Cover photo: Touko Hujanen
Main auditorium, University of Tampere
Programme and Abstracts

Power, Institutions & Authority 2016
Tampere, Finland

5th International Conference
29–31 August 2016

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE
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Foreword

It is with great anticipation that I write this foreword to the electronic book of abstracts of papers to be presented at the 5th international conference on Power at the University of Tampere, Finland!

The Power Conference is a biennial event organized at the University of Tampere since 2008, and has emerged as a major international forum to explore new trends in social conceptions of power. Relations between power, institutions, and authority have formed a mainstay of sociological accounts and theorizing since the time of Weber. However, new institutionalisms have begun to challenge traditional rational-choice and functionalist assumptions of society, and are reformulating theories of how power operates. Historical, discursive, economic and sociological neoinstitutionalisms stress different patterns of behavior that shape and limit the understanding of options open to actors. This spurt of theoretical development is part of a now-widespread popular sense that institutions guide and direct many aspects of social life, from micro choices of lifestyles to organizational fashions to macro economies and geopolitics. The conference will address these and associated aspects of how institutions and authority are related to power in the modern world.

This year’s conference is organized around six themes at the nexus of power, institutions and authority, each explored by a keynote speech. In addition, Special Sessions will explore these same themes in greater detail with dedicated papers. Further parallel sessions of papers closely related to the topic of the conference have also been organized. In keeping with the tradition of the Power Conferences, the papers accepted cut across a range of theoretical and empirical insights, and represent a broad geographic swathe of participants and focuses.

On behalf of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities, the Institute of Advanced Social Research, and the Organizing Committee for the Conference, it gives me great pleasure to thank our valuable participants and contributors, as well as the keynote speakers of our conference. We hope you find the abstract book as fascinating to read as we found in putting it together!

Ali Qadir
Chair of the Organizing Committee
School of Social Sciences & Humanities
University of Tampere
Programme

Day 1: Monday, 29 August 2016

08:00–09:30 Registration

09:30–09:40 Opening words
    Ali Qadir

09:40–10:00 Welcome address
    Risto Kunelius, Dean
    School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Tampere

10:00–11:45 Plenary: Chair Ali Qadir
    Evan Schofer: World Society from the Other Side: Environmental NGOs in Global Perspective
    Merle Jacob: Power and Authority in the Institutionalization of the Governance of National Research Systems in Europe

11:45–13:00 Lunch

13:00–14:45 Special session: Beyond Simple Diffusion: Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society
    Evan Schofer, University of California, Irvine

14:45–15:15 Coffee

15:15–17:00 Special session: Governance
    Merle Jacob, Lund University

17:15–19.00 Parallel sessions
    Beyond Simple Diffusion II
    Politics of Power and Representation
    Powerful Numbers I

19:30 > Conference dinner
Programme

Day 2: Tuesday, 30 August 2016

09:15–11:00 Plenary: Semi Purhonen

Selina Gallo-Cruz: Neoinstitutionalism and the Constitutive Origins of Power among the Marginalized

Francisco O. Ramirez: Universities in Modern World Society

11:15–13:00 Special Session: Theorizing Ontologies of Resistance

Selina Gallo-Cruz, College of the Holy Cross

13:00–14:15 Lunch

14:15–16:00 Special session: Universities – Global Models, Historical Roots and Societal Transformations

Francisco O. Ramirez, Stanford University

16:00–16:30 Coffee


16:30–17:45 Parallel sessions

Theorizing Ontologies of Resistance II

Universities – Global Models, Historical Roots, and Societal Transformations II

Politics of Power and Representation

Power and Authority in Religious Institutions

Powerful Numbers II
Programme

Day 3: Wednesday, 31 August 2016

09:15–11:00 Plenary: Chair Risto Heiskala
   Kerstin Sahlin: Power and Authority Relations in Settings Characterized by Institutional Ambiguity
   Pertti Alasuutari: Power and Authority: Revisiting Weber

11:15–13:00 Special session: Integration and Disintegration of the European Union
   Risto Heiskala, University of Tampere

13:00–14:15 Lunch

14:15–16:00 Special session: Synchronization of Local Developments
   Pertti Alasuutari, University of Tampere

16:00–17:00 Closing cocktails
Keynote Speakers

Evan Schofer

World Society from the Other Side: Environmental NGOs in Global Perspective

Evan Schofer is a Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. He conducts research on globalization, political participation, education, environmentalism, economic growth, and economic inequality amongst other things. His work examines the origins and consequences of major global trends such as the worldwide expansions of science and higher education, the rise of environmentalism, and the rapid proliferation of NGOs. He teaches classes on globalization, institutional theory, world society, and statistics for social scientists. Professor Schofer is an organizer of the Irvine Comparative Sociology Workshop (ICSW).

