

NSA 2024

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Control, resistance and the battle of time in the Swedish home care service: The presence of digital apps in the daily work of assistant nurses

Author(s): Marita Flisbäck, Danka Miscevic

14 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

The quality and cost of Swedish (tax-funded) home care service is a recurring theme in Swedish media and political debates. The work situation of the assistant nurses in municipal home care, is often described as stressful and time pressured. Care recipients are entitled to care input which is specified exactly and checked minute by minute. The same logic applies to the time, given for the changeover between the visits in the homes of the care recipients. A key tool for managing the time and the actual content of caring work is the several apps that the assistant nurses have access to on their service cellphone. However, what does it mean to "live" with these digital apps in the everyday of work? To what extent do the assistant nurses experience themselves guided, helped, or hindered by the apps? How do they navigate through and beyond the digital landscape presented by these apps? What attempts are made to conquer or challenge the digital control in favor of the assistant nurses own professional knowledge? This paper is based on an ongoing qualitative case study of assistant nurses' and care recipients' experiences of home care in a medium-sized municipality in Sweden (funded by the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life). The study is inspired by Michael Burawoy's sociological methodology of connecting – and “extend” – close empirical descriptions of a lived everyday work life (at the societal micro level) with a more macro-oriented analysis. Through a co-productive research process, we investigate possibilities for a more sustainable organization of the home care service, together with those whose everyday life is most affected by the development. The empirical data consists of qualitative interviews, diary entries from assistant nurses of their everyday work, and observation sessions at meetings aimed at developing the quality and efficiency of the home care services.

In the paper, the focus is on the assistant nurses' stories of work practices and digital governance. However, as we will see, the assistant nurses are not merely analyzed as passive recipients, controlled, and monitored by the apps. The narratives of everyday work contain several examples of "clever" resistance and attempts to find "free zones" that the digital eye cannot register, or at least fully control. Moreover, the resistance may involve developing ways of working so that in practice the apps are rendered secondary, while one's own professional judgments of good care (adapted to the nurses' practical assessments of the care recipients' needs) play first fiddle.

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Tech-companies' visions of policing at the dawn of the digital age

Author(s): Heidi Mork Lomell, Birgitte Ellefsen

14 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

Digital technology is today at the core of all knowledge production in policing. In this paper, we will explore how digitalization was envisioned and introduced by entrepreneurs inside and outside the police organization in Norway in the 1950s and -60s, with a special focus on tech-companies' visions of policing.

This presentation is based on an ongoing archive study regarding the introduction of "Electronic Data Processing" (EDP) in the Norwegian police. In the archives, the emerging computer industry is present, with letters and brochures describing their equipment, programs, and competence, but also how they imagine police work.

Analyzing these documents, we have looked for answers to the following research questions: Who were the key actors in the computerization of the Norwegian police? What was the nature and significance of the relationship between the public and the private sector? Which problems did the computer industry envision could be solved by their products? What was the expected and envisioned outcomes? Further, did the computer industry and police have any conflicting visions or competing logics surrounding the introduction of digital technology in the police organization?

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Working from home and total commuting time before and during the pandemic: Longitudinal evidence from the Australian HILDA Survey

Author(s): Heiko Rürger , Inga Laß, Nico Stawarz, Alexandra Mergener

14 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP53

Session: Remote working and regional mobility

Commuting to work is a major source of congestion, pollution and energy consumption. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the question to what extent working from home (WFH) could contribute to reduce commuting has received heightened attention. However, existing research has a number of limitations. First, it relies mainly on cross-sectional data, which means that conclusions about causality are uncertain due to bias from unobserved heterogeneity. Secondly, commuting is often measured in terms of one-way commuting time/distance, which does not allow predicting the effect on total commuting (e.g. per week). Thirdly, few studies examine whether the effect varies by the extent of WFH and gender. Fourth, there are few robust studies covering the period during the COVID-19 pandemic, although both the users of WFH and the way in which WFH is used are likely to have changed since the start of the pandemic.

We apply fixed effects regression to data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, comparing the effects of WFH on commuting between the period 2020-2021 and 2015-2019. We consider WFH as the share of working time spent WFH per week and commuting as total weekly commuting time. We run our analyses separately by gender and control for a rich set of worker and job characteristics. Overall, we find that WFH is associated with a significant reduction in weekly commuting time, and that the reduction is greater for women than for men. However, these reductions are only sizable if workers work high shares of their time from home. For the pandemic period, the results first show that commuting times decreased for those not WFH, presumably because there was less traffic congestion overall. In addition, the savings in commuting time for hybrid forms of work (share of WFH of 40-59%) were greater during the pandemic than before, especially for men. One explanation for this could be that during the pandemic less overtime was worked at home in the evenings or on weekends and instead full office days were replaced with WFH. For those with very high WFH intensities (60% or more), commuting times show only small changes between prepandemic and pandemic times, suggesting little change in the WFH and commuting behaviours for this group, although this group has grown substantially in numbers and changed in composition.

For the post-pandemic period, it can be assumed that time pressures and the related practice of using WFH to work overtime will increase again. However, it is also likely that people will work full days from home more often than before the pandemic. Overall, therefore, it can be expected that future commuting savings will be somewhere between those of the pre-pandemic period and those of the pandemic period.

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Accepting anthropogenic climate change in Nordic countries, the USA and Australia

Author(s): Bruce Tranter, Jed Donoghue

14 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP54

Session: Environmental sociology

International Social Survey Program data from the 2020 Environment Module are analysed to compare acceptance of anthropogenic climate change (ACC) in Australia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the USA. The ISSP data indicate that approximately 50 per cent of Australians Danes and Americans accept ACC is occurring, compared to 60 per cent or more among citizens of other Nordic countries.

Logistic regression analyses show that after controlling for social background variables, gender differences were apparent only for Finland, Norway and the USA, where women were more likely than men to accept ACC is occurring. Recognition that climate change has mainly human causes tends to decline with age in Australia and in most Nordic countries. The exceptions were Finland and the United States where no age-related differences were found. Tertiary education is a positive correlate of agreeing with the scientific consensus on ACC in all countries, while secular respondents are more likely than those affiliated with religious affiliations to agree ACC is occurring, although not in Denmark, Finland, or Sweden. Voting for political parties on the left of the political spectrum is also a positive correlate of accepting ACC for all countries except the United States, where leftwing parties are hard to find. The association between left party voting and acceptance of ACC is somewhat stronger in Australia than it is in most Nordic countries. However, our analyses show that after controlling for social background, citizens of Nordic countries (except Denmark) and American citizens are more likely than Australians to accept that climate change has anthropogenic causes. Implications of these findings will be discussed.

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Does self-sorting impact group-based differences in labor market exclusion? A simulation experiment

Author(s): Rojan Karakaya, Moa Bursell

14 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP41

Session: Simulation approaches to social research

Ethnic and gender inequality are well researched social problems. Both discrimination and group-based productivity differences have been identified as explanations for the maintenance of these inequalities, impacting both access to, and the hierarchical sorting of groups in, the labor market (Blau & Kahn 2017; Pager & Small 2020). It is also well known that group-based self-sorting processes, such as gender-typical occupational choices (Charles & Grusky 2005), contribute to labor market inequality.

The study focuses on the rather overlooked effect of self-sorting on employment chances within occupations. Within-occupation self-sorting affects employment chances to the extent that competition varies across vacancies. Competition affects the likelihood of getting a job by raising the bar for what it takes to be highly ranked in an application process. It also affects the labor queue (Reskin & Roos 1998) which increases the scope for employers to discriminate. We study if self-sorting contributes to gender and ethnic exclusion in the likelihood of reaching different stages of the recruitment process. The study is based on recruitment data from a large Swedish company that uses a partially automated, test-based recruitment process, in which the assessment of candidates up to the shortlist is handled by algorithms.

In a previous study based on the same data, we found that women reached the shortlist to a greater extent than men, and that applicants with European names and women were overrepresented among those who reached the interview stage (Bursell & Roumbanis 2024). In the current study, we scrutinize these findings further, focusing on the extent to which the company's measure of productivity, self-sorting and what we refer to as 'exclusion' (demographically explained differences), have contributed to the overall result.

In order to disaggregate the effects of exclusion, productivity differences and self-sorting, we fit a multinomial logit model to model employer choice behavior. By then simulating what the outcome would be if different coefficients of the model were set to zero or the distribution of applicants were different from what it was, we are able to distinguish between the effects of the observed variables and the self-sorting of applicants.

The results show that productivity differences have the largest impact in shortlist selection (the automated phase). In the stages controlled by the managers, i.e. in selection to interview and in hiring offers, self-sorting and exclusion have a significantly larger impact. Self-sorting is favorable to women, in particular women with non-European names, and exclusion influences men and applicants with non-European names negatively. Overall, we find that self-sorting mediates differences in group-based employment opportunities.

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The role of digitalisation in the Finnish asylum procedure

Author(s): Frida Alizadeh-Westerling

14 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

The asylum procedure is increasingly digitalized changing how asylum applications are examined. Due to the heterogeneity of asylum applicants and claims that people present combined with the procedure's inherent high stakes, the tension between technological streamlining and individual assessment is a key issue that needs to be addressed. Exploring the contextual epistemic culture(s) (Knorr Cetina 1999) of those closely working with and developing digital tools or systems is instrumental in understanding the implications of digitalisation. This presentation examines how the Finnish Immigration Service envisions and constructs the role of technology and digitalisation, particularly in the context of the asylum procedure. I will present findings of interviews conducted with immigration officials as well as my analysis of the agency's relevant policy documents. A preliminary thesis of the study is that efficiency and technological possibilities drive the use of digital systems, and that even though there is some acknowledgment of the risks digitalization poses for the legal protection of asylum seekers, these 'worries' are not materialized or embedded in the development of administrative (digital) practices.

Boundary porosity: The politics of digital visibility

Author(s): Thomas Olesen

14 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

What do Cambridge Analytica, Instagram stories, and Bellingcat in common? In my view, they all illustrate a new degree of boundary porosity in contemporary societies. The adjective porous is often understood to suggest fragility; something that is porous is also easy to break. My use of the term is associated but emphasizes another property: permeability. Translated into a sociological concept, boundary porosity describes a situation where information about something or someone private, secret, or hidden travels from one domain to another with relative ease. When information travels in this way it becomes visible to others who do not “own” the information. This makes boundary porosity inherently political. In the very moment that someone’s information gets “out there”, it can be acted on, often with profound consequences for those who have lost or given it away. The paper tries to defend a strong claim: that the boundary porosity we see today is more widespread and consequential than at any other point in history and that this, at least partly, has to do with the effects of digitalization. If this is true, it has significant implications for how we should understand the character of our public spheres and, in extension, of our democracies.

I am obviously not the first to argue that modern and late modern societies are in one way or the other defined by visibility, permeability, and transparency (e.g., Brighenti, 2007; Han, 2015; Keane, 2019; Schudson, 2015; Thompson, 2005, 2011, 2020; Rosanvallon, 2008). What is missing in these otherwise congenial and insightful analyses are two things, in my view. First, they do not systematically tie their arguments to the concept of the boundary. In my view, such a move is theoretically productive because it allows us to connect visibility, permeability, and transparency to the wider sociological process of differentiation, which, essentially, is about boundaries and autonomy. More specifically, I argue that differentiation contains a duality, or even paradox, where autonomy and privacy is valued, but where we also insist that these conditions must never be absolute and outside of visibility. I develop this idea in the first main section of the paper. Second, I do not see in any of these works a full and systematic appraisal of the many levels at which boundary porosity is now operative. Boundary porosity, as I discuss it here, concerns the behaviour of collective actors such as states, organizations, and private companies as well as that of individuals. It also involves porosity that is both voluntary and involuntary. I build on this argument to propose a four-fold typology of digital boundary porosity in the paper’s second main section. In the final main section, I try to draw the threads together in order to assess the implications of digital boundary porosity for the public sphere and for democracy. What I will have to say here identifies an ambivalent situation with both democratic risks and advances.

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The influence of digital exposure at home and school on students' perceived learning difficulties

Author(s): Qi Wang, Xiaochen Zhou, Jia Li

14 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP51

Session: Causes and consequences of digital differences on social inequalities at school

Incorporating digital learning approaches is attractive to pupils, yet not a guarantee of positive learning outcomes. Instead of investigating short-term educational outcomes such as academic scores and ranks, this study is interested in how digital use would influence the learning process of students. We applied a national dataset to investigate how students' internet use at home and teachers' usage of digital approaches influence Chinese secondary school students' learning difficulties in different subjects.

The sample is drawn from nearly nationally representative data from the China Education Panel Survey (CEPS). The CEPS has collected and released two waves of data for the academic year of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. The survey collected data from students, parents, teachers and headteachers. We extracted data from students and teachers from the second wave (N=7,161; boys: 52%; Mage=13.95).

Perceived learning difficulty (PLD): Questions were asked regarding three subjects—mathematics, Chinese and English, “At present, are the following courses difficult for you?”. It was a categorical variable (1=not difficult at all, to 4=very difficult). Digital exposure at home was measured by 1) whether the household has a computer and/or Internet; 2) the time spent on the Internet during weekdays; and 3) the time spent on the Internet over weekends. Digital exposure at school was measured by the three subject teachers' frequency of using 1) multi-media projectors, 2) the Internet, and 3) personal teaching websites, blogs or microblogs. A series of variables that may influence the PLD were controlled, including age, gender, Hukou, the academic performance of the last academic year, family economic background, and the education level of mothers and fathers. Multilevel ordinal logistic regression was performed due to the nature of the outcome variable. We performed the models by subject to investigate whether the role of digital exposure varies across different subjects.

First, universal patterns were found across three subjects all family socioeconomic indicators were found to be significantly associated with decreased levels of PLD. Second, significant subject differences were found when discussing the role of digital exposure on PLD. For all three subjects, having both a computer and access to the Internet significantly decreased the level of PLD in English and math. However, solely having a computer without the Internet was associated with a lower level of PLD for Chinese, but not for English and math. Third, English teachers' higher frequency of using multi-media approaches was significantly associated with decreased levels of PLD. A marginal significance was revealed for math teachers' use of online learning material from websites or blogs. Fourth, the time spent on the Internet should be monitored within a reasonable range (e.g., less than 2 hours), beyond this, parents and teachers should be alerted of the possibility of Internet addiction, which may have negative impacts on students' learning.

While highlighting the role of digital exposure in influencing PLD, this study uncovered the importance of subject differences in the teaching practice. More remarks shall also be made to distinguish the subject difference for teaching practice.

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Leadership in post-pandemic hybrid work environments: Learning from working life experiences of people with disabilities

Author(s): Magnus Eriksson, Elisabet Nilsson, Jörgen Lundälv

14 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP53

Session: Remote working and regional mobility

Working life in a post-pandemic world has for many people become a remote experience. Hybrid work arrangements that evolved during the COVID-19 pandemic, consisting of a mix of working from home and the workplace, have become a “digital normality”. Such work arrangements are claimed to make working life for people with disabilities easier and more accessible and are seen as important factors in reducing barriers to employment. It may appear advantageous for people with disabilities to work in remote settings since it allows for more flexible working day routines which can be adapted to individual needs and conditions. For example, not having to travel to the workplace on an everyday basis can be a way of combating the accumulation of fatigue during the work week. However, it also has turned out that remote workers with disabilities face many challenges. Some people find it challenging to work from home due to difficulties with self-organisation. It is demanding to maintain everyday routines and habits when not having a workplace to go to and supporting colleagues. Others enjoy working from home to such an extent that it has made them too comfortable and choose to stay at home instead of meeting physically. This can result in a less productive working life. To explore remote working life for people with disabilities further, an interview study was conducted with 26 people with various disabilities in Sweden about their working life experiences during the pandemic (female=17, male=9, 92 % were members of a disability rights organisation). Insights gained from the thematic analysis of the interview data resulted in a collection of challenges and opportunities faced by people with disabilities working in remote and hybrid settings. The findings are sorted into three overarching themes: I) Social support, II) Work environment, and III) Technology, accessibility, and infrastructure.

A selection of challenges and opportunities connected to the first theme will be presented with an emphasis on issues related to leadership in remote and hybrid work environments and how inclusion and participation can be facilitated. We will discuss what supportive leadership in hybrid work settings might imply in comparison to leadership at traditional workplaces. What constitutes digital leadership skills, and how to ensure that all employees (with or without disabilities) are included and given space to talk and express themselves in, for example, hybrid video meetings? To have employees who regularly work from home is a new situation for many managers and, as shown in this interview study, a challenge. Lack of support from management leaves it up to the individual employee to request assistance or accessible solutions. Managers, and colleagues, may lack an understanding of the difficulties that employees and colleagues with disabilities face. Such a lack of understanding may result in a limited willingness and allocation of resources to accommodate a more flexible working life. Remote and hybrid work environments demand a different type of leadership, which is something that this presentation will address.

31st Nordic Sociological Association conference, 14-16 August, Norrköping
All abstract, chronological order

Mapping the Right to Digital Repair: Tensions, controversies and political ideals

Author(s): Sebastian Abrahamsson

14 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP54

Session: Environmental sociology

E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream globally. In a bid to solve the problem with discarded laptops, smartphones, tablets and other digital devices, the Right to Repair has come to be framed as a viable way forward. But what is the Right to Repair? It is a social movement that joins concerned consumers, professional repairers, farmers and other groups together in an effort to reclaim the things they own. It is, in other words, about consumer autonomy and creating the conditions of possibility to tinker with products. The Right to Repair is also a political ideal that is currently being translated into legislation in the EU and across states in the USA. In current waste management policy, the Right to Repair gets articulated as part of efforts to create circular flows of materials and resources. A driving force behind such legislation, in the EU, is the creation of a repair market on the one hand, and giving consumer the possibility to make sustainable choices on the other hand. Finally, the Right to Repair is also a design ideal in the sense that repair relies on products and technologies that are repairable, modular and flexible. In this presentation, I map and analyse these versions of the Right to Repair to show the various and heterogeneous concerns that push and pull this "right" in various directions and with various consequences. The aim of this mapping is to show how these concerns (e.g. consumer autonomy, sustainability, efficiency) shape the right to repair, a public issue, that get translated into policy and legislation. Doing so I pay special attention to 1) what gets lost along the way of such translations and 2) why the struggle to achieve a right to repair has (so far) gained success.

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Improvised Futures: Understanding 'Duct-Tape Solutionism' in Swedish Public Sector Automation

Author(s): Martin Berg

14 Aug | 14:00-14:20

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

In the realm of Swedish public administration, there is a growing recognition of automation as a fertile ground for innovation and efficiency. This paper, drawing upon ethnographic research with key stakeholders in Swedish municipalities, investigates how the public sector is responding to an anticipated demographic crisis, with a particular focus on the challenges presented by an ageing population. It critically examines the dual role of automation, especially Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and Generative AI, perceived simultaneously as a comprehensive remedy and a makeshift solution. Central to this exploration are two predominant themes: firstly, the urgent necessity to rejuvenate the public sector through automation to prevent an impending collapse, and secondly, the need to adapt current work practices to an automated yet unpredictable future. This paper posits that automation represents a continuous journey of adaptation, rather than a definitive endpoint. This journey is metaphorically likened to ongoing repair work, where automation technologies function as flexible, 'duct-tape' solutions, continually extending the horizons of what is possible in public administration. The analysis delves into the transformative role of automation, arguing that its impact goes beyond the mere reduction of human labour. Instead, automation is seen as a catalyst for organisational change, promoting standardisation and challenging the entrenched norms of individualised work methods. In conclusion, this paper demonstrates how the use of metaphors related to breakage and repair can be used to understand the public sector's organisational transformation. It offers insights into how the anticipated futures of automation are shaping the future of public administration in Sweden, not just as a tool for efficiency, but as a key driver of organisational evolution and adaptation.

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Card Payments at the Point of Sale in Switzerland (1985-2015): Private or public infrastructure for electronic payments?

Author(s): Markus Unternährer

14 Aug | 14:00-14:20

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

With the emergence of new payment schemes like Bitcoin, CBDCs, or «social media money» (Swartz 2022) it is necessary to better understand the emergence of past payment technologies -- especially their positioning at the intersection of private and public infrastructure.

In this article, I want to look at the technology, the politics, and the social relations of debit and credit card payments in Switzerland. I will discuss the introduction of EFTPOS-technology (Electronic Funds Transfer at the Point-Of-Sale) in Switzerland from 1985 until 2015. I distinguish three phases: 1) experimentation, when retailers, banks, and PTT (federal Post-, Telephone-, and Telegraphy-provider) tried to establish their own closed systems, 2) a market for terminals, when participants agreed on the necessity of an open system and common standards, and 3) regulating markets for payment, when liberalization in finance and telecommunications coincided with a more proactive but also instrumentalized Competition Commission (COMCO) trying to make electronic payment more marketlike.

Following Guseva (2008) and Rona-Tas/Guseva (2014), I won't focus on the maintenance of payment markets, but on emergence. As they highlight, emerging markets for payment cards must solve two problems: the problem of two-sided markets and the problem of standardization. Both these problems had to be solved for a Swiss market for payment cards as well.

However, concerning cards in Switzerland 'the problem of two-sided markets' is not the primary problem to solve. So the question is not only: how do they get this market to work but how do they get electronic card-payments to work in a market-like manner at all. Consequently, participants engage in 'marketization' activities (Caliskan/Callon 2009, 2010): to marketize electronic payments, different market-participants (e.g. 'issuers', 'acquirers', 'processors') had to be created and the terms of competition and cooperation had to be clarified.

As my research shows, powerful retailers managed to curtail the banks and the payment schemes efforts to monopolize card payments at the point-of-sale. The retailers efforts to make electronic payment more market-like (with the help of COMCO) resulted in an 'all cards at all terminals' - EFTPOS-system that -- while market-like -- acted as a quasi public infrastructure, instead of profit and rent generator for banks (Maurer 2012)

Modelling Segregation Processes in Hybrid Housing Markets

Author(s): Benjamin Jarvis, Wenshi San, Eduardo Tapia

14 Aug | 14:00-14:20

Room: TP41

Session: Simulation approaches to social research

Models of segregation dynamics, like Schelling's classic model, often employ superficial treatments of actual housing allocation mechanisms. Moves are friction-less and cost-less and depend only on local neighborhood compositions. But actual housing markets are shaped by economic inequality, the built environment, and rules governing access to different kinds of housing. These impose constraints on mobility that may influence segregation dynamics. One key feature of real housing markets is the distinction between ownership and rental tenures. In the United States, both rental and ownership tenures are distributed largely through markets. However, in many countries with strong social welfare states, a large fraction of rental housing is allocated through non-market institutions. Countries like Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Austria, have such "hybrid" housing systems. In these systems, governmental authorities or specialized housing associations own many housing units, and are mandated primarily to provide sufficient, high quality housing, not to produce profits. Often, allocation of these non-market units is done through enrollment in a seniority-based housing queue, rather than through a pricing mechanism.

In most contexts, rental and ownership tenures, and hence social and market housing, are often unevenly distributed across urban space. Market- and ownership-based housing is often associated with single family homes in less dense neighborhoods, while non-market housing is often located in multifamily buildings in denser neighborhoods. In Sweden, much of the non-market housing is increasingly located in dense urban peripheries, while market-based housing is found in desirable center city areas and more well-to-do suburbs, a consequence of a move towards a more privatized, market-based approach to housing provision.

Empirical studies suggest that the prevalence and uneven distribution of different types of housing—rental vs. ownership, market vs. non-market—are related to patterns of ethnic segregation, but how segregation of tenures gives rise to segregating dynamics is not well understood. In this study, we develop a dynamic simulation model to consider the implications of the urban structure, particularly the relative prevalence and geographic distribution of market and non-market housing, for processes of ethnic segregation. While a few dynamic segregation models have incorporated inequality and housing prices, they have typically done so using an idiosyncratic market logic, with housing prices set based on the neighborhood attributes, not competitive bidding. And these models have not considered the possibility that a segment of the housing stock will be allocated according to non-market rules.

We address this gap in our understanding using an agent-based model (ABM) of a hybrid housing market. In our ABM, we construct cities with varying shares of market vs. non-market housing. For each city, we then vary the extent of segregation between these housing types. We populate the cities with ethnic groups with different resource (i.e., income and queue position) distributions and set them in motion. Agents seek to move to rich neighborhoods. They compete over market housing using their economic resources, and non-market housing based on queue position/waiting times. Using many model runs, we analyze what conditions are most conducive to segregation and explore the precise dynamics that give rise to observed segregation patterns. In doing so, we hope to demonstrate the importance of housing market institutions to segregation processes.

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What are the differences between resilient and non-resilient schools in the CIL domain.

Author(s): Markus Lörz , Kerstin Drossel, Birgit Eickelmann, Nadine Fröhlich

14 Aug | 14:00-14:20

Room: TP51

Session: Causes and consequences of digital differences on social inequalities at school

With increasing digitalisation, inequality research focuses on students' digital skills. Findings indicate that there are considerable differences in the acquisition of CIL skills depending on students' social background. However, there are also resilient schools that achieve above-average CIL skills despite having a high proportion of low-SES students. Looking at resilient and non-resilient schools, this article explores why some schools achieve high levels of CIL skills despite less favourable conditions, and why others do not.

Taking the example of Germany, the study uses the ICILS 2018 data to analyse (i) which schools can be classified as resilient and which schools can be classified as non-resilient, (ii) in which aspects do these schools differ, (iii) and to what extent school-specific differences in CIL skill levels can be attributed to differing aspects at student, parent and teacher level. Using multi-level models, our contribution shows that a significant proportion of the skill differences can be attributed to the student level and also to conditions outside the school, in the parental home. However, a significant proportion of the school differences remains unexplained and further research is needed in this area.

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Explaining the Autonomy-Control-Paradox With The Rise of Remote Work

Author(s): Bernd Liedl, Sophia Wyatt, Nina-Sophie Fritsch

14 Aug | 14:00-14:20

Room: TP53

Session: Remote working and regional mobility

In the digital age, working remotely has become the new normal for many employees in most European countries. In Austria too, the context of our study, remote work was once considered to be the exception rather than the rule; yet became the daily working routine for more than 30 percent of the working population by the end of the year 2023 and after the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with this transformation, the implementation of new technologies has profoundly changed where, when and how we get work done. This involves a pronounced shift away from traditional forms of centralized and distinct organizations towards a diffused, fragmented and open set of social relations and individual opportunities for personal development. In every day working routines more flexibility over both time and place of work leads to a sense of more autonomy for employees. However, the increase of autonomy comes with paradoxical consequences as employers themselves grapple with the new distance to their employees, thus introduce different modes of control. Although previous research has acknowledged this paradox as consequence in digitalised labour markets (Fana et al. 2022; Gerten, Beckmann, and Bellmann 2019; Mazmanian et al. 2013) “very little scholarly effort has been devoted to the question of exactly how new technologies can cause paradoxical rationalities” (Bader and Kaiser 2017:339).

Thus, in our study we aim to explain how the autonomy-control paradox works from an employee’s perspective whilst going beyond existing research as we (1) We use a two-phase explanatory sequential mixed methods design, in which the quantitative data first provides a general picture of the research problem and is then extended for a more in-depth understanding of the phenomenon by qualitative data. Our results are based on data using the Micro Census as well as the Austrian AKCOVID Panel Survey and a set of 33 problemcentred semi-structured interviews. The findings of our quantitative study indicate that working remotely is especially prevalent within the group of highly educated people and individuals in certain professions (e.g., managers or academics) and especially employees regularly working remotely perceive increased levels of both autonomy and control. The analyses of our qualitative interviews deepen our understanding of this paradox as we discuss eight subdimensions (e.g., forced independence, invisibility or mutual trust) on a continuum of the individual personal preference and the actual work situation.

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Strategic Environmentalism in urban planning discussions

Author(s): Veikko Eranti

14 Aug | 14:00-14:20

Room: TP54

Session: Environmental sociology

In recent years, environmental values have become much more salient in public discussion, both . This paper uses interviews and 20 years of media coverage to track the use of environmental argumentation within an urban planning controversy where environmental issues are tangential to the core of the debate: the construction or preservation of Malmi Airport in Helsinki, Finland (Gustafsson & Eranti 2023). The Malmi Airport has been at the center of decades-long controversy, with a small but vocal community of aviation professionals and hobbyists, local residents, and cultural heritage professionals have fought against plans by City of Helsinki to develop the area for housing (Eranti & Meriluoto 2023). Current plans include new housing for 25 000 people. Preliminary analysis of media data and interviews suggest that while for some members of the coalition the environmental values of the airport area (mainly meadows, butterflies, and a stream) are the core reason to participate in the debate, for many others they play a purely strategic role (Blok 2013, Laage-Thomson & Blok 2020),. When other strategies of argumentation for saving of the airport fail, the actors reach for arguments with stronger legal backing, including searching for endangered species in the area. Using theoretical tools from French pragmatic sociology (Eranti 2017, Blok & Meilvang 2015), this paper suggests that various definitions of environmental values (Lehtimäki & Virtanen 2023) are used strategically by social movement – they have become a cultural tool in urban planning debates (Swidler 1986). In addition, the strong legal protection granted to for certain species which are relatively numerous in urban areas increases the possibilities for strategic environmentalism in urban planning debates.

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**Religiously-(un)affiliated more likely to pursue gender-atypical studies:
Analysis of Finnish register data**

Author(s): Weiqian Xia, Jan Saarela, Catherine Bowen, Vegard Skirbekk

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP41

Session: Religion and changing religiosity in contemporary societies

Using Finnish administrative data, we examine whether being affiliated with a religion is associated with the pursuit of gender (a)typical fields of study. Specifically, we examine the extent to which native born men and women born between 1954-1975 who were unaffiliated or affiliated with a minority religion at age 17 studied natural science, ICT or engineering (male typical) and education, health and welfare (female typical) for the upper-secondary vocational studies and tertiary-level studies compared to their peers affiliated with the majority religion (National Lutheran Church). Based on logistic regression analyses, we find that, at the tertiary level, unaffiliated men and men who were affiliated with a minority religion more likely to study female-typical subjects. At the upper-secondary level, unaffiliated men are more likely to pursue female-typical studies, but men who were affiliated with a minority religion were just as likely to pursue gender atypical studies as men who were affiliated with National Lutheran Church. At both tertiary and upper-secondary-levels, unaffiliated women are more likely to pursue male-typical studies than those who were affiliated with National Lutheran Church, but not for women affiliated with minority religions. In addition, women who lived in a more secular municipality at age 17 are more likely to study male-typical subjects at both upper-secondary and tertiary levels. Men who lived in a more secular municipality are more likely to study female-typical subjects at the upper-secondary level, but it is not the case for the tertiary level. Individuals who have left the National Lutheran Church after age 17 are more likely to pursue gender-atypical studies, except for men studying tertiary-level female-typical subjects. Our results suggest that religious upbringing has enduring impact on individuals' educational choice, enforcing the norm of traditional gender-typical educational patterns, even in the highly secular context of Finland.

