

# Contents and Abstracts in English

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## Preparing to death as agency in old age

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Old age is not delineated solely by the number of lived years; the oncoming death makes it a specific stage of life as well. In old age, death becomes more apparent, since one knows there are

more years left behind than in the future. Previous research has scrutinized approaches to death in old age and found certain models, such as death acceptance and denial. Preparing to death as action has, however, been left aside in research. In this research, older persons' preparation for their own death is studied utilizing the framework of agency. The data consists of 36 interviews of aged persons and was analysed with qualitative content analysis. We found both external (e.g. making a will or negotiating the arrangements for one's funeral) and internal (thoughts, emotions, beliefs) death-related agency. In addition, we framed political agency, especially concerning euthanasia. Our empirical research results emphasize the importance of paying attention to older persons' relation to death and dying within the framework

of agency. In this way, death is not only an incapable event but one that offers opportunities for agency as well.

KEYWORDS: agency, death, old age, preparing to death

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## "It turned out to a terrible load of paperwork" – Citizenship capabilities in young adults' institutional encounters

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The societal positions of young adults are determined in particular by institutions related to education and by transitions to employment. Becoming independent relates also to social support systems, health and social services and participation as citizens. In this article, I discuss young adults' experiences in institutional encounters, which I describe with the concept of citizenship capabilities. I expand the interpretation from the experiences of political participation to the everyday manifestations and meanings of citizenship in the lives of young adults. The data consists of 17 in-depth life-course interviews with young adults aged 18 to 24, who all have sought support for independence related issues. The article argues that in the lives of young adults, citizenship capabilities must be widely understood as opportunities to function in society. Citizenship capabilities manifests itself in the ability and sense of belonging associated with influencing society and one's own life, as well as in the possibilities for independent living that requires practice and support. However, the institutional system does not always recognize young adults' aspirations. That undermines their experiences of citizenship

capabilities and their confidence in the institutional system.

KEYWORDS: citizenship, citizenship capabilities, independence, institutions, life course, young adults

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## New categories, old rules – gendered media treatment of transgender athletes

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In this article I look at the media presentations of two transgender athletes from the perspective of gender binary. When and under what conditions do transgender athletes fit into the normative models of a woman and / or a man, and when are these models used to exclude them? The data of the article consists of media articles about two transgender professional fighters, boxer Patricio Manuel and mixed martial artist Fallon Fox. The main results of the content analysis underline the gendered nature of sport. Where women and femininity are controlled, questioned and protected, men's sport appears as a realm of freedom, governed only by the sport's own rules and compulsion of winning, rather than by restrictions based on gender. This gendered undertone of sports is also reflected in the status of transgender athletes. Whereas Fallon Fox faces transphobia and exclusion from the "real womanhood," Patricio Manuel is treated mostly with indifference in top sports.

KEYWORDS: gender, sex, sports, transgender

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## **External influence and institutional self-censorship: environmental scientists' experiences in state research institutes**

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Previous studies have found that environmental research is under strong political and economic pressure. However, the organizational mechanisms related to restrictions of academic freedom and researchers' freedom of expression have hardly been studied at all. This study focuses on precisely these mechanisms in government research institutes. The analysis based on interviews with ten experienced environmental researchers shows that research and communication are sought to be influenced from the outside. Influencing is made possible by the hierarchical organization of research institutes. We analyse these interviews from a system of power perspective: how the control exercised by external social actors trickles down in research organizations and affects individual scientists and their possibilities to act as public experts. The results of the analysis demonstrate that sometimes the management of an institute has internalized external requirements. Sometimes researchers themselves have also internalized external expectations, so that they do not need to be guided, as the way of thinking permeates the organization. We call this process institutional self-censorship. Few silenced researchers raise the issue in their organization or in public because it could jeopardize their entire career. According to the researchers, advocacy efforts

could be limited by creating clear rules within the organization.

**KEYWORDS:** control, environmental science, expertise, organization, power, scientific freedom, suppression