Merle Jacob

Power and Authority in the Institutionalization of the Governance of National Research Systems in Europe

Merle Jacob is UNESCO Chair in Research Management and Innovation Systems and Professor in Research Policy at the Department of Business Administration, Lund University. Her current research interests are Research funding and its impact on research agendas and the organization of knowledge production in science. Further details about her current research projects and collaborations can be found at http://www.fek.lu.se/en/research/research-groups/knowscience.

Selina Gallo-Cruz

Neoinstitutionalism and the Constitutive Origins of Power among the Marginalized

Selina Gallo-Cruz is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. She teaches and conducts research on the topics of social movements, global change, transnational activism, gender stratification and power, and developments in social theory. She is currently developing a book manuscript Marginalization, Mobilization, and Power, which discusses the gendered dimensions of mobilizing power among three women’s movements against state violence: the Madres de la Plaza Mayo in Argentina, the Women in Black in Serbia, and the Women’s Movement for Peace in Liberia. Selina has published several articles on the topics of globalization, nonviolent social change, women’s roles in nonviolent resistance, social movements in healthcare policy, military training and foreign policy, and global social theory.
Keynote Speakers

**Francisco O. Ramirez**

*Universities in Modern World Society*

Francisco O. Ramirez is Professor of Education and (by courtesy) Sociology at Stanford University. His current research interests focus on the worldwide rationalization of university structures and processes, on the rise and institutionalization of human rights and human rights education, and on terms of inclusion issues as regards gender and education. His work has contributed to the development of the world society perspective in the social sciences and in international comparative education. Ramirez received his BA in social sciences from De La Salle University in the Philippines and his MA and PhD in sociology from Stanford University.

**Kerstin Sahlin**

*Power and Authority Relations in Settings Characterized by Institutional Ambiguity*

Kerstin Sahlin is Professor of Public Management in the Department of Business Studies at Uppsala University. In addition, she is Secretary General of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Swedish Research Council. From 2006 – 2011 she was Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Uppsala University. Her research interests include transnational governance, public management reforms, management ideas and their circulation, university governance, the role of corporations in global society, and relations between public and private spheres of society.

**Pertti Alasuutari**

*Power and Authority: Revisiting Weber*

Pertti Alasuutari is Academy Professor at University of Tampere and is interested in the cultural aspects of social life, especially in their links to power and politics. His areas of specialization include global and transnational phenomena, media, social theory, and social research methodology. Furthermore, Alasuutari is the founding and current co-editor of the European Journal of Cultural Studies and the first president of the international Association for Cultural Studies.
Sessions

• **Beyond Simple Diffusion: Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society**
  
  Evan Schofer, University of California, Irvine, USA

  Early scholarship in the world society / world polity tradition was largely quantitative, and generally studied global diffusion from a birds-eye view. More recent scholarship has increasingly unpacked the process of diffusion, examining how ideas and cultural models flow (and are received) across national boundaries, and detailing the mechanisms and processes involved. This session will include research that explores the process of diffusion, for instance by delving into the diffusion process in detail, by tracing the impact of diffusion “on the ground”, or by examining how diffusion remains selective or partial.

• **Governance**
  
  Merle Jacob, Lund University, Sweden

  The papers in these sessions explore variations in the role of institutions in governance at multiple levels: from villages to countries to the international order. They examine how authority is constructed, utilized and challenged in a range of institutional settings around the world.

• **Theorizing Ontologies of Resistance**
  
  Selina Gallo-Cruz, College of the Holy Cross, USA

  This panel will bring together insights from developments in world polity, domestication, and social movements theories on the cultural and constitutive origins of mobilization and resistance. While world polity theory has traditionally emphasized the ritualistic enactment of homogenous outcomes and domestication theory gives greater complexity to the nuances of global-local field battles among intersections of actors and interests, both common cultural frameworks and contending perspectives are central to understanding social movements.

