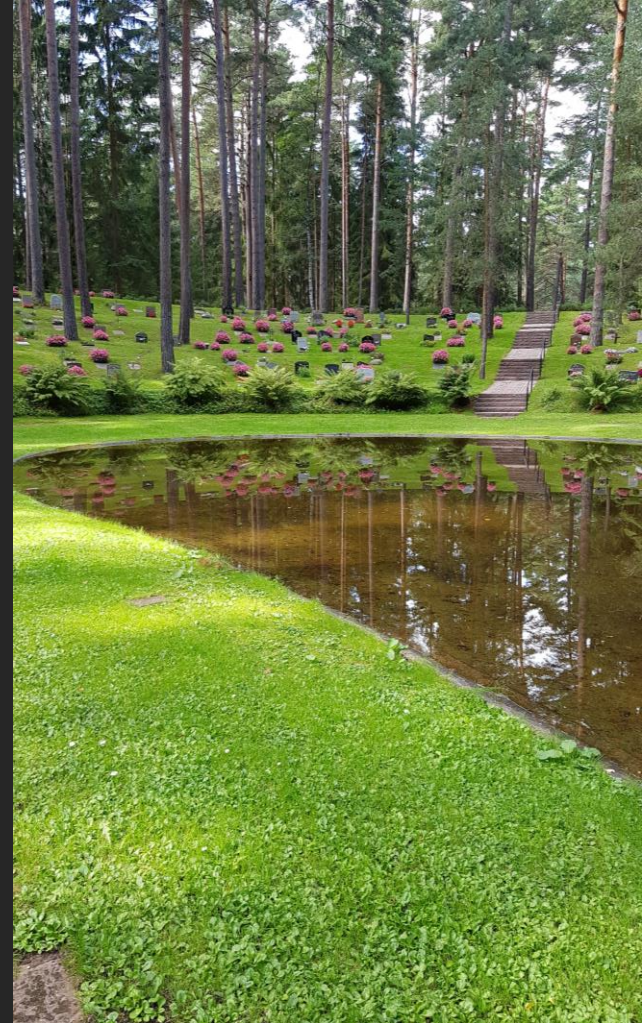




# Societal spheres – important changes

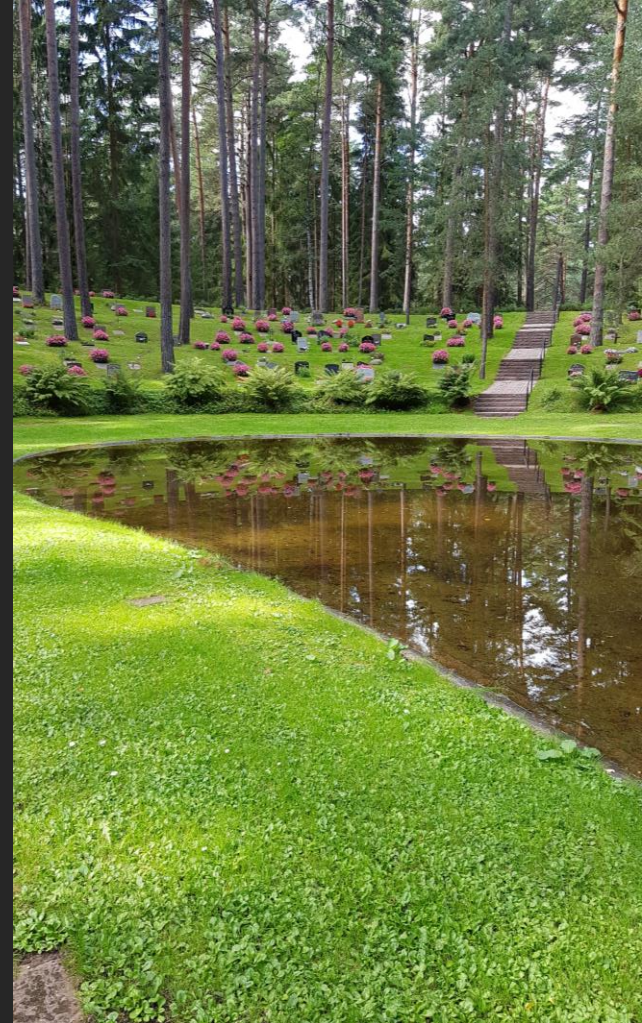
1. Urbanisation
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## 6. Neo liberal market economy



## 6. Neo liberal market economy

- Downgrading of social welfare systems
- Upgrading of market economy
- Private initiatives



