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The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo and the Swedish Guardianship Program

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Oral Presentation O9.1

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO AND THE SWEDISH GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM

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Governments implement a variety of economic and social program in an attempt to ensure a reasonably high standard of living for the majority of its citizens, as well as to help those for whom independent living is not possible without some form of assistance. In Sweden, one such program utilizes a tiered guardianship system in order to support those citizens who are considered to be vulnerable adults due to an inability to care for themselves. These vulnerable adults are appointed a guardian who helps ensure that the recipient is able to accomplish the tasks that are required to be a functioning member of society. The level and duration of the supervision over an individual in the guardianship program is determined on a case-by-case basis by the Swedish courts. While the system is beneficial in theory, research has shown that there is much room for improvement. The Swedish guardianship program was made famous with the publication of Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. My research draws on examples from this novel, specifically Lisbeth Salander's experience within the guardianship program, and connects these to current research to critique and point out flaws present in the Swedish guardianship system.

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