• **Universities – Global Models, Historical Roots and Societal Transformations**
  
  Francisco O. Ramirez, Stanford University, USA

  The rapid expansion of higher education worldwide has been celebrated as a key trigger for the triumph of the knowledge society. Universities are increasingly under pressure to present themselves as engines of progress often cast in competitive economic terms. World class and best practices metaphors diffuse and challenge historically distinctive systems of higher education. Fundamental questions arise regarding the nature of university changes, the global forces that lead to changes, the effects of these changes, the mechanisms through which changes take place, and the frames utilized to make sense of these institutional changes. Related questions focus on sources of resistance to particular changes and their societal implications.
• **Synchronization of Local Developments**  
Pertti Alasuutari, University of Tampere, Finland

The discussion on globalization has typically been framed as a question whether globalization results in homogenization or hybridization of cultures and societies. Accordingly, empirical research has searched for evidence of either policy convergence or divergence. Rather than questioning such a general trend, it can be argued that, in any case, in the current world society actors in local contexts relate their views and decisions to events and ideas prevalent elsewhere. Consequently, actors result in synchronizing their moves even across great distances.

• **Integration and Disintegration of the European Union**  
Risto Heiskala, University of Tampere, Finland

The European Union was established after World War II as a peace plan to turn the ‘turbulent and mighty continent’ (Churchill) of warring colonialist states into a union of peace-loving shopkeepers and their political representatives. Today, however, the European project is in an impasse for several reasons. Economically, the original ordoliberal project has turned into a more neoliberal direction tuned with austerity policies. The result has been that the political frame in which all political issues are interpreted as economical has met its limit and, in addition to that, the lack of subsidization mechanisms between the member states has turned them against each other in the situation of economic crisis since 2007. Politically, this has been coupled with a Europewide division into Euro winners (mainly people working in the export sector of economy and cultural intermediaries such as educators and academicians) and Euro losers (people with meagre linguistic abilities especially in those sectors of economy that face harsher competition due to the common market). Thus the rise of nationalist populism and xenophobia in all the member states and thus the fragmentation of all ambitious Europewide political projects to face the fatal problems such as the environment, the runaway economy, security and inequality. In terms of foreign politics, the political incapability of the EU evident in the lack of a permanent mandate of the High Foreign Political Representative has been sealed with a complete lack of coordination of the 28 national armies making the second biggest military spending in the world almost non-existent as a tool of international politics. Does all this lead to a conclusion that the European Union is doomed to erode? Or is something completely different happening below the troubled surface? Should the EU even be seen as an emerging empire? How could the tools of power analysis promote answering questions like these or maybe open some other fruitful vision for future research?

• **Politics of Power and Representation**  
Peeter Selg, Tallinn University; Maarit Alasuutari, University of Jyväskyla

How should we reconceptualise governance in an era of interconnectedness? This panel explores the political dimension of power relations in a variety of settings. Broadly rooted in a relational perspective, the general papers in this session address the varieties of ways in which power relations become evident in concrete political situations. Moreover, how do the representations of power affect the strategic use of power in different policy settings? The general papers in this session tackle the way in which social policies in Finland are affected by representations of power and powerful actors.
Power and Authority in Religious Institutions
Rev. Fran Ota, United Church of Canada

The last several decades in the development of religious life around the world have been a time of great change within ecclesiastical structures. Some have moved to wider and more inclusive approaches – ordaining women; ordaining gay, lesbian, and transgender persons; relaxing authoritarian strictures. These changes are not restricted to just Christian churches, but are happening within Buddhism, Judaism, Islam and other groups. Some have become more attached to doctrines, to the point of punishing those who step “outside the lines”. Simply as an example, The United Church of Canada, which is considered the most liberal bastion of the Protestant tradition in Canada, is struggling to define lines of more rigid doctrine, and hold accountable those who do not fall within boundaries which have never been clearly defined. This is but one example of the shifting face of ecclesiastical authority and power within the institutions. This session would entertain papers from those who are exploring different aspects of power and authority within the institutions of faith organizations, not only the Christian church.

Powerful Numbers
Nelli Piattoeva, University of Tampere, School of Education

This session seeks presenters from various disciplines with completed or ongoing research into the function of numerical data and quantification in the processes of governance. The broad questions are: What is the political life of numbers, and how power operates with and through numerical data. In connection with these questions, the session also calls for papers that follow the socio-material, situated practices of data production with an aim to re-politicise data and to show how data production, and not only their use, serves governing purposes.