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Exploring Stakeholders' Perspectives on User Involvement in Designing Digital Public Services for Older Adults

Author(s): Laura Pajula, Riitta Hänninen, Viivi Korpela, Sakari Taipale

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

The number of digital public services has increased rapidly during the last decade to serve citizens. Digital services, covering a wide set of services from health to taxation to social care, hold the promise to increase citizens' well-being and inclusion. However, not everyone has the same opportunities to utilize these services. Therefore, attention must be paid to potentially vulnerable groups, including older adults. Drawing from the Access Rainbow Model, we investigate user involvement in designing digital public services for and with older adults from the perspectives of various Finnish stakeholders. By combining these perspectives, this research offers new information on the principles to enhance access through user involvement in designing digital public services. First, (1) we ask what the typical challenges for older adults are accessing digital public services according to the stakeholders. Second, (2) we explore how stakeholders view the involvement of older adults in designing digital public services. Our research data consists of 20 semi-structured interviews conducted in 2021 among Finnish stakeholders from local-, regional-, and state-level public administrations and non-governmental organizations, forming a pivotal group of stakeholders in the acquisition and design of digital public services. Based on our inductive thematic analysis, we argue that the administration-centric approach to designing digital public services and the fast pace of digitalization may hinder older adults' use of digital services. Despite recognizing the heterogeneity among older adults, stereotypical assumptions about older people seem to influence the design process from stakeholders' viewpoint. Furthermore, the standard of 'one size fits most' was seen as the most reachable outcome to meet the needs of various user groups at present. As no one has presently claimed the responsibility for involving users in the design process, user involvement was viewed as a valuable yet currently unimplemented practice. We also found that more collaboration, support, and continued involvement of stakeholders are needed throughout the acquisition, design, and implementation of digital services. Additionally, results call more attention to how decisions are made at the governance level to ensure access to digital public services for older people. Designing digital services that accommodate the diverse needs of older users and involve them and stakeholders throughout the design process remains challenging. Furthermore, digital inclusion should be considered comprehensively, taking into account the socio-technical aspect, digital literacy, and technical implementation. Reflecting this, it is necessary to shift the focus from merely attributing difficulties to the users or the lack of their skills, as the responsibility lies also on those who acquire and design these services, emphasizing the significance of user involvement and user-friendly design. In the future, more research is needed to evaluate the outcomes of collaborative design projects and their implications on older adults' well-being and digital inclusion.

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Public-private entanglements in making health data accessible

Author(s): Heidrun Åm

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

In welfare states, public health services collect data in mass for governance purposes. For example, Norwegian health authorities created the ‘National Patient Registry (NPR)’ in the 1990ies because of a change in health sector governance towards activity-based financing which created the need for getting hold of information on treatments, patients, length of stay, etc. Today, the NPR and other mandatory health registries in Nordic states are world leading in terms of their amount of valuable data. The aggregated health data in the NPR and the other registries constitute a collective data body of the welfare state. They are good examples for states’ ability to mint data (Fourcade & Gordon 2020).

In—what Tupasela, Snell, and Tarkkala (2020) coined—the ‘Nordic data imaginary,’ health data has become entangled with visions for economic growth in recent years. Making health data easier accessible is part of the work efforts constituting this imaginary. An important element in this work is to centralize access to health data. The basic idea behind centralized health data access bodies is creating one-stop-shops, that is, single access points to health data when used for secondary purposes. Such efforts are also being made at the European level, around the creation of a European Health Data Space.

What do actors consider as being of public value when it comes to making public health data easier accessible? Norway has a long tradition of the collective governance of resources, exemplified by its approach to oil or renewable power (see for example Ryggvik 2009 or Thue 2003). In addition, the Nordic welfare states are built on ideas of solidarity, equity, universalism and decommodification (Andreassen, Kaun and Nikunen 2021), which would lead us to expect a focus on public value beyond economic value. Do we find ways in which Nordic countries secure benefit sharing from making public health data available? With a focus on Norway, I will in this presentation elicit how public-private boundaries are enacted in these developments. How is it negotiated when the private enters public resources, for example by private infrastructures facilitating health data collections, or by private actors tapping into health data registers?

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Every Break You Take: Advancing Seasonal Comparison Research with Digital Trace Data

Author(s): David Reimer, Emil Smith, Hanna Dumont

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP51

Session: Causes and consequences of digital differences on social inequalities at school

Studies relying on seasonal variation in learning rates across school years and summer breaks have provided valuable insights into questions regarding the role of schools in generating inequality in academic achievement in general (Alexander, Entwisle, and Olson 2007; Downey, Von Hippel, and Broh 2004). The general conclusion from studies based on seasonal comparison designs seems to be that students experience substantial loss in cognitive skills during summer breaks and that achievement gaps grow during summer breaks and shrink or remain constant during school years (Downey 2023) – indicating that schools lower inequality in cognitive skills. However, recent studies suggest that these findings do not replicate reliably when relying on different data sources employing different cognitive tests (Workman, Von Hippel, and Merry 2023).

In the present study, we address questions regarding learning losses and schools' role in inequality in academic achievement, drawing on intensive longitudinal digital trace data from a reading app to measure weekly growth in reading speed of a cohort of Danish students starting in 4th grade in fall 2019 and followed to summer 2022 - merged with register information on student socioeconomic status (SES) and immigration status. We exploit variation in reading speed growth according to when school is in and out (e.g. holidays) - including episodes with Covid-19 school closings. We employ linear piecewise growth models, with reading speed as the outcome, measured at weekly intervals. We interact SES and immigration status with time segments to test for differences in reading speed growth according to periods when students are in school or out of school (holidays and Covid-19-induced school closings).

Our findings suggest that students gained reading speed during school but summer breaks and even one-week breaks, were associated with stagnation or regression in reading speed. Growth stagnated during and immediately after the initial school closing of spring 2020, but grew at a pace similar to normal schooling in the second and longer school closing of winter 20/21. In terms of SES and immigration inequality, there is no clear seasonal pattern but achievement gaps narrow according to both SES and immigration status, tend to decrease from 4th to 6th grade and mostly during periods of school.

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Digital Crime Victimization in Iceland: Impact of Me-Too and Covid-19

Author(s): Helgi Gunnlaugsson

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP52

Session: Crime and deviance

The web has increasingly been used as a source to target vulnerable victims all over the globe. By using the internet we can all be connected offering all kinds of new opportunities for deviant activities and crime. A variety of internet-related threats are regularly being reported in the mass media, e. g. consumer fraud, cyber vandalism, cyberbullying, sexual harassment, and most recently cyberwarfare.

The first study in Iceland examining cybercrime victimization among the Icelandic public was conducted online in cooperation with the Social Sciences Research Institute in 2016. The same survey was placed again in 2018, 2020 and 2022 to a sample of about two thousand respondents reflecting the Icelandic population 18 years +.

According to the findings in 2016 about 13 percent of the respondents reported having been victimized by cybercrime in the past couple of years prior to the survey. In 2018 and 2020 close to 20% of the respondents admitted cybercrime victimization. Slander and consumer fraud were the most common types of victimization. Respondents aged 18-29 years old were most likely to have been victimized in 2018 and 2020.

In 2022 the same survey was conducted once again, using the same questionnaire as before. Do we see an increase in cybercrime victimization? Did we detect signs of more sexual harassment in the wake of the me-too confessions in 2017? Did the pandemic have any impact on victimization experiences in 2022? Which social groups report the most victimization?

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Does Outsourcing of Domestic Work Reduce Gender Inequality in Labor Force Participation within Households? - A Couple-Level Panel Analysis

Author(s): Liat Raz-Yurovich, Assaf Tsachor-Shai

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP54

Session: Outsourcing household work across Europe: effects from a social and gender-equality perspective

The time devoted to unpaid work in the domestic sphere reduces time devoted to paid work and this time loss is higher for women than for men. The consumption of domestic services may serve as a mechanism to reduce the burden of unpaid work and to increase the labor force participation rates of men and women.

This study takes a longitudinal couple-level approach and analyzes whether the likelihood of working and the number of work hours of male and female partners in households that employed a domestic worker increased after employing the domestic worker, and whether these changes translate into reduced gender inequality in labor force participation within households. Using an analytic sample of 85,282 married heterosexual non-Haredi Jewish Israeli couples aged 25-64 from the harmonized panel database of the Israeli Labor Force Survey for the years 2000-2017, and by employing an instrumental variable approach with Fixed-Effects Two-Stage Least Squares models, we find that outsourcing affects employment both at the extensive and at the intensive margins, but only among highly-educated women. The increase in highly-educated women's likelihood of working and the increase in their weekly work hours are translated into a reduced gender gap in employment and in work hours, no matter their partner's level of education.

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“Everything Finnish is now racism”: Contesting antiracism in the Finnish hybrid media ecology

Author(s): Aino Nevalainen

14 Aug | 14:40-15:00

Room: TP53

Session: Media and communication

In recent years, there seems to have formed in mediated public discussion in Finland a (limited) consensus that racism is a bad thing. However, this does not equate to antiracism being universally and unequivocally accepted, as different actors mobilize different frames of racism and antiracism that diverge not only on what they consider racism and antiracism to be, but also on what should (not) be done about them. By frames, I refer to collective action frames (Snow, 2004: 384–385), whereby actors participating in public contention seek to establish and assert their own problem definitions, causal connections, and proposed remedies over those of other actors. The concept of “media ecology” refers to how various media environments shape societies and everyday lives, while hybridity describes “how older and newer media logics [...] blend, overlap, intermesh and coevolve” (Chadwick, 2017: 5).

In my presentation, based on ongoing empirical research on four intensive episodes of contention related to racism and antiracism in Finnish mainstream and social media, I ask: how is antiracism contested in the Finnish hybrid media ecology, and how do media shape contention over (anti)racism? I analyze four controversies and their circulation over the period 2016–2021, a time when public contention related to (anti)racism has been especially visible in Finnish mainstream and social media: discussions on the screening of the 1960 film *Pekka and Pätkä as N*****s* [n-word] on the national broadcasting company Yle, discussions on the use of blackface in the traditional *Star Boys* performance, discussions on the *Star of Africa* board game, and discussions on the *Marja Sannikka* show’s episode on “wokeness”.

In addition to examining the different frames of anti-antiracism, I apply Kavada & Poell’s (2021) analytical framework of contentious publicness to examine contention over (anti)racism in the hybrid media ecology through three dimensions: the material dimension to study how different aspects and infrastructures of the hybrid media ecology afford and hinder rousing and maintaining contention; the spatial dimension to examine the transnationalization of issues and the impact and visibility of social media spaces on mainstream media; and the temporal dimension to analyze the speed and rhythms of contention, and how the differing rhythms and cycles of traditional and social media impact mediated contention. In this presentation, I examine how frames of anti-antiracism are mobilized in contentious episodes to delimit, challenge, and silence different antiracist frames and how both mainstream and social media place boundaries and demands onto how struggles over the meaning of (anti)racism unfold.

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Community-building or an arena for hate and discrimination? Muslims and social media in Sweden

Author(s): Erika Willander, Göran Larsson

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP41

Session: Religion and changing religiosity in contemporary societies

This paper explores the dynamic interplay between media consumption, identity, and discrimination within the Swedish Muslim community. Given Sweden's high levels of social media engagement and diverse media landscape, the study addresses the dual nature of media as both a community-building tool and a potential arena for hate and discrimination.

The research uses a unique survey focused on Muslim media consumption, with the aim of uncovering how individuals use different media sources and how this correlates with the risk of experiencing hate and discrimination. The methodology includes a descriptive presentation of the survey results, controlling for demographic factors such as age, gender, and education. In order to provide a holistic analysis, the article briefly outlines the historical and contemporary situation of Islam and Muslims in Sweden. This contextual overview is essential for understanding the challenges facing the Muslim community and the potential impact of the media on these challenges.

The study seeks to highlight the dual role of the media for Muslims in Sweden - facilitating community cohesion and identity formation, while also acting as a platform for hate speech and discrimination. By examining these dynamics, the research contributes to discussions on the complex relationship between media, identity, and discrimination among Muslims in Sweden. The combination of survey analysis and historical context adds valuable perspectives to ongoing discussions about the role of the media in shaping inclusive societies and promoting harmonious coexistence.

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How accurately can machine learning algorithms predict a person's future?

Author(s): Emily Cantrell, Pranay Anchuri, Hanzhang Ren, Matthew Salganik

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

Applications of artificial intelligence (AI) are rapidly increasing in public policy. One such application is the use of machine learning algorithms in public services to make predictions about individual people's futures. For example, several U.S. child protective services agencies use algorithms to predict the likelihood that a child will be removed from the home due to maltreatment. Predictive algorithms are also being used or piloted in criminal justice, homelessness prevention, medical services, school dropout prevention, and more. To understand the appropriateness of using such algorithms, we need to understand how accurately a person's future can be predicted.

We investigate the predictability of hundreds of life outcomes for youth and their families, and identify patterns in what types of outcomes are most (and least) predictable. Specifically, we use in-depth survey and observational data collected from a child's birth to age 9 in a U.S. longitudinal study to predict approximately 500 outcomes at the child's age 15. This dataset includes thousands of variables about children and their families in a wide range of life domains. We test dozens of machine learning approaches for every outcome to ensure a reasonable estimate of the best possible predictive accuracy that can be achieved with these data. Our main finding is that most outcomes in our set are not very predictable. For approximately half of the outcomes, our algorithms do not make predictions any better than a null model that predicts everyone's outcome to be equal to the mean of the training data. However, some outcomes are much more predictable than others, and we identify patterns in what types of outcomes are most predictable.

These findings call for caution about predictive accuracy when implementing predictive algorithms in public services. However, they also raise questions about how sample size and other characteristics of data affect predictive accuracy. In future work, we plan to explore questions about the capabilities and limitations of predictive algorithms with Dutch administrative register data, which has similar characteristics to the administrative register data of Nordic countries.

31st Nordic Sociological Association conference, 14-16 August, Norrköping
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Pay me if you can: Digitalising Financial Infrastructure and Mechanisms of (Social) Exclusion

Author(s): Tatjana Graf

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

In the last decades, digitalization has transformed a variety of public infrastructures into privately-driven services and platforms. With it changed even the often mundane but essential everyday practices tied to it. Amongst others are financial practices: The way we pay, spend, and save is constantly challenged by new technological developments. With the rise of fintechs and their focus on data as a source of revenue, the financial sector has changed considerably (Fourcade & Healy, 2017; Westermeier, 2020). Besides publicly-mandated institutions like banks, tech giants and fintechs are constantly introducing new products and promises about the future of everyday finances.

Likewise, this has also affected the financial practices of consumers. One goal is to transform financial practices into convenient experiences embedded in digital products. It is no longer so much about what money is, but what it does (Tkacz, 2019). For consumers, digital financial services promise new ways to distinguish money into monies, and thus also earmark the intimate and social relations attached to it (Zelizer, 1989).

The transformation of both financial services and practices has also affected responsibilities within the payment (eco)system that are historically shared between private and public actors. As a critical infrastructure, payment systems are of vital societal importance. In this presentation, I am going to tackle the question of what is public and what is private in digital societies by presenting empirical data from Sweden, where paying and handling finances digitally is widely adopted. Cash is rarely used and barely seen. But also, everyday life without access to digital financial infrastructure has become increasingly cumbersome. New forms of social exclusion have formed, and in the complex entanglement of public and private actors, responsibilities for the digitally and financially excluded are yet to be found.

Based on empirical material from 36 in-depth interviews with consumers and experts as well as ethnographic insights from the field of digital payments, I present different mechanisms of social exclusion as a consequence of outsourcing and privatizing essential financial infrastructure. Some may lack digital skills, others are excluded by the setup and logic of the digital financial infrastructure, and some simply refuse to be part of a digitally and financially included society.

31st Nordic Sociological Association conference, 14-16 August, Norrköping
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Social differences in the development of digital skills throughout secondary education in Germany

Author(s): Yannick Stelter

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP51

Session: Causes and consequences of digital differences on social inequalities at school

Background: Digital competencies are regarded as an important aspect of student learning and are positively associated with learning outcomes (Loh et al. 2023). Not having adequate digital skills potentially reduces learning opportunities and might have negative consequences on educational success. In particular, children from privileged backgrounds show higher digital performance than their peers from less privileged backgrounds (Passaretta & Gil-Hernandez 2022). Hence, social disparities in digital skills can amplify social inequalities (Hargittai & Hsieh, 2014). Yet little is known about the development of social disparities of digital competencies among the youth and its underlying mechanisms.

Theory: Nonetheless, previous research has stressed the importance of the educational context (Fraillon et al. 2019) and differences in the home environment (Senkbeil 2024) as major sources of SES disparities in digital competence. The educational context matters for competence development above individual learning prerequisites (Baumert et al. 2006). This appears to be particularly important in Germany, where the grouping of students into different school tracks at an early stage is highly socially selective (Maaz et al. 2008). Moreover, the different tracks are sought to constitute differential learning environments exerting different influences on students' competence development contributing to the comparatively high social inequality in achievement in Germany. From the perspective of digital divide research (van Dijk, 2000), the dimension of digital competencies is increasingly seen by groups with high social status as an important source of status reproduction. For example, better-off parents are more aware of the benefits of digital competencies for learning (Livingston & Helsper 2007) and thus might invest in their children's digital literacy accordingly. This differential investment of parents into their children's digital competencies potentially leads to different development trajectories both between and with the different school tracks in Germany.

We seek to bring both perspectives together, by asking:

R1: How do digital competencies of secondary schoolchildren develop with regard to their socioeconomic background?

R2: How does this development depend on the educational context?

Thereby we seek to apply both a between and within-track perspective and analyze, how social disparities in the development of digital competencies can be accounted for by initial track placement and how such differences develop within the different tracks to achieve a comprehensive picture of the development of SES Gaps in digital competencies throughout secondary education in Germany.

Data & methods: To answer these questions, we utilize Data of the German National Educational Panel Study (NEPS). This large-scale panel study sampled 5,778 students in 2009 in grade 5 at the beginning of secondary education and surveyed them throughout their educational career. The NEPS contains information about students' social backgrounds, educational pathways, and most importantly, students' digital competencies were tested repeatedly in grades 6, 9, and 12. We employ multilevel models to investigate the effect of social origin on achievement growth during secondary education with regard to the educational context, by (1) controlling for track placement (between-perspective) and (2) investigating these developments for the different tracks separately (within-perspective).

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Who is to Blame? Scapegoating in Complex Organizations

Author(s): Maurizio Catino

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP52

Session: Crime and deviance

A large cruise ship sinks after hitting some outcropping rocks near the shore. Who is to blame? In the face of negative events – accidents, corporate scandals, crises and bankruptcies – there are two organizational strategies for managing blame. The first is to take full responsibility for the event and to implement adequate corrective measures. The second is to create one or more scapegoats by transferring blame to some of the people directly involved in the event. In this way, the organization can appear blameless and avoid costly remedial interventions. Scapegoating will be analyzed by examining the Costa Concordia ship accident (Italy, 2012) and employing a perspective that considers the scapegoat as the outcome of a construction process by multiple agents, both internal and external to an organization. The indictment of individuals and their transformation into scapegoats becomes a useful expedient for delaying or avoiding structural changes, since public opinion is led to think that exemplary punishment of the person responsible for the error can serve as a deterrent in the future. The paper highlights the limits of explanations centered on guilt and individual solutions to organizational problems and underlines the need for a different civic epistemology. The purpose of this paper is to systematically understand how and why organizations create scapegoats. In doing so, the paper outlines a general theory of scapegoating in organizations.

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All abstract, chronological order

RUT-avdragets konsekvenser för arbetsmarknadsintegreringen av utrikes födda med flyktingbakgrund

Author(s): Karin Halldén, Anders Stenberg

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP54

Session: Outsourcing household work across Europe: effects from a social and gender-equality perspective

Introduktion

De senaste åren har behovet av lågkvalificerade jobb debatterats då endast en liten del av sysselsättningen på den svenska arbetsmarknaden utgörs av arbeten som inte kräver formell utbildning (SCB 2017), samtidigt som det senaste decenniets flyktinginvandrare i större utsträckning än tidigare saknat högre utbildning (Nordström-Skans m.fl. 2017). Städbranschen består, till stor del, av sådana "enkla jobb" bl.a. då språkravet är relativt lågt. RUT-avdraget, en skattereduktion som sänker priset på hushålls nära tjänster med 50%, ses således av vissa som ett centralt verktyg för ökad arbetsmarknadsintegration av utrikes födda med flyktingbakgrund och flyktinganhöriga (med en gemensam benämning kallade flyktinganknutna).

Syfte

Artikeln syftar till att undersöka i vilken utsträckning städbranschen/RUT-avdraget med s.k. "enkla jobb" bidrar till integrationen av flyktinganknutna på den svenska arbetsmarknaden.

Data och forskningsfrågor

Våra kvantitativa analyser baseras på data från SCB:s befolkningsregister STATIV 2000 – 2018.

Två delfrågor studeras; (1) i vilken utsträckning flyktinganknutna får sitt första jobb inom städyrket, samt (2) sambandet mellan att få sitt första jobb inom städyrket och framtida sysselsättning och årsinkomster. Vi jämför städyrket med de yrken som är vanligast förekommande när flyktinganknutna för första gången registreras som anställda på den svenska arbetsmarknaden: arbeten inom restaurang, försäljning och vård.

Preliminära resultat

Resultaten visar bl.a. att andelen utrikes födda är hög i städyrket och den har ökat stadigt under 2000-talet från cirka 30% år 2000 till cirka 45% år 2018. Dock är dessa individer inte primärt flyktinganknutna och de kommer i hög utsträckning från (öst)Europa. Således kan man anta att dessa anställda i stor utsträckning utgörs av arbetskraftsinvandrare vilket inte nödvändigtvis är relaterat till frågan om arbetsmarknadsintegration. Avseende andelen flyktinganknutna anställda i städyrket ökade den mellan över perioden, men inte mer än gruppen ökat i befolkningen generellt. Snarare har andelen anställda flyktinganknutna i städyrket minskat över tid. Vidare finner vi att de flyktinganknutna som får sin första anställning i städyrket tenderar att komma in på arbetsmarknaden relativt snabbt. På senare år har dock främst restaurangyrket kännetecknats av kort etableringstid från ankomst till Sverige till första anställning. Vi visar även att flyktinganknutna som fått sin första anställning inom vårdyrket är de som har högst benägenhet att stanna i sitt första yrke över tid.

Våra analyser visar också att kvinnor med flyktinganknytning som fått sin första anställning i städyrket i genomsnitt har högre sysselsättning under de första åren jämfört med kvinnor som fått sin anställning i de andra yrkena. För flyktinganknutna män är andelarna högre för både städ- och restaurangyrkena. Efter sju till nio år återfinns de högsta sysselsättningsnivåerna inom vårdyrket för både män och kvinnor.

Slutligen är de genomsnittliga årsinkomsterna inledningsvis något högre för nyanlända flyktinganknutna som får en anställning i städyrket, speciellt bland kvinnor. Efter några år är skillnaderna mindre och från det tionde året är inkomsterna bland både kvinnor och män högst i vårdyrket.

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The parallel evolution of online and media immigration discourses

Author(s): Anastasiia Menshikova, Miriam Hurtado Bodell, Måns Magnusson, Marc Keuschnigg

14 Aug | 15:00-15:20

Room: TP53

Session: Media and communication

Different ways to interpret reality exist in different segments of society, leading to collective outcomes such as polarization of opinions and behaviors or the erosion of social cohesion. Our work identifies similarities and differences in interpretations of immigration in two entirely different but equally important segments of public discourse: nationwide traditional media and online social media. We focus on the case of the Swedish immigration discourse in 2006 - 2020 to gain insights into the parallel evolution of immigration interpretations among professional journalists and users of an anonymous online forum.

We analyze 15M posts from Sweden's largest online discussion forum and 16M newspaper articles from Sweden's four largest daily newspapers. With a novel implementation of a joint seeded topic model, we detect various interpretations in a combined online and newspaper corpus, tackling methodological challenges such as differences in vocabulary between professional journalists and social media users and ensuring comparability and equivalence of interpretations in the two corpora.

We develop a collection of interpretations of immigration and conduct a systematic comparison by analyzing the salience of interpretations in the traditional media and at an online forum as multivariate time-series data. We compare how the immigration discourse in both spheres reacts to major events. In addition, we identify points of change in both domains and compare the timing and the nature of these changes for both corpora. Overall, our results demonstrate that the image of immigration that professional journalists create and the ways social media users interpret immigration fundamentally differ, with the former's framing mirroring their explanation of the flow of news events and the latter's framing mainly mirroring complaints about the influx of newcomers and the failing of public policy.

We demonstrate an application of computational text analysis for developing macro-level measurements of cultural dynamics arising in highly institutionalized (newspapers) and highly interactive (social media platforms) environments. Our findings explicate the macro-level conditions that situate voting behavior, residential segregation, or labor market inequalities in Sweden.

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Couple's Religious Composition and Family Dynamics: Religious Exogamy's Influence on Fertility, Division of Domestic Labor, and Income in Sweden, 2000-2017

Author(s): Elis Carlberg Larsson, Weiqian Xia, Vegard Skirbekk

14 Aug | 15:20-15:40

Room: TP41

Session: Religion and changing religiosity in contemporary societies

This study investigates the impact of couples' religious compositions on various aspects of family life, using data from Swedish administrative records from 2000 to 2017. The study delves into three primary areas: family formation patterns, division of domestic labor, and income. In terms of family formation, the study finds that religious homogamy significantly influences marriage and divorce rates, as well as fertility behavior. Couples sharing the same religious affiliation are more likely to marry, less likely to divorce, and have more kids compared to fully secular couples. The results also suggest a more significant role of women's religious norms in influencing fertility decisions. Regarding the division of childcare, the results indicate a gendered imbalance in domestic labor, influenced by the couple's religious composition. It reveals that men's religious norms have a more substantial impact on the distribution of domestic labor. Secular couples show a smaller difference in domestic labor division, though women generally carry a larger share. However, further analyses show that income disparities, rather than religious composition, are the primary drivers of uneven childcare distribution. Lastly, we explore the relationship between couples' religious composition and income. It uncovers a wage premium for secular men who have religious partners, which seems to be driven by men's reduced involvement in domestic labor. This pattern is not mirrored for secular women with religious men. Overall, our study presents a nuanced understanding of how the religious composition of couples may influence key aspects of family life, revealing complex dynamics in family formation, domestic responsibilities, and economic outcomes.

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All abstract, chronological order

National implementation of telehealth in Denmark: Understanding the complexities of large-scale implementation

Author(s): Stina Bollerup, Lotte Groth Jensen, Christian Bøtcher Jacobsen, Camilla Palmhøj Nielsen

14 Aug | 15:20-15:40

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

Background:

With a growing number of chronic patients and a shortage of healthcare professionals, modern health systems face mounting economic pressures. Telehealth has emerged as a promising solution to address these challenges and is considered a critical component of future healthcare provision. However, implementing telehealth on large scale is complex and remains a challenge in healthcare systems. To fully grasp these challenges, it is essential to look beyond the technology and delve into the processes and actors involved in its implementation. To address this gap, this study investigates the dynamics of large-scale implementation at a political-administrative level through an in-depth case study of the national implementation of TeleCOPD in Denmark - a home-monitoring telehealth intervention designed to support patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

Methods:

An in-depth qualitative study of the implementation process at the political-administrative level was undertaken. Data consisted of project descriptions, policy documents, and 12 semi-structured interviews with 16 key stakeholders in the implementation process across the national, regional and municipality level. Data was analysed in accordance with thematic analysis using an abductive strategy.

Results:

This study explores the implementation process of telehealth through the lens of translation theory. The analysis is ongoing and results will be presented at the conference. Preliminary analysis suggests that large-scale implementation of telehealth is a profoundly complex process, necessitating the collaboration of various stakeholders across organisational hierarchies. Substantial translational work is required at the political-administrative level to implement telehealth across diverse organisational contexts. Moreover, understanding the role of context in this translation process is essential.

Conclusion:

The results of this study will generate valuable knowledge about large-scale implementation of telemedicine in addition to insights into the role of the political-administrative level in the implementation process.

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Data, home, state: Goffman and the re-invented total institution

Author(s): Gunhild Tøndel

14 Aug | 15:20-15:40

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

During the past decades, arenas commonly known as “private” have become increasingly important for the realization of international welfare state policies. More and more public care, treatment and rehabilitation now takes place in the home. The bio-geographical transition of the body from public institutions to the home is supported and made possible by the establishment of a range of different tools, from digital technologies to new data reporting routines. Bodily fragility is now personally lived and professionally managed locally, instead of in larger public/total institutions. For instance, within elderly care, a key sustainability strategy has been to simply keep the old bodies at home as long as possible, to postpone these people’s moving into formal public institutions.

Changes in policy and service-delivery are legitimated by a range of social concerns about how to make better lives, through for instance securing individual service user rights, dignity, and autonomy, in addition to financial concerns. Yet, the development implies that not only the bodies, but also the public moves into the most private arena of everyday living. This raises questions about how the private changes to adjust the interaction with the public, and how the public changes the private home to achieve its goals. Sociological theorization about institutions have long addressed this concern. When Goffman introduced the concept of total institution, he wanted to address the importance of change in self-understanding that living with such an institutional framework induced on people. According to social and health and care policy, the total institution has been ideologically built down and removed. However, this presentation rather argues that the total institution is as vital as ever. Rather than being extinct, it has become infrastructurally organized and now anchored within the private home. This implies that the total institution has become a far more powerful and intimately working institution in citizens’ everyday life than ever before.

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Social Influence and Opportunistic Behaviour in the Darknet Market: The Role of Escrow, Reputation, and Cheap Talk

Author(s): Filippo Andrei, Giuseppe Veltri

14 Aug | 15:20-15:40

Room: TP52

Session: Crime and deviance

The emergence of a social order within the darknet markets poses a particular puzzle for social scientists. These markets operate beyond the conventional realm without legitimate institutions overseeing operations to protect users from opportunistic behaviour. While much of the existing literature on the darknet focuses on the effects of reputation and escrow systems – where payments for online purchases are processed through the market platform and released only after the transaction is completed – less attention has been paid to the role of reputation and escrow systems and the use of ‘cheap talk’ in preventing opportunistic behaviour by sellers. This study fills this gap by analysing the factors influencing opportunistic behaviour on one of the largest known darknet platforms to date, AlphaBay, which operated from December 2014 to July 2017. Using two generalised additive models (GAMs), the results suggest that sellers with good reputations are negatively associated with fraud on the darknet market. However, the effect of reputation is less significant when transactions take place outside escrow. Conversely, the use of ‘cheap talk’ in item descriptions is positively associated with opportunistic behaviour. This study makes both empirical and theoretical contributions. By illustrating the effects of escrow, reputation, and cheap talk on sellers’ opportunistic behaviour, it underscores the significance of the modality of social influence in reducing opportunistic behaviour in high-uncertain.

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Career and family. Does outsourcing household work matter?

