

Contents and Abstracts in English

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Editor-in-chief Olli Pyyhtinen | subeditor Outi Koskinen

www.sosiologia.fi | sosiologialehti@gmail.com

Sosiologia, Outi Koskinen LINNA 5031, YKY, 33014 University of Tampere, Finland

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Swinging Between Two Worlds

Working-Class Women, University Studies and the Fluid Relation with the Home Environment

Mari Käyhkö, D.Soc.Sc, University Lecturer, University of Eastern Finland

Abstract

While researching higher education, social class or family background and student selection or studying, attention is often paid to the university instead of the family. In this article, I use a

reverse perspective. I analyze women who come from working-class backgrounds and are the first women in their family to attend higher education, and investigate how their university studies are related to their home environment, to the world where they come from. I consider social class as a cultural and social phenomenon, which is lived in the everyday context and becomes actualized in everyday encounters. The data for the study were mainly generated via collective memory work. In the home environment university studies may be acceptable in principle, but the everyday context reveals conflicts: a divide between two different worlds, discomfort, alienation and emotional divergence. University studies might also be seen

as traitorousness and disavowal of peers. While equality of opportunity to study is considered to emancipate individuals and revoke social division and inequality, education also separates and creates social divergence. Societally valued and desired issues, such as higher education, might hold contradictory meanings and consequences in different contexts.

KEYWORDS: education, family/home environment, gender, higher education, memory work, social class.

Waste Governance and Environmentalism

Jarno Valkonen, D.Soc.Sc, Professor,
University of Lapland

Veera Kinnunen, M.Soc.Sc, Junior
Researcher, University of Lapland

Heikki Huilaja, M.Soc.Sc, University
Instructor, University of Lapland

Johanna Saariniemi, M.Soc.Sc,
University Instructor, University of
Lapland

Reetta Näsi, B.Soc.Sc, Master's
Student, University of Lapland

Riitta Uusisalmi, B.Soc.Sc, Master's
Student, University of Lapland

Janne Honkasilta, M.Soc.Sc, Doctoral
Student, University of Lapland

Abstract

In this article we follow waste closure as it travels from national policy to mundane waste management practices.

During the last 20 years Finnish waste legislation has been constantly modified in order to meet European Union's developing waste policy. The completely renewed waste legislation came into

operation at the beginning of 2016. The new waste policy is based on the idea of "circular economy" in which waste is understood as by-products waiting to be economically utilized. This has led to a paradoxical situation in which waste has turned from something that there is too much into something that there is not enough. In short, waste has turned into a resource.

In this article our interest lies especially in what happens to the original environmental concern which has been wrapped inside the economic problem closure of waste. Our data consists of documents of national legislative drafting process related to national waste legislation, and newspaper articles and editorials concerning regional waste management in Finnish Lapland. We analyze the policy-making process and implementation of waste policy on three scales: in national legislative drafting process, in regional waste management in Lapland, and consumers' positioning in relation to waste and the objectives of waste governance.

Based on the analysis, we suggest that the idea of circular economy has offered a sufficiently functioning closure which has succeeded in bringing together even controversial understandings and objectives concerning waste governance. However, there are still certain tensions and controversies that prevent various actors to fully accept it. Some of the tensions arise because economical solutions tend to smother the original environmental goals.

KEYWORDS: closure, environmentalism, politics of ontology, waste, waste governance.

Visual Categories of Leadership

Jari Martikainen, Ph.D, Visual Culture Teacher, Ingman College of Arts and Crafts
Anneli Hujala, Ph.D, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Eastern Finland

Abstract

The goal of our experimental interdisciplinary research was to examine how to combine visual and discursive research methods and to highlight the role of visuality in defining leadership. We produced data by showing portrait paintings to a group of participants and by discussing the paintings with them. By applying the method of membership categorization analysis we studied what kind of categories of leadership the group constructed. From the data we recognized stereotypical categories of leadership, as well as categories that broke conventional conceptions of leadership. The data also revealed that participants made far-reaching interpretations about a manager's personality, as well as ways of managing and communicating with the staff. Visual elements clearly play an important role when categorizing our environment. Visual categorization is often unconscious and its realization can lead to questioning one's own conceptions. For this reason, picture-based methods could be very suitable for research that aims at bringing up critical points of view and promoting alternative ways of thinking.

KEYWORDS: leadership, membership categorization analysis, visual categorization.

City Borders. Social Centre Satama, Youth Politics and the Romani

Maija Jokela, M.Soc.Sc., Doctoral Student, University of Tampere

Abstract

This article is a case study on Social Centre Satama and the dispute over a romani camp on its premises. It continues the research tradition of Finnish social movements, especially new radicalism, as well as squatting in Europe. It also sheds light on the situation of East-European romani in Helsinki. The article presents Satama's history from its foundation to its eviction, searching for reasons behind the course of events. Of key importance in the case is the legitimization of the squatting movement(s) in Helsinki, done not only by the squatters but also by the City of Helsinki youth division through youth politics. I claim that this was in contradiction to the squatters' principle of autonomy which eventually led to a breach between the squatters and the youth division. However, order and safety politics became dominant in the case, which enabled the bureaucratic handling of the issue.

KEYWORDS: case study, roma, social movement research, squatting, youth politics