The presentations might address some of the following:
- the (im)material circumstances that constitute the power of numerical data in different national and transnational political contexts
- the role of numbers in channeling power flows, diffusing ideas and policies, and assembling powerful actors
- the construction of objectivity, (in)visibility, commensurability, comparability and surveillance
- the entanglement of science and politics in the course of data generation and usage
- data visualization and other forms of (digital) data representation in public and private domains
Beyond Simple Diffusion: Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion In World Society

Chair: Evan Schofer, University of California-Irvine

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Tuomas Ylä-Anttila, Antti Gronow, Marcus Carson & Christofer Edling

University of Helsinki

Policy Networks and Adherence to Global Norms: Explaining the Divergence of Climate Change Policy in Finland and Sweden

The United Nations has strived to create global norms to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases and curb climate change. Yet, nation-states have exhibited considerable variance in their adherence to these norms set by institutions of the world society. This paper compares two very similar polities, Finland and Sweden, with strongly divergent policy responses to climate change: Sweden’s greenhouse gas emissions per capita are half of Finland’s. What explains this difference?

Drawing on the Advocacy Coalition Framework, we argue that a key determinant of policy output is the network constellation of organized actors in the climate change policy domain, and the power relations between competing advocacy coalitions. We use network analysis of original data from a survey of key organizations in climate policy (N=182) to compare the policy networks in the two countries.

We find that in Finland, the network is dominated by the well-connected and resourceful Economy Coalition, successful in blocking policy change. In Sweden, climate policy does not divide organizations into competing coalitions. Instead, consensus over the necessity of ambitious climate change policy prevails. We conclude that national level policy networks can have significant effects on how norms promulgated by world society institutions are adhered to by nation-states.
Beyond Simple Diffusion: Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society

Marjaana Rautalin, Pertti Alasuutari & Eetu Vento

University of Tampere

Globalisation of Education Policies: Does PISA Have an Effect?

The paper examines the role of PISA in the globalisation of education policies. It approaches the question by assessing the effects of PISA on the ways in which new legislation was debated in national contexts in 1994–2013, with primary focus on the possible effects of PISA on the justifications used for new legislation. The work explores whether PISA has affected the ways in which new legislation is motivated. For example, has the number of references to the international community in debate in the sphere of education policy increased on account of PISA, and, if so, is this change confined to education policy debate? The study gives partial support to the claim that education policy features an increasingly global discourse and is now a field in which organisations such as the OECD have a growing authoritative role. However, the findings do not support the argument that the PISA project is the cause of a significant change in this respect. Rather than causing a global change in education policy, the PISA project appears to be an example and emblem of a global trend that can be detected in all policy sectors. Debating national policies in a global context and utilising the same transnational discourses regardless of the country in question has long been with us, yet there appears to be a global trend in which national policies are increasingly often debated through appeals to models, recommendations, and policy advice promulgated by IOs.
Beyond Simple Diffusion:
Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society

Laura Valkeasuo

University of Tampere

The Role of Identity Work and Interests in Global Policy Isomorphism

Why do nation-states adopt same models, leading to globalization, without anyone’s strict orders? To study this question European science policy serves a perfect example. The adoption of common science policy models across nation-states cannot be explained by coercive politics. Instead, science policy is based on the subsidiarity principle and is thus in the hands of the nation-states. Nevertheless common ideas and practices are adopted. In this presentation lessons from four empirical case studies dealing with European science policy are drawn together to discuss why and how this happens. The phenomenon is approached the from the actor identities’ point of view. The results of the studies show that actors adopt and apply both local (national) and global (universal) identity categories in their work, and the ongoing identity work, full of strategic choices and battle of prestige, firstly enables furthering national interests in universal contexts and secondly contributes to the harmonization of national policies. By showing how identity work matters, a contribution to the World Society Theory is suggested: recognizing the role of strategic actorhood, agency, and interests may serve a way to understand local mechanisms leading to global policy isomorphism.
Beyond Simple Diffusion: Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society