Author(s): Elien Dalman , Therese Nilsson, Lisa Eklund, Annika Elwert

14 Aug | 15:20-15:40

Room: TP54

Session: Outsourcing household work across Europe: effects from a social and gender-equality perspective

Despite the traditionally generous family policies in Scandinavian welfare states, few new initiatives have been introduced to alleviate the pressures of paid and unpaid work over the past decades. This 'double burden' of paid and unpaid work, particularly impacting women, can impact economic, demographic, and social outcomes. It becomes heavier as societies are faced by an ageing population. Moreover, socioeconomic groups may be affected differently. The RUT and ROT reforms can be seen as an indirect family policy as they may help to relieve the double burden. These reforms allow tax deductions for outsourced household and maintenance work. Since their implementation – in 2007 and 2009 respectively – they have grown steadily in terms of the number of individuals using the deductions and the cost they incur to the state. Yet, there is little research on their impacts. One study identifies an effect of RUT on women's labor market outcomes. Beyond paid work, we have limited insights into the role of these reforms in relieving the burden of unpaid work and its division across household members and socioeconomic groups.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the characteristics of ROT and RUT users and their outcomes in terms of paid and unpaid work. We examine the distribution of ROT/RUT usage across different socioeconomic and gender groups 2007-2022. We then describe how ROT/RUT usage is gendered differently by socioeconomic status, and compare the outcomes of users and non-users. Our analysis is based on individual-level longitudinal register-based covering all Swedes.

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Feminist Hashtagging : the Intra-action of Feminist Strategies and Quantitative Platform Logics in #MeToo, #Kvinnostrejk and #JagVetVadEnSnippaÄr

Author(s): Lisa Lindqvist

14 Aug | 15:20-15:40

Room: TP53

Session: Media and communication

The hashtag is a feature of social media platforms that brings disparate units of content together into an assembled feed. Discursively, the hashtag works as a co-created framing device that makes content instantly interpretable (Xiong, Cho & Boatwright 2019). When mobilized for social justice, hashtags can assemble individual experiences into collective witnessing (Serisier 2019), and via hashtag hijacking, activists can overtake corporate hashtags by tagging counter-discourse (Jackson & Foucault Welles 2015).

Conversely, scholars have claimed that 'hashtag publics' assemble ad hoc in disorganized ways, and that social media feminism works through messy affinities based on personalized narratives (Rambukkana 2015, Mitra-Kahn 2012). In this study of Swedish feminism on social media, I suggest that while audiences assemble around hashtags in seemingly messy ways, feminist hashtagging can be thought of as a strategic and intra-active practice entangled with the quantitative platform logic of engagement-based ranking, intentionally aimed at gaining attention.

To highlight this entanglement of feminist intentions and technical features, the study traces instances of feminist hashtagging in relation to #metoo on X, and to #kvinnostrejk and #jagvetvadensnipaär on Instagram, and combines discourse analysis of online content with interviews with key actors within feminist organizations. Preliminary results indicate that feminist hashtagging is; a way to increase reach for feminist content by reappropriating or hijacking already popular generic/non-feminist hashtags (Jackson & Foucault Welles 2015, Lindqvist 2023), a way to sloganize (Joersz 2015) and circulate feminist analyses of current news events, and an articulatory practice that performs framing work within feminist audiences (Lindqvist & Lindgren 2022). These examples illustrate how feminist resistance is strategized and articulated on social media where it gets entangled with the quantitative logic of engagement-based ranking.

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Governing Race for the Future: A.I. Policing of Migrant Youth

Author(s): Max Waleij

14 Aug | 15:40-16:00

Room: TP43

Session: Behind the scenes of digital public services

The Swedish government recently delegated the task of facilitating the implementation of A.I. in public management. The Agency for Digital Government estimates this could save around 140 billion Swedish crowns per year (DIGG, 2023). Regardless of this estimate being accurate, it speaks volumes of the vision of, and faith put in, A.I. by government officials and influential practitioners in the field. Meanwhile, borders are becoming increasingly digitized, backed by enormous investment (M'charek, Schramm & Skinner, 2014). Facial recognition and other biometric technologies, and drone surveillance of “no-go zones”, are but a couple examples of technologies utilized in both migration and crime management, with the distinction between them getting increasingly blurred. Migrant youth have become a topic of various debates in relation to these technologies. “Gang activity”, trafficking, or identity fraud, for instance, are some of the areas where A.I. is either already implemented or planned to be by various governmental agencies. While the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been implemented in Swedish Law, simultaneously, migrant youth are increasingly criminalized and targeted with new technology. Hence, an idea of children as valuable future resources in need of protection coexists with an idea of children as threats, with technology integral in the governance of both (Lee & Motzkau, 2011). This suggests that the category “child” is gendered, racialized, and more. Investigating how A.I. is developed and implemented within this area is thus an essential task. I aim to investigate how A.I. is used in public management of migrant youth in Sweden, and how conceptions of age, race, ethnicity, and gender is related to this process. I intend to do this by analyzing contemporary A.I. models and technology used in governance of migrant youth. Specifically, I am interested in seeing how a historical and biopolitical lens on A.I. can challenge the dominant modern framework of human rights, children’s rights, and citizenship, highlighting the need to expand scientific enquiries beyond Western conceptions of life in liberal democracy. My chosen empirical case is at least one of the current uses of A.I. in Swedish public management of migrant youth, with surveillance and biometric technology being of particular interest. My project would be a multi-sited study, employing a variety of methods. To understand the links between historical and cultural conceptions of migrant youth and A.I. technologies, I plan to examine the models developed by, and collect oral testimonies from, developers and practitioners, as well as from migrant youth coming in contact with this technology, if deemed ethically appropriate. Additionally, to understand how these perceptions are imbued in A.I. technology, I will also perform observations on sites where A.I. models interact with different agents, human and non-human alike, such as the Police and social services. I will also be complementing this data with secondary sources, such as policy decisions, public statements, but perhaps also popular culture.

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An Ontology of cryptocurrencies – Blockchain as an ownership creating machine

Author(s): Samuli Tikkanen

14 Aug | 15:40-16:00

Room: TP45

Session: Untangling the entangled processes of digitization and privatization

This study delves into the ontology of digital economies, exploring how capitalist ownership logics rooted in material possessions are brought into the digital realm via blockchain technology. The material-based, or classical view of ownership contrasts with the unique ontological space offered by digitality, which in its early stages emphasized the freedom of duplication and sharing of free files.

Sociological analysis of cryptocurrencies often focuses on the money form of cryptocurrencies. This article turns to STS literature and differential ontology to formulate how the lack of restrictions tied to materiality shapes the nature of digital ownership, arguing that cryptocurrencies could be better understood from the perspective of economic ontologies. Blockchain could be seen as an attempt to bring certain qualities of materiality, especially time/space individuation of goods and scarcity, into digital spaces, where goods are often infinitely reproducible without cost. This means that the blockchain itself is a machine that creates individuated goods in a digital space, where goods usually cannot be told apart. The paper further asks how this shift toward robust, blockchain-based ownership in the digital realm might alter the ownership paradigm associated with digital spaces, bringing it closer to classic views on ownership. Lastly, I speculate whether the discussion on access-based consumption of digital goods is still relevant in the future, considering that blockchain-based solutions create a more material-like form of ownership for digital virtual goods in digital spaces.

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Time for what and why? Civic education in the everyday life of Swedish families outsourcing domestic work

Author(s): Ulrika Widding, Ann-Louise Silfver

14 Aug | 15:40-16:00

Room: TP54

Session: Outsourcing household work across Europe: effects from a social and gender-equality perspective

Daily household chores in the family are often considered tedious. Involving children in these tasks can however be viewed as a means of socializing them to develop self-esteem, a work ethic, and a sense of responsibility toward others. Scholars have highlighted children's participation in domestic work as a family practice where children are being prepared for adulthood according to central cultural ideals, such as responsibility, independence, equality, and equity (Klein et al, 2009; Ambjörnsson, 2018). In this paper, we understand such un-/intentional socialisation processes within everyday family practices to be a form of civic education (Dahlstedt & Olson, 2013).

In recent years, families globally, including in Sweden, have faced constant time pressures (Gauthier, Smeeding, & Furstenberg Jr, 2004). As one solution to this, Swedish families have had the option, since 2007, to outsource domestic work through a tax deduction reform (SFS 2007:346), covering services like cleaning and laundry (Skatteverket n.d.). The popularity of this so-called RUT-reform has surged, with over 1.2 million deduction applicants in 2022 (Skatteverket, 2023).

This study explores everyday life in Swedish families outsourcing domestic services. Data includes narratives from 12 Swedish women in families regularly using domestic services. The analysis focuses on how these women interpret the meaning of daily family life and domestic work using discursive resources (Wetherell, 2005) and how they navigate conflicting norms and discourses (Potter, Edwards, & Wetherell, 1993) related to family life and outsourcing. The concept of civic education is used to discuss socialisation processes and the implicit and explicit cultural conceptions of the good citizen (Dahlstedt & Olson, 2013).

Results reveal that 'quality time' is perceived as an unquestionable ideal, emphasizing fun/restful family activities from the child's perspective. However, the reality of balancing (often more than) full-time work and children's activities often leaves limited time and energy for domestic work. Outsourcing domestic tasks is seen as a solution to this dilemma, leading to a negotiation of conflicting discourses—one portraying it as problematic, while the other normalizes it as providing job opportunities and supporting the service sector development. Some women problematize the impact of outsourcing domestic work on their children's socialization. Some envision gender equality and individual choice as key values for their children as adults, where outsourcing is a part of achieving this. The results thus point to how new ways of doing everyday family life also reshape the learning taking place in everyday family life.

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Beyond Convergence: Challenges in a New Land and the Depressed Fertility Among Migrant Descendants

Author(s): José Luis Estévez, Anna Rotkirch

15 Aug | 09:00-09:20

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

This study uses administrative registers to investigate the patterns of parenthood initiation among different groups of migrant descendants in Finland. Discrete-time logistic models reveal a pattern characterized by a higher likelihood of transition into parenthood for 1.5-generation migrants originating from high-fertility backgrounds compared to their native-born counterparts. This transition likelihood aligns closer with that of native-born individuals for the second generation and undergoes a reversal for the 2.5 generation (individuals born in Finland with a mixed migrant-native background) [see Figure 1]. We also conduct mediation analyses to investigate the influences of education and partnership status [see Figure 2]. The findings indicate that while higher education levels foster parenthood initiation for men, the impact is comparatively weaker for migrant descendants. Additionally, while the absence of a partner acts as a significant deterrent for parenthood, affecting both men and women, this effect is stronger for migrant descendants compared to their native-born counterparts. Based on the observed patterns, we conclude that challenges in the local partnership market, coupled with what seems a need of larger investment in their professional careers for men, may offset the impact of cultural influences, offering an explanation for the puzzle of "depressed fertility" noted among migrant descendants in Finland and other contexts.

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With friends like these: Clashing vulnerabilities in facilitating meaningful activities through digital means for adults with intellectual disability

Author(s): Richard Gäddman Johansson, Kristina Engwall

15 Aug | 09:00-09:20

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

This presentation will address the digitalization of disability services in Sweden, specifically focusing on the uneasy alliance between service users and frontline care workers engaging with and through assistive products and information and communication technology as part of everyday care and service provision. In Sweden, adults with intellectual disability (ID) who are not employed or enrolled as students have a right to support with meaningful activities which are typically organized at or through day centres. As the initial wave of the Covid-19 pandemic hit Sweden in early spring 2020, over one third of local municipal authorities made the decision to abruptly close all day centres to visitors and to suspend their regular activities for an unforeseen period of time (Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare 2021). The presentation draws upon data from a research project on the provision of meaningful activities at day centres for adults with ID during and in the wake of the pandemic, including interviews with service users, frontline care workers, and managers at five day centres. These were day centres which had all transitioned from primarily providing daily activities on-site to instead offering activities partly through various digital means. As part of the presentation, I will illustrate how service users were made vulnerable by the actions of frontline care workers at the day centres and in their home environments, as staff at both sites laboured to find common ground in working with digital technologies as part social situations riddled by risk and uncertainty. Moreover, I will show how day centre staff in turn were made vulnerable by the actions of local municipal authorities, as the former were left fumbling in the dark and experimenting with different ways of facilitating meaningful activities digitally during a time when few knew what was possible, reasonable, or legally permissible to do. The presentation will conclude with comments on the current state of providing meaningful activities to adults with ID through digital technologies and the potential future prospects this has for reducing the digital divide affecting this group (cf. Bryant et al. 2012; Johansson et al. 2021).

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The Ecological turn unfolding: Norwegian wood and Swedish forests

Author(s): Monika Berg, Gisle Andersen, Hogne Lerøy Sataøen

15 Aug | 09:00-09:30

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

In the 90s environmental policy took an ecological turn. Biodiversity and ecological health were recognized as critical issues which effected policy and legislation on national and international scale. In this paper we trace the development that has followed from this shift. We conduct an historical institutionalist analysis of Norway and Sweden with a particular focus on ecosystem and biodiversity management in the forest sector. Norway and Sweden are two countries that have had a strong environmental profile, and that have been identified as front-runners in environmental policy over the later decades. In that respect they were both good recipients for the ecological turn, and therefore suitable cases for tracing its impacts. The analysis targets changes in the key principles – the logic – underpinning political, administrative, and science-based processes. As concerns for ecosystem and biodiversity was implemented the demand for measuring and knowing states of nature emerged. The policy development over the last three decades is characterized by a search for better and more “objective” measures of states of nature, including measurements of the environmental effects of forestry, as well as of the protective measures (naturhänsyn) taken by the industry. This means that conflicting interest and perspectives between timber production and environmental protection play out as knowledge disputes. We identify an inherent tension within the ecological turn between controllability and protection of nature. This tension requires conscious and continuous consideration. How this tension is managed will determine the effects of the ecological turn.

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Diabetes Management Support in Preschool and Primary School: A Qualitative Ideation Study presenting Recommendations for Improved Communicative Practice

Author(s): Dan Grabowski

15 Aug | 09:20-09:40

Room: TP41

Session: The sociology of chronic illness

Childhood diabetes care in institutional settings is a significant challenge that affects the whole family as well as care workers and teachers. The present study is the ideation part of a rigorous development process in the Kids with Diabetes in School (KIDS) project. We have previously conducted a thorough three-part needs assessment in which we explored the problem area from the viewpoints of (1) municipal administrative staff, (2) preschool and school staff and (3) families.

Based on the identified needs and to a great extent on the contents and shortcomings of existing guidelines, the objective of the present study is to explore and develop possible solutions and recommendations for addressing the challenges and problems. To meet this objective, we held comprehensive multistakeholder participatory workshops in each of the five Danish regions. The data were analyzed using a set of four complexity-oriented research principles based on Niklas Luhmann's systems theory: (1) direct transfer of knowledge and competencies is impossible; (2) all individuals and social entities are fundamentally different from each other; (3) the individual's sense of meaning determines what is deemed relevant; and (4) it is essential for communication to meet expectations if it is to be observed.

Five main themes with multiple subthemes were identified as areas to be addressed: (1) training and knowledge, (2) communication and collaboration, (3) the designated contact/support person, (4) national guidelines, and (5) the Diabetes Coordinator.

Our findings demonstrate that communicative structures and dynamics are at the very heart of the identified problems and challenges and that the possible solutions should revolve around improving existing structures and highlighting the importance of constantly working on understanding and developing communication strategies. We propose a set of recommendations for practice based on these communicative needs.

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"I feel like I am betraying my child": The socio-politics of maternal guilt and shame

Author(s): Audur Magnis Audardottir, Annadís Greta Rúdólfsdóttir

15 Aug | 09:20-09:40

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

In this presentation, we explore maternal shame and guilt as affective derivatives of social regulations of motherhood in Iceland. We analyse 450 qualitative questionnaires completed by parents describing feelings of guilt and shame in connection to parenthood. We use 76 questionnaires completed by fathers to contrast and compare to answers from mothers to better understand the affective-discursive workings of motherhood. The affective-discursive analytical framework allows us to understand affective pulls, pushes, power dynamics and their social politics. The findings are contextualised in the Nordic welfare state, neoliberalism, the current ethos of intensive mothering. The recurrent thread running through the data is the idea of the ever-present mother, and under this umbrella concept, we have developed two affective-discursive themes: i) the guilt of working (long hours) and having to arrange for childcare and ii) failing to be 100% present for the child. We conclude that the emotions of guilt and shame are consistently present in mothers' lives, much more so than in fathers' lives, and that this gendered pattern is both caused by and serves to reinforce the age-old cultural mandate that mothers are primarily responsible for childrearing. The marks of intensive mothering are evident in mothers' description of feeling guilty for everyday tasks such as working, cleaning, studying, arranging for daycare, sending their children to preschool and attending to their own needs. This gendered pattern suggests that the gender equality cornerstone of the Nordic welfare state might be at risk as important institutions, such as preschools, are perceived as inferior to mothers' constant attention.

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Unleashing Collaboration, Taming Technology - Exploring the collaborative dynamics of welfare technology in eldercare practice

Author(s): Doris Lydahl

15 Aug | 09:20-09:40

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

This presentation introduces a larger project concerning the implementation of welfare technology in elder care, exploring the values embedded in its use. In the Nordic countries, 'welfare technology' is a concept used increasingly by policymakers when discussing the promise of digitalisation in care for older people. Drawing from science and technology (STS) theories of care and values (Lindén & Lydahl, 2021), the project emphasises the importance of understanding how technology shapes and is reshaped by caregiving practices and highlights the implications of these practices. The project builds on qualitative data consisting of interviews with and observations of employees in elder care in three municipalities in Sweden where welfare technology is being implemented and used.

In this presentation, I aim to explore the dynamic interplay between welfare technology and the collaborative efforts of eldercare employees. Building upon the insights of Pols and Willems (2011), who assert that the integration of technology involves a dual process of 'unleashing' and 'taming', I contend that welfare technologies not only introduce novel collective practices but also undergo a simultaneous process where collective procedures are taking place to adapt the technologies. I will demonstrate, echoing the findings of Sánchez-Criado et al. (2014), that technologies rarely offer plug-and-play solutions; instead, they require continual tinkering and adaptation to function. Additionally, I will emphasize the collaborative nature of this tinkering process.

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Disentangling the Drivers of Grading Bias: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

Author(s): Asta Breinholt, Anders Hjorth-Trolle, Mikkel Büchler Henriksen

15 Aug | 09:20-09:40

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

Teacher-awarded grades can act as crucial signals about academic skills, which affects students' choice of secondary and tertiary education (Holm, Hjorth-Trolle, and Jaeger 2019; Rangvid 2015). However, on average, boys, ethnic/racial minorities, and students with low parental education receive lower grades from their teacher than in external assessments (e.g., Burgess and Greaves 2013; De Benedetto and De Paola 2023; Lavy 2008; Rangvid 2015; Triventi 2020). These lower grades may then misinform students about their academic potential and cause them to lower their ambitions, leading to social inequality in educational attainment (Rangvid 2015) with implications for social mobility.

In this study, we exploit a natural experiment to estimate the role for teacher bias of statistical discrimination, which arises because teachers use observable group membership as a proxy for unobserved skills (Arrow 1973; Phelps 1972). In 2010, the Danish government introduced a mandatory, external, and standardized test in the 8th grade, the results of which the teacher receives. If grading disparities are mainly driven by statistical discrimination, standardized tests will reduce teacher bias because the test results reveal otherwise unobserved skills, eliminating the need to use group membership as a proxy.

We conform to the existing literature on teacher bias by estimating the following model:

...

where the outcome is the teacher-awarded grade for student i in subject j . $Male_{ij}$ and $Minority_{ij}$ measure gender and migration background and Edu_{ij} is a vector of two dummies measuring whether parents have either no or some secondary education (the reference group is parents with tertiary education). EG_{ij} measures exam grades. We estimate the model for five subjects: Danish, biology, Physics/Chemistry, Geography, and mathematics. The tests gave teachers information about student skills in each of these subjects, except mathematics, which acts as a placebo. If $B1$ is negative, boys on average receive lower teacher-awarded grades compared to girls with the same exam grade, which we interpret as indication of teacher bias. The interpretation of $B2$ and $B3$ is similar. To disentangle statistical discrimination, we estimate equation 1 for each pair of years between 2008–2014 and test for significant changes in $B1$, $B2$, and $B3$ between 2010 and 2011 when the test was introduced. We use Danish administrative registers on teacher-awarded grades and exam grades, both awarded in 9th grade in the years 2008–2014. We link these grades to information on students' sex, migration history, and parental education ($n \sim 190,000$ – $440,000$).

Figure 1 shows that for the year-pair 2010/2011, when the tests were introduced, the changes in grading disparities are indiscernible from (a) the other years where nothing changed and (2) from mathematics, where no 8th grade test was introduced. We interpret this result as evidence that statistical discrimination is unlikely to be the main driver of teacher bias.

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A commodification of urban greening projects: Urban gardening in Gothenburg as a cooperative practice or a risky and individualized career-opportunity?

Author(s): Ylva Wallinder

15 Aug | 09:30-10:00

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

The Agenda for Sustainable Development aims for inclusion, safety, resilience, and sustainability in urban residential areas. The Gothenburg city council has tried to implement these goals over the past decade, with focus on urban gardening and city farming. Urban gardening has been described as a potential space for improved urban social wellbeing and socially inclusive green growth, thus a possibility to combine social and commercial aspects of sustainability practices. During the past decade, the municipal shifted focus from associational urban gardening to urban agriculture and its emphasis of individual farming on municipal land (a project named Stadsbruk Göteborg). When global food chains and deliveries were radically restricted during the COVID-19 pandemic, officials aimed at increasing the city's degree of food-security through local food-chains. Since 2020, the city of Gothenburg thus started to encourage inhabitants to become city farmers by leasing a piece of municipal land.

The aim of this article is to discuss potential consequences and implications of the municipal change in focus, from collective, voluntary gardening activities to encouraging small-scale commercial farming. The current focus on city farming is described by officials as a possibility to combine social and commercial aspects of sustainability practices. This focus was described as a new possibility for inhabitants to support themselves financially as gardening activities in the city can provide a source of income. As a result, entrepreneurial gardeners have grown in numbers. Especially migrant groups with a farming experience from their country of birth saw new opportunities in the city's slogan 'from gardening box to hectare' and aimed for a career in farming. Under the municipalities' new scheme 'from gardening box to hectare', gardeners were encouraged to take part in entrepreneurial training activities (e.g., how to think like an entrepreneur) whilst taking part in the municipal gardening classes. However, due to the perceived competition between gardeners, entrepreneurial gardening became a very lonely and individualized activity, compared to gardening within the formalized associational activities previously promoted by the municipality.

In this study, I focus on the unexpected results in this commodification of urban greening projects. Furthermore, I analyze how socio-economic resources and social capital limits - or strengthen - the entrepreneurial gardening practices and the life quality of participants. It is argued that this gardening practice becomes a work first rather than life first practice, in particular for migrant groups.

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Transformative Dynamics of Chronic Illness in social disadvantaged neighbourhoods

Author(s): Kasper Olesen

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP41

Session: The sociology of chronic illness

The intersection of chronic illness and socioeconomic disadvantage presents a critical area of study within the sociology of chronic illness. This research delves into the prevalence and dynamics of chronic illnesses within Tingbjerg, a disadvantaged community in Copenhagen, Denmark, spotlighting the interplay between socioeconomic factors and health outcomes over the past decade.

Employing a robust longitudinal design, this study leverages Danish national registers to track the prevalence and incidence of chronic illnesses, including type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, among Tingbjerg residents from 2012 to 2021. Thus, the full national population of adults, in a 10-year period, was used as study population comprising data from 4.7 million individuals. By correlating health data with socioeconomic indicators such as income, education, and employment status, the research aims to unravel the complex mechanisms of health disparities that afflict disadvantaged communities.

Preliminary findings underscore a pronounced socioeconomic and health disadvantage among Tingbjerg residents, characterized by lower income, educational attainment, and higher unemployment and hospitalization rates for chronic conditions compared to national averages. However, preliminary longitudinal analysis suggests a nuanced narrative of gradual socioeconomic improvement and health stabilization, suggesting a potential decoupling of historical disadvantage from current health trajectories.

This study contributes to the sociology of chronic illness by elucidating the mechanisms through which socioeconomic factors influence health outcomes in disadvantaged communities. It challenges some traditional models of health disparities, proposing a dynamic interplay between place, socioeconomic status, and health that evolves over time. The findings hold significant implications for policymakers, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders, advocating for integrated approaches to foster health equity.

By mapping the health evolution of Tingbjerg's residents against a backdrop of socioeconomic change, this research offers a comprehensive analysis of the role of disadvantaged neighborhoods in shaping health outcomes. It invites further scholarly exploration into the conditions that facilitate health improvements in such communities, aiming to inform targeted interventions that can mitigate the impact of chronic illness across similarly disadvantaged neighbourhood, locally and globally.

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All abstract, chronological order

Single Parents in Swedish Twenty-First Century Media

Author(s): Helena Wahlström Henriksson, Disa Bergnehr

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

Although single parenthood is a highly feminized phenomenon, fathers as well as mothers are single parents. Therefore, it is important to investigate how “media images and representations intertwine with political and social ideologies” (Gallagher 2014, 27) to convey gendered messages about single parents. Drawing on findings from an interdisciplinary cultural studies project on single parents in Swedish media, this presentation explores representations of single mothers and fathers in three sets of materials: newspaper articles, fictional cinematic film and television, and literature (fiction and life writing). The analysis focuses on how these representations speak to the contemporary political and ideological context of their time of production. Single parenthood is “normalized” rather than socially or morally stigmatized in Sweden, and family policy has promoted fathers as (potential) primary parents since the 1970s, while regarding the single mother as “any other parent” and as “any other taxpayer” based on the high proportion of mothers in paid employment. Our study demonstrates that the single parent is a “split figure” (Hall 2019) in the Swedish media landscape, for while newspapers and TV series represent them as competent primary parents who manage well to combine work and family life, in Swedish drama they are primarily tragic figures marked by disqualification as a parent, which raises questions about their ostensible non-stigmatization. In fictional literature, meanwhile, the single father demonstrates parental commitment and ability but also embodies a fear of lost or unrecognized parental legitimacy, whereas single mothers are represented – often in auto/biographical narratives written by their grown children – in a range of ways, from failures to struggling survivors. It would seem, then, that while newspaper and TV representations discursively align themselves with gender-equality oriented national family policy in portraying the single parent as accomplished, and as managing the work-(family) life balance according to the ideal that every parent is an “earner-and-carer,” films and literature offer counter discourses in their subjective explorations of single parenthood as fraught, failed, or threatened.

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Vibrant Screens: Remote therapy and counselling through the lens of digital materiality

Author(s): Marjo Kolehmainen

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

This presentation draws upon an article analyzing the digital screen as a health technology, published in *Health* (Kolehmainen 2024). In the article, I ask how screens as a part of therapy settings or counselling practices materialise – or fail to materialise – care. The empirical data comprise interviews with therapy and counselling professionals, whose experiences with technology during the COVID-19 pandemic were my original interest. Adopting a sociomaterial approach to technology use, I scrutinise not only how screens are used, but also how screens themselves act and operate. This approach foregrounds the screen as ‘multiple’, complicating a dichotomous understanding between in-person therapy and remote therapy. In this presentation, I argue that the screen operates in a variety of ways that might either facilitate or degrade care and is an essential part of more-than-human care in digitalised societies. Acknowledging the agential capacities of all matter, I also conceptualise screens as ‘vibrant matter’.

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All abstract, chronological order

Growing up in vulnerable neighbourhoods in adolescence and later occupational status in emerging adulthood: A Danish register-based multilevel study

Author(s): Andreas Lindegaard Jakobsen, Rolf Lyneborg Lund, Anna Laura Ridder Agerskov, Hanne Louise Jensen, Anja Jørgensen

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

Previous studies have linked growing up in vulnerable neighbourhoods to worse health and social outcomes in adulthood (Chyn & Katz, 2021; Leventhal & Brooks-Gunn, 2000; Minh et al., 2017; Visser et al., 2021) but with mixed findings regarding the impact on young people's occupational status, and with studies often limited by models that did not optimally distinguish neighbourhood- from individual- or family-level effects.

The aim of this study was to examine the long-term association between growing up in a vulnerable Danish neighbourhood during adolescence and later occupational status in emerging adulthood and to compare the relative importance of the family and neighbourhood context. Danish population register data were used to follow 390,574 individuals nested in 301,227 families, which were nested in 7,937 neighbourhoods from age 10-15 in 2009 to age 20-25 in 2019. Three-level multilevel logistic regression models stratified by native and immigrant/descendant status were applied to estimate the general and specific family and neighbourhood contextual effects.

The results showed higher general contextual effects attributed to the family context compared to neighbourhoods, with the vulnerable neighbourhoods explaining only a small part of the neighbourhood variance. After controlling for individual- and family-level covariates, growing up in a vulnerable neighbourhood during adolescence was associated with a higher risk of not being in education or employment in emerging adulthood for both native Danes and immigrants/descendants.

The findings indicate that growing up in a vulnerable neighbourhood may have a long-term negative impact on occupational status but with a much larger contextual influence attributed to the family context than to adolescents' neighbourhood context.

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Technological change and social inequality in online education at home: New empirical evidence from OECD countries

Author(s): Rona Geffen, Birgit Becker

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

In recent decades, technological advancement has diffused across countries worldwide at different paces and magnitudes (Thamprasert, 2020). Many students now have more access to computers and online education has become an important part of education (Gonzalez-Betancora, Lopez-Puigb and Cardenal, 2021). However, empirical evidence has shown that the use of the Internet for online education outside school is socially stratified (Becker, 2022). In spite of the growing body of research on both technological changes (Kristal, 2020) and the digital divide (Van Dijk, 2020), little is known about whether technological advancement benefits students from all social strata equally. Does the technological advancement that should provide better access to computers and the Internet equalize inequality in online education use at home? Does this depend on the level of use (high vs. low frequency use)? The current study makes a contribution to the literature by providing empirical evidence regarding the role of technological change in shaping social inequality in the use of the Internet for educational purposes at home in 26 OECD countries.

We used a harmonized dataset from the PISA 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018 waves that included 585,201 students from 26 OECD countries, including European countries, to explore our questions empirically. Using multilevel linear models with cross-level interactions and country fixed effects, we tracked the spread of the Internet across the populations in these countries over almost a decade. We explored how this technological advancement as a macro level factor changed the social inequality in online education at home in groups of students with different levels of educational resources at home. As a measure of social inequality, we compared the differences in online education use for students with more and fewer educational resources at home, because these resources are considered important cultural capital in the knowledge society.

Our findings show that Internet diffusion both compensates for and increases social inequality in online education use, depending on the level of use. Specifically, Internet diffusion in a country reduces inequality in the basic use of online education at home, but it increases inequality at the highest level of use. Students with more educational resources at home are better positioned than those with limited resources to use the new technological learning opportunities. Thus, they spend more time using the Internet for schoolwork as opposed to other purposes. In order to equalize educational opportunities, policymakers should provide better educational resources at home for disadvantaged students.

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Gendered democratic political participation on Facebook in a Danish context

Author(s): Vincent Gadegaard

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP55

Session: Sociality in the Digital Age: Interactions, Emotions, Lifestyles, and Norms

My PhD project explores the gendered differences in political talk on social media as it occurs during interactions in public political posts using a dataset containing almost full coverage of Facebook comments, likes, and replies by Danish citizens on posts by Danish politicians. Previous research reveals consistent inequality in the amount and type of political engagement and deliberation that individuals engage with between genders in traditional political settings. Experimental research and surveys reveal an overall tendency for women to be less engaged with politics, feel and be seen as less authoritative in debate and generally participate less despite equal interest and political mobilization elsewhere. This suggests that social frames of political deliberation to some degree discourage women from participating in public political participation.

The project proposes that gendered differences in participation are maintained through differences in the situations and interaction participated in and the type of talk engaged with. In this view, digital space is a new and unique frame for interaction with distinct affordances and contexts that offers unique opportunities for understanding the changing landscape of political interaction that yet retain systematic gendered differences.