# 6. Neo liberal market economy

## Forest burial sites (DK)

- from 2014
- contract between the owner of the forest and the local municipality
- are approved by the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs
- 2 established, 15 approved
- Skovbegravelse ApS,  
Dansk Skovbegravelse ApS

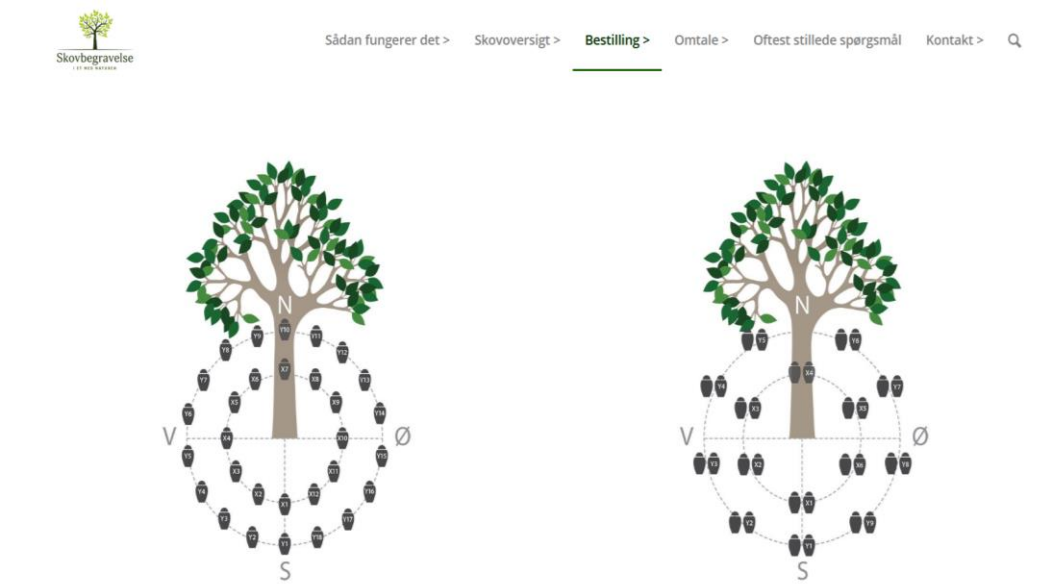




# 6. Neo liberal market economy

## Forest burial sites (DK)

- the ground is not consecrated (non-confessional)
- 2/3 are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church



The screenshot shows the website for Skovbegravelse (Forest Burial). The navigation menu includes: Sådan fungerer det >, Skovoversigt >, **Bestilling >**, Omtale >, Ofte stillede spørgsmål, and Kontakt >. Below the navigation are two identical diagrams of a tree with a circular arrangement of burial plots. The tree has a trunk labeled 'N' and a canopy of green leaves. The circular plots are arranged in a ring around the trunk, with a 'V' on the left, an 'Ø' on the right, and an 'S' at the bottom. Each plot contains a small icon of a tree.

### Booking via bestillingsblanket

Download blanketten til din computer. Udfyld derefter blanketten, gem og send den som vedhæftet fil til [info@skovbegravelse.nu](mailto:info@skovbegravelse.nu), for at reservere eller erhverve et urnegravsted.

# Six spheres to be aware of

1. Urbanisation
2. Migration
3. Social cohesion
4. The post-modern individual
5. Climate changes
6. Neo liberal market economy

THANK YOU!



## References:

- Jessica Moberg & Wilhelm Kardemark 2021. It is After All a Churchyard: Orthodox and Heterodox Spatial Embodiments at Three Cemeteries in Gothenburg, Sweden, i *Negotiating Institutional Heritage and Wellbeing*, Elisabeth Punzi, Christoph Singer & Cornelia Wächter (Red.), Brill Academic Publishers Leiden, sid. 21-46.
- Sorgenfrei, Simon 2021. *Muslimska begravnings seder och begravningsceremonier*, Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund (SST), [https://www.myndighetensst.se/download/18.441782e7176722e04e13c177/1612434520282/Muslimska%20begravningar\\_hela\\_la%CC%8Ag.pdf](https://www.myndighetensst.se/download/18.441782e7176722e04e13c177/1612434520282/Muslimska%20begravningar_hela_la%CC%8Ag.pdf)

## Other:

Nätverk för begravningsforskning/Network for funeral research (Swe):  
<https://www.crs.uu.se/forskning/natverk-och-impact-initiativ/>