Li Wang

University of Tampere

Cultural Perspective on the Worldwide Spread of Science and Technology Parks

Since the 1980s, the world has witnessed a rapid growth of the organizations for facilitating innovation, and research & development – in the names of “science and technology parks” (STPs), “technopolis”, “research parks”, “innovation centre” and so on. By utilizing the framework of epistemic governance and neoinstitutionalism, this study examines the world science reports by UNESCO and the texts collected from the STPs’ websites – around 70 STPs from 46 countries – which introduces who they are, what the situations/challenges they are facing, and what they do. The findings reports on the cultural frames discursively constructed by the local actors and how the global model of STP is legitimized in the world-level discourse.
Beyond Simple Diffusion: 
Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society

Yulia Prozorova

Sociological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences

Diffusion of Western Modernity: Reception of Western Project in 
Russia’s Post-Soviet Political Discourse

The diffusion, local “reading” and opposition to the Western modernity project gave rise to a mosaic of multiple modernities (S.Eisenstadt, J.Arnason, B.Wittrock, etc.). An intention to assimilate and replicate the Western ideas and institutional models in Russia after the failure of the communist project initiated a large-scale societal transformation as well as reconsideration of the Western project of liberal democracy. Since the “end of history” has not happened, the Russian experience and version of the post-Soviet modernity that have originated in that context require a special analysis. The paper considers reception and interpretations of the Western liberal democracy that arise in political discourse and suppose to shape institutional architecture and symbolic design of contemporary Russia. The interpretations of the Western project correspond to the dominating frameworks of Russian civilizational identity, dispositions towards the West and the role of traditional structures and images of power, that are considered in political discourse. The universality of the Western-type democracy that declared to be relevant for post-Soviet Russia in the beginning of the 1990s is revised and contested now.
Beyond Simple Diffusion:
Exploring the Processes and Variations of Diffusion in World Society

Jukka Syväterä

University of Tampere

From Diffusion to Synchronization: Analyzing Policy Moves in the Creation and Domestication of the Global Model of National Bioethics Committee

It has been conclusively established that a great deal of national policymaking is interdependent with the trajectories of other countries. World society theory has shown that globalized cultural context produces universalistic scripts from which nation-states and other actors derive many of their features. However, operationalization of interdependent policymaking in terms of diffusion hides certain aspects crucial for fuller understanding of the actual process by which national policymakers end up enacting global models. Consequently, nation-states are seen as conformists unthinkingly following current fashions, and the rationales of national policymakers are neglected. Drawing from the study on the creation and domestication of the global model of national bioethics committee, I direct attention to the dynamics by which ideas and discourses motivate national policy-makers to act in ways that, though often not purposely, lead to similar reforms throughout the world. The paper elaborates how world cultural scripts were articulated through and with national and particular interests, underlying the political moves that led to the evolving of this global model and to its adoption in the case of one country, Finland. The results suggest that in the modern world polity the national policymakers constantly react to what other countries have done or are expected to do. I conclude by considering how the analytical lens of synchronized policy moves sheds new light on the apparent conformity of nation-states.
Economic Sociology on Immigrant’s Labour Market Integration

This paper focuses on the 2015–2016 refugee issue from a European perspective and on how economic sociology may provide crucial guidelines in developing immigrant integration policies.

It is commonly argued that in ageing OECD economies, such as in the ageing EU countries, labour supply should be increased so that it would meet the demand when the working-age age cohorts decrease. The OECD has argued that foreign immigration would play a key role in increasing the supply. While these approaches seem to be well grounded, foreign immigrants, and especially foreign-born women, have faced persistent labour market integration problems ever since the post-WWII guest worker era. This has resulted in both individual misery as well as challenges to economic sustainability/productivity and social cohesion.

Statistical evidence suggests that to a great extent immigrants’ labour market deprivation is not caused by the lack of human capital (e.g. education and other individual abilities) but also by the lack of opportunities to use these abilities. Economic sociology, spearheaded e.g. by Granovetter and rooted in Weber, Bourdieu and Polanyi, suggests that social structure would affect the opportunities individuals have to pursue their economic interests, such as jobs. This social structure would consist of social networks, such as connections between job-seekers and employers. According to this empirically well-rooted theory, developing these networks could improve the integration situation.
Governance

Nathan Meyers

*University of Massachusetts Amherst*

**Revisiting Union Decline: An Organizational and Relational Analysis of Labor’s Crisis in the U.S.**

I explore the sources of union decline, inspecting the shifting prominence of different causes at different points in time. Using a relational approach which views labor and capital as actors that gain or lose power at the expense of each other, I find that U.S. union decline is the result of a chain of contingent institutional transformations that benefitted capital relative to labor. Capital was advantaged and labor was disadvantaged due to: 1) the consistent failure of unions to sufficiently organize new members, 2) the reconfiguration of productive capital in the 1970s and 1980s, and 3) weakening protections of labor policy by the 1970s. Combined, this confluence of factors enabled a business political mobilization and offensive, leading to a steep decline in union membership in the early 1980s. Results highlight the complex nature of temporal dynamics in capital-labor power struggles.
Governance