The project therefore employs digital trace data to enhance research into a generalizable qualitative understanding of interaction, by drawing on work by e.g. Goffman on talk and the interaction order, and Boltanski & Thevenots' theory about the pragmatic use of regimes of justification, to analyze online political deliberation as consisting of different types of speech acts that are situationally mediated and interactionally embedded. These speech acts are in the digital context written utterances with differing rationales and intentions that can overlap and be used strategically in interaction to position oneself. One aspect of these is the justification order of utterances, which can include actions such as critique, support, demands, opinions, claims to validity, and more.

I will discuss how the interactional frame and digital affordances together with a sequence of speech acts by actors play together to create qualitative differences in the specific forms of talk individuals engage in - that tend to vary systematically with situation and generally differ between genders.

The focus of the first paper, and the main strokes of the presentation, will thus be how the digital frame as an interactional context has great implications on the type of situations and the talk that will occur, including the context and qualities of gendering talk within interaction. This also leads to reflections on how digital mediated contexts for political participation might shape the future of interaction, public and civil society in democratic societies.

Alongside this, as more political engagement by citizens move to digital contexts, adapting both concepts and methods to this is an important move for social sciences trying to understand the changing landscape of gender inequalities and participatory democracy in a digitized world.

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School Spending and Child Well-Being in the U.S.: Targeted Spending to Reduce Racial Inequality

Author(s): Emily Rauscher, Greer Mellon

15 Aug | 09:40-10:00

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

Recent work using causal inference techniques consistently finds that students benefit from K-12 spending increases in the U.S. (Jackson & Mackevicius 2021; Candelaria & Shores 2019; Rauscher 2020a). Spending improves achievement, high school graduation, employment, and income, with larger benefits among low-income students and communities (Rauscher 2020a, 2020b; Rauscher and Shen 2022).

Relatively less is known about mechanisms: how spending benefits students or whether spending matters in different ways depending on student racial/ethnic background. Racial and ethnic inequality exists in every measure of health and educational opportunity (Chen et al. 2006; Smedley et al. 2003). Children spend about half their waking hours at school, which makes school context one important avenue for reducing racial and ethnic inequalities (Downey 2020).

1) Which types of spending mediate the effects of spending on child well-being?

2) How do mechanisms differ by student race/ethnicity?

We use close school district tax elections and regression discontinuity models to estimate effects of school operations spending on child well-being by race/ethnicity in 10 states in the U.S., 1995-2018. We compare districts that narrowly passed/failed a proposed funding increase. Within a narrow bandwidth around the cutoff required to pass, districts that pass/fail a funding increase are assumed to be similar except for voteshare, which is controlled. Multiple validity checks assess assumptions.

We examine multiple measures of wellbeing, including test scores and child mortality rates, calculated separately by race/ethnicity. We estimate how much each type of spending mediates the effects on well-being.

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Excluding the involved father: Having a child during the COVID pandemic in Iceland

Author(s): Sunna Simonardottir, Ásdís Arnalds

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

Iceland has prioritized the importance of active fatherhood through the implementation of public policies that encourage men to be actively involved in caregiving. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, fathers in Iceland were excluded from various aspects of maternity care as a measure to reduce the spread of the virus. Prenatal care guidelines in Iceland changed dramatically as COVID-19 spread through the population in March of 2020. The policies changed rapidly based on the fluctuations of the infection rate, so for most expectant mothers in 2021, partners were not allowed to accompany them to antenatal visits and screening scans. The exclusion of partners from the ultrasound examination was intended to protect staff with specialised skills. For some prospective parents, the birth itself was also subject to extreme COVID-related measures, including partners not being able to be present until the mother was in active labour, having to use face masks in the delivery room, and partners having to leave the hospital once the baby was born. In order to explore how parents experienced these strict COVID-19 restrictions, the study conducted focus group interviews with 27 parents who had a child in 2021. The focus group interviews were transcribed verbatim and subsequently analysed by both authors utilizing thematic analysis methods.

The participants in the focus groups perceived pregnancy and birth as a shared experience that both parents were equally invested in. Consequently, most of them took proactive measures to ensure that fathers could be present despite the restrictions. The process of labour and childbirth is a significant life event for both parents. While the findings clearly emphasise how pregnancy and the act of giving birth has been constructed as a “couple event”, in which fathers and other partners have a supporting role and start to form a bond with their child, they also reveal obstacles to involved fatherhood in Iceland. While shared parenting has been constructed as the proper model, pregnancy and the early stages of parenting are in many ways still preserved for mothers. By investigating parents’ experiences and reactions, the study reveals important cracks in the façade of shared parenting ideologies in Iceland, a country that has been labelled the most gender-equal country in the world. The results contest the strong preferences of both parents’ involvement in infant care, set forth by state policies, and present a culture of ambivalence towards father’s role during pregnancy and early childhood. Thereby, the results highlight the need for implementing policies that facilitate inclusion for fathers as important and active participants in their own right.

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Municipal healthcare professionals' experiences as end-users in the digital-transformed healthcare

Author(s): Gloria Ziglioli

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

Given the unprecedented technological development, a remarkable body of literature that examines digital technologies in the healthcare services domain is expanding. As digitalization is capillary flooding welfare services, unpacking the rationality(s) behind such digital transformation and the implications for political and legal responses, care practice and relations, healthcare services' professionals and users, and citizens in general is vital. The study presented here belongs to the domain of critical digital health studies, positioning digital health technologies as "sociocultural products located within pre-established circuits of discourse and meaning" (Lupton, 2014: 1349).

In particular, the paper interrogates the meanings and the uses of a specific digital application from the perspective of the municipal, home-based healthcare services' professionals working in Kristiansand (south of Norway). The municipal healthcare staff appears a valuable unit of analysis – that often is overlooked in the literature (Borg et al., 2023). Considering them as users of welfare technology, as well as facilitators has become crucial (Saborowski & Kollak, 2015) for deeper understanding the cultural transformation of care by means of digital health technologies.

When healthcare workers have been met and interviewed, the application was in the test phase as part of a broader regional project pointing to develop a seamless solution for welfare technology and digital home monitoring, while also reconfiguring the role and the responsibilities of municipal healthcare services.

The main findings from the qualitative study will be presented and discussed, touching upon the digital divide among the healthcare professionals (both nurses and healthcare workers) and technological resistance as elements that might have an impact in accepting and successfully integrating innovative digital solutions in the healthcare services. The presentation also extends to the discussion of healthcare personnel's perceptions of their new role produced by the presence of welfare technology, and the trade-offs in negotiating patients' engagement, technical experts' knowledge and institutions' purposes.

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Neighborhood Ethnic Composition and Contacts with Neighbors: Taking into account length of residence and selection effects

Author(s): Stephan Dochow-Sondershaus

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

The association between local ethnic composition and social cohesion has received widespread scholarly attention. Existing research consistently reports negative associations between neighborhood-level ethnic diversity and neighborhood cohesion indicators (Dinesen, Schaeffer, and Sønderskov 2020). This finding has been attributed to coordination and cooperation dilemmas in contexts involving different ethnic groups, which consequently result in an individual retreat from neighborhood life. However, there are still very few studies that aim at establishing the causal role of ethnic composition. Assessing causality is complicated by the fact that households select their area of residence based on a variety of expectations and opportunities that might also affect their readiness to engage with neighbors. Furthermore, selection processes are temporally complex and can be thought of sequential moves into and out of certain neighborhoods.

To address these issues, this study examines trajectories of individual contact experiences with neighbors by asking a clearly defined causal question: “What is the effect of moving to, and staying in, a neighborhood with a given ethnic composition for a pre-specified period on individuals’ contacts with neighbors?”

Using the German Socio-Economic Panel, merged with fine-grained data about German neighborhoods, I focus on households that recently moved into a new neighborhood, and adjust for variables that might cause selective in-mobility. Furthermore, I use inverse probability weighting to adjust for potential causes of out-mobility throughout the study period.

I find that, irrespective of ethnic composition, households experience a substantial increase in perceived contact quality with neighbors and the probability to visit neighbors after staying in a neighborhood for five years. Through this increase, households in ethnically diverse neighborhoods reach the same level of neighborhood contacts as those in less diverse neighborhoods. These findings suggest that ethnic neighborhood diversity does not limit close contacts with neighbors and are at odds with theoretical accounts that suggest “hunkering down” of individuals in diverse contexts.

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Assortative mating trends in the era of online dating: Partner choice in Sweden 1990 to 2017

Author(s): Jesper Lindmarker

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

The interplay between geography and assortative mating plays a crucial role in shaping who meet and how couples meet, and in recent decades this dynamic has undergone significant transformation, to some degree driven by the advent of online dating. First, couples are now less likely to meet through social networks or through shared social foci (Rosenfeld, Thomas, and Hausen 2019). Second, the prominence of online dating facilitate more diverse interactions, as the influence of homophilous networks is diminished in the digital dating arena (Thomas 2020). Third, with dating apps people are less restricted by distance in who they can meet, even if online dating markets tend to be defined by geographical areas (Bruch and Newman 2019). A question that remain unanswered is how the new dating environment influences assortative mating patterns.

This paper presents a study of the trends in assortative mating in Sweden between 1990 and 2017. First, as an indirect test of how online dating has changed how we meet, I test changes in the importance of having attended the same school or workplaces for the likelihood of partner choice. Second, I test the hypothesis that geographical proximity (propinquity) has decreased in relative importance. Third, I examine the changes in ethnic, educational and age homogamy over time. Importantly, the modelling approach is able to test these trends while accounting for changes in relative group sizes, composition and changes in the patterns of segregation.

We use micro-level, conditional logistic regression models to estimate the probability that the observed unions were formed relative to counterfactual unions drawn from the available pool of singles (Haandrikman and van Wissen 2012; Gullickson 2021). This flexible approach allows us to estimate parameters associated with various couple characteristics while also accounting for the marginal distributions of ethnic groups and sorting along other socioeconomic and demographic dimensions.

We perform this analysis using data derived from the Swedish population registers, maintained and provided to us by Sweden's Statistiska Centralbyrå (SCB). These extensive longitudinal data allow us to identify people's ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic status, the timing of their entry into cohabitation or marriage, and, the residential locations, workplaces and schools across the life course, coded down to a 100 meter spatial resolution. Beyond the level of detail in our data, Sweden is also a compelling place to study assortative mating due to both its reputation as a 'family forerunner' (Ohlsson-Wijk, Turunen, and Andersson 2020) and its rapidly growing ethnic diversity during our period of study, 1990-2017.

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Participatory Mapping as a Tool to Investigate Public Risk Perception

Author(s): Paulina Budryte

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

Nature and the natural environment are often associated with rural areas, however, the environmental risks affect cities just as strongly as rural areas (Asmara et al., 2022). They could be regional, like extensive heat waves, which are extremely dangerous to elderly citizens, or local, like the spread of pollution from localized sources or floods after extreme rain events. The existing knowledge body indicates that predictions of natural hazards are improving (Axelrod et al., 1999; Oubennaceur et al., 2022), yet a political and technological response is lacking (Wachinger et al., 2013). Further, since the population of city dwellers are growing, it becomes paramount to be prepared for risks, including environmental ones, in urban settings. Public risk perception as an intuitive judgement of a person (Slovic, 2000) does not always correlate with existing scientific knowledge and professional expertise (Sjöberg, 1970, 2011; Wachinger et al., 2010). However, such a dichotomy of views leads to miscommunications in the discussions on political agenda and development aims and tasks. Although investigations and scientific inquiries on this topic have been stemming for decades (Balzekiene et al., 2022), there are still unanswered research questions, and adverse outcomes still appear, like political miscommunication, fake news, unprepared communities for the crisis or harming and/or inadequate reactions to the crisis (Anderson & Renaud, 2021; Siegrist, 2021; Yang, 2019). Here, I would like to present the results of the participatory mapping on risk perception. These activities with local communities aimed to explore public risk perception on various risks in their close surroundings, including environmental risks. It is essential to underline that participatory mapping was done in the third biggest city in Lithuania – Klaipeda, which is also a port city close to the Lithuanian-Russian border. This city holds a reputation of irresponsible manufacturing companies. In Klaipeda, almost every year, some environmental disaster happens due to poor practices in companies (sewage or pollution spills, waste fires, etc.). Additionally, the SGD terminal is very close, and in the near future, an off-shore wind farm will be built. This context creates sensitive and sceptical communities. During participatory mapping activities, community representatives indicated risk spots on the map and drew impact zones. Additionally, discussions about such results were carried out, and reflections were collected after the introduction of professional maps of risks. In this way, knowledge co-production has a direct impact on the communities – hopefully, they will have awareness regarding risks and will be better equipped to react if any crisis happens.

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Algorithmic ritual chains on TikTok

Author(s): David Bazan

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP55

Session: Sociality in the Digital Age: Interactions, Emotions, Lifestyles, and Norms

Algorithmic encounters have become habitual in everyday life. People engage with algorithms on their smartphones, in their leisure time or at work, and their actions can regulate people's lives without them even acknowledging it. One particular relevant type of algorithm is those used to generate algorithmic recommendations. From films, music, potential lovers or books, platforms develop powerful algorithms to predict what users might like and need. However, algorithmic recommendations do not suggest the same content to all users but adapt their recommendations dynamically through endless feedback loops based on users' engagement with them. In this presentation, I will focus on how feedback loops between user and algorithm can be studied through the lens of interaction ritual theory (Collins, 2004). In doing so, I will study algorithmic encounters, analyzing how affective states shape the kind of recommendations users get and, at the same time, how recommender systems have the capacity to affect users on TikTok.

TikTok has become a popular space enabling new forms of communication, especially among younger people. Beyond moral panics about its disruptive role in society, young people's use of TikTok gets embedded in the everyday lives, experiences and fantasies of its users. Through digital ethnography, I explore how the circulation of TikToks becomes a space intimately linked to the lifeworld of the user and a space for the circulation of collective representations entrapped on different degrees of shared feelings. The use of the concept of algorithmic ritual chains supports two different aims: firstly, it helps us understand how affects shape and (re)shape recommendations through binding flows of emotional energy generated between user and algorithm. Second, it shows how interaction ritual theory can help study the actions of users scrolling down through the app, and at the same time, participates in the debate about the adequacy of interaction ritual theory to study algorithmic encounters and digital processes, at broad.

Inequality and Volunteering during COVID-19

Author(s): Lærke Høgenhaven

15 Aug | 10:00-10:20

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

This paper aims at examining the relationship between volunteering and inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic in Denmark. Most research on volunteering focus on individuals engaging in volunteer work, and find positive correlations between volunteering and a number of positive outcomes e.g. physical health, mental health and well-being (Burr et al. 2021; Detollenaere et al. 2017). To my knowledge, the same research does not exist concerning the recipients of volunteer help. With this paper, I want to add to the literature by including the recipients of volunteer help in addition to those engaged in volunteer work. I am able to do this, because COVID-19 offers a unique opportunity to examine possible benefits of receiving volunteer help. During the pandemic, many new needs arose due to different public offers shutting temporarily down. This resulted in volunteer work aimed 1:1 at specific individuals like grocery shopping, childcare or financial aid, making the recipients of volunteer work more easily observable and measureable. To examine the possible relationship between volunteering and inequality, I focus on psychical and mental health as these were likely affected by the pandemic's disruption of everyday life and habits (Vindegaard & Benros 2020). I thus seek to answer the following research question: What is the relationship between volunteering and mental and psychical health for those volunteering and those receiving volunteer help during COVID-19? To answer this research question, I draw on Danish cross sectional survey data (n=3.557) and four waves of longitudinal survey data (n=1.377) collected during 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey includes a wide range of items measuring respondents' attitudes, beliefs and volunteer actions during the pandemic including self-reported health and different measures of anxiety relating to the pandemic. The analysis consists of two parts. First, I perform logistic regressions to examine possible differences in health between respondents engaging in volunteering and those who do not. I do the same for respondents who receive adequate volunteer help to meet their needs and those who do not. Second, I use fixed effect models to trace within differences in health outcomes for both volunteers' and recipients of volunteer help over time during the pandemic. I discuss the results of the analysis concerning the impact of volunteering on health inequality in light of the pandemic. Further, I discuss the importance of including recipients of volunteer help when examining the relationship between volunteering and health inequality.

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Gender Division of Domestic Labor and Outsourcing: Complementary or Competing Strategies?

Author(s): Liat Raz-Yurovich, Barbara Okun

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP41

Session: Gender inequalities

Previous studies have suggested two main household strategies to reduce women's role incompatibility: (1) greater contribution of male partners in the domestic sphere and; (2) outsourcing of domestic labor. Little research has examined joint household decisions regarding these two strategies.

We ask whether outsourcing and more equal division of labor are complementary strategies (i.e. couples use domestic services and equally divide the residual unpaid work between the partners) or competing strategies (i.e., despite outsourcing, the female partner does a larger share of domestic labor). We also ask whether the use of different joint strategies varies across couples by partners' educational levels and by the type of domestic work (childcare vs. housework).

We analyze pooled data from Germany, France, Belgium and Austria from Wave I (2005 – 2010) of the Generations and Gender Program. For the analyses of housework, we analyze a sample of married and cohabiting heterosexual couples for whom the main respondent is aged 23-59 (N = 10,034). For the analyses of childcare, we focus on a subsample with at least one child aged 0-12, and we will further break this down by age of youngest child (e.g. for children aged 0-2, N = 1,778).

Preliminary findings suggest that overall, outsourcing and more equal division of domestic labor are complementary strategies. However, women who lack tertiary education face the double burden of doing the lion's share of housework without the benefit of domestic outsourcing. This double burden may impact labor market outcomes.

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“Do you want more happy moments with your child?”: The role of Danish welfare workers as mediators of parent’s emotional self-work in the quest for happiness and well-being

Author(s): Stine Thidemann Faber

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

On the front page of the brochure, it reads: "Do you want more happy moments with your child?" The brochure introduces an education programme available to parents to small children (under the age of three) in Danish municipalities. Inside the brochure, it says: The programme will provide parents with new tools on how to interact with their child and accommodate to its's needs and behaviours. It further states that the parents will learn how to better understand their child's emotions and how to adjust their own emotional responses accordingly. The communicated message in the brochure is that, by receiving professional assistance and by making use of specific techniques and tools in everyday interactions, parents will not only become more skilled in 'how to parent'; they can also learn to manage and carry themselves in ways that reduces conflicts in parent-child interactions. The reward promised to parents if they participate is appealing: Who wouldn't want to have more happy moments with their child? In this paper, I ask how we can understand this turn to happiness within the context of parent education programmes in the Danish welfare state? I try to understand, from the professional viewpoint, why emotional self-work and emotion management on the parts of parents have more recently come to play such a prominent role in supporting well-being and building resilience in families. As part of this, I analyze the ways in which the welfare professionals aim to teach parents to change their ways of thinking and acting to create more happy moments. The paper builds on a combination of extensive empirical data such as policy documents, ethnographic fieldwork, observations and interviews. This I bring together with recent social theories, such as Ahmed (2010) as well as Cabanas and Illouz (2019). The paper raises some critical questions of the ways in which parenting has become linked to a quest for happy moments and how this may end up reshaping how parents come to understand and think about themselves and their child(ren) and what it means to live a good family life.

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Deception as digital emotional labor: The use of welfare technology in dementia care

Author(s): David Redmalm, Clara Iversen, Marcus Persson, Elin Thunman

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

Welfare technology usually works best when users ignore it, or when they accept the technology's presence without questioning it. However, this means that users' integrity and their chance to make an informed consent is put at risk. Based on previous research and original empirical material, this presentation focuses on three examples to specify how this dilemma is materialized in dementia care. First, guidelines emphasize the need for informed consent when it comes to video surveillance, but video surveillance works best when the cameras are ignored. Second, nursing homes often use internet platforms for entertainment purposes and users' profiles can be highly personalized. However, the algorithms that identify the users' preferences are usually obscure—to residents as well as to care staff. Third, while robotic animals are increasingly used in dementia nursing homes, guidelines dissuade care staff from leading residents to believe that the robots are real. However, in practice both residents and care staff usually approach the robots as if they were real animals. These challenges concerning deception, transparency and integrity cannot simply be solved through additional information, as people with dementia may already be struggling to understand, and remember, abstract instructions. Deceptive practices in relation to technology is therefore here considered as a form of digital emotional labor through which care staff attempt to bridge the gap between policy and practice. They do so partly in their communication with nursing home residents, and partly through their own reflective practices around these technologies. In conclusion, it is argued that dilemmas connected to welfare technology, and the deceptive practices related to its use, are not built into the technological devices. Instead, deception is a relational phenomenon that emerges from interactions between care staff, residents, and technological artifacts and systems.

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Employment discrimination based on gender and ethnicity and its impact on gender segregation in the labor market: Evidence from an experimental study in the Swedish labor market

Author(s): Magnus Bygren, Moa Bursell

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

Our aim with this study is to contribute to knowledge about the process behind gender segregation in the labor market, i.e., the process whereby individuals sort by ascribed characteristics – here gender – into job positions in the labor market. Segregation may be seen as generated by the combined outcome of decisions located at the supply side and the demand side of the employer-employee match. Previous research has almost exclusively focused the supply side, because this is where data have been easily accessible. Consequently, we do not know much about whether or how employer hiring decisions affect gender segregation. Discrimination research usually focuses on one dimension in isolation, although theoretically there is a relatively obvious intersection between gender and ethnicity that is relevant in this context. For example, discrimination may depend on niche-specific priors on gender and ethnic differences in job competence, and these may, consciously or subconsciously, affect employer beliefs on how prospect employees will perform.

Our specific focus in this study is therefore to analyze how existing structural gender segregation combined with employer discrimination based on gender and ethnicity gives rise to processes that reinforce gender segregation in the labor market.

In order to estimate the impact of employer discrimination on gender segregation, we use experimental correspondence audit data. Correspondence audits consist in constructing applications for fictitious individuals and use these to apply for real jobs in the labor market, and then observe the employer responses to these job applications.

We applied for 16,121 jobs in 28 different occupations in the Swedish labor market, in 2021-2023. The equally merited applicants' ethnicity and gender were signaled by Swedish sounding names and names typical for individuals with an origin from former Yugoslavia and the larger Middle East. Equal proportions of 'women', 'men', 'natives' and 'foreigners' applied for the jobs. We created a sharewomen variable at the occupational level, drawing on annual data from Statistics Sweden's occupation register 2023.

We report results in Figure 1. We can see that 1) 'Swedish' applicants (as expected) have higher chances of receiving employer callbacks, 2) that 'Swedish men' are favored over 'Swedish women' in male dominated occupations, and 3) that 'foreign women' are heavily favored over 'foreign men' in female dominated occupations.

These patterns indicate that employers in general contribute to reinforcing gender segregation in the labor market, and that employers in particular contribute to reinforcing gender segregation for people with a foreign background. The results strongly suggest that gender and ethnicity should be analyzed in combination to get the full picture of how employers' discrimination contributes to gender segregation in the labor market.

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Inequality of Opportunity in Education, Occupation, Income, and Wealth

Author(s): Sanni Kuikka, Max Thaning

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

This paper applies a novel approach for understanding to what extent children's life chances are constrained by their background and upbringing, in the context of Sweden. Relying on the framework of (in)equality of opportunity (IOp) developed by John Roemer (1998), we conceptualize inequality as stemming from both the circumstances individuals are brought up in, as well as individual efforts. While distinguishing between these two components – circumstances and efforts – has its challenges, as well as political, philosophical, and conceptual debates (see e.g. Byskov et al., 2023; Grätz, 2023; Roemer & Trannoy, 2015), we focus on the circumstances defined as follows: the home situation and family constellation, parental socioeconomic status, the neighbourhood one lives in, the school one goes to, sex, race, and migration background. We consider how these circumstances can be jointly leveraged to understand the individuals' four socioeconomic (SES) outcomes: Education, Occupation, Income, and Wealth.

Recent literature has advanced the methodological approach to measure IOp by integrating the currently used methods – like sibling correlations and fixed effects models - with machine learning (ML) methods: ML approaches for measuring IOp, more specifically regression forests, have been proposed by Brunori et al. (2023), to account for known estimate biases. Recent applications of ML methods for estimating IOp include the case of income transmission in Germany (Brunori & Neidhöfer, 2021), income transmission in Latin America (Brunori, Ferreira, et al., 2023), household consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa (Brunori et al., 2019), wealth in regions of Mexico (Plassot et al., 2022), and income in a cross-national comparison in Europe (Carranza, 2022).

The current examples of the literature share three shortcomings: they are often using cross-sectional survey data, primarily analyzing income as the outcome, and have limited survey based observable variables at their disposal. We address these shortcomings by accounting for the multiple domains of SES (i.e. multidimensional SES), both as the parental input, as well as the child outcomes, to understand the complex dynamics of socioeconomic transmissions (see e.g. Thaning, 2023). Additionally, by using administrative register data we can provide a wider set of (observable) circumstances, and leverage longitudinal high-quality data spanning over several decades.

We will estimate lower and upper bounds of IOp in the four SES outcomes, education, occupation, income, and wealth. We leverage the population registers, focusing on the birth cohorts of 1967-1969 (N ~300 000). The outcome variable income is operationalized as lifetime disposable income, occupation through ISEI status scores (see Ganzeboom & Treiman, 1996), education as the highest education level obtained, and wealth as average net wealth across the available years (1999-2007). Our research question is as follows:

In the context of Sweden, what are the lower and upper bounds of inequality of opportunity, for each four SES outcomes?

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Gossip is Prevalent in Spontaneous Human Communication

Author(s): Károly Takács

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP55

Session: Sociality in the Digital Age: Interactions, Emotions, Lifestyles, and Norms

Gossip seems to be a core and universal element of human social interactions and is essential for the development of reputations and informal social order. According to an influential hypothesis, gossip has developed as an advanced form of social grooming and primarily serves social bonding between the sender and the receiver. Accordingly, gossip could be idle talk that constitutes up to two thirds of informal speaking time. We examined this hypothesis in a 550-hour corpus of spontaneous unfiltered informal conversations in a closed environment using manual gossip annotations. We found that only 37.2% of all conversation segments contained within-context gossip. Gossip segments, however, were 2.6 times longer than segments without gossip, resulting that 59.3% of all speaking time spent in conversations containing within-context gossip. At any point of a discussion, if gossip has been initiated, it significantly extended the length of the conversation. Excitement during gossip is indicated also by more turn-takings and a higher speed of speech in gossip segments.

Anticipating climate risk in local level adaptation plans

Author(s): Mikael Linnell

15 Aug | 10:40-11:10

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

Local governments are under pressure to adapt communities, infrastructures, and societal functions under their jurisdiction to climate-related risks, both short-term and long-term. At the same time, the implementation of adaptation measures at the local level is associated with great challenges: On the one hand, local authorities may suffer from a lack of government funding which typically leads to short-term and inadequate adaptation measures. On the other hand, present and potential future effects of climate change are characterized by insufficiency of sure knowledge. Hence, in the absence of reliable or complete information, and in the presence of great uncertainty over the implications, it is difficult to conduct proper risk assessment (Guidotti, 2021). As noted by Garschagen and colleagues, failing to capture the full spectrum of risk drivers may lead to maladaptive outcomes if adaptation measures are directed at reducing some risk drivers while amplifying others (Garschagen et al., 2021). Consequently, adaptation measures are often reactive, responding to acute and concrete effects of climate change and other environmental problems, while proactive measures and actions focusing on abstract or slowly emerging risks are deprioritized. So how do responsible municipal actors and local authorities relate to uncertain future risks linked to climate change adaptation? In this study, I explore how potential future risks related to adaptation measures are imagined and articulated in local level adaptation plans in Sweden. To complicate matters, climate adaptation measures may interfere with systems, services and infrastructures which are essential to the functioning of society. Likewise, vital systems and critical infrastructures – like transport, health and social care, management of fresh- and wastewater, and energy supply – are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. Therefore, the exploration of local adaptation plans will be guided by two interrelated questions: First, how do local governments relate to vital systems, services and infrastructures in their adaptation plans and, second, what future risks are anticipated, explicitly and implicitly, in these plans? In brief, the study aims to shed light on the intersection between effects of climate change on vital systems, services and infrastructures on the one hand, and potential future risks as driven by climate adaptation on the other. For the theoretical framing, I employ social theories of time and temporality (Ruwet, 2021). The empirical material consists of ten local level adaptation plans which are supplemented by interviews with ten municipal environment or climate strategists. Analysis of the material suggests five points of convergence regarding climate adaptation, vital systems and future risk: local governments' resourcefulness; localization of vital systems, services and infrastructures; accessibility/trafficability; contamination/pollution; and local government's interlacing of adaptation and preparedness. These points are then discussed in relation to time stratification and knowledge uncertainty.

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Educational expansion, occupational upgrading, and changes in education-occupation linkage

Author(s): Xiaojie Xu

15 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

The past few decades have seen dramatic educational expansion accompanied by a shift in occupational structure, which raises important questions regarding whether and how the association between education and occupation has changed over time. Extensive research suggests that there is an increasing vertical mismatch between education and occupation in developed countries because occupational upgrading has often been found to lag behind educational expansion. However, less is known about changes in the horizontal association between educational fields of study and detailed occupational categories.

This study investigates changes in education-occupation linkage in Sweden in recent decades. Using Swedish register data between 2001 and 2021, the results show that the overall linkage between education and occupational systems has remained stable, but the trends for different educational levels and fields of study were fundamentally different. Both educational and occupational compositions have shifted towards stronger education-occupation linkage, but this was counteracted by weakening structural associations at the short tertiary and upper secondary vocational levels. Surprisingly, despite dramatic expansion, the structural association of college education with occupational destinations remained stable. Since college graduates usually work in relatively high-skilled occupations, this means that the occupational structure has been simultaneously upgraded to absorb college graduates. However, with the exceptional expansion of college education, short tertiary education has simultaneously lost its advantages in securing high-status occupations. Taken together, the expansion of upper tertiary education has contributed to a strengthening linkage between the educational system and occupational destinations, but this was offset by a weakening linkage at lower educational levels and resulted in stable overall linkage. These patterns are similar between genders and more pronounced among young workers than among all workers.

This study enhances our understanding of how the relationship between education and labor markets has evolved under the significant expansion of upper tertiary education. In comparison to other European countries, the Swedish educational system is often characterized by low vocational specificity and a loose connection to labor markets. However, recent research indicates that the overall linkage strength is relatively stronger in Sweden due to a higher proportion of workers having educational credentials or occupations that link together relatively strongly. Taking a cross-time perspective, this study illuminates the impact of educational expansion and occupational upgrading on this association. Despite the overall stability in the proportion of managerial and professional occupations, there has been occupational upgrading evidenced by the increased requirements and proportions of collegeeducated individuals within these occupations. Conversely, short tertiary vocational education has become less connected to occupations over time. These findings also contribute to a better understanding of the employment gap between college graduates and non-college graduates in labor markets.

