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*Poetry from the hood - a challenge to the Swedish society. Transformative listening at inter-cultural and inter-religious borders.*

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Against the background of a poetry festival by youth speaking from Swedish intercultural and interreligious experiences this paper seeks to argue for listening as a competence and even more as an ethical task and a Christian calling across cultural, religious, and denominational borders. The importance of listening in theory and praxis is critical to the ways in which religious communities can contribute to good and renewed relationships between diverse religious groups. Attentive listening plays a constructive role for social sustainability in local contexts. I seek to address and deepen the understanding of transformative listening as hopeful praxis in intercultural, ecumenical and interreligious contexts, in conversation with insights from the field of Receptive Ecumenism.

Challenged by Receptive Ecumenism's ethical point that a **“counter-instinctual move is made away from traditions wishing that others could be more like themselves to instead each asking what they can and must learn, with dynamic integrity, from their respective others,”** it is critical to pay attention to and unpack challenges of what “listening to the other” entails/consists of for the listener. One way of doing this is to reflect on learnings through storytelling and poetry from youth like we have experienced in Örebro.

Drawing from experiences of ecumenical and interreligious relations and projects in Örebro I will enter into an interdisciplinary analysis of listening from pedagogical, theological and social ethical perspectives. To my aid I will engage international feminist pedagogical and ethical thinkers like: Bell Hooks, Seyla Benhabib, Susan Bickford, Kathrine Schultz (Listening – a framework for teaching across differences, 2003) Traci West (Disruptive Christian ethics – When racism and women's lives matters. 2006), including the Swedish pedagogical scholar and listening theorist Kent Adelman through his work *Konsten att lyssna* (my translation: The art of Listening – didactic listening in Education, 2009)