Kevin Corbett

Middlesex University London

The Impact of Enforcing Health Service Quality Improvement on the Organisational Culture of a Service Provider: A British Case Example

‘CQUIN’ is a British health service ‘Pay for Performance’ framework (‘P4P’) whereby health commissioners reward service providers by their achievement of quality improvement targets. P4P is a form of micromanagement to enforce compliance with evidence based medicine. This study of one secondary care provider shows the complexity of achieving alignment with commissioner intentions via networks of personnel/technologies and how this enactment of alignment occurs across the provider and its impact on the organisational culture. Aspects of Schein’s model of organisational culture and Latour’s Actor Network Theory are used to understand the local enactment and translation of commissioning intentions operationalised through organisational chains of personnel and software. This presentation will report on the findings from the analysis of two types of qualitative data: on-site field observations from shadowing personnel operationalising P4P/CQUIN and semi-structured interviews with those personnel reflecting on their actions. The presentation conceptualises how commissioner intentions are translated into action, the factors facilitating and/or impeding those translation/enactment processes as well as the powerful effects on organisational culture. The presentation will conclude with a European context for understanding how micromanagement of evidence based health services multiply affects the organisational cultures of service providers.
The Role of NGOs in the Socialization of Norms: A Case of Pakistan

With the rise of globalization there has been a significant growth in the activities as well as the number of Non-Governmental Organizations. These bodies wield significant power of socialization and are used by major players in the enforcement of norms and are very central in the dissemination of particular ideologies. These ideologies while generally considered to be universally applicable are primarily centered around concepts and norms derived from western societies. These “universal” norms, in turn, are enforced within domestic settings. The enforcement of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) often comes under fire for claiming that the rights enshrined within are universal despite the fact that they hail from and were drafted within the West. Its inability to be implemented properly lies in the fact that the world is inhabited by people with diverse culture and at times the UNDHR stands as a very foreign concept. This research analyzes NGO activity within Pakistan in three dimensions: their role in socialization, the mechanisms which allow NGOs to influence policy and various sources of funding. By analyzing the nature of NGO activity one can better grasp the nature of the growing role of non-governmental actors.
Pernilla Johansson

University of California, Irvine

Power in Partnership: Analyzing Stories of Internationals in Peacebuilding

Sustainable international peacebuilding needs good partnerships with local actors. This is increasingly recognized by scholars (Crocker et al 2015), policymakers (U.S. Global Development Policy 2010), and practitioners (Campbell 2011) alike. However, decades of critical research on international – local power relations have highlighted the many problems with external involvement in peacebuilding efforts. These macro-narratives include interventions reproducing colonial relations (Paris 2002), disciplining social movements through 'NGO-ization' (Bernal and Grewal 2014), and anecdotes of internationals naïvely fooled by locals. Given the many potential pitfalls, what are international partners to peacebuilding efforts to do?

This paper begins to analyze how constructive roles are narrated and practiced by internationals themselves, aspects found among the prime obstacles for effective peacebuilding (Autessere 2014). Specifically, I analyze three websites of value-based international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) who explicitly strive for equal partnership with local actors. How do they deal with power relations? Self-narratives are important as they can reveal perceived space for action (Polletta 2009, Autessere 2012), and have unintended effects on agency (Madlingozi 2010). The findings identify a gap between their micro-narratives of surprisingly invisible international actors and the macro-narrative of dominating internationals, providing inspiration for future research.
State, Civil Society and the Global Politics of Climate Change: Comparing India, Indonesia, and Finland

Climate change, and the political processes aiming at solving this megalomanious problem, is global by definition. However, in order to fathom how the agreements in global climate politics are arrived at or not, and what happens when the implementation work should begin, we need to look at the relationship between respective states and civil societies. In this article, we examine the state–civil society relations in the contexts of climate politics in three countries, India, Indonesia, and Finland. The country selection of this study aims at maximizing variance, but also at representing the different dimensions of global climate politics. We focus on the relationship between civil society and the state and analyse the civil society’s role in climate politics through the axes of movement composition, perceived influence, alliances, and opposition. We draw from interviews (N=57) of civil society actors involved in climate politics, as well as from secondary sources concerning the history, organization, and current practices of climate activists in the three countries.
Theorizing Ontologies of Resistance