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The 2021 Baby Boom in Iceland: Exploring the Role of a Parental Leave Reform and the Covid-19 Pandemic

Author(s): Ásdís Arnalds, Sunna Símonardóttir, Ari Jónsson

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

In 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the total fertility rate in Iceland rose unexpectedly from 1.72 to 1.82. The increased number of births followed an important reform in the Icelandic paid parental leave scheme, which included an expansion of the leave from 10 to 12 months. Analysis of data from Statistics Iceland and focus group interviews with parents who had a child in 2021 were used to explore if and how the parental leave reform and the societal changes related to the pandemic shaped parents' decision to have a child in 2021. As the rise in fertility was short-lived, the results indicate that the baby boom of 2021 can hardly be explained by the parental leave reform. Rather, at least for educated women, who already had children and were in a good financial state, it seems that the pandemic created a favourable atmosphere for having a child. Parents' narratives from the focus group interviews suggest that the pandemic might have been a good time to start or add to the family because of the increased time spent at home and the limited involvement in social activities outside the home.

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Reimagining demographic categories for inclusive immigrant integration

Author(s): Viivi Eskelinen

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

To facilitate successful immigrant integration in Finland, the new Integration Act (KOTO24) aims to increase the information flow of immigrants among all government officials. One of its central aims is to increase labour market participation and inclusion among immigrants such as stay-at-home mothers, that are (at the risk of being) segregated. The decision to include these groups in this Act has been based on research conducted with so-called objective demographic categories based on registry data (such as country of origin and mother tongue). The caveat of using such data is that certain groups such as Finns from mixed ethnic backgrounds, Roma, and immigrants from multi-lingual backgrounds fall in between the cracks. For example, there are many Finnish people of colour (POC) with Finnish as a mother tongue that face discrimination due to their ethnicity in the labour market. To understand experiences like these and others, we need to create more inclusive categories for the ever-diversifying society to ensure that systemic problems do not remain invisible due to the lack of information that is created by the system itself. These demographic categories are not only used for information flow between government officials but also as predictors to create policies for inclusivity. This study will thus examine which subjective and objective demographic categories could be most suitable for studying societal phenomena such as immigrant integration and inclusion in Finnish society. I will particularly focus on whether registry data on ethnicity could help or hinder creating more inclusive policies. Researchers and politicians from the left and right have argued that certain subjective criteria such as ethnicity could be a better predictor for immigrant integration but also understanding experiences of discrimination among Finnish POC. However, registry data on ethnicity may also have severe consequences: one example is Nazi Germany where this data was used for ethnic cleansing of Jewish people. It is thus vital to understand the attitudes of both experts, immigrants, and Finns from mixed backgrounds towards possible new demographic categories. I will thus interview both experts and people from immigrant and mixed Finnish backgrounds. I seek to answer the question of could other objective and/or subjective criteria help understand immigrant integration, and are there differences between experts, immigrants, and Finns.

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Gender differences in online visibility of early-career researchers

Author(s): Xinyi Zhao, Aliakbar Akbaritabar, Ridhi Kashyap, Emilio Zagheni

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP41

Session: Gender inequalities

Social media in the digital era has become a powerful tool for disseminating research to a broad audience. Twitter is one of the most widely used platforms to increase the visibility of researchers, especially for underrepresented groups including female researchers. Gaining visibility is particularly important for early-career female researchers to accumulate scientific impact, thus helping narrow the gender gaps in academic careers.

To assess gender differences in online visibility and self-promotion, and their cumulative impacts, this paper identifies 567,162 early-career researchers who started publishing during the period of 2012-2016, combining bibliometric information on their publications from Scopus together with measures of online visibility through Altmetric and the Twitter API. We examine gender differences in online attention to the publications of early-career researchers to assess whether social media platforms contribute to the creation of a more inclusive space for female academics to get attention online, or whether they perpetuate gender inequalities already from an early-career stage. We especially assessed gender disparities in online visibility by disentangling self-promotion from general online dissemination and examine the impacts of these different forms of social media visibility on citation impacts.

We find that female researchers are more likely to receive Twitter mentions on their first publications. However, male researchers are more likely to self-promote their first publications. These gender gaps in the probability of self-promotion are more pronounced in Social Sciences and Humanities, especially when first publications appear in top-ranked journals. To further assess the impacts of Twitter mentions, we match researchers who received Twitter mentions with those who did not and find early-career female researchers gain more citations if their first publications are mentioned on Twitter compared with their male counterparts. However, the gender differences reverse for self-promotion, whereby early-career male researchers gain more citations from self-promotion than females. Our results highlight how social media can help improve the visibility of female researchers and amplify their scientific impact. Yet, persisting gender gaps in self-promotion may limit this potential and reproduce gender inequalities. By drawing on the linkage of bibliometric and social media data, this study examines how processes of gender inequalities unfold at an early stage of academic careers in the digitalized era. This study contributes to a comprehensive understanding of gender disparities in online visibility by distinguishing the push and pull mechanisms at play within online academic dissemination. To further increase the online visibility of female researchers and help them receive more credit for their work, our research indicates the potential value of integrating training in self-promotion on social media within graduate school curricula and encouraging early-career female researchers to self-promote their work.

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Hot or not: dating apps as socio-technical sites of (e)valuation

Author(s): Juulia Heikkinen

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP55

Session: Sociality in the Digital Age: Interactions, Emotions, Lifestyles, and Norms

With the growing popularity of mobile dating apps such as Tinder, Hinge, Bumble and OKCupid, mobile online dating has evolved from a stigmatized practice to a mainstream format for seeking different types of new relationships, ranging from the search for everlasting love to casual dating and finding local travel guides in new places. As part of the broader development of societal digitization, dating platforms represent a case of digital culture that reflects a shift in our ways of being and interacting with others. In this presentation, I approach this shift through the lens of the sociology of (e)valuation (Lamont, 2012), asking how users of dating apps assign meaning and value to themselves, others, and the world around them by building their profiles, swiping others, and navigating the algorithmic platform. More specifically, understanding online dating as an engagement (Thevenot 2001; 2015) with various intertwined processes of (e)valuation allows for pragmatic analyses of how value is negotiated in everyday practices "in what people spend their time doing" (Lamont, 2012).

In online dating apps, valuation should be addressed as part of an algorithmic culture (Seaver 2017) that involves both human (users, developers) and nonhuman (algorithmic) agents (Courtois & Timmermans 2018; Orlikowski & Scott 2014) and takes shape through multiple formats such as text, images, and prompts. By choosing what is worth showing and saying in an environment characterized by struggle for both visibility and intimacy, online daters communicate interesting knowledge about what they think is a) crucial about themselves and b) important to show in order to attract the people they want to connect with. Accordingly, when searching for potential matches, users evaluate what is important or valuable - or recognizable - to them in other people's profiles. Thus, by complementing existing studies that discuss dating apps from the perspectives of intimacy, authenticity, or user experience (for a review, see Wu & Trottier 2022), I propose that dating apps offer a way to examine what values, norms, and ideals people hold in contemporary societies - and how these are mediated, performed and negotiated in the socio-technical context in which online dating takes place.

Using empirical examples from 32 interviews conducted with dating app users in February and March 2024, this presentation presents fresh empirical data and offers some preliminary analysis of how dating app users interpret and make use of the different valuation formats available on dating apps.

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Using data donation from smart home technologies to understand the sociodigital futures of caring relationships

Author(s): Nicola Horsley

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

This paper will explore how mixed methods research on families' use of smart technology can reveal architectures of care in the home. While many of the apps and devices that have come to constitute the internet of things (IoT) in the domestic sphere have originated from assistive technologies, their now ubiquitous presence and marketing to the generic consumer (Rideout and Robb 2020). can obscure the diversities of households' everyday interactions, which may include creative adaptations and subversion of designed uses.

Care dynamics are in flux as parents make use of apps that change what it means to be 'there' for their children, in terms of both co-presence and being a deferred to source of support; and children gain status, and the ability to take on new roles, through their affinity with technology in the home (Wang et al. 2023; Porcheron et al. 2018). Children's digital proficiency subverts traditional family hierarchies as they breach security measures and parents resort to appropriating the higher authority of smart devices (Garg and Sengupta 2020). These changing dynamics have been documented in recent studies but the nuanced ways in which technologies become embroiled in, and reconfigure, practices of care, are yet to be explored in depth.

Existing sociological studies of smart home technologies rarely make use of the data that are central to research questions concerning the place of the digital in everyday life. While qualitative methods such as interviews offer invaluable insight into the nature of what families ask of AI, the data and metadata these apps store in their logs reveal the architecture of interactions, in terms of frequency of use, repeated routines and how smart home technology use corresponds with different activities in families' everyday rhythms. This paper reports on a study employing a methodology uniquely combining qualitative fieldwork, including child-led methods, with insights from data donation, which offers a glimpse of family life as it is mediated by smart technologies, while unmediated by researcher intervention (as opposed to studies that have supplied households with devices and reported on 'out of the box' experiences, excluding the key demographic of those who have already invited such technology into their homes).

This paper asks: does the sharing of data for research purposes raise more ethical questions than sharing with commercial interests?; how should we conceptualise data collection when it is consensual yet data generation pre-dates the research process?; and how can data from domestic IoT be used as part of a methodology that reveals emergent care dynamics that challenge current categorisations?

Through these methods, we can better understand what forms of care the digital enables, where communication technologies and AI fit within the assemblage of caring relationships and dynamics between parents, children and the smart home, and what sociodigital futures are made possible through new inclusions and exclusions. Ultimately, through studying the mundane ways in which families incorporate the digital in their everyday lives, we can ascertain what conceptualisations of care new developments in smart technologies should be designed to serve and how.

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Deservingness as practice: Deservingness practices in mobilizing, coordinating, and evaluating crisis support

Author(s): Hjalmar Carlsen, Jonas Toubøl

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

The importance of deservingness criteria like the CARIN typology (Oorshot 2000) for deciding on the question of who deserves help which underlies the regulation of distribution of welfare is well established. However, the process of negotiating and interpreting these criteria has received little attention, theoretical as well as empirical. In this paper, we conceptualize the process of negotiating the contents of deservingness criteria as deservingness practice. With the advent of social media (SoMe) and subsequent increase in informal civil society volunteering distributing vast amounts of welfare provisions through voluntary efforts (Toubøl 2017; Carlsen et al. 2021, 2023) the relevance of deservingness practices gains prominence. A crucial difference between informal volunteering and formal welfare providers like NGOs or the state concerns how the individual actor decides on the deservingness of the needy. For formal welfare providers, the criteria of deservingness are codified in procedures and principles, e.g. laws. Thus, the actor only applies the criteria but does not define them. In contrast, in informal settings no formal procedures or principles are involved and in every single case of requests for help, the volunteers must negotiate the criteria of deservingness when deciding whether to help. Thus, in informal volunteering, the process of negotiating and interpreting criteria of deservingness, that is, the deservingness practices, takes center stage.

In this paper, we introduce and develop the concept of deservingness practices and specify how it operates in different phases of crisis volunteering, from the initial mobilization, to the internal coordination of support, and finally in the phase of evaluation of one's own and other's efforts in supporting those in need. The deservingness practices operate at different levels of society and have consequences for different outcomes. In the different phases, different levels will play more prominent roles for determining the most salient outcomes of deservingness practices. In the mobilization phase, deservingness practices at the macro-level of public debate will play a major role in determining which segments are mobilized to volunteer to help the group of needy. In the phase of coordination, deservingness practices at the meso-level of volunteer groups concerning negotiating norms for who to help, and at the micro-level of the helping situation where requests for help from needy are made, will determine the outcome of the distribution of help, that is, who gets help and who does not. Finally in the phase of evaluation, deservingness practices at the levels of public debate and group setting will determine how the mobilized volunteers interpret their relationships to other actors which may take different forms from collaborative to contentious.

To illustrate the framework, we draw on empirical examples from informal Danish SoMe support groups during three crisis mobilizations: the 2015 Syrian refugee solidarity mobilization, the COVID-19 mobilization, and the 2022 Ukrainian refugee solidarity mobilization.

Mapping Parents' Educational Values

Author(s): Asta Breinholt, Jens-Peter Thomsen

15 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

Why do parents value education differently and how do values vary between and within social groups? Drawing on qualitative interviews with 162 Danish parents of children in 9th grade, we outline a typology of parents' educational values. We focus on parents' valuation of education because education is the prime transmitter of social positions in society, and because the value of education is a key signal of the attitudes of parents towards their children's future.

Our study is rooted in sociological stratification and mobility research. This field is primarily made up of quantitative studies using the relative risk aversion approach (Breen and Goldthorpe 1997). While the relative risk aversion theory has earned much merit, it relies – in its quest for parsimony – on a hierarchical class scheme and assumes a unidimensional approach to educational choice: that which most likely reproduce one's social class origin at the lowest cost. However, the educational expansion, the changing composition of the labor force, and the rise of women in education and in the labor market challenge a unidimensional cost-benefit analysis of educational choice. For instance, studies show the importance of within-class variation when predicting educational attainment and future earnings (Jonsson et al. 2009; Kim, Tamborini, and Sakamoto 2015). To account for within-class variation in the shaping of educational values, we adopt the following approaches. First, we pay special attention to parents' specific education and occupation and their labor market and mobility experiences. Second, we allow for several qualitatively different types of values. Third, we draw on Keller and Zavalloni (1964), to understand how these values can be understood relative to one's social position.

Our analysis identifies five core educational values: (1) well-being and personal development, (2) the educated subject ('Bildung'), (3) prospects for future income, (4) job security (education as a safety net), and (5) status and recognition. The five core values are associated with parents' educational level (see Figure 1). For example, college educated parents more often place weight on Bildung than vocationally educated parents, who favor job security more. However, we also find considerable variation within each educational level, which is also evident from Figure 1. The values are qualitatively diverse and do not only capture concerns about maintaining status. Arguably, some of the values may be given a straightforward interpretation in a relative riskaversion perspective (e.g. job security), but some values speak to other dimensions. For example, a preference for offspring's wellbeing may in fact trump fear of social demotion. We argue that this within-class variation in values stems from (1) parents' specific education and occupation, and (2) labor market and mobility experiences of parents and their significant others.

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Green Dreams, Local Realities: Complexities of the European Union's energy transition to ensure local health and well-being in a fossil fuel-based industrial region

Author(s): Usha Dahal, Kati Orru, Hans Orru, Martin Dijst

15 Aug | 11:10-11:40

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

European Union's Green Deal is a legal obligation to EU countries to shift towards environment-friendly energy systems from fossil-fuel-based systems. This transition will bring significant global health benefits by combating climate change, but it is crucial to understand the so far understudied impacts on local communities' lives and, thus, on their health and wellbeing. The study proposes a novel conceptual framework based on socio-technical systems theory and the production of space theory to identify the interacting points between energy systems and health and well-being systems in the energy transition context. This framework is tested in Estonia's transitioning fossil fuel oil-shale-based energy system based on four focus group discussions, ten expert interviews, and document analysis. We innovatively pinpoint pathways, including feedback loops, through a causal loop diagram (CLD) impacting inhabitants' health and well-being from the interplay between energy and health and wellbeing systems. The analysis indicates that protecting and promoting health and well-being has been a challenge not only due to disruption created by the energy transition process but also due to the accumulated problems regarding socioeconomic conditions, environmental health impacts, and well-being at the local level. The compound effects of multiple existing and emerging issues, including the divergent interpretations of health and the lack of holistic support mechanisms for inhabitants to navigate the changes in sociocultural and economic space, can harm locals' health and well-being. The developed conceptual framework provides an important theoretical background for studying the impacts on the mental and physical health, including social health and well-being, of the inhabitants living in the fossil-fuel-based industrial area. The CLD developed using this framework demonstrates the interacting points to avoid unintended consequences of energy transition.

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Motherhood for young children after parental breakup

Author(s): Jeanette Skoglund

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

Parenthood has been a well-established topic in Nordic sociology for some time. While researchers the last decades have studied for instance, changes in fatherhood, father and child relations, parents with immigrant background asf., motherhood – as a topic of its own – has not gained the same interest. Our paper (in progress) is based on our qualitative study of parents, mothers and fathers, of young children (0-6 years old) who have separated and their experiences with family mediation and parental cooperation. Traditionally, the care of toddlers has been an area for women and mothers. Through pregnancy and breastfeeding, biological motherhood has given mothers a special position (særstatus) in most societies. While this still holds true, ideology of gender equality and shared parenting has become the dominant ideology, also after parents brake up. In our paper we explore how motherhood is understood among mothers and fathers of young children (0-6 years) after parental break up. How do they navigate between traditional perceptions and practices and new expectations of equal parenthood?

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Care of the working self through self-quantification and the ruptures of neoliberal rationality

Author(s): Venla Okkonen

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

Digital technologies have increasingly been integrated into the field of workplace well-being, as taking care of workers' mental well-being and work ability has gained importance as both an organizational and an individual concern. Many workplaces aim to prevent harmful stress and burnout by offering workers wellness tools and services, such as self-tracking technologies and coaching. It has been shown that self-tracking in general and specifically in working life context cultivates neoliberal ways of understanding the self by allocating the responsibility of taking care of oneself to the individual and reducing well-being into a rational project of calculation (see Hull & Pasquale 2017). However, it has been argued that we are currently living in a shift from neoliberalism towards post-neoliberalism (Davies & Gane, 2021) or a crisis-prone era of neoliberalism, sometimes called zombie neoliberalism (Kotsko, 2020; Peck, 2010). In these circumstances, the neoliberal ways of relating to oneself and well-being can be in flux. This presentation explores the ruptures of neoliberal rationality at work by analyzing interviews of 9 Finnish workplace well-being professionals, such as coaches, who utilize selftracking tools in their professional practice. Based on the conducted discourse analysis, care of the working self through self-tracking turns out as a conflictual practice. As the professionals talk about their work, the rationalizing logic of self-tracking collides with the everyday realities of working life in ways that both challenge and reinforce the individualizing logic of neoliberalism. In the end, the individual responsibility to take care of one's well-being proves out to be a strong ideal sustained through the rhetorical virtuosity of the well-being professionals. The analysis forms one section of the doctoral research project exploring the construction of the ideal labouring subject in workplace well-being practices, published as a research article in 2023.

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Mainstream media, social media, and the ethnic reputations of neighborhoods

Author(s): Benjamin Jarvis, Miriam Hurtado Bodell, Selcan Mutgan

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

One of the fundamental challenges for empirical scholarship on residential segregation is to find evidence for why ethnic segregation emerges as a function of residential choices in a population. One dominant idea is that the perceived ethnic composition of a neighborhood matters when people decide where to live. For example, Schelling (1971) theorizes that people look around their neighborhood and decide to move or stay based on the perceived (dis)similarities of their neighbors. However, most empirical studies rely on census or register data on the true distribution of ethnicities. The degree to which people's beliefs about the ethnic composition of their neighborhood align with reality is largely unknown. In this paper, we seek to investigate the alignment between the ethnic reputation of neighborhoods and true ethnic compositions in Sweden and explore how certain events impact the ethnic reputation of neighborhoods.

We collect and analyze texts from one of Sweden's largest national newspapers, Dagens Nyheter, and posts written in the housing section on Sweden's largest online discussion forum, Flashback, to study the ethnic reputation of neighborhoods. We extract measures of the ethnic reputation of neighborhoods using a dynamic word embedding model. This model allows us to compare how closely different ethnic groups and neighborhoods are related at different times by calculating the cosine similarity between word vectors of ethnicities and neighborhoods. To study the alignment between the ethnic reputation and the true ethnic composition, we compare the cosine similarities with the true ethnic composition of a neighborhood identified through Swedish register data. Finally, we test if the decision to publish a list of "vulnerable areas" — an area at risk of being impacted by criminals — by the Swedish Police in 2015 resulted in an increased racialized perception of areas on the list.

We find that the ethnic reputation of neighborhoods and their real ethnic compositions, in general, do not correlate much in either traditional media or social media. However, the ethnic reputation and true compositions align more for neighborhoods characterized by high numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers — especially from Middle Eastern and Sub-Saharan African countries — much more than neighborhoods with a majority of ethnic Swedes in both traditional and social media. We find support for the territorial stigmatization hypothesis, indicating that the Swedish police impacted the ethnic reputation of neighborhoods in Stockholm. Moreover, the low correlation between neighborhood reputation and real-world characteristics of neighborhoods suggests that objective measures of the ethnic composition of neighborhoods may not be optimal to explain how individuals' residential choices drive city-level ethnic residential segregation.

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Metaphors as entry points to emotions in gender equality work in organizations

Author(s): Maja Herstad

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP41

Session: Gender inequalities

Feeling like you are getting a cancer diagnosis by a doctor, or like you are being trapped in a cage? The aim of this article was to analyse emotions in gender equality work in organizations. The analysis used metaphors as entry points to emotions and emotionally charged issues (Moratti, 2020), focusing on metaphors that describe conflictual situations, with the potential to accentuate the unspoken (Clarke 2005). More specifically, the article asked: how does participants' situatedness relate to emotions in gender equality work?

The empirical base consisted of 24 interviews with staff involved in a gender equality project in their respective organization. The organizations encompassed six private companies and a university in a region in Sweden, and the participants included managers, employees and external gender experts, of different genders. The metaphors were approached as experientially grounded condensed stories (Küpers, 2013), with embedded emotions. Theoretically, emotions were treated as embodied meaning-making that requires attention to both bodily and social dimensions (Wetherell, 2012). The article introduced situated emotions as a sensitizing concept that recognize participants' emotions as partial and locally situated truths (Haraway, 1988, p. 579), where emotion-laden condensed stories highlight social identities and their relation to something or someone. The concepts of gender (West and Zimmerman, 1987), gendered identity work (Alvesson and Due Billing, 2009) and a contextual understanding of class (Gobo, 1995) were also employed to further interpret the data.

The metaphor analysis showed that participants who identified as men and who worked in middle-class professions that value creativity and independence, expressed strong clashes between gender equality work and organizational ideals. They also positioned gender equality work and gender experts as from above, sometimes with more negatively valued emotions, such as anger and resentment. The metaphors also suggested a demand for identity work among men, involving both guilt and shame. Women and participants who worked in companies that involve more working class professions communicated more acceptance and gratefulness towards external gender experts. Possible interpretations of these locally classed and gendered differences indicate how participants who identify as middle-class men expressed greater surprise and pain in a perceived pressure to both see and accept themselves as forming part of "the problem" in gender equality work. The use of metaphors ripe with intense emotions among these participants can indicate a clash between injustices highlighted in the project, and a more gender equal personal and organizational self-image. The findings also speak to a possible sense of entitlement among this group in articulating an emotional-laden critique in comparison with other participants. Despite the differences, a common emotional theme in participants' metaphors was the desire to feel supported in a joint exploration, where you get a welcome surprise in noticing gender inequalities.

The article contributes to an increased understanding of emotions in gender equality work in organizations, by the use of metaphors. This understanding can facilitate working through common resistance and lip service, and support reflections on the "doing" of gender equality work in different contexts.

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Regional trends in learning outcomes pre- and post-COVID19: Did digitalization have an impact?

Author(s): Elina Kilpi-Jakonen , Minna Tuominen, Alessandro Ferrara, Francesca Borgonovi

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

Many countries experienced a sharp decline in learning outcomes over the COVID19 pandemic. Some of these declines have been attributed to lockdown measures and the move to homeschooling. While some countries were better prepared in terms of electronic means of communication between teachers and students, others were less so, and a heavy burden was placed on parents.

In this presentation, we focus on the regional (sub-national) variation in learning trends between 2018–2022. We consider both the general trend as well as the trend for different socio-economic groups, including ethnic minority and migrant children. We then examine whether levels of digitalization within regions before the pandemic are associated with the over-time trends both overall and within the different subgroups. While there is already quite a lot of research on COVID19 and school achievement at the country level, sub-national regions have rarely been considered and especially not using a single comparable data source. We expect differences in the impact of school closures across regions, both because of differential school closures in many countries as well as regional differences in digitalization.

The data comes from the PISA 2018 and 2022 learning assessments. These two cross-sectional learning assessments of 15-year-olds cover countries across the world with differential impacts of COVID19 but also different rates of digitalization. However, only a handful of countries include regional information that can be used to analyse change at the regional level. Information on digitalization can be calculated from the PISA 2018 survey and aggregated to the regional level. The survey covers a wide range of digital resources and behaviours at home and in schools. Again, not all countries responded to this part of the survey. In some cases, information from other sources can also be linked to the regions to measure, for example, the spread of high-speed internet before the pandemic.

The countries suitable for analysis (including both regional information and digitalization) are the following European countries: Czech Republic, Finland, UK, Iceland, Serbia, and Spain; and the following non-European countries: Australia, Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Morocco. It is possible that more countries can still be added. In total these ten countries have 120,621 participants in PISA 2018 and 119,858 participants in PISA 2022.

The results will help us to give a more nuanced perspective on how learning outcomes and inequalities therein developed pre- and post-COVID19. In particular, the research will uncover whether the inequalities developed differentially between regions within countries or if trends were rather at the national level. Moreover, the results will contribute to the discussion on the role that digitalization has played for learning outcomes and inequalities therein.

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Assessing Cultural Bundles in Sweden: A Study of Lifestyle Polarization

Author(s): Elida Izani Ibrahim, Miriam Hurtado Bodell, Anastasiia Menshikova, Felix Lennert

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP55

Session: Sociality in the Digital Age: Interactions, Emotions, Lifestyles, and Norms

Political polarization is seemingly structuring not only people's voting patterns and political action, but also their everyday social life. When everyday preferences, from the choice to follow certain kinds of social media influencers to government agencies, become politically coded, social cohesion is at risk creating less space for common ground. Partisan leaning predicts who you connect to, what kind of news you consume, and what political attitudes you hold with increasing accuracy. The literature has also begun to determine different patterns of cultural consumption ("lifestyle bundles") based on political leaning. However, further scrutiny into whether or not it is politics or sociodemographic factors are driving these lifestyle enclaves is needed to better understand political cleavages in society. This study builds on this growing literature by investigating political and gender identity in structuring lifestyle bundles in the Swedish political context, as well as discerning which identity is more relevant for certain lifestyles. Our study contributes to understanding lifestyle bundles and the constitutive roles of politics and gender. Our primary goal is to determine the extent to which clusters of lifestyle preferences appear online among politically active users. Secondly, we analyze what predominantly clusters these disparate topics together: politics or gender.

Using data from Swedish Twitter, this research employs seeded Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) models to measure political preferences and cultural consumption patterns for a sample of politically active Swedish Twitter users (N=12,230). We assess the strength of users' connections to the eight parties in the Swedish national parliament and the thirty-two discovered lifestyle clusters, such as soccer, environment, trade unions, and cultural institutions. We combine data from the Chapel Hill Expert Survey with our Twitter data to gain a more granular measurement of political preferences. We also use decision trees to evaluate the contribution of gender to the observed polarization patterns.

The findings reveal distinctive corresponding patterns between political views and nonpolitical spheres. Partisan belonging is a major driver of lifestyle polarization when it comes to topics related to media, cultural institutions, religion, politics, and humor. In contrast, the connection between political affiliations and clusters such as sports, military, tabloid press, health-related accounts, and accounts related to IT and technology disappears after adjusting for gender. These insights into lifestyle-based political clustering in Sweden enhances our understanding of polarization dynamics as it zooms into gender as potential confounder. With this approach to measuring lifestyle polarization, we complement previous survey-based work and discover lifestyle polarization structures using behavioral digital traces which account for relationships between individuals and reveal their cultural preferences.

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Laws of attraction: The effects of teacher recruitment difficulties on students' academic and labor market outcomes

Author(s): Rasmus Klokke

15 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

In this study, I estimate the causal effect of increased commute distance to schools on how well they can attract teachers and how this affects student performance. I identify the causal effect of an increase in commute distance using a natural experiment in which more than one third of Danish teacher training colleges (TTCs) closed, where some schools experienced an increase in distance to the nearest TTC while other schools did not. I hypothesize that the increase in distance to the nearest TTC would have led to an increase in commute distance, particularly for newly graduated teachers, and that this would have adverse effects on schools' ability to attract teachers and students' academic performance. I estimate the effects using a differences-in-differences design, accounting for the staggered rollout of TTC closures using newly developed estimators. While proximity to the nearest TTC is mentioned in the scholarly literature as a factor impacting schools' attractiveness to teachers, the results in this study are largely inconclusive regarding increased distance to the nearest TTC impacting teacher body composition or student academic performance. While it is not possible to infer a direction of the effect for the majority of estimates, the majority of the point estimates suggest that effects are modest in size, particularly for outcomes pertaining to students' academic performance. While the results suggest that schools that experienced larger increases in distance also experienced larger adverse effects, these results are also inconclusive. This is even though results clearly show that an increase in distance to the nearest TTC increased the commute distance of teachers. I discuss that the closure of TTCs likely also affected the mobility of teachers, mitigating possible effects of TTC closure. As such, the results of this study suggest that 1) The hypothetical effects of commute distance are likely overestimated in the literature on teacher mobility and recruitment, 2) The willingness of teachers to commute is likely underestimated, and 3) Small effects on teacher composition lead to even smaller effects on student academic performance. As such, the results of this study provide evidence that it requires very substantial increases in commute distance to produce changes in teacher composition that have a discernible impact on student performance.

31st Nordic Sociological Association conference, 14-16 August, Norrköping
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Heterogeneous workplace peers effects in fathers' uptake of parental leave in Finland

Author(s): Satu Helske, Jouni Helske, Simon Chapman, Sanni Kotimäki, Milla Salin, Santtu Tikka

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

Increasing paternal participation in early child rearing is seen as a crucial step towards gender equality, as mothers still do the main part of unpaid care work (Atkinson & Bourguignon 2014). Increasingly, family policies are shifting towards encouraging fathers to use parental leave, with the aim of increasing paternal participation during the first years and beyond (Nieuwenhuis & Van Lancker 2020). Yet many fathers, especially those with fewer resources, forgo leave or use less than what they would be entitled to.

This underutilization of paternal leave has prompted research into the factors shaping fathers' leave decisions. While previous studies have explored the impact of policy design and individual socioeconomic factors, the influence of workplace peer effects on fathers' choices remains an underexplored area. Workplace peers can significantly influence workplace culture and social norms, which, in turn, may affect fathers' willingness to take parental leave. The scant tradition of earlier studies have shown mixed results: findings from Norway by Dahl et al. (2014) suggest that workplace peers are important for fathers' leave uptake while Tallås Ahlzén (2022) found no support to the importance of peers in Sweden.

In our study, we seek to uncover the direct and cumulative total effects of workplace peer dynamics on Finnish fathers' parental leave uptake after the 2013 parental leave reform, which was the first to give Finnish fathers an independent right to a quota of parental leave. Specifically, we focus on father's quota of parental leave that is intended to be taken after the mother has returned to work, as this type of leave should be the most effective in influencing the gendered patterns of childcare.

Preliminary findings, using structural causal models (Pearl, 2009) and Bayesian logistic regression, suggest that workplace peer effects influenced Finnish fathers' decisions. Low-educated fathers were more impacted by their peers' decisions than highly educated fathers were: peer effects were approximately nine percentage points for first-time fathers with basic or upper secondary education and five percentage points for first-time fathers with tertiary degrees. Higher-parity fathers were slightly less impacted than first-time fathers were (by 1–2 percentage points).

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Facilitating rural eHealth – what's the problem?

