

# Contents and Abstracts in English

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## From autonomy to elite networks: external board members in Finnish universities during the years of 2010–2020

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In this article I analyse the external board members of the university boards in Finland in 2010–2020. By applying methods of elite research, I document and analyse the different fields of power and elite affiliations that the board members represent and create. By exploring the relation-

ships between different institutional fields, I show how the increased number of external members has led to a centralization of power and strengthened hierarchies in the universities. Business representatives have occupied the most significant share of board memberships and the number of top earners represented is notable. Also academic (managerial) elites and political elites are well represented. Such a strong presence of elite members within university boards challenges the fundamentals and possibilities of university autonomy – understood as self-governance – as well as those of tripartite university democracy.

KEYWORDS: elites, board membership, university autonomy, university democracy, university law

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## Affective belonging in peer support based mental health work

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In this article I explore affective belonging within third sector mental health organisations for young adults. The amount of mental health work produced by non-profit organisations has increased during the last few years and it offers alternatives to biomedical and professional mental health services. The data consists of ethnographic observations and interviews with the participants and the director of a mental health organisation. In the article I demonstrate how the affects produce and strengthen a feeling of belonging among the participants. These experiences of belonging between the participants create ties based on parity and solidarity. The young adults who participate in the mental health groups may have very different backgrounds and situations in life, but this does not prevent the experience of belonging from developing. Peer support as affective solidarity challenges the figure of a vulnerable young mental health service customer and offers the possibilities of political agency for young adults.

**KEYWORDS:** mental health work, affect, psychopolitics, peer support, solidarity

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## Politics and cultural participation: The associations of party preference and conservativeness with high and popular cultural participation in Finland

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Cultural participation is famously linked to social status, but it is less known how cultural participation is associated with political orientations. In this article, we examine the association between politics and cultural participation in contemporary Finland from the perspective of change over time. We ask how party preference and conservative political attitudes are associated with high and popular cultural participation, whether these associations hold when controlling for the major sociodemographic factors, and whether the associations have changed in recent years. We use nationally representative, comparable surveys from 2007 and 2018. Based on regression modeling, the results show that both party preference and conservativeness are associated with cultural participation, whether high or popular. Conservativeness is clearly a stronger factor, reducing participation in both high and popular culture. However, differences in participation were also found across supporters of different parties. The associations of conservativeness and, especially, party preference with cultural participation decreased – but did not disappear – after controlling for sociodemographic factors. Overall, the link between politics and cultural participation has remained rather stable from 2007 to 2018. However, the declining importance of traditional party politics and the growing importance of attitudes

and values are reflected in the associations between politics and cultural participation.

**KEYWORDS:** conservativeness, cultural participation, high culture, party preference, politics, popular culture

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## **Cognitive Sociology in the Study of the Relation between Culture and Action**

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Discussions concerning human cognition have become more prevalent in the social sciences during recent decades. While sociologists have not been at the forefront of these discussions, there is an increasing number of sociologists engaging with the interface between culture and cognition. In this article we introduce an interdisciplinary tradition of cognitive sociology that aims to build a bridge between cultural sociology and the cognitive sciences. Key questions within this research field concern the nature of the cognitive processes through which culture influences action and the methods for studying them. We approach these questions primarily through Stephen Vaisey's proposal for applying dual-process theories of cognition in order to study how people's internalized cultural schemas motivate their behavior. Vaisey's proposal brought dual-process theories to the center of cultural sociology and gave rise

to debates about different measures and methods for tracing the influence of cultural schemas on actions. In this article, we discuss Vaisey's survey-based methodology and its criticisms. In addition, we consider new experimental methods from the cognitive sciences, and compare these methodological approaches with more traditional research methods used in cultural sociology, such as interviews and ethnography.

**KEYWORDS:** action, cognitive sociology, culture, cultural schema, dual-process theory