Stacey Liou

*University of California, Irvine*

**Unspoken Insurgencies: Constituent Power in Thailand’s The Hunger Games Protests**

The past decade has been one of popular politics, both locally as in the United States’ Black Lives Matter or Hong Kong’s Occupy Central, as well as transnationally, including the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street. Often, in these and myriad other movements, resistances to perceived institutional injustices are articulated through words, whether in the chants of a crowd or in the writings on signs and banners. However, verbal language is not the only vehicle through which meaning can be conveyed: bodily gestures, signs and symbols can convey as much – if not more – than sometimes words can. This paper uses the 2014 protests in Thailand, in which demonstrators brandished The Hunger Games’ three-fingered salute to protest the state’s authoritarian practices, as a lens through which to analyze the dynamics of nonverbal popular protest. Drawing on and extending J.L. Austin’s speech act theory, this paper explores the conditions of legibility and effects of nonverbal language in popular resistance. It argues that such modes of resistance have the potential to create interpretive publics.
Theorizing Ontologies of Resistance

Ilari Nikula
University of Lapland

Biopolitics of Environment

The paper aims to problematize the prevailing conception of the global ‘environment’. Firstly, following Michel Foucault’s understanding of power, this paper presumes the inescapable power-effects of all knowledge, and of all truth-claims. Secondly, any description of an environmental problem is entangled with specific imaginaries of how society is, and, specifically, how it ought to be. Thus, the “saving of the planet” is a profoundly political project. It is now rationalized that populations, societies and individuals need to be trained to the point where they are sustainable enough, and resilient enough, until the ‘right kind of being’ is achieved. What this actually means is derived from how the environment is constructed, or defined, to us. Thus far, the global environmental prescriptions have been complicit with and supportive of the growth of neoliberal systems of governance and depoliticized instruments of power.

From the production of ‘environment’ as global and all-encompassing it occurs that these prescriptions and their implications are biopolitical in nature. Thus, I’m going to analyze the construction of the ‘environment’ and its problematique as a part of what Foucault called “the regulatory biopolitics of the population”. The paper focuses attention specifically on the implicit social order environmental prescriptions embrace.
Theorizing Ontologies of Resistance

Uri Zilbersheid

School of Political Sciences & Haifa Center for German and European Studies, University of Haifa, Israel

The Structure of the State and the Nature of the Struggle for Power

In this paper I develop some aspects that are to be found in Marx’s theory of the state. The state consists of two spheres: the political sphere, or the political instance, and the administration. We can define the state as the management of the general, or public, affairs by means of administration.

The administration, having its origin in the social division of labor, is the professional apparatus, i.e. the professional arm, of the state. It is an apparatus, without which a developed and complex community could not be organized in the important aspects of its life. Enormous power is concentrated in the administrative apparatus as a result of its origin: It is a socially necessary and particular scope of activity. As a matter of rule, this apparatus, much as a powerful machine in the production process, does not operate itself. Its “intelligence” and normative aims are determined and controlled by the political sphere.

The political sphere, or instance, has its origin in the struggle over the distribution of social wealth, i.e. in the relationship of private property. Any struggle for power in a political society is a struggle for gaining the possibility and legal authority to operate the administrative apparatus. Any political force, having come to power and thus controlling the administrative apparatus, operates it, in the name of public good, for the sake of private interests. The professional apparatus thus also becomes a ruling apparatus (a “government machine” or a “government machinery” in Marx’s terminology). When different political forces, parties or persons, share power, different parts of the administration might be operated in opposed directions in the same time.
Administrative Expansion in Higher Education: Efficiency or Legitimacy?