Author(s): Barbara Fersch

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

The aim of this paper is to present and discuss the analysis of group interviews with professionals and volunteers involved with the provision or facilitation of digital health and welfare services to digitally vulnerable people in rural areas in four European countries (Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Portugal). Even though digital services might be especially beneficial in rural areas, where distances to clinics and other facilities are larger and infrastructure is scarcer, studies have shown that rural populations do have a demographic profile that makes more vulnerable to digital exclusion (e.g. Digitale Sundhedskompetencer i Syddanmark, 2023). With the help of concept of health and digital capital (Park, 2017; Schneider-Kamp, 2021) we will shed light on the barriers and specific dynamics of exclusion that are discussed in the empirical material.

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Gender differences in reading? Gendered patterns in silent reading speed growth from intensive longitudinal digital trace data

Author(s): Emil Smith, David Reimer (presenter)

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

A female advantage in reading achievement has routinely been reported in multiple international large-scale assessments (Mullis et al. 2023). However, a closer look at empirical investigations of gender differences in reading reveals a more complex pattern. Thus, the female advantage in reading achievement shown in large-scale assessments may mask important nuances in subdomains of reading skills. Furthermore, there are inconsistent findings on when gender differences in reading skills emerge and whether the female advantage diminishes as students progress through the education system (Manu et al. 2023; McTigue et al. 2021; Solheim and Lundetræ 2018).

The present study focuses on the development of reading fluency, across a full school year for Danish 1st to 9th graders. Reading fluency was operationalized as weekly measures of silent reading speed, obtained from uniquely granular intensive longitudinal digital trace data - providing a highly detailed view of developments in reading fluency. Furthermore, the longitudinal data allows for leveraging differences in reading speed growth between periods of schooling and breaks - providing insight into the question of how formal instruction affects gender gaps in reading (Downey, Kuhfeld, and van Hek 2022; McTigue et al. 2021).

Data was analyzed by fitting growth models by grade levels with gender-specific slopes to estimate gender gaps and differences in growth rates by gender. Furthermore, to study the role of schools, piecewise linear growth models were fit to test for gender differences in growth rates according to when school is in session or out (during holidays and Covid-19 school closings). Preliminary findings suggest that a male advantage in reading speed was present from 1st grade, narrowed by 6th grade, and finally reversed to a female advantage in 8th and 9th grade. There were no clear seasonal patterns in gender gaps in reading speed, suggesting that schools favor neither boys nor girls.

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Are separate classrooms inherently unequal? The effect of within-school sorting on the socioeconomic test score gap in Hungary

Author(s): Dorottya Kisfalusi, Zoltán Hermann, Hedvig Horváth

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

Segregation of students with respect to social, racial or ethnic background is a persistent problem in education, often associated with far-reaching implications for inequalities and social mobility. There is ample evidence on the prevalence of between-school segregation (e.g., Gutiérrez et al., 2020) and its effects on educational inequalities (e.g., Reardon et al., 2022) but within-school sorting of students has received less attention. Most studies that examined the effects of within-school sorting were carried out mainly in the US context and focused on later stages of education, when formal tracking or ability grouping occurs.

Besides formal tracking and ability grouping, however, educational systems and the individual schools within them also use informal differentiation to assign students to classrooms (Kalogrides & Loeb, 2013; Triventi et al., 2020). In contrast to tracking effects, much less is known about the informal processes through which students are sorted within schools, especially at the early stages of education when formal differentiation is less widespread. It is also unclear how sorting students within schools at the lower educational level contributes to educational inequalities.

This study investigates whether informal within-school sorting increases socioeconomic test score inequalities. Using universal test score data on 6th- and 8th-grade students in Hungary, we document the extent of within-school sorting in an institutional context where sorting based on ability or prior achievement is legally not allowed. We identify sorting schools as schools that systematically assign students with low and high socioeconomic status into different classrooms within the school. We show that within-school sorting is prevalent in Hungarian schools with multiple classrooms per year: about 28% of all 6th-grade students attend schools in each year that assign higher- and lower-status kids on average into different classrooms. Once equipped with measures of schools' sorting practices, we turn to our main focus: the effect of sorting on educational inequalities. We compare the math and reading test score gap between high and low socioeconomic status students in a sorting and non-sorting school environment in 8th grade. To acknowledge and handle the potential endogeneity of why and when schools engage in sorting, we embellish our models in two ways. First, we control for unobserved, time-invariant heterogeneity at the school level using fixed effects. And second, in an instrumental variable framework, we exploit quasi-random variation in schools' sorting practices over time induced by changes in enrollment.

Our main results show significant and economically meaningful sorting effects on test score inequalities between students with different socioeconomic backgrounds. Students with a 1 standard deviation higher socioeconomic status score 11-38% (7-23%) higher in math (reading) than their lowstatus peers if learning in a sorting rather than a non sorting school environment. This gradient difference between the two types of schools comes mainly from negative sorting effects for the lowstatus students, while high-status kids gain little if anything from attending sorting schools. We provide suggestive evidence that within-school reallocation of educational resources and differences in educational practices underlie our findings.

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Personal and Public Responsibility for Climate Change and Trust in Public Institutions

Author(s): Antti Kouvo, Valter Vuorinen

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

There is a lot of evidence that a disruptive development phase like the green transition puts citizens' trust in public institutions to the test. At the same time, trust has been considered a significant resource that helps to strengthen justice in the midst of revolutionary developments. We investigate how different types of institutional trust are associated to attitudes about personal and public responsibility in mitigating climate change. Our hypothesis stems from the institution-centered theory. According to that the trust in the impartial public institutions of society, such as the officials and the judiciary, have a stronger association with attitudes indicating the common good than trust in purely political institutions. Partly because of this, the variation between countries representing different institutional designs is significant as well. We assume that instead of political trust, trust especially in impartial institutions has a stronger association with both expectations towards public institutions and the perceived personal responsibility on the climate. The study examines the associations between trust and climate attitudes between 21 European countries and different demographic and socio-economic groups (European Social Survey 2016, N=5,2147). In addition to descriptive methods, we apply multilevel models to simultaneously examine variation between countries and individuals. Compared with political trust, trust in impartial public institutions has slightly stronger positive association with perceived personal responsibility in reducing climate change. Also, the difference between perceived personal and public responsibility on climate seems to be smaller in countries with high trust compared with countries with lower trust and to be explained better by high trust in impartial public institutions. The theoretical and policy implications of the findings are discussed at the end of the paper.

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Of Children and Screens: Parents Managing Boundaries, Opportunity and Challenges

Author(s): Daniel Dahl

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP55

Session: Sociality in the Digital Age: Interactions, Emotions, Lifestyles, and Norms

Digital media devices and their applications have become a ubiquitous part of the lives of children today. Handheld devices are central hubs for communication with family and friends, computers are used for schoolwork, and digital media serve as a never-ending source of entertainment. Meanwhile, parents try to make sense of, and manage, their children's use, while navigating pressure about limiting screen time. Aiming to find out how parents perceive and manage their children's digital media activities, as well as the challenges associated with these practices, this study uses semi-structured interviews with parents to children around the ages 10-12. Preadolescence is a time where many children enter new online arenas, forcing parents to confront decisions around independence and belonging. Results uncover tradeoffs between parents' own expectations and social pressure, balancing privacy, and the role of negotiations. Parents' worries include unsupervised adaptation of undesirable norms, feeling left out, consumerism, and passivity. On the other hand, parents also showed appreciation of creative outlets, language acquisition, cultivating social relationships, information seeking, and co-playing. This study adds to ongoing discussions around parenting children's digital media use and the coming of age online, offering insight into the multiple roles digital media play in families' everyday life.

Applications to higher education during periods of economic contraction

Author(s): Ryan Alberto Gibbons, Elina Kilpi-Jakonen

15 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP43

Session: Social stratification and inequality

Despite rising levels of educational attainment in the rich world, socio-economic differentials in educational outcomes persist. A core area of research interest is the role of secondary effects of social origin in the maintenance of such inequalities, namely the extent to which socio-economic inequalities reflect different choices made by students, net of prior performance (Boudon, 1974). A large body of research has observed that lower socio-economic position (SEP) students more readily make less ambitious educational choices than their higher-SEP peers (Jackson, 2013). Various explanations have been put forward to account for such SEP variation in educational decision-making processes, ranging from class-cultural determined ambitions to risk-aversion mechanisms. Most models evaluate decision-making processes in contexts of economic stability, keeping the 'state of the world' constant in the interest of both parsimony and generalisability. However, if educational decision-making is anticipated to reflect students and their households' appraisal of risk and their efforts to minimise uncertainty, macroeconomic context could conceivably alter the premiums and costs associated with the educational choices available to students, thereby widening or narrowing socio-economic inequalities further. Studies of student decision-making in contexts of macroeconomic instability have reached contrasting findings. Macroeconomic uncertainty in the United States during the Great Recession was observed to be associated with a reduction in secondary effects, as the opportunity cost of prolonging education was reduced by the weak labour market (Pöyliö, 2020). Conversely, analysis of changing educational expectations of adolescents across 24 developed countries identified an association between economic downturns and dampening of educational expectations, particularly among average-performing students, and a widening of educational inequalities of social origin (Salazar et al., 2020). Availing of the variation caused by the short but sharp economic contraction experienced by Finland during the Great Recession (2008-09), in this study we seek to contribute to this literature by utilising sibling fixed-effects models and Finnish register data to test whether students' risk-aversion tendencies are heightened during periods of economic contraction. Preliminary results indicate that students matriculating during the Great Recession were less likely to apply to attend university than their siblings who matriculated in a period of economic stability. However, macroeconomic contraction does not appear to either increase or reduce inequalities of social origin in applications to attend university.

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‘All for one and one for all?’: Do wage effects of fathers’ parental leave uptake vary by male coworkers’ use of parental leave in Finland?

Author(s): Anna Erika Hägglund, Satu Helske, Simon Chapman, Jouni Helske

15 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

Despite policy reforms extending fathers’ parental leave rights, a substantial share of fathers still does not use father-only-leave (Saarikallio-Torp & Miettinen, 2021). One prominent explanation for men’s limited use of parental leave is fear for career disadvantages. Taking care of children at home might signal lower work commitment to employers, and thereby induce employer discrimination. It is, however, not clear whether these fears are warranted. Previous studies both confirm and refute that parental leave fuels wage disadvantages among men (Bünning, 2016; Evertsson, 2016). Empirical evidence also suggests that wage implications vary along the skills and earnings spectrum, but the direction of effects is inconsistent (Evertsson, 2016; Morosow & Cooke, 2022)

The decision to take parental leave occurs in an organizational context. Organizational practices can constrain or incentivize fathers’ use of leave (Eriksson et al., 2022); correspondingly parental leave could impede pay raises in some workplaces, while having little effect in others (Johnsen et al., 2020). So far, organizational variation in wage effects following men’s parental leave is not well-understood.

In this study, we focus on the role of co-workers in Finland. We ask whether the association between father-only-leave and wages varies by the leave uptake of male colleagues. We hypothesize that the (potential) negative consequences diminish as fathers’ use of parental leave uptake becomes more common within the workplace.

Empirically, we use Finnish register data for the period 2008-2020. As individuals are linked to their employers, we observe variation in fathers’ leave-uptake both within and across workplaces. We analyze hourly wages 5 years prior and past child birth among first-time fathers. The results of distributed fixed effects model suggest that men overall are not penalized by taking father-only-leave. Yet father-only-leave is associated with wage disadvantages among tertiary-educated fathers. The results also highlight that fathers’ wages generally grow faster in workplaces, where a larger share of eligible male co-workers use father-only-leave. Wage consequences of fathers’ own leave uptake, however, does not vary systematically by leave-uptake of co-workers. In subsequent analyses, we will contrast fathers leaving the workplace with those who stay.

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Why trust when you can control? : Temporal governing and labour intensification in home care

Author(s): Helena Håkansson

15 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

While digital time-saving technology has been widely introduced in the homecare sector, its consequences have received limited attention in previous research. Most studies on time and care work have focused on psychosocial implications of lacking time as well as stress and sick-leave (Bergschöld, 2018). Few studies focus on experiences of electronic monitoring (Hayes & Moore, 2017) and there is a significant lack of research with only a handful studies on how time-saving digital technology affects the labour process in the Nordic home care sector (see Bergschöld, 2018; Hjalmarsson, 2009; Strandell, 2023).

The aim is to analyse organizational control mechanisms and temporal governing of home care workers in two municipalities in Sweden. Research questions are; How is time in home care controlled? How is the temporal governing enforced by digital technologies? And how does the temporal governing relate to direct control and responsible autonomy?

The analysis builds on interviews and observations within public home-based elder care in two municipalities in Sweden. In total, 43 interviews have been conducted, of which 12 interviews relating to control and time management in home care was strategically selected for analysis. The findings show how time management regarding the daily schedule and staffing schedule led to an intensification of labour and temporal precarisation intervening with life outside work, even for permanent full-time employees. Short-time solutions to solve the daily tasks led to an institutionalised intensification of labour, enabled by digital technology. The restructuring of working time, where time is atomized and broken down in small time units to squeeze the time allowed for each task, shares similarities with the algorithmic management in the platform economy (Piasna, 2023). Indicating that work is being reconstructed not only in newer forms of organizations as platform work, but also in traditional employment settings.

The study contributes to the growing field of welfare digitalisation through a focus on temporal governing, electronic monitoring and digital control of care workers. It furthers contributes to the field of work related precarity through connecting temporal governing and temporal precarity outside of work.

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Bodies in motion: the impact of selective streaming in Finnish secondary schools

Author(s): Katja Hiltunen

15 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

My ethnographic doctoral research looks at the impact of selective streaming in two secondary schools in Eastern Finland. Selective streams are created through aptitude tests in subjects such as sports, art or sciences, depending on the school's chosen specialism(s). The carrying theme in my analysis of the fieldwork material is a Deleuzoguattarian flow. In following the flow of movement and intensities and placing myself in the middle of the events, I explore what type of movement is possible and for whom during the school day. In addition to Deleuze and Guattari's work, Karen Barad's concept of intra-action is influential in my exploration of how human and other-than-human beings create space and movement together. The research suggests that there is a difference in the opportunities for movement between the selective and non-selective streams. This is, in part, because of the nature of the specialist subjects that allow for more freedom of movement. However, the selective streams are also considered as the gifted and talented groups who can be trusted with liberties that may not be available to the non-selective groups. This in-school segregation is reflected in the school discourse, creating 'them' and 'us' divisions within schools. As a secondary school teacher by profession, I have seen and lived the impact of education policies on the everyday of schools. The emergence of selective streaming in Finnish secondary schools through policy decisions made in the 1990s became the obvious choice for my doctoral research after a career of teaching in various English schools where ability grouping within schools and between-school segregation is the norm. My presentation discusses the 'them' and 'us' divisions with examples from student interviews and lesson observations, focusing on the everyday life of schools.

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Inequalities in digital social contacts in Europe

Author(s): Michael Smith

15 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

This paper uses data from the innovative ESS 10 module on digital social contacts (DSC), a rich source of data on an array of factors that impact the use of DSCs in work and family life, including in Nordic countries. Based on the cross-national file, we map cross-national differences in digital social contacts, particularly in family life, and then analyze social inequalities in these digital contacts within and between countries using a multi-level model approach.

The paper builds on previous research on the "digital divide" to identify variation in DSC, especially in terms of the frequency and significance of those contacts, by family background and respondent socio-economic status. While the ESS' "Topline Results" on the DSC items showed significant cross-national variation, the role of social inequality and country-specific factors remain unexplored. Therefore, using EU data on the cost of mobile and fixed-line broadband across European countries, we are also investigating the degree to which the cost of broadband (on a PPP basis) impacts inequalities in digital social contacts, which could also provide actionable insights for policy makers interested in reducing such inequalities.

While our initial results are only preliminary, it does seem to be the case that the cost of average broadband access, along with low respondent socio-economic status, has a negative impact on written digital communication with children and other family members. The paper also explores other cross-national factors, such as relative economic development. Lastly, the paper also presents results on family status, especially how DSCs may improve communication between teenage children and parents who do not live with them. Overall, the paper makes an important contribution to the analysis of the DSC module and the role of digital technologies in processes of social stratification. The finalization of the paper before submission to a journal would benefit from the feedback from conference participants.

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The Logics of Measuring, Managing and Governing Ecosystems: A theoretical approach to the epistemics of environmental governance

Author(s): Hogne Lerøy Sataøen, Monika Berg, Gisle Andersen

15 Aug | 13:00-13:30

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

Environmental policy has taken an ecological turn, following the realization that ecosystems are vital for human life. As a consequence, public, political, and scientific attention is paid to maintaining ecosystem stability and “health”. While the ecological turn is manifested in biodiversity policies and related political goals, the impact and implications of this shift is more difficult to grasp. To understand its implications it crucial to understand how environmental expertise on ecosystems is formed and how it performs in national policy-formation. The shift towards ecosystem-based management (EBM), seem to represent a change in the key principles – the logic – for how nature is assessed and valued, and thereby how compromises between competing priorities and concerns are reached. Moreover, current knowledge indicates that, rather than a shift towards more environmentally friendly policy, the new logic supports policy decisions that seek to maximize the human benefits from ecosystems. How can this be explained? In his paper we develop and apply a theoretical framework that addresses the interdependencies of governing, measuring, and managing nature. The framework combines insights from science and technology studies and the public management literature and seek to bridge environmental debates within these two fields. The main focus is how new forms of measuring and assessing the state of nature affect decisions, how nature is represented and managed, and how contestation and conflicts play out.

The theoretical framework is applied on two illustrative cases from Norway and Sweden: (a) The Swedish system for woodland key habitats (WKH)(nyckelbiotopsinventeringen), and (b) the establishment of Natur-i-Norge (NiN) in Norway. Both are systematic attempts to map and measure nature which have spurred controversies. For example, the WKH-system in Sweden has been criticized for relying too much on subjective assessments by individuals, and it has proven difficult to follow up and quality-assure the assessments. However, the most significant criticism arises from the indirect protection afforded to WKHs through the certification system. This raised questions about the forest agency’s formal and legal authority to register WKHs. Between 2019 and 2022, approximately 30 cases involving more than 100 WKHs were appealed to courts. Following court decisions, the Swedish Forest Agency ceased registering key habitats in December 2021. Landowners can now request deregistration of key habitats registered from June 27, 2019. However, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has appealed against the Swedish Forest Agency for no longer disclosing all forestry companies’ key habitats, arguing that this violates the EU’s Inspire Directive, which requires environmental information to be accessible to the public. Both cases illustrate how the proposed theoretical framework can deepen the understanding of processes that make “nature” governable through specific government technologies and to increase our knowledge of how environmental expertise on ecosystems is formed, contested and authorized in national policy formation.

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Welfare as social investment: Framing marginalized citizens as objects of investments

Author(s): Ditte Andersen

15 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP41

Session: Nordic welfare states

At the turn of the millennium, leading social scientists suggested a new welfare state architecture centered around the rationale of social investment. Policymakers across Europe have since made it a well-established policy paradigm with Nordic welfare states often depicted as frontrunners. In this paper, I consider the political, ethical and social consequences of translating the rationale into operative policies and instruments. Empirically, the paper focuses on Denmark and draws on more than a decade of research on welfare services for marginalized citizens experiencing drug problems, mental illness and homelessness. Theoretically, the paper combines a Foucauldian analysis of governmentality with a Goffmanian orientation to the framing of face-to-face interaction. The paper suggests that the rationale of social investment works on a continuum of manifestation. Sometimes policymakers, welfare professionals or citizens use the concept of investment as a metaphor to argue that allocating resources today will pay off in the future without actually calling for a measurement of return; at other times the social investment rationale manifests in tangible contracts that explicate expected economic return. The power to define value and make decisions on welfare allocation remain pivotal but the investment framing risk camouflaging political judgements as technicalities. The paper ends with a discussion of how the investment rationale may impact lay perceptions of the social contract in a welfare state, and marginalized citizens' sense of deservingness. The discussion outlines two competing frames for investment rationales: One embarking from the market and an economic conception of returns; and one commencing from a democratic society and a social conception of value.

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Education, Gender, and Childbearing: The case of Iceland

Author(s): Ari Jónsson

15 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

In Iceland, as in other European countries, fertility has declined forcefully during the past decade. In terms of the Nordic countries, Comolli et al. (2021) found that increasing differentials in childbearing by educational level are in part to blame. Iceland was not a part of the analysis. The aim of this study is to provide a first insight into the associations between educational level, gender, and childbearing in Iceland, and to investigate whether the development in Iceland resembles that of the other Nordics. With reference to similar welfare setup and educational systems, but different geographical location to the other Nordics, the study contributes meaningful empirical evidence to an ongoing theorisation within current fertility debates. The analysis is divided into two parts: First, cohort total fertility (CTF) at age 40 is calculated for cohorts born between 1960 and 1982, by gender and educational level. As no previous research exists on the interplay of educational level and childbearing in Iceland, this first part of the analysis provides insight into the education-fertility nexus and some solid ground to stand on for subsequent analysis. The second part consists of time-series trends displaying the childbearing risks during 1998–2022. As CTF can only be calculated at the end of the reproductive years, this latter part of the analysis produces more current evidence of any changing associations that might help explain the drop in period fertility since 2010.

Preliminary results show that the CTF declined in Iceland, modestly at first but more forcefully for cohorts born in 1975 and later. This trend applied to both men and women, and at an aggregate level. However, while the CTF among the low- and middle-educated groups of women decreased at a similar rate across birth cohorts, the CTF of the tertiary-educated group increased for cohorts born in the 1960s and 1970s while it decreased among those born in the 1980s. In terms of period trends, results show that the childbearing intensities of the low-educated group of women decreased more profoundly during the past 25 years than those of the middle-educated group, while a trend of stable childbearing intensities was depicted for women with tertiary education. In terms of men, we observe similar trends as that of women but ones that are less extensive across educational groups. Both sets of analysis thus portrait a similar development: more forceful fertility declines among those less educated and increasing differentials by educational level in terms childbearing. The findings are consistent with previous research, indicating that the educational gradient in childbearing behaviour has changed in the Nordics, and that birth rates have dropped steeper among the lower educated. Comolli et al. (2021) suggest that this might be unintended consequences of welfare cuts in the aftermath of the economic crisis in 2008, i.e., increased inequality in terms of childbearing. The findings support such an argument.

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Positionality, digital society and the global south. A feminist ethic approach for older women

Author(s): Thando Nkohla-Ramunenyiwa

15 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

The discourse on older persons and technology has opened up an important view regarding the issues of development, access and agency. In global South countries such as South Africa, older persons who are women are faced with the role of being a care giver to digitally literate children, more so their grandchildren who have an even higher level of this literacy. As older women in an Africa society, they have been culturally valued as the gatekeeper/custodians of African value systems. Further, their wisdom and caring nature plays an integral role in preserving these values systems within the ever-changing society. In light of colonisation, the social structure in Africa became exposed to a patriarchal system of power, (Mikaere, 2019), social stratification on the basis of wealth and ownership of goods, and racially motivated spatial control amongst other things. Accordingly, this spatial control further informed certain groups of people to live in rural homesteads, or in urban cities for work because of their status as working class labourers in mines or factories. Yet, there was a minority group that lived in suburbs which were considered to provide be a better quality of life by being closer to useful amenities, such as good schools, public service, public pools, libraries, etc. This positions older black women at the peripheries of gender and socio-economics, and living in disadvantaged communities. It is at this intersection that the experience of older women from disadvantaged communities in the global South becomes so important to explore. Moreover, in the context of what has now become a digital society, there is an enhancement of their positionality in the mentioned peripheries. To illustrate is UNHCR (2024:1), revealing UN's definition of older person being 60-65 years old, placing them in the cohort from baby boomers to earlier generations when it comes to digital literacies. With their minimum exposure to technology from their infancy compared to later cohorts, older persons are lagging behind that of recent generations. Older women are being necessitated to adapt to and carve their role of care and preserving African values in the digital society. The objective of this paper to draw on from focus group discussions of twenty older black women from a disadvantaged community in the global South, in particular South Africa. Their agency in roles of care in the milieu of their care giver roles to their digitally advanced teenage grandchildren serves as an important reference point to analyse this possibly altered role of care. As a result, this paper makes the claim that a feminist ethic approach is fit to analyse the positionality and agency of older black women in their role of care in a digital society.

Contextual consolidation and intergroup inequality

Author(s): Martin Arvidsson

15 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP52

Session: Frontiers in segregation research

A large body of research in the social sciences demonstrates how social contacts across various social domains—households, schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods—significantly influence individuals in numerous ways, including their health, educational attainment, and productivity, to name a few. Because individuals are non-randomly distributed across social contexts, these influence effects can have important consequences for intergroup inequality: High segregation levels mean that some individuals receive many positive exposures, while others receive few. Although many important contributions have been made within this broad area of research, a pervasive limitation is its treatment of social contexts as isolated entities. Illustrative of this is that each domain has its own, separate literature, focused on its causes (e.g., residential segregation, workplace segregation) and consequences (e.g., neighbourhood effects, workplace premiums) of segregation. However, we still know rather little about how these different domains and social contexts integrate into a larger whole.

This domain-centric perspective has two key limiting effects on our understanding of how segregation impacts intergroup inequality. First, it overlooks that an individual may be differentially segregated across various domains. Second, it ignores that individuals, by being situated in multiple domains simultaneously (for example, working in workplace A and living in household X), create linkages between these domains (e.g., WPA-HHX) that allow for spillover effects. Such linkages and indirect exposures are overlooked by viewing social contexts as isolated.

To address these limitations and understand the joint exposure inequality resulting from individuals being situated in multiple social contexts, I draw upon the concept of consolidation proposed by Peter Blau and colleagues; extending it to apply to social contexts rather than individual attributes. More specifically, I argue that, in order to understand how segregation affects the inequality of exposures between different groups, we must consider how consolidated the exposures from the different domains are. For instance, knowing all my colleagues are vaccinated against COVID-19, what can we infer about my sibling's vaccination status? Under high (low) consolidation, the answer is a lot (not very much).

Using a combination of computational and empirical analyses, I demonstrate the key role that contextual consolidation (CC) plays in shaping intergroup inequality. With simulations, I first show that—counterintuitively—exposure inequality can shift substantially without any change in segregation levels within individual domains, merely due to variation in CC. Second, while exposure inequality reduces monotonically with decreasing CC, these simulations also show that when ties within contexts form based on homophily, too low a CC results in crosscontextual ties that are not sufficiently reinforced to sustain the diffusion of behaviours. This suggests that, for behavioural adoptions as opposed to mere exposures, a moderate CC level may more effectively reduce inequality than a very low level. Lastly, using Swedish administrative register data, I demonstrate how CC constitutes a key mechanism for accounting of how exposure inequality has changed in Sweden in the past two decades.

31st Nordic Sociological Association conference, 14-16 August, Norrköping
All abstract, chronological order

Regional and cross-national Prevalence of Racist attitudes in Europe. Evidence from Online Search Behavior

Author(s): Friedolin Merhout, Mauro Martinelli

15 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP53

Session: Social stratification in a digital world

Discriminatory attitudes against racial and ethnic minorities are a key fault line for political and social divisions across and within countries. Accordingly, norms and laws sanction expressing such attitudes, which radical right parties (RRP) use to allege opinion suppression. Despite this plausible theoretical link between discriminatory attitudes and RRP electoral success, our understanding of the relationship is hampered by limitations inherent in the prevalent survey methodologies.

This paper proposes an innovative approach to address this. We use digital trace data, namely online searches, to evaluate the prevalence of discriminatory attitudes within and across 11 European countries. We first outline the promise of an indicator of discriminatory attitudes from online search data. Then, we describe the process of constructing and aligning it with survey data from two waves of the European and World Values Study and eight waves of the European Social Survey. Finally, we assess the regional prevalence of discriminatory attitudes with survey- and search-based measures and their association with RRP vote shares based on EU-NED and Manifesto Project data, using Eurostat data for regional sociodemographic indicators.

Preliminary results indicate marked differences in discriminatory attitudes between and within countries. However, the survey- and search-based measures reveal different distributions. This result, we argue, may be driven by country-specific desirability bias levels. We close by showing the search-based measure's superior ability to predict RRP vote shares.

This paper illustrates an innovative sensitive-attitude measure, emphasizing its predictive potential, and contributes to our understanding of the role of discriminatory attitudes in RRP electoral successes.

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All abstract, chronological order

The Limits of Legitimation: The Finnish Startup Economy and the Case of Wolt Acquisition

Author(s): Henri Koskinen

15 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP41

Session: Nordic welfare states

In November 2021, Finnish platform company Wolt was bought by Doordash, a competing US company with the sum of 7 B euros, the largest of any corporate acquisition in Finland. In this presentation, I analyze the media discourse in Finnish mainstream media regarding the acquisition of Wolt (N=95).

The media coverage heavily centered on the 600 million Euros in taxes that the state was to receive of the acquisition. I set off from this observation, enquiring how the Wolt acquisition was perceived in the media in relation to the welfare state and how Wolt founders were represented in the media vis-à-vis the welfare state.

I conceptualize the case as an instantiation of startup economy in a Nordic welfare state context. Globally, startup and technology entrepreneurship have become important drivers of economic growth, and successful startup entrepreneurs have entered societal elites. "Startup economy" refers to the private and public governing apparatuses geared towards fostering innovative new enterprises and ventures that utilize various forms of digital technology. Startups aim for rapid growth through "disruptive" innovative products and services, of which Wolt is an example. My aim is to develop the idea of startup economy in a Nordic context by analyzing the legitimation of startup economy.

In my analysis, I note that in narrating the acquisition, startup economy is linked to the welfare state through a discourse on taxes, which constructs Wolt founders and startup entrepreneurs more broadly as benevolent virtuosos. On one hand, Wolt is portrayed as an exceptional company, and the acquisition serves as a testament of Finnish startup excellence and know-how. On the other hand, Wolt is firmly linked to the welfare state, as startup economy is constructed vital for the future of the welfare state. Wolt founders are portrayed as "happy taxpayers" who eagerly wish to give back to their community.

However, the tax discourse is also contested by referring to the universality of taxation and the volatility of the platform industry. The precarious position of Wolt food couriers forms a strong criticism, and it is discussed in explicit terms that the growth of a platform company like Wolt is based precisely on the gaps in the current labor legislation. From this perspective, the founders' tax speeches are also assessed critically.

I interpret that the case signals an uneasy establishment of startup economy in a Nordic welfare state context. Startup economy is linked to the welfare state through a discourse of taxes, which frames Wolt founders and startup entrepreneurs generally as benevolent talents who humbly pay it forward. Taxation is a powerful tool for legitimating not only Wolt founders' wealth but the startup economy regime more broadly. However, while the discussion on Wolt and its founders is generally positive, there are tensions in the nationalistic frame. The disruption and potential uncertainty that such companies bring about splinter the positive narrative, showing the limits of legitimating the startup economy.

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All abstract, chronological order

From climate facts to climate risks: IPCC experts reflect on science for policy

Author(s): Rolf Lidskog

15 Aug | 13:30-14:00

Room: TP54

Session: Environment risk and expertise

The IPCC has successfully built its epistemic authority for policy-relevant science, but the question is whether it needs to change its work as the international community and nation states now face the challenge of putting agreements and policies into practice. While there have been many proposals on how to develop science for policy and how to further develop global environmental assessments, little research has been done on the scientific experts involved in these assessments. This paper analyses the views of IPCC experts on the type of knowledge needed to guide policy. The empirical material consists of an interview study with experts involved in the IPCC, from its first assessment (1990) to the most recent (2023). The data from the interviews are analysed thematically using NVivo. The analysis shows that there are tensions in the way knowledge, uncertainty, and risk are viewed. It finds a crucial difference between those who focus mainly on knowledge certainties, and those who have a pronounced risk perspective, including societal risks. Finally, the paper discusses the implications for the IPCC of using a risk approach in its knowledge assessments.

