MARJA LINDBERG & JANNE AUTTO & MIKAEL NYGÅRD:

HOUSEHOLD STRATEGIES OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY AND CHANGING FAMILY POLICY

Even though Finland is known for its comprehensive family policy, the sluggish growth, uncertain labour markets and cutbacks such as the child benefit cutback have undermined the economic security of families with children. It has predisposed families to risk of poverty, health differences and other forms of malaise. In this article, we analyse the risk coping strategies families have created by using the concept of household strategies and the capitals and social space, as defined by Bourdieu. The data, collected in 2016–2017, consists of 22 qualitative interviews with Finnish and Swedish speaking families in the region of Ostrobothnia. Based on the results, we argue that besides and instead of public and governmental support, the families with children have to resort to the alternative means for support. These can be divided between social, cultural and economic capital, but they can also be interwoven with one another.

HANNELE PALUKKA & TIINA TIIKKIKA & PETRA AUVINEN:

EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES – PROMOTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION OR ENGAGEMENT POLICY?

The article concerns experts by experience, who are considered to have a double role as both clients of mental health and substance abuse services and as independent actors. The article asks: How do the experts by experience position themselves in relation to (i) mental health and substance abuse service system; (ii) mental health and substance abuse professionals and; (iii) clients in mental health and substance abuse services. The research data consist of one-to-one interviews of
experts by experience who worked together with professionals to support the recovery of mental illness and substance abuse clients. Drawing on cultural studies approach, the research shows the contradictory role of experts by experience on one hand as actors who strengthen the recovery of people in rehabilitation, and on the other hand as a tool to advocate the engagement policy-making.

Anu Järvensivu & Jutta Pulkki:

A work career – rationally chosen or complexly developed?

The traditional idea of a linear and rationally chosen work career is rooted in the current national labour market policy as well in research. In this article, the traditional assumptions are challenged by applying the chaos theory of careers in the analysis of the interviews of 12 men from North-Karelia, Finland. The purpose of this theory-driven comparative case study was to explore the potential of the theory to depict work careers, to describe these careers in detail, and to illustrate the role of other life circumstances, such as health, on the development of work career. Four work career patterns – point, pendulum, torus, and strange attractors – as presented in theory – were identified. However, work career pattern was not necessarily constant as in some cases the attractor sifted to another. The analysis revealed the complex and unpredictable patterns of work careers and the intertwined connections between work and health circumstances. The findings suggest that the complexity and contextuality in development of work careers should be recognized both in research and in labour market policy.

Katja Repo & Anu Kuukka & Petteri Eerola:

Home care of small children and its public support: Municipal policy makers’ perspective.

The article asks how local politicians reason and talk about home care of small children and its public support. The analysis presented in the article is based on 32 interviews of local policy makers in the administrative fields of childcare and early childhood education. The data was collected in ten municipalities in 2016. The data is analysed with interpretative frame analysis. The article outlines two hegemonic, interpretative frames within which policy makers assess children’s home care. These are economic-rational frame and normative-cultural frame. Within the economic-rational frame politicians stress savings and the issues of cost containment. Within the normative-cultural frame home care is understood in relation to values and life-style.