

## Political participation and integration

### Voter turnout among immigrants in the 2017 Finnish municipal elections

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This article examines voter turnout of Russian, Estonian, Somalian and Swedish-origin immigrants in the 2017 Finnish municipal elections by employing register data. The focus is on how various social background factors, including gender, age, occupational status, personal income, marital status and citizenship influenced voter turnout in these groups. The main finding is that the more secure one's social status was, the more likely s/he voted. However, Somalian origin voters constituted an exception, for they had a high voter turnout despite of their low socio-economic status. This article sheds light to voter behaviour of foreign-origin groups and, thus, contributes to research on immigrants' political inclusion in Finland.

Key words: immigrants, political participation, voter turnout, municipal elections, integration

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## Mayor model in local government

### Aims, expectations and beliefs

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This article focuses on the arguments and counterarguments that are used in previous research and in Finnish public discussion concerning mayoral governance model. The article produces new knowledge on the aims, expectations and beliefs linked to the mayor model. Finnish written news media data were analysed through theoretical framework consisting of four topics: the professionalism of management, strengthening of political leadership, promoting democracy and the clarity of management. As a result, four pairs of claims were identified to illustrate the beliefs, expectations and aims. 1) It is thought that the model will strengthen democracy but centralise power. 2) It is believed that political leadership will strengthen through this model, but leadership as a whole will be less professional. 3) Mayor model is seen to be effective in breaking the *status quo* and the timespan of management is thought to shorten. 4) The relationship between local government and its residents is expected to improve and the relationship between local political and professional leaders is seen to clarify. The beliefs, expectations and aims seem vague and abstract. Mayoral model is believed to change local governance system profoundly changing not only the leading figure but also the rhythm, direction and basis of local public management.

Key words: local government, local political leadership, local public management, mayor, mayor model

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## New power configurations of higher education policy in Finland

### The birth of the foundation university and the struggle for university democracy

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In the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century many voices called for an urgent reform of the Finnish higher education system. The reform drive, referred to as “structural development”, aimed to concentrate resources, cut down the number of institutions, and profiling the universities more strongly. This article analyses the birth of the foundation university as an important aspect of this development and the 2009 Universities Act. We find that the foundation university was enabled by a meeting of interests between the Finnish state, business representatives and the top leadership of Finnish universities. Within the birth processes of the foundation university, these actors came together in a new way, which resulted in a considerable weakening of Finnish university democracy and the position of university communities within their universities. As the interests of the state, business and top university leadership aligned, it was possible to marginalize democratically organized university communities and even partially bypass normal legislative processes of the Finnish parliament. Based on our conjunctural case analysis, we argue that the birth of the foundation university, notably in the case of Aalto University, represented the trends of higher education policy in 2000s in general and marked a clear shift in the power configurations of Finnish higher education policy. The foundation model encapsulates the following long-term goals of Finnish higher education policy: centralization of decision-making, reining in university democracy, increasing especially the power of business interests, making the universities directly responsible for their own finances, and favouring capitalization instead of increasing basic funding. This ethos is made plain in the many statements preceding the Universities Act, the founding process of Aalto University, the original draft for the Universities Act and in the later developments of the foundation university model.

Keywords: higher education policy, foundation university, university democracy, conjunctural analysis