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All abstract, chronological order

Fathers adopting new practices? Changes in the time use of Finnish parents

Author(s): Johanna Närvi, Anneli Miettinen, Johanna Lammi-Taskula

15 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP45

Session: Parenting in the Nordic countries

This paper focuses on the time use of Finnish parents in unpaid household labour and childcare, as well as gender differences and changes in time use during the 2000s. Parental time is characterized by several parallel developments in Western countries in the past decades. First, there has been an increase in parents' time devoted to childcare, related to norms and expectations concerning 'good' parenthood and an ideology of intensive parenting (Rose et al, 2014; Miller, 2017). Second, the idea of caring fatherhood has gained popularity, and fathers have increased their involvement in childcare, and, less markedly, in housework (Dermott, 2008; Johansson and Klinth, 2008). The Nordic countries have been forerunners in this change, especially by developing policies that promote gender equality in work and in childcare. Yet, ideas and practices related to the gendered division of labour change slowly (Ellingsaeter & Kitterød, 2023). Despite a long tradition of women's labour market participation, even in the Nordic countries, mothers use more time in unpaid labour than fathers, especially in families with young children (Grunow & Evertsson, 2016; Ylikännö et al., 2015). Moreover, when involved in unpaid labour, women and men often adopt gender specific tasks such as women/mothers doing the laundry or actual childcare, and men/fathers doing repairs and maintenance at home or engaging in playing with the children (Attila et al., 2019).

We use the Finnish Time Use Survey data from years 2009–2010 and 2020–2021 to study the time used in unpaid housework and childcare by Finnish mothers and fathers with children. We ask 1) How have the time use in different tasks of unpaid work and the gender differences changed over time? 2) Are there sociodemographic differences especially in fathers' time use? We use regression analysis to investigate time trends, and factors related to the division of unpaid work in the family.

The preliminary results show that the gender gap in time use has continued to narrow in both housework and childcare, mainly due to fathers' increased time used in these tasks. Mothers, at the same time, have decreased their time spent in housework, but they too use more time than previously in childcare, especially of under school-aged children. Looking in detail into the different housework or child-related tasks, the changes decreasing the gender gap have taken place especially in tasks that have previously been typical for women. Furthermore, while higher education predicts higher participation in both housework and childcare tasks among men, the increase in time use in these tasks over the past ten years has been stronger among lower-educated men, diminishing educational differences in time use in unpaid work among men. Based on the results, we discuss the possible mechanisms of change in different types of unpaid labour and reflect the meaning of the changes for today's parenthood in Finland.

Coordinating between worlds in the last phase of life

Author(s): Estella Posthuma

15 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP51

Session: Care and technologies in a digitalised society

Advance care planning (ACP) for clients in the last phase of life, living at home with complex care needs is increasingly seen as a valuable practice to deliver patient centered care. Scholars argue that ACP contributes to the prevention of acute care needs, and with that, the prevention of unnecessary hospitalizations (Dixon et al., 2015). ACP is understood as a process in which patients together with healthcare professionals specify wishes, limits, goals, and preferences for care in the last phase of life.

ACP for clients living at home is notably complicated due to the myriad of interactions between human and non-human actors, such as healthcare professionals, informal caregivers, legal requirements, ethical norms, access to electronic files, and organizational routines in different care domains (Livne, 2019). Hence, ACP is more than just a formal agreement; it is a socio-technically mediated and dynamic process as well as 'a promise' for good end of life care. A notable difficulty in ACP for clients living at home is the vast reduction of complexity of information about wishes and limits of care in the last phase of life and the coordination of care over various domains. Information rich, laden and complex conversations about care between patients and care providers, for instance, are recorded as jottings in electronic patient records. Furthermore, these brief messages are exchanged between care professionals from different disciplinary backgrounds, trained and socialized in different 'social worlds', acting in different healthcare domains and who try to use these agreements and adjust and coordinate the provided care accordingly. Yet, it is unknown how care in the last phase of life is designed and coordinated over various domains on basis of this limited information that moreover has different meanings relating to distinct practices in those different social worlds (e.g. a patient brought in at the emergency room is more likely to be resuscitated than found unconscious at home). In this paper, we ask: "How is ACP coordinated for clients in the last phase of life between and among professionals from different social worlds, and with what consequences for how care is provided?". The data is gathered through ethnography research in the Netherlands. We use the concept of 'boundary object' (Star and Griesemer, 1989) and 'social worlds' to analyze the various practices enacted and connected under the umbrella of advance care planning. The research shows how ACP agreements act as a boundary object by intersecting different professional social worlds. ACP agreements circulate in different forms, like letters (e.g; hospital letter addressed to the General Practitioner) and digital notes. We show how ACP agreements shape and reshape how these different worlds organize and construct care in the last phase of life.

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All abstract, chronological order

Cross-sectoral collaboration in a restructured labour market policy landscape – a comparative study of three municipalities

Author(s): Mattias Bengtsson

15 Aug | 13:40-14:00

Room: TP41

Session: Nordic welfare states

In recent decades, the restructuring of welfare states in accordance with market liberal ideas has increased demands for structural labour market reforms, marketization, and privatization. An example of this is the full-scale marketization of employment services in the current transformation of Swedish labour market policies, as organisations governed in accordance with market principles and competition are expected to increase efficiency, quality, and flexibility of services. Following a policy proposal in the 'January Agreement' of 2019, profit-making actors have become the sole responsible for providing matching ordinary labour market services while the role of the Swedish Public Employment Service (PES) has narrowed. The PES is transformed into a 'purchaser organization', focusing on exercising authority through control of jobseekers and private service providers, and being responsible for strategic collaboration with municipalities and private providers. Furthermore, municipal labour market units are not allowed to provide ordinary employment measures on behalf of the PES. Instead, the new role for the municipalities is mainly as actors in cross-sectoral collaboration with the PES and other actors.

In this article, the aim is to analyze transformations of Swedish labour market policies in an emerging 'welfare regime' by focusing on new forms of cross-sectoral collaboration in the wake of a recent, extensive labour market policy reform. We do this by studying municipal labour market units' understanding of the challenges emerging in the new labour market policy landscape, their perceived need for cross-sectoral collaboration, and experiences of concrete collaborative practices.

The empirical data consists of qualitative interviews with representatives from municipal labour market units in three municipalities in West Sweden. The study has a comparative approach as there are differences in municipalities' conditions depending on business structure, population, geographical location, etc. Given these differences, the range of private providers and measures offered, as well as the local presence of the PES, can vary between municipalities, which particularly affects the conditions for supporting vulnerable individuals with a weak attachment to the labour market.

By focusing on shifting roles and responsibilities between state authorities, municipalities, and private actors in an emerging welfare regime, the article contributes to sociological analyses on welfare state restructuring. Also, previous research provides limited insight into the municipal labour market units role and experiences of cross-sectoral collaboration in the new labour market policy landscape. In this way, the article contributes to filling an important knowledge gap.

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Ethical Consumption and Consumer Virtue: Insights from Iranians' Lifestyles

Author(s): Sara Karimzadeh

16 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP43

Session: Lifestyles, consumption, and inequality

Ethical consumption involves adopting practices that seek to safeguard both society and the environment. Various forms of ethical consumption, most notably in the form of consumption refinement (Fairtrade and boycotting), have gained popularity in Western Europe and North America. However, our understanding of how ethical consumption is defined and practiced in nonWestern cultures and different social structures still requires further development. This study seeks to deepen our comprehension of ethical consumption in Iran, offering insights into its realization within a societal structure that diverges from the Western origins of this phenomenon. The overarching aim is to realize interdependent connections among individuals' lifestyles, societal frameworks, and the evolution of this phenomenon in the studied society. Data was gathered from 19 semi-structured interviews with people in Iran. Data analysis indicates that Iranian individuals have particular attitudes regarding ethical consumption that originate from their given societal framework. These attitudes are manifested in different consumption stages. In the pre-consumption stage, I discuss how Fairtrade and boycotting practices are influenced by people's lifestyles. In the consumption stage, ethical considerations will be explored through the lens of 'heyfomeyl,' a deeprooted tradition in that culture that considers taking good care of things a virtue. In the postconsumption stage, ethical considerations will be explored through the common practice of 'ehsan kardan,' originally stemmed from philanthropic and religious motivations, however, over time, it has come to be perceived as environmentally beneficial.

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All abstract, chronological order

What's in a Label? On Neighbourhood Labelling, Stigma and Housing Prices

Author(s): Ina Blind, Henrik Andersson, Fabian Brunåker, Matz Dahlberg, Greta Fredriksson, Jakob Granath, Che-Yuan Liang

16 Aug | 10:40-11:00

Room: TP53

Session: Spatial Marking, Neighborhood Stigma, and Neighborhood Inequality

Place-based policies that allocate resources to specific areas inadvertently also designate these areas as needing assistance, potentially leading to the development of neighbourhood stigma. The common coupling of resource allocation and area designation makes it difficult to measure the stigma effect. However, the Swedish police's listing of "vulnerable" neighbourhoods, initially introduced in 2015, lacked accompanying resources, offering a unique opportunity to examine the isolated impact of place-based policies on stigma. We study the stigma from unfavourable area labels through an analysis of how the police list affected housing prices - a reliable measure of location value. Employing the synthetic control method, we find that the list resulted in an average price decrease of 3.7% within one year and 6.5% within six years in the designated neighbourhoods. In line with ideas of racial stigma, we also find that areas with a higher proportion of minority residents prior to classification experienced more pronounced negative effects.

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All abstract, chronological order

Class specific food cultures in the Danish society

Author(s): Kia Ditlevsen

16 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP43

Session: Lifestyles, consumption, and inequality

“I have also changed food habits. Where one can really feel the social class divide - that’s in the culinary [field]” - Morten Pape, Danish author, 2020

Food consumption is a highly distinctive practice by which class belongings are revealed and reaffirmed (Atkinson and Deeming 2015; Bourdieu 2004; Prieur et al., 2008; Warde 2011). What one eats, the way one eats, one’s taste and habits are embodied expressions of class and are highly inscribed with moral value.

This presentation will present results from a new qualitative research project: “Food as Distinction and Practice” (funded by Independent Research Fund Denmark). The project has produced knowledge about the current cultural expressions of class in food and eating in Denmark. Using material from 60 in-depth interviews and visual data, distinctive features of class specific tastes and practices are explored. 60 people from four distinct social classes have participated in interviews (Underprivileged class; Less privileged class; Cultural fraction of the privileged class; Economic fraction of the privileged class). 30 of the participants have also created visual data for the project by taking photos of their meals.

In this presentation, I will present key classifying dimensions of food consumption – along with consumption practices which have apparently lost their classed specificity and, maybe, their moral valuation. The empirical material will be employed in a discussion of the continued relevance of conceptualizing food consumption in terms of class and legitimate culture (Lamont and Lareau 1988; Prieur and Savage 2011), as well as a discussion of the boundaries between ‘high’ and ‘popular’ food culture (Sullivan and Katz-Gerro 2007; Warde, Whillans, and Paddock 2019).

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Mapping the Spatial Dynamics of Vulnerability: Investigating Neighborhood Effects on Vulnerable Children and Youth in Denmark: A Danish National Register study from 1980-2020

Author(s): Michelle Fisker

16 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP53

Session: Spatial Marking, Neighborhood Stigma, and Neighborhood Inequality

Social science has been focused on understanding the intricate relationship between neighborhood environments and the well-being of vulnerable children and youth. Several empirical studies have shown that the neighborhoods where children live, play, and attend school, particularly those characterized by deprivation, significantly influence their lives. In this context, research on neighborhood effects highlights the importance of considering the broader socio-spatial context in understanding how deprived neighborhoods impact children's development.

Building upon established theories of neighborhood effects, social disorganization, and the social-ecological model of human development the purpose of this article is to explore how neighborhoods affect vulnerable children and youth under the age of 18 who are placed in out-of-home care, or where the municipalities have received reports concerning the well-being and development of the child in the context of Denmark. Second, the article aims to show that different measures of neighborhoods, measured at different spatial scales, can show different spatial patterns of the distribution of vulnerable children and youth. Compared to other countries, geographical distances in Denmark are relatively small. Nevertheless, it can be assumed that the local area, in which children and young people grow up can affect their everyday life differently. This study compares administrative delineations in Denmark, such as postal codes and parishes, with micro-areas generated through an automated redistricting algorithm, segmented by physical barriers. The data sources used in this study are geo-referenced data and registers for the Danish population. The georeferenced data consists of the national square grid that divides Denmark into vectors of 100 by 100-meter cells and topographical maps that contain information about buildings, roads, rivers, railroads, and so on. The second set of data is a variety of Danish registers with two overall population types: first, a full population of children under the age of 18, and second the parents of the children in the study. The first population, with a focus on vulnerable children, contains information on out-of-home placement status, reason for out-of-home placement, prevention strategies, any reports from the municipality, as well as a range of demographic information. The second population, consisting of the parents, has yearly measured individual-level information about educational attainment, labor force affiliation, and income as well as gender, age, ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics.

The study is based on the hypothesis that after controlling for individual sociodemographic characteristics of the areas, socio-economically deprived neighborhoods will be associated with a higher probability of children being placed in out-of-home care and/or having received a report from the local authorities. By comparing administrative boundaries such as postal codes and parishes with micro-areas the expected result is to uncover nuanced insights into the spatial dynamics of vulnerability.

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A Danish Scientific Elite

Author(s): Kristoffer Kropp, Christoph Ellersgaard , Anton Grau Larsen, Jacob Lunding

16 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP41

Session: Political Change and Conflict [s53]

This paper analyses the shifting relations internally in the Danish scientific elite and in its relations to other elites in the field of power. Using data from the Danish Who is Who from 1910 until 2020 and drawing upon a field analytical perspective from Bourdieu and descriptive statistics, we analyze the two relations by focusing on changes and stability in three configurations that all are important in order to understand the academic field. Firstly, we analyze the biographical composition of the scientific elite looking at family background, age, gender and geography. Secondly we analyse the academic configuration by analyzing disciplines, membership of renowned academies and international experience. Third and lastly we analyse the relation between the academic field to the field of power. Here we analyze the interaction of the professor with state and business. We focus on the act of state consecration such as member of commission and connection to the royal house and one the relations to business through boards etc.

The analysis suggests major shifts in the Danish scientific elite. Some of the changes are closely coupled to the institutional shift in scientific knowledge production and the organization of universities especially the massive expansion from the late 1950. We also show that the professors in the elite are tied to the interests of the state and the specific formulation of state and business interest in the form of the Danish growth model.

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All abstract, chronological order

Alternative health influencers, politicization and distrust in public health expertise

Author(s): Johanna Nurmi, Sanna Malinen, Piia Jallinoja

16 Aug | 11:00-11:20

Room: TP51

Session: Health inequalities

Recent literature has emphasized that social media influencers had an important role in spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. Baker 2022; Dow et al. 2021). However, contestation of public health recommendations can also be conceptualized as a crisis of trust in scientific institutions (e.g. Goldenberg 2021). This presentation examines the processes of politicization and distrust in the content of social media influencers who criticized official nutrition recommendations (“alternative health influencers”) during COVID-19 pandemic.

The presentation is based on digital ethnography of four Finnish alternative health influencers. The materials consist of the influencers’ social media content and additional materials (such as websites) during two periods, in 2020 (January-June) and 2021 (October-December). We ask how alternative health influencers’ content and views changed during the pandemic, and how the influencers constructed distrust and mistrust toward public health recommendations in their content.

The analysis shows that trust, as well as distrust and mistrust, work as constructive forces in the alternative health scene. Although the influencers’ contents had featured elements of mistrust and distrust before COVID-19, these elements increased during the pandemic. In the unpredictable pandemic times, followers easily identified with the expressions of distrust. The pandemic shifted the content of the influencers, increasing politicization and calls for action directed to their followers. Two of the influencers introduced health-related conspiracy theories in their content and became increasingly suspicious of scientific institutions and expertise. However, the construction of distrust was not necessarily a strategy, but a disorderly part of the influencers authenticity work (Arnesson 2023), producing unpredictable results. The influencers reported losing followers, collaborations or income because of talking about COVID-19 or changing their views on contested topics. They also talked about backlash and unwanted labels. At the same time, controversial content may have also increased their visibility.

The presentation concludes that wellness culture can be recognized as a background of construction of distrust and mistrust. Alternative health influencers participated in the politicization of knowledge and practices related to COVID-19, constructing and enforcing criticism, mistrust and distrust toward pandemic policies and recommendations. However, as the same techniques are used by political influencers in general, this resonated with followers and encouraged political action, which also arose from within the alternative health cultures.

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Money matters. Constructing the consumer subject through choice of education and career path

Author(s): Elisabeth Hovdhaugen, Kaja Reegård

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP43

Session: Lifestyles, consumption, and inequality

Lifestyles and consumption are critical to understand the mechanisms through which inequality is sustained and promoted. There is thus a great deal of sociological literature and scholarly debate on the ways we belong, see, and present ourselves to (certain segments of the) world through consumption and lifestyles. However, we know less of the mechanisms through which narratives of future lifestyles, consumption patterns and perspective on money shape and reinforce social inequalities. The paper combines insights derived from the sociology of consumption with sociology of youth and education to analyze the importance young people attach to money, and which lifestyle futures they want to achieve, perceiving education as a mean to reach this end. The analyses are based on a rich qualitative data set, comprised of interviews and 62 texts on educational choices authored by 18-year-olds taking an academic programme in two upper secondary schools in the biggest cities in Norway. The schools are typically characterized by students of medium to low socio-economic background, and median grades. We find that money matters to the students beyond achieving financial independence from their parents. Rather, the young interviewees, particularly the men, explicitly expressed the wish to complete an education to get a high-paid job which enables them to consume material products, e.g., sports cars as an object signifier, conveying a certain lifestyle. Their plans for higher education were vague, however, typically within the fields of economics, finance, IT, and marketing. Recent views in the literature associated with writers such as Lash and Urry, Giddens, or Beck, postulates that consumption is now more likely to be driven by post-traditional flattening of social structures. The paper, however, discusses in Bordieuan terms how the findings of materialism are intertwined with traditional social categories such as gender, class and ethnicity.

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Language Models from the Sweatshop? Helping Researchers Avoid Ethical and Legal Issues With Off-The-Shelf Software

Author(s): Hendrik Erz, Sebastian Gießler

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP45

Session: Pretrained models and sociology: ethical, methodological and theoretical considerations

Social scientists increasingly make use of language models to analyse the growing amount of textual data with the help of computers (Grimmer et al., 2022; Bonikowski and Nelson, 2022; Knight, 2022).

Today's computationally expensive Large Language Models (LLMs) (Bender et al., 2021) are "pre-trained" by a few institutions that possess the necessary compute power (Whittaker, 2021). In this "pre-training" process, LLMs are trained on large but generic text corpora. These models can then be "fine-tuned" for specific use-cases.

By using these models, researchers waive control over methods and data they use, taking on the role of consumers of off-the-shelf software. One cannot assume, however, that training data fulfils ethical standards and that the resulting models do not pose legal risks. Additionally, LLMs come with methodological and theoretical caveats that remain underexplored.

Model architecture and data sets of many commercial models are inaccessible and companies utilise underpaid workers (Xiang, 2023) or copyrighted material (Vincent, 2022). Furthermore, normative values encoded into LLMs can be mismatched with the theoretical assumptions of researchers ("model alignment"; Norvig and Davis 2010). These value-judgments and design decisions can harm research subjects (Biddle 2022).

Researchers should therefore explicitly vet LLMs to avert harm for both research subjects and themselves. Biases can affect study results (Akter et al., 2021); as can "supply-chain attacks" (Szegedy et al., 2014) or "poisoning" the training data (Carlini et al., 2023).

This work develops a checklist to verify and increase trust in pre-trained language models. It does not require researchers to fully understand a model. Instead, it ensures that LLMs can be used confidently, minimising the ethical and legal risks that arise with the use of improperly curated off-the-shelf models.

The checklist covers ethical and legal (accountability, adversarial attacks, consent), methodological (algorithmic and data bias, machine reasoning), and theoretical (alignment) issues.

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All abstract, chronological order

Care robots all along: the increasingly mislabeled role of therapists and caregivers in tailoring robots to disabled and aged people's needs

Author(s): Martin Chevallier

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP52

Session: Robots in social life: interactions, hierarchies, and intimacies

The dissemination of care robots, conceived as an innovative answer to address increasing care staff shortage and the burden of older adults' relatives in aging societies, remains limited so far, despite a strikingly growing number of experiments conducted with various subgroups of people 'with special needs', and ambitious political plans and programs to foster their development and implementation. A growing body of ethnographic literature related this slow pace to an enduring contrast between promises of robots' autonomy and adaptiveness, and their enduring 'functional limitations and social awkwardness' (Jeon et al., 2020), especially when their users are care recipients suffering from various kinds and levels of impairment.

Conversely, the refining and updating of mainstream, often non-professional historical accounts of care robotics still lags behind. Drawing on a threefold comparative analysis of projects led in the US, Japan and France, this contribution pursues a double objective : first, showing that embedding robotic systems in care institutions, practices and the daily routines of frail people is as old a concrete endeavor as automating factories (1960s), and implied close collaboration between engineers, orthotists, rehabilitation medicine doctors and occupational therapists, and 'traditional' industrial robots' suppliers.

Secondly, it contends that the multifaceted contribution of aforementioned therapists in the design and fine-tuning of care robots, as well as the unwavering support provided by caregivers to users at front-line (during tests in ecological conditions), have been gradually neglected, 'mislabeled' (Laveaga, 2023), then overshadowed by project managers and their sponsors. I suggest this process partially stems from a reconfiguration of human-robot intimacy, as the main focus of interest in care robotics shifted from physically assistive devices for disabled users to 'socially' assistive 'companions' for older adults.

Finally, on the basis of a selection of old and recent projects fully appreciative of final users, therapists and caregivers' expertise and competences (Staros and Rubin, 1978; Lacey and MacNamara, 2000 ; Azenkot, Feng and Cakmak, 2016), it advocates for a renewed 'radical participatory approach', re-actualizing former practices and reforming hierarchical structures in care robots' making.

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All abstract, chronological order

Vulnerable to Riots? Stigma and community unrest in Swedish neighborhoods

Author(s): Jutta Kawalerowicz, Jeffrey Mitchell

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP53

Session: Spatial Marking, Neighborhood Stigma, and Neighborhood Inequality

In 2015 the Swedish police began a program to classify neighborhoods they deemed to be of low socio-economic status where crime had an impact on the community. The goal of the 'vulnerable areas' program is to identify areas that should be targeted for crime prevention interventions, and increased police presence, in an effort to reduce crime. However, the areas that received a designation have been subject to an enormous amount of negative attention that has the potential to carry powerful stigmatizing effects which can erode trust in the police and foment community unrest. In the spring of 2022, several Swedish neighborhoods experienced riots, but the reasons for why the rioting was worse in some areas than in others is not yet well understood. Since rioting constitutes a special class of criminal activity which often signals a breakdown of trust in state authorities it is an ideal outcome measure to assess the stigmatizing effects of the program because it is an indicator of both crime and a break down in social cohesion, something that is often overlooked in the social cohesion literature focusing on survey data.

This study analyses how neighborhoods on the list of vulnerable areas differ in terms of their participation in the urban unrest from other socio-economically deprived neighborhoods that had similar characteristics but were not on the list. We will match geolocated instances of riots that occurred during the unrest in 2022, which include data on severity of the unrest, with maps of the vulnerable areas designations provided by the Swedish police and population data from the Swedish registers to analyze this question. The results of this paper will provide valuable information on the potentially unintended and undesired consequences of a crime prevention intervention.

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All abstract, chronological order

Menopausal Transition: Analyzing Rural-Urban Differences and Socioeconomic Influences on the Timing of Menopause among Nigerian Women.

Author(s): Onyinyechi Ossai, Julianna Onuh, Ayodele Akinyele

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP51

Session: Health inequalities

Menopause is the end of menstruation and is caused by a cessation of ovarian follicular function. Menopause is clinically recognized after 12 months of amenorrhea, which is the shift in a woman's life from fertile to infertile. Although menopause is thought to be a universal phenomenon, it is influenced by socioeconomic variables, and women's experiences of the menopausal transition are thus managed differently by women. This study investigates the socioeconomic influences on the timing of menopause among Nigerian women with a specific focus on rural-urban differences. The specific objectives are: to examine the average age of menopause among women in urban and rural areas in Nigeria, to identify the socioeconomic factors that are associated with the time of menopause among rural and urban women in Nigeria, to assess the impact of menopause on the health and well-being of rural and urban women in Nigeria. The research will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining Surveys, Interviews, and Focus Group Discussions. A sample of women from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds in both urban and rural areas who had experienced natural menopause will be recruited to participate in the study. The survey collects information on various aspects of the respondents' lives, such as demographics, health, education, income, expenditure, and assets from 1000 women 700 urban women and 300 rural women. The study will use t-tests to compare the mean age of menopause between rural and urban women. The study will use principal component analysis to know the major factors influencing the age of menopause. The study will also use multivariate analysis of binary logistic regression to determine how socioeconomic variables are associated with menstrual timing. The study will use R programming language software for data analysis and report the results using tables, graphs, and text. This study aims to provide a more detailed understanding of the association between menopause timing and socioeconomic determinants, providing significant information for healthcare practitioners, politicians, and researchers. Social stratification theory in Health will be used to discuss the outcome of the study. The findings could help to build targeted treatments and support systems that address the specific needs of women in various social and geographical circumstances. Finally, this study aims to fill a knowledge vacuum in menopause and its intersection with socioeconomic issues, fostering a holistic approach to women's health that takes into account both biological and environmental aspects.

The Revolution Next Door

Author(s): David Calnitsky, Kaitlin Wannamaker

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP41

Session: Political Change and Conflict [s53]

This paper critically examines the transnational impact of revolutionary activities, particularly focusing on their influence on democracy and equality in neighboring countries. It addresses a significant gap in the existing literature by exploring the spillover effects of revolutions, which have historically been central to national developmental trajectories and are now considered in a global context.

The central research question investigates the extent to which revolutionary activities in one country can instigate policy changes and concessions in neighboring countries. This inquiry is vital, considering the interconnected nature of modern global politics and the potential for revolutionary fervor to cross borders. The theoretical framework of the study is grounded in historical and contemporary analyses of revolutions (Tilly 1978; Skocpol 1979; McAdam, McCarthy, and Zald 1996). It hypothesizes that the fear of revolutionary contagion might compel elites in neighboring countries to pre-emptively offer concessions related to democracy and equality, aiming to mitigate potential uprisings.

Employing a comprehensive dataset covering 171 countries over 120 years, this research meticulously analyzes the relationships between types of political upheavals and their subsequent effects on democracy and equality. The methodology includes a detailed examination of various upheaval types, namely revolutions, coups, and protest-led ousters, and their respective impacts—both directly and indirectly—across time and space.

The study's findings show that revolutions in neighbouring countries have a positive impact on domestic levels of democracy and equality. Specifically, we document noticeable increases in democracy and two indices of economic egalitarianism in countries adjacent to those experiencing revolutionary change. However, the robustness of these effects varies, with one of the egalitarianism measures being consistent across all model specifications. In contrast, isolated "protest-led ousters" are found to moderately increase suffrage and egalitarianism, while coups don't have a significant impact on these variables.

The implications of this research are profound in understanding the mechanisms through which revolutions can foster reform beyond their original borders. By highlighting the potential of revolutionary moments to induce positive social changes in neighboring states, the study contributes significantly to the broader discourse on global and local dynamics in political sociology and comparative politics. It underscores the interconnectedness of global events and domestic policy changes, offering significant insights into the mechanisms through which revolutions can have a reformist impact.

"The Revolution Next Door" represents a novel and critical contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of revolutionary spillovers and their reformist ends. The research illuminates the global-to-local causal sequence, demonstrating how global events like revolutions can influence domestic outcomes in neighboring countries. This study not only contributes to the academic discourse but also provides practical insights for policymakers and activists engaged in the fields of democracy and equality.

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All abstract, chronological order

Digital trace data collection through data donation

Author(s): Laura Boeschoten, Niek de Schipper, Adrienne Mendrik, Emiel van der Veen, Bella Struminskaya, Heleen Janssen, Theo Araujo

16 Aug | 11:20-11:40

Room: TP54

Session: Sociology and Computational Social Science

In our everyday lives, we leave more and more traces behind on digital platforms: for example, by liking a post on Instagram or sending a message via WhatsApp. The promise of computational social science is that researchers can utilize these digital traces to study human behavior and social interaction at an unprecedented level of detail. However, while the amount of digital traces increases, most are closed off in proprietary archives of commercial corporations, with only a subset being available to a small set of researchers, or through increasingly restricted APIs. An alternative approach to gain access to digital traces is enabled thanks to the GDPR's right to data access and data portability. Thanks to this legislation, all data processing entities are required to provide citizens a digital copy of their personal data upon request in, where that is appropriate, electronic form. We refer to these pieces of personal data as Data Download Packages (DDPs). This legislation allows researchers to invite participants to share their DDPs. A major challenge is, however, that DDPs potentially contain very sensitive data. Conversely, often not all data is needed to answer the specific research question.

To tackle these challenges, Boeschoten et al. (2022) developed an alternative workflow: First, the participant requests their personal DDP at the platform of interest. Second, they download it onto their own personal device. Third, by means of local processing, only the features of interest to the researcher are extracted from that DDP. Fourth, the participant inspects the extracted features after which they can choose what they want to donate (or decline to donate). Only after selecting the data for donation and clicking the button donate, the donated data is sent to a storage location and can be accessed by the researcher.

Port (Boeschoten et al., 2023) is an open-source software tool that allows for researchers to fully configure their own data donation study design using this workflow. Port is a generic tool that allows researchers to decide which digital platform to investigate, which digital traces to collect, how to present the digital traces to the participant, and what to communicate to the participant throughout this process. Furthermore, Port can be used to create custom study flows for participants and can be integrated with other resources for data collection such as Qualtrics. At last, Port is available open-source, and we facilitate the use of Port either on the Dutch national research infrastructure SURF, or through software-as-a-service solutions through Eyra.co. To summarize, these functionalities make Port a generic and useful tool for any researcher interested in collecting digital traces for research purposes.

