

Contents and Abstracts in English

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Educational expansion and returns to university education between various fields of studies in Finland during the 1990s and the 2000s

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In Finland, higher education has expanded rapidly in recent decades. The expansion of higher education is validated by Human capital theory, which states that higher education improves skills and acquirements required by the labor market

and thus the expansion of higher education increases the productivity of both individuals and the whole society. However, the increased labor supply caused by the expansion of higher education may result in diminishing returns on investments in education, namely academic inflation. This study examines the expansion of university education in specific fields associated with education inflation. We compare the incomes of university graduates to the average income of the Finnish workforce and the average income of secondary education graduates in the 1990s and the 2000s. In addition, we observe the association of gender on income levels within various fields of university education in Finland. In this study, we use the register-based Growth Environment Panel (GEP) provided by Statistics Finland. Our analysis reveals considerable heterogeneity in returns on

investment among the selected educational fields. The so-called “elite fields” yield much higher returns than generalist fields. We discover a stagnation of income in the fields of education and fine arts. Stagnation in these particular fields is not associated with income reduction per se. Instead it is the result of increased difficulty in entering and maintaining a position in the workforce in the 2000s. Furthermore, there has been more relative increase in the incomes of those with secondary education degrees than in the incomes of the majority of those with academic degrees. The differentiation of the labor markets between secondary education and the fields of university education seems to drive educational inflation.

KEYWORDS: university education, education inflation, educational inequality, returns to education

The promises of new work in mom blogging

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This article examines the practices of mom blogging as indicative of the promises offered by new forms of work. What kind of a life becomes possible through blogging? The research material, which consists of bloggers’ interviews, is analysed with qualitative methods. The interviews show how work and intimacy merge in bloggers’ everyday lives, how they shape each other and the human in between. Parenthood and family life do not remain detached from work but become part of it. This merging of work and family life provides possibilities for autonomy and peer support for the bloggers but also produces experiences of inadequacy and exhaustion. Blogging as a form

of work becomes meaningful to the bloggers because it creates possibilities and experiences of agency and autonomy in situations in which autonomy might otherwise be hard to maintain. The appeal or intimacy of mom blogging thus builds not only on experiences of autonomy and peer support provided by such work but can also be seen as a response to the way in which possibilities for agency and recognition remain scarce for the mothers of small children.

KEYWORDS: new forms of work, autonomy, work’s intimacy, motherhood, blogging, everyday life

Cargo bikes and running belts – Sports equipment and aids as social mediators in disability sports

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The aim of this article is to adapt the sociological views of neomaterialism into an empirical analysis of technological aid developed for athletes with disabilities. The analysis focuses on the meanings of material means – special wheelchairs, goalballs, etc. – as social mediators that make participation in sports possible to people whose physical appearances differ from the general cultural idea of a capable body. The data for this analysis has been gathered with a questionnaire as well as by interviews and discussions with athletes, their coaches and their parents, and by observing these people during sports occasions (trainings, competitions, camps). From this scrutiny, one can discern that material equipment in disability sport can function as significant non-human social agents offering possibilities for participation and

creating new, hybrid sports communities around them. Technological disability sports innovations can also be hard to access because of their possible rarity and costliness. Thus, in addition to offering participation possibilities, they can also cause inequalities among athletes with disabilities. They can also be interpreted as actors that maintain the conventional representations of dependency and difference connected with disability.

KEYWORDS: disability sport, inequality, non-human agency, technological aid

article rounds up by reflecting both the challenges of MSAF as well as possibilities for its further development.

KEYWORDS: multi-sitedness, methodology, framing, taming, qualitative research, infrastructure

The multi-sited analysis of framings

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In this article, we outline a multi-sited research design for studying open-ended phenomena, such as energy infrastructure and HPV vaccination. Drawing upon recent Science and Technology Studies (STS) interest in multi-sited ethnography as well as conceptual developments in sociology, we term our research design the *multi-sited analysis of framings* (MSAF). To operationalize MSAF, we apply the concepts of *framing* and *taming* to focus on different forms of meaning-formation on different sites: mundane sense-making as framing and cognitive reasoning as taming. We further demonstrate our research design in a multi-sited study of electrical power infrastructure and its risk management and market activities on the national regulatory level, both in specialized electricity control rooms and in consumer households. The