Recent European research shows growth in the number of administrators across different sections of University—a long established trend in the US higher education. Building on this research, this paper investigates the factors associated with variation in the proportion of administrators across 775 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 11 European countries. We argue that the enactment of an enlarged and diversified mission of HE is one of the main factors nurturing universities’ non-academic body. Our findings support such an argument; regardless of geographical and institutional differences, HEIs with high levels of “entrepreneurialism” (in service provision and external engagement) are characterized by a larger proportion of administrative staff. However, we find no empirical support for functionalist explanations invoking the demand to HE by increased student enrollments and the dynamics of deregulation as engines driving such change. Instead, our results point towards the diffusion of formal organization as a model of institutional identity and purpose which becomes evident at high levels of external connectedness.
Japanese Universities, Globalization and the Spatial Dynamics of Foreign and Domestic

Globalization in Japanese universities can be viewed through the complementary policies of wakon-yosai and neoliberalism. The former is a nineteenth century term that described Japan’s policy to separate “Japanese spirit” (wakon) from “Western techniques” (yosai). The latter has been used since the late twentieth century to describe policies that, among other things, define individuals around market rationality and utility. Wako-yosai and neoliberalism are complementary in that the former has traditionally defined foreignness according to utility of Western skills, making the foreigner comparable to the ideal rational subject (homo economicus) under neoliberalism. Viewed from these guiding ideas in political economy and spatiality, the much-maligned English language pedagogy in Japanese universities has actually been “successful”: foreign language programs and foreign teaching staff (the two categories are not the same) are kept separated from other programs and departments, and their service to the university assessed according to the utility of their linguistic services. Since 2011, however, various new policies implemented by the national government to increased “teaching in English” (regular subjects) rather than “English teaching” (language only), in order to raise Japan’s profile in soft power and international assessment metrics, challenge this comfortable spatial separation between foreign and domestic, and between skills and national essence.
The Latin-American University: Outreach, Research and Entrepreneurship from the Córdoba Reform to the Present Day

Latin American universities and their distinctive social embeddedness’ heritage (Caruso, 2012; Pineda, 2015) are currently being pressured by worldwide reforms and discourses that aim to transform them into more entrepreneurial, research-oriented organizations. The study of such changes in this region is pivotal for explaining the influence of broader institutional frameworks in local organization. In this paper, I examine the mission statements and organizational structure of universities from two Latin American countries, Chile (N=58) and Colombia (N=80). These were visualized through consulting web pages and undertaking telephone interviews. It is found that there is a convergence toward entrepreneurial discourses of the university, as expected by world-society theorists (Meyer & Ramirez, 2013; Ramirez & Tiplic, 2013). In particular, discourses and university bodies related to innovation, research, and excellence spread more strongly because of their link with broader ideas of progress. However, a prevalent emphasis on social embeddedness and humanism persists in hybridized and traditional universities. These persist, in turn, partially because they give legitimacy in particularly conflicting and unequal societies. The theoretical implications of these findings are discussed through contrasting neo-institutionalist (world-society theory) explanations and functionalist approaches.
Explanations for the Lack of Resistance of Finnish University Workers in the Era of Knowledge Capitalism

For the last two decades, Finnish university has been forced to face dramatic changes, such as corporatization of universities, budget cuts and several new control systems. The staff has remained surprisingly passive in relation to these changes. As a material for this study we use ethnographic data collected from one department of a university, especially interviews of former staff members whose work contracts had been terminated against their own will.

The analysis is based on Laclauian discourse theory, which is a poststructuralist framework and method. From this perspective the exercise of power constitutes and produces practices and social relations. Power is also involved in the sedimentation and reproduction of social relations via the mobilization of various techniques of political management, and through the elaboration of ideologies and fantasies (Howarth 2009).

In our presentation we focus on social logics, which enable us to characterize social practices in the context of Finnish university. More specified we analyze the logics of competition, atomisation, hierarchy and instrumentalization. (Glynos & Howarth 2007.) We assume that this perspective can offer some fresh viewpoints to understand the lack of resistance among knowledge workers.
Social Construction of the Employability of University Graduates in Social and Natural Sciences in the Czech Republic

The employability of graduates is not yet in the Czech Republic – unlike many Western countries – one of the main performance indicators in higher education. Even so, it becomes increasingly important criterion for prospective students, graduates, employers and politicians. Therefore the pressure on universities to promote the employability of their graduates is growing and the universities have to reconsider their role in society. This paper firstly discusses the concept of graduate employability and secondly, on the basis of content analysis of informative texts for prospective students published by the universities about different courses in social and natural sciences, supported by the analysis of expert interviews with representatives of faculties and departments of the universities in the Czech Republic, this paper answers three questions: 1. Do the universities and their faculties take into account the employability of their graduates? 2. How and by what means