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Should Ahmad Go to the Opera? Highbrow Tastes and Ethnic Discrimination

Author(s): Rikke Rasmussen

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP43

Session: Lifestyles, consumption, and inequality

We know that ethnic minorities face discrimination, for example from employers², landlords³, and public officials⁴. However, can a taste for highbrow culture (e.g., opera or haute cuisine) compensate for ethnic discrimination – or perhaps even be a ladder for social mobility for ethnic minorities? To address these questions, I analyze data from several survey experiments in Denmark designed to identify effects of cultural tastes on others' perceptions of individuals' social rank and personal traits (e.g., competence and sociability). First, I compare vignettes describing hypothetical (male) individuals with the same lifestyle but with different ethnic status (minority vs. majority). I find that, holding highbrow lifestyle constant, ethnic minority status leads to less favorable perceptions of social rank and competence (e.g., makes a lot of money) but more favorable perceptions of sociability (e.g., fun to talk to at a party). Figure 1 presents these findings. Second, I analyze data from a paired conjoint experiment and find that, compared to ethnic majority status, ethnic minority status leads to more favorable perceptions of sociability and “polish” (i.e., being “cultured”). Third, I am currently developing a new experiment where I manipulate information on cultural tastes (highbrow vs. lowbrow), ethnic status (minority vs. majority), and gender (male vs. female). This experiment, whose results I will present at the NSA conference, enables me to identify how ethnic minority status intersects with cultural tastes and gender in producing (or potentially offsetting) discriminatory perceptions of social rank and personal traits.

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All abstract, chronological order

Can LLMs conduct interviews and if so how should they do so?

Author(s): Hjalmar Carlsen, Tobias Gårdhus

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP45

Session: Pretrained models and sociology: ethical, methodological and theoretical considerations

Recently it has been argued that generative LLMs can conduct large-scale qualitative interviews, the so-called AI-interview. While generative LLMs have demonstrated their ability to produce human-like content and engage in human-like conversations, they are also known to be overconfident and presumptions in their understanding of their interlocutor and for their lack of transparency in their operation. These are major issues for producing high-quality interview data. Therefore, it is important to discuss which type of interview a LLM system can and should conduct. In this paper, we start by addressing this question. For most applications, we argue for a medium to low degree of freedom for the AI-interview, where the LLM system is mainly responsible for probing for further information under predefined questions or for translating existing questions into a certain conversational context. We then present our system architecture that allows for conducting LLM interviews in transparent and controlled manner. Finally, we demonstrate a working AI-interviewer based on a local LLM, which solves the legal and ethical issues with using ChatGTP model.

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All abstract, chronological order

Robotic misinformation in dementia care: Emotions as sense-making resources in residents' encounters with robot animals

Author(s): Marcus Persson, Elin Thunman, Clara Iversen, David Redmalm

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP52

Session: Robots in social life: interactions, hierarchies, and intimacies

Robot animals, designed to mimic living beings, pose ethical challenges in the context of caring for vulnerable patients, specifically concerning deception. This paper explores how emotions become a resource for dealing with the misinformative nature of robot animals in dementia care homes. Based on field work observations of encounters between residents, care workers, and robot animals, the study shows how persons with dementia approach the ambiguous robots as either living beings, material artefacts, or something in-between. Grounded in interactionist theory, the research demonstrates that emotions serve as tools in the sense-making process, occurring through interactions with the material object and in collaboration with care workers. The appreciation of social robots does not solely hinge on them being perceived as real or fake animals; persons with dementia may find amusement in 'fake' animals and express fear of 'real' ones. This observation leads us to argue that there is a gap between guidelines addressing misinformation and robots and the specific context in which the technology is in use. In situations where small talk and play are essential activities, care workers often prioritize responsiveness to residents rather than making sure that the robot's nature is transparent. In these situations, residents' emotional expressions serve not only as crucial resources for their own sense-making but also as valuable indicators for care workers to comprehend how to navigate care situations.

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On the unintended consequence of area stigmatisation: selective flows of residents in and out of Swedish vulnerable area

Author(s): Jutta Kawalerowicz, Gabriella Elgenius

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP53

Session: Spatial Marking, Neighborhood Stigma, and Neighborhood Inequality

In this paper, we use Swedish register data and regression analysis to estimate the extent to which putting an area on the police-denominated list of vulnerable areas (utsatta områden) affects the flow of residents in and out of these areas. We hypothesise that putting areas on a publicised list makes these areas less sought after incentivises residents to move out. Recent research observed that putting areas on the vulnerable areas list is associated with a drop in housing prices (Andersson et al., 2023), this research is an extension of this inquiry and will focus on flows of residents. Even though area policies such as the police list of vulnerable areas list may be well intended with the objective of focusing resources on improving living conditions in these areas, they may unintentionally create a situation where the outcome is a further concentration of poverty, which may only escalate existing problems. Moreover, we address the lived experiences of residing in an area on the police-denominated list and outline key themes that contribute towards explaining the quantitative patterns above. We do so with help of a large-scale qualitative dataset and semi-structured interviews collected 2019 -2023 with residents, civil society actors and other stakeholders in five vulnerable areas in Sweden.

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All abstract, chronological order

Populist discourse in the opposition and the government. Analysis of political communication using natural language processing.

Author(s): Tomas Dvorak, Linda Coufal

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP41

Session: Political Change and Conflict [s53]

The aim of this paper is to present a comparative analysis of the discourse of populist parties in Austria (FPÖ), Switzerland (SVP) and the Czech Republic (SPD). We focus on the political communication of these parties from two perspectives. First, we test the so-called 'inclusion-moderation' hypothesis, according to which populists moderate and soften their radical rhetoric when they are included in government. Swiss SVP has been a long-term governing party with some opposition experience, Austrian FPÖ has had one-time government experience and Czech SPD has not had governing experience yet. The choice of these parties provides varied involvement in government in the respective countries. For the (Austrian and Swiss) parties mentioned above, we look at different time periods to test this hypothesis. Second, we use Natural Language Processing (NLP) analysis to classify thousands of documents. Since this is a method that is still scarcely used in this research context, we also focus on the methodological aspects and pitfalls of using NLP to analyze populist discourse. In particular in coding populism from the perspective of the ideational approach. In this paper, we focus on both these aspects.

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All abstract, chronological order

Investigating social network dynamics underlying ethnic inequalities in smoking among adolescents

Author(s): Márta Radó , Dorottya Kisfalusi, Anthony Laverly, Frank J. van Lenthe, Jasper V. Been, Károly Takács

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP51

Session: Health inequalities

Background:

Despite the decreasing overall smoking rate, ethnic inequalities in smoking persist, underlying the importance of target social network intervention.^{1,2} This, however, requires a good understanding of the underlying social network mechanisms which is currently lacking.^{3,4} There is also a complete lack of evidence on whether negative networks, such as antipathies, contribute to the spread of smoking.³ Our study assessed whether (1) adolescents tended to form friendship or antipathy relationships primarily with peers of similar or different ethnicity, (2) smoking spread among friends and antipathies, and (3) the number of friendship and antipathy nominations of non-smokers differed between ethnic groups.

Methods:

We applied Stochastic Actor Oriented Models to the complete friendship network data of 263 adolescents in 9 classes with 2670 friendships and complete antipathy networks of 226 adolescents in 8 classes with 1234 antipathies over two waves. Data was collected between 2010 and 2011 in Hungarian secondary schools. We considered an adolescent as a Roma ethnic minority if this adolescent reported being Roma in any waves.

Findings:

Adolescents were most likely to nominate as friends (odds ratio [OR] = 1.45, 95% Confidence Interval [CI] = 1.08–1.94) and less likely to nominate as an antipathy (OR = 0.63, 95% CI 0.48–0.83) same-ethnic peers over cross-ethnic peers. Neither friends (OR = 3.56, 95% CI 0.18–70.05) nor antipathies (OR = 1.97, 95% CI 0.02–172.22) influenced each other's smoking behaviors. But smokers were more likely to receive friendship nominations than non-smokers (OR=1.21; 95% CI=1.01–1.44) and smokers and non-smokers did not differ in antipathy nominations (OR=1.17; 95% CI=0.98–1.40). Non-Roma adolescents were more likely to nominate as a friend a smoker non-Roma (OR=1.20; 95% CI=1.06–1.35) and less likely to nominate as a friend a non-smoker Roma (OR=0.66; 95% CI=0.51–0.87). Roma smokers did not nominate friends based on smoking status or ethnicity.

Conclusion:

We identified possible social network mechanisms potentially creating ethnic smoking inequalities. Adolescents tended to nominate as friends with same-ethnic peers, and smoking spread in friendship networks due attractiveness of smoking for friendship selection. Smoking was more attractive for friendship nominations for Roma adolescents. Non-Roma adolescents were particularly likely to nominate smoker Non-Romas as friends and exclude non-smoker Romas. Antipathy social networks did not contribute to the spread of smoking, therefore, they did not contribute to smoking inequalities.

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All abstract, chronological order

Extreme Weather Reporting and Climate Change Attribution: A Textual Analysis of Two Newspapers

Author(s): Anjali Yadav, Asmaa Abdelkhalek

16 Aug | 11:40-12:00

Room: TP54

Session: Sociology and Computational Social Science

Computational text analysis methods have been used to access, process and analyze a large corpus of digitized text data to study the trends in discourses and narratives over time. In this study, we employ corpus-based narrative analysis to understand the patterns of media reporting for different categories of extreme weather events (EWE).

Media reporting is an important site of science communication between experts and laypersons. It facilitates sharing information and ideas, shaping public opinion and building people's perceptions on the most pressing issue of the day such as climate change, its causes and consequences.

This study aims to investigate the various narrative discourses about two EWEs, hurricanes and droughts, by analyzing the trends in their occurrence and see if they match with the frequency of media reporting of these events. Next, it investigates how (if) these EWEs are reported differently in newspaper articles.

We employed computational text analysis methods to identify patterns, themes and linguistic features of all the relevant newspaper articles featuring 'hurricane' and 'drought' from 1997 to 2022. Using The Guardian's API, we accessed the relevant news articles and built a body text of each article to create a corpus of 10903 articles for 'hurricane' and 13901 for 'drought'. We ran topic modeling to find categories and patterns in the text. Further, we created five categories of narrative framings and their indicators and used them to perform keyword analysis to match and count their co-occurrences.

Comparative analysis of the two corpora shows a temporal increase in media reporting of EWEs over the last 25 years. Among the two EWEs, droughts are more likely to be attributed to climate change in the news reports. However, for narrative framings related to the economic consequences of EWEs, hurricanes exhibit a greater correlation than drought. Next, we aim to analyze another print media, The New York Times, employing the same procedures for broader generalization and higher validity of these findings. The findings of this study hold important implications for science communication and public policies in informing people, building communities' climate resilience and formulating climate solutions.

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Production, Consumption, and Education: The Evolving Family Functions from Icelandic Films

Author(s): Xin Chen

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP43

Session: Lifestyles, consumption, and inequality

This study unravels the intricate interplay of production, consumption, and education as portrayed in Icelandic films across different historical epochs. These functions are closely intertwined with the everyday life of families.

Methodology: this study employs a multi-faceted approach, amalgamating qualitative content analysis and contextual discourse analysis. The cinematic narratives from Icelandic films serve as the primary data source, carefully selected to span diverse periods and socio-cultural contexts. A systematic analysis of production, consumption, and education themes within these films involves a meticulous coding process, extracting nuanced patterns and underlying cultural representations.

Production Function: this study delineates productive labor within Icelandic films, encompassing activities like agricultural production, household handicrafts, and domestic chores. It investigates the social division of labor by identifying primary responsibilities for specific production activities within Icelandic households. Through qualitative coding, recurrent themes, role portrayals, and societal expectations associated with these activities are systematically categorized. This process facilitates the extraction of socio-cultural insights embedded within cinematic representations of familial labor.

Consumption Function: this analysis further explores the nuances of popular versus elitist displays of household consumption, shedding light on the evolving nature of Icelandic family dynamics. This function, being directly reflected in the family's consumption concept, type, and ability, provides insights into the evolving landscape of familial interactions and societal values. Whether household consumption is depicted as popular or elitist in the films serves as a reflection of societal concepts such as altruism or pleasure, simplicity, or materialism.

Education Function: amidst the currents of societal change, the landscape of family education is dynamically shifting, influencing its focus, goals, and overarching themes. Key inquiries include whether methods of rewards and punishments manifest as spiritual or material, the nature of self-correction—whether through inner reflection, a subtle need for guidance, or the fear of retribution. The study explores the cinematic representation of role models for children, their attitudes towards learning, the presence of ideals, and the portrayal of emotional education, two-way education, and intergenerational education within the context of accelerating societal changes.

Conclusion: this study provides a nuanced exploration of the evolving landscape of family functions depicted in Icelandic films. Through a cinematic lens, it seeks to unravel the complexities of familial dynamics in the face of technological and societal acceleration, shedding light on the transformative narrative threads woven into the fabric of Icelandic family life over different historical epochs.

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Quiet Quitting: Re-establishing the Boundaries of Work and Private Life

Author(s): Áron Szalay and Zsófia Rakovics

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP45

Session: Economic sociology and the sociology of work

Quiet quitting has become widely known and researched since the Covid-19 pandemic. The phenomenon implies that employees only do the “required minimum” at work, not more than the contractual agreement (Lee et al., 2023). This trend goes seemingly against the tendencies of neoliberal societies, where the traditional boundaries of work and life have been increasingly blurred since the widespread accessibility of the internet (Voswinkel & Kocyba, 2005). Working from home changed the dynamics of work-life balance and brought new challenges to white-collar workers.

This research investigates quiet quitting from the perspective of the employees in low-level corporate jobs and attempts to explore its complexity. Opposed to earlier studies (such as Lee et al., 2023; Johnson, 2023), we argue that quiet quitting is not a negative outcome of “bad management”, rather it is the reestablishment of the once clear boundaries of work and private life.

Quiet quitting can be seen as a trend, that contrasts the reality of the neoliberal “achievement society” (Han, 2015), pointing out the instrumental nature of work and the strive for keeping it within strict boundaries.

The novelty of our research is the qualitative investigation of quiet quitting, that gives place to the subjective interpretation of employees, providing an in-depth insight into the topic. The standpoint of quiet quitters is highlighted through semi-structured interviews, connecting their feelings to the critical literature on neoliberalism, and the notion of alienation (Han, 2015; Honneth & Ash, 1982). The results suggest that employees at a workplace where the overall satisfaction with management is high, still quiet quit as a result of their instrumental perception of work and their aim to keep a healthy work-life balance.

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Supporting the well-being of older adults with a conversational application for mindfulness-practice

Author(s): Lucy McCarren, Sanna Kuoppamäki

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP52

Session: Robots in social life: interactions, hierarchies, and intimacies

This project investigates conversational agents (CAs) as a medium for guiding older adults through an interactive mindfulness practice. Mindfulness, defined as a state that can be achieved through focusing one's awareness on the present moment and environment, has been explored as a treatment of physical symptoms and conditions which often occur along with ageing, and has been shown to reduce pain-related suffering and increase quality of life across age groups in Sweden. Research has also shown that mindfulness practices can reduce negative thought processes and treat anxiety disorder.

CAs can improve interactivity and accessibility of mobile applications, but most applications to date have not been developed according to older adults needs and interests. Large language models (LLMs) play a pivotal role in the landscape of CAs. CAs can leverage LLMs to enhance their understanding of user input and generate more nuanced and contextually relevant responses. A mobile application for guiding mindfulness practice which utilizes LLMs could be designed to have personalized content, customizable guidance, and interactive features.

In light of the above, it becomes apparent that both engaging in mindfulness practice and utilising the capabilities of CAs, could hold promise in promoting the well-being of older adults. The following research questions are arising from this: RQ1) Does engaging in mindfulness practice using a mobile application affect older adults' well-being? RQ2) What are the benefits and challenges of using a mobile application for mindfulness practice with older adults? RQ3) In what way does the interactive dialogue model (CA) influence mindfulness practice in the mobile application for older adults? RQ4) What kind of interaction modalities (voice, sound, music) could improve the interactivity of the application?

This study presents the methodology and initial findings of the user study conducted among adults aged 65 and over using a mobile application for mindfulness practice over a 3-week period. Initial results from the qualitative interviews combined with questionnaires were analysed in relation to experiences and impact of technology-mediated mindfulness to older adults' self-perceived well-being. Informed by findings from the user study, the study presents a methodology for the second stage, including a participatory design of a conversational mobile application for mindfulness practice with older adults. As a conclusion, the study discusses conversational agents as a medium for enhancing embodied experiences of older adults in maintaining their well-being.

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Household Context in Populist Attitudes in the Netherlands: The Effect of Cohabiting Partners on Each Other's Attitudes Towards Right Wing Populism

Author(s): Yoav Roll

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP41

Session: Political Change and Conflict [s53]

In many nations, the rise of right-wing populism [RWP] has become a major concern in recent years. The right-wing populist movement has been moving from the margins to the centre stage (e.g., Colantone & Stanig, 2019). Both cultural and economic factors are often cited as causes. Several socio-economic changes occurred, beginning in the 1980s, that contributed to the rise of RWP: globalization, deindustrialization, de-unionisation, and automation (Rodrik, 2018). This paper expends upon the economic perspective of RWP (e.g., Guriev & Papaioannou, 2022) and examines the influence of household context on the rise of RWP. Economic and social life are encapsulated in the household, with political ideas discussed and economic resources exchanged between members (De Graaf & Heath, 2023). Using the Dutch Longitudinal Survey of Social Science, this study explores how partners develop and influence each other's attitudes towards RWP based on their incomes, level of education, class, and sector. Hybrid random-effects hierarchical regression models are utilized to trace differences both between- and within-individuals. Findings demonstrate the effect of the household economic context on attitudes towards RWP. It shows that while men and women are quite independent in their attitude formation, gender differences are still evident. Women seem to be influenced by their partners' economic standing to a greater extent than do men. Men seem to be affected more by their personal economic status than women. This paper corroborates the historic trend of women's growing economic independence (De Graaf & Heath, 2023). However, the paper also illuminates the importance of the household context in the understanding of political behaviour, as well as the persistence of gender inequality.

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Beyond Socioeconomic Status: The Role of Different Types of Capitals in Shaping Health in Iceland

Author(s): Sigrún Ólafsdóttir

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP51

Session: Health inequalities

Sociologists have long been interested in the impact of social position on health. In general, those who are more vulnerable experience worse health than those who have more advantage in society. Research has focused on various positions, including class, race and gender, but scholars increasingly call for a more nuanced understanding of social stratification. Building on Bourdieu's theory of different kinds of capital, I examine the impact of economic, cultural, social and symbolic capital on health. Using recent survey data from Iceland (N>1,000) which includes unique measures on these four kinds of capital, I ask how these more nuanced measure, independently and in interaction with more widely used measures of social location, impact physical and mental health. The results show that economic, social and symbolic capital impact health, specifically that those who hold more capital report better health. The impact is in addition to the effect of other measures of social locations. The broader implications are that in a society that may be more equal than most, there are still clear distinctions between social groups that impact health in meaningful ways, not only in terms of the position the individual holds in the stratification system, but in a more nuanced ways of who people know, how powerful they consider themselves to be and the economic power they perceive themselves to have.

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Disembodying embodied cognition: On the relevance of doxic breaches for cognitive sociology

Author(s): Biörn Ivemark

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP53

Session: Sociological theories

Pierre Bourdieu's emphasis on the largely bodily mediated, automatic and unconscious cognitive processes that characterize the habitus has sparked significant interest among cognitive sociologists in the prospects of his social theory bridging dualistic and nondualistic approaches to the relation between body and mind (Ignatow, 2009; Lizardo, 2004; Vaisey, 2009). However, some scholars have also raised concerns about the pitfalls of this approach, suggesting that an analytical distinction needs to be maintained between the components of the Bourdieusian habitus that are available to consciousness and those that are not (Martin, 2019; Vaisey & Frye, 2019).

This presentation aims to add to this scholarly debate by using the empirical case of sudden disruptions in taken-for-granted and largely unconsciously inherited assumptions about the social world and one's place within it, which have described as a doxic breach (Ivemark & Ambrose, 2023). While empirically unusual, I contend that these breaches provide promising empirical avenues for extending research in cognitive sociology. While they emphasize Bourdieu's embodied cognition perspective by showing the relative hermeticity of deeply ingrained cognitive orientations towards the social world, they also illustrate their potential permeability to consciousness when sufficient conditions are gathered for challenging them. This reasserts concerns over efforts to conceptually bridge the distinction between Type 1 and Type 2 cognition and stresses the importance of maintaining analytical dualism. I argue that the affective turmoil and cognitive rearrangements in the habitus that result from these breaches and the mechanisms that underpin them would greatly benefit from a greater attention in studies of embodied cognition. It would give more coherence and sociological relevance to cognitive sociological inquiries into personal changes and awakenings (DeGloma & Johnston, 2019) and would focus more empirical attention on the significance of the largely unconscious and affectively—i.e. bodily—mediated experiences that underpin these cognitive shifts.

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Increasing numbers, an increasing threat? Using word embeddings to study the relationship between threat-based stereotypes and out-group size

Author(s): Moa Bursell, Rojan Karakaya, Miriam Hurtado Bodell, Magnus Bygren

16 Aug | 13:00-13:20

Room: TP54

Session: Sociology and Computational Social Science

Ethnic stereotypes are not fixed but fluctuate over time for reasons of political and social expediency as well as ethnic boundary maintenance. While the content of stereotypes of specific minorities in fixed social contexts is relatively well-studied, less attention has been given to explaining how stereotypes found in newspaper reporting change over time.

In this work we focus on the perceived physical and symbolic threat that minorities constitute in the eyes of the majority. Threat-based stereotypes are especially interesting to study since they have been shown to be correlated with negative attitudes among the native population toward minority groups. The perceived threat of minorities are suggested to arise as a consequence of infra-humanization of minorities as well. (Stephan et al, 2016).

We analyze how changes in the perceived threat of minorities relate to changes in their population size by studying word embeddings trained on newspaper data from the period 2000-2021. Our findings suggest that when a migrant group grows larger, threat-based stereotypes become more prevalent in media reporting about the group. We find that this relationship holds on media reporting of the migrant groups as “faceless collectives”, but not when reporting on individuals from these groups (as measured by the perceived threat of demonyms compared to that of personal names representative of the minority groups). This result is in line with Blumer’s (1958) theory of group threat, but is possibly at odds with Allport’s (1954) intergroup contact theory.

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Opera, Nuggets, or Yoga? Cultural Tastes Shape Status Attribution

Author(s): Mikkel Haderup Larsen, Mads Meier Jæger

16 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP43

Session: Lifestyles, consumption, and inequality

Theories of cultural stratification posit that highbrow cultural tastes are misrecognized as signals of high social rank and favorable personal traits. Misrecognition is a necessary condition for cultural tastes to act as cultural capital, i.e., generalized currency exchangeable into economic and social assets. Yet, we know little about whether a person's cultural taste shapes misrecognition, measured via others' perceptions of social rank and personal traits, and which taste domains (e.g., music, food, or performing arts) are particularly effective status signals. To address these limitations, we pre-registered and conducted a conjoint experiment in which a representative sample of the Danish adult population (N = 4,180) rated pairs of fictional individuals with different cultural tastes (in music, food, performing arts, leisure, sport, and literature) in terms of perceived social rank, competence, sociability, respectability and "polish." Crucially, our experimental design makes it possible to isolate the effect of each dimension of taste (e.g., music vs. food) and to identify which dimension has the strongest impact on misrecognition. Because we also vary other status signals (gender, ethnicity, occupational status, and family background), our experiment provides a conservative test of whether cultural tastes act as signals of social rank and personal traits. Our main results are summarized in Figure 1. The figure shows that, all else being equal, highbrow tastes have a positive effect on perceptions of social rank, competence, respectability, and polish, but a negative effect on perceptions of sociability. In further analyses, we find that tastes in music and food are the clearest signals, while tastes in sports and literature are less important. Yet, highbrow cultural tastes within all taste domains positively influence perceptions of polish, measured by being more or less "cultured." Overall, our results suggest that cultural tastes operate as signals of social rank and personal traits and that music and food tastes are the clearest status signals.

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“I’m not normally afraid of change but this scares me”: Trust, transparency and the uncertainties of generative AI

Author(s): James White, Stefan Larsson

16 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP52

Session: Robots in social life: interactions, hierarchies, and intimacies

AI is a complex technology that already affects many spheres of social and economic life. Significant attention has been directed towards the risks that this entails, both present and future, and policy and regulation debates have responded accordingly. However, recent advances in AI, most notably in terms of coherent text and image generation, have quickly been made available to the public through new and well-established apps and services. This poses a challenge to existing risk analyses and to regulatory efforts based upon them. In this paper, we explore changes in the risk landscape of AI brought about by the rapid emergence and deployment of its powerful generative capabilities. This is done principally through the presentation and analysis of the results of a survey of more than 1,000 Swedish people conducted in December 2023 and January 2024. Drawing on the conceptual language of agnotology and risk sociology, we stress the importance of respondent uncertainty, less with respect to how AI functions, than to how it threatens established epistemic practices and seemingly renders the future more unknowable. This has important consequences for policy and regulation aimed at improving AI transparency and trustworthiness. Our findings suggest that the risks of generative AI, as perceived by the Swedish public, may best be addressed by ensuring full disclosure of direct interactions with AI and its use as a source of media and information, and by properly mediating the involvement of industry in regulatory development.

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From Perception to Play: Revising the Ethnic Trust and Trustworthiness Gap Based on Experimental Games

Author(s): Merlin Schaeffer, Nina Magdeburg

16 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP41

Session: Political Change and Conflict [s53]

Trust is a fundamental lubricant of social life. Everyday interactions, from buying groceries to collaborating on projects, rely on trust because without it, every interaction would require extensive verification and safeguards. Beyond its societal benefits, trust is also a personal resource as it enables the development of social connections and networks that people can rely on for support and well-being.

Existing research points to an "ethnic trust gap", with evidence suggesting racialized minorities report lower levels of trust in strangers compared to mainstream members. This discrepancy has been attributed to various factors, most importantly socioeconomic disadvantage, experiences of discrimination, and potentially socialization in low-trust contexts for foreign-born minority members. While the potential consequences of this gap for minority individuals, their communities, and society at large seem evident considering the documented benefits of trust, its actual societal impact remains unclear. Existing research primarily relies on self-reported trust measures, leaving open the question of whether these reported differences translate into actual behavioral discrepancies in trust. Additionally, concerns about social desirability bias in surveys, where participants conform to societal expectations rather than truth, have hitherto hindered the investigation of trustworthiness, the crucial flipside of trust.

This study directly addresses the limitations of previous research on the ethnic trust gap through a comparison of self-reported trust and trustworthiness to behavioral experiments. Based on a random sample of 2,000 residents from five major German cities, the study investigates whether immigrants and the descendants of immigrants (approx. 50% of the sample) exhibit differences in trust and trustworthiness compared to the mainstream majority population within a series of standard survey items but also incentivized trust games with other study participants offering individual payoffs up to €30 per game. To examine trust interactions based on perceived ethnicity, participants' real first names, accessed from public German registers, were displayed. The study uncovers substantial differences between the self-reported and behavioral ethnic trust and trustworthiness gap, albeit with substantial variation by respondents' country of origin. As in prior research, the former is largely driven by experiences in the country of residence, such as reported discrimination. By contrast, for actual trust and trustworthy behavior, self-reported discrimination experiences show minimal association and fail to explain the magnitude of the gap, challenging a dominant view in the literature. Instead, a person's "trust heritage", defined as socialization in low-trust contexts (either personal or parental), emerges as a key explanatory factor, accounting for a significant portion of the observed gap.

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The Loneliness among the elderly and young people, can help be found in networks

Author(s): Marianne Silvan-Lempinen

16 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP51

Session: Health inequalities

The world is full of different options, so why is loneliness and being left outside of social networks still increasing among both the elderly and the young?

Unlike analog or face-to-face networking, digital networking is independent of time and place. Social media and various digital networking platforms make it possible to utilize global networks practically around the clock. Social networking in a digital social environment is not only the right thing for young people but also older people are seen to benefit of the opportunity to engage in a network as well, even regardless of their IT skills. The idea is, network could help create a safe, location-independent communities easy to join in.

To properly tackle the information technology deficiencies of the elderly, networking could be carried out either from outside the individual or with speech recognition. In this way, everyone regardless of their IT-skills would have access to different communities.

On the social care side, virtual home care has already developed to support the social relationships of the elderly and strengthen their activity and ability to function. In addition to this, each customer gets additional protection in situations of changes in functional capacity, and in addition to this, the state of health can be monitored, and instructions can be given in daily activities, for example reminding about meals or organizing remote group activities. Could we make use of the already ready platform to implement mutual communication between the elderly as well?

Our presentation will discuss the attempts to overcome the digital gap as well as their limits, on the basis of a pilot study and a research plan.

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Crisis, Status Legitimacy, and Sociological Theory

Author(s): Jón Gunnar Bernburg, Thoroddur Bjarnason

16 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP53

Session: Sociological theories

The disruptive effects of crises on social order constitutes a classic topic of sociological inquiry. If empirical work has through the decades linked economic crises to consequences ranging from increased suicide (Durkheim 1897/2005) and crime (Kim & Pridemore 2005) to increased support for populist politics, protest, and rebellion (Bernburg 2016; Boswell and Dixon 1993; Davies 1960), sociological theory has long implied that crises can destabilize social order by temporarily undermine the tendency of individuals to sense their place in social hierarchy as “legitimate” (Oddsson and Bernburg 2018; Jost 2018; Ragnarsdóttir, Bernburg & Ólafsdóttir 2013). But different theory traditions imply different mechanisms. Conflict theory implies that when crises cause “legitimacy crises” (Habermas 1984), that is, reveal how state institutions favor ruling classes, they weaken ideologies that normally make most people accept their place. In contrast, functionalist theories (Davies 1960; Durkheim 1897/2005) and constructionist theories (Snow et al., 1998) see crises like abrupt changes that can rupture the social fabric (disrupt the balance of goals, expectations, and opportunity, or the taken-for-granted character of routine social life), and thus undermine the authority of institutions. We address these ideas with survey data allowing us to compare subjective experiences across two very different crises in Iceland, that is, 1) the 2009-2010 financial crisis, which spurred unprecedented political and social conflict, and 2) the 2020 COVID crisis, which spurred political-social consensus. The findings indicate that perceptions of status legitimacy were less prevalent in the 2009-10 crisis, apparently because of lower trust in state institutions and stronger perceptions of normative disruption (anomie) and status loss. The findings provide novel support for classic propositions.

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Male Supremacy Online: An Investigation of Incel Ideology through Qualitative Content Analysis and Active Machine Learning

Author(s): Mara Weber

16 Aug | 13:20-13:40

Room: TP54

Session: Sociology and Computational Social Science

The study scrutinizes the incel ideology on the online forum Incels.is. The online incel communities are arguably the most infamous antifeminist group within the larger manosphere, especially since terror attacks committed by incels have garnered public attention. Notable instances of violence perpetrated by individuals associated with incel ideology, such as the 2018 attack by Alek Minassian and the 2018 Toronto van attack, further underscore the gravity of misogynistic ideologies online.

The study investigates the incel ideology based on a data set containing 4,79,428 posts on Incels.is, in a time range from November 2017 until October 2022. The study aims to scrutinize incel ideology within its (sub-)dimensions and its interconnectedness between dimensions, as well as the evolution of the ideology in its complete comprehensiveness. Therefore, using the CALM framework, bridging qualitative content analysis and machine learning for a holistic understanding of the underlying social concept of the misogynistic ideology. Methodically, the study argues in favor of mixed-method approaches between qualitative social research and machine learning to fill the informational gaps, such as interpretational ambiguities and arbitrary analytical choices caused by the architecture of machine learning models, leading to more robust measurements than an exclusive machine learning approach. The study is a unique contribution to a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of online misogynistic ideologies using traditional social research methods and innovative machine-learning approaches.