Ylva Svensson has for the last five years been a doctoral student in developmental psychology at the Center for Developmental Research at Örebro University. During that time, her main research interest has been how the adaptation of immigrant youths depends on the settings in which they spend their time.

Immigration is a worldwide phenomenon today, and living in the multicultural societies that result will have consequences. This prompts a need for understanding the contexts in which immigrants live and what will foster good adaptation. An extensive body of research has addressed these questions, but mainly by focusing on the immigrant issue, and by ignoring the contexts in which immigrant youths live. However, immigrant youths are developing like all youth, and adaptation does not take place in a vacuum. In this dissertation the adaptation of immigrant youths was explored in the light of developmental models and theories that put emphasis on contextual conditions. This entailed that the immigrant youths were seen as embedded in multiple settings that are interrelated and have different contextual features.

The findings show that immigrant youths in general seem to be as well adapted as their nonimmigrant counterparts. When there were adaptational differences between subgroups of immigrants or between immigrants and nonimmigrants, these differences seldom varied with the contextual features of the settings. Rather, the contextual features of neighborhoods worked as an interaction with immigrant status, or as an indirect effect on adaptation. Further, it seems that the linkage between settings is important for immigrant adaptation. Spending time in settings with different cultural demands makes interactions between the settings difficult for immigrant youth, and this cultural difference between settings was related to adaptation. Current findings also suggest that adaptation is not always setting-specific, but can spread across settings. Taken together, based on the results of this dissertation it seems that the adaptation of immigrant youths is an issue of interactions between settings and factors at different levels. This means that we need to simultaneously study all the settings in which immigrant youths are embedded and further explore how the settings interact to foster positive adaptation.