

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910794906003321
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Titolo	The state as master : Gender, state formation and commercialisation in urban Sweden, 1650–1780 // Maria Agren
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Manchester : , : Manchester University Press, , 2017 Baltimore, Md. : , : Project MUSE, , 2020 ©2017
ISBN	1-5261-2140-9 1-5261-2139-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (186 pages) : illustrations, table
Collana	Gender in history
Disciplina	352.4/480948509032
Soggetti	Women Sex role in the work environment Customs administration - Officials and employees Women - Sweden - History - 18th century Women - Sweden - History - 17th century Sex role in the work environment - Sweden Customs administration - Sweden - Officials and employees - History - 18th century Customs administration - Sweden - Officials and employees - History - 17th century History Sweden
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 154-163) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	We tend to think of state service as the typical male form of work. However, this notion does not do justice to the early history of states and their servants, and it obscures the role of women and gender entirely. Teasing out these entanglements, The state as master shows how early modern state formation was subsidized by ordinary people's work and how, at the same time, the changing relationship between state authorities and families shaped the understanding of work and

gender. This book is both a fascinating story of the hardships of customs official families in small Swedish towns and an innovative analysis of state formation and its short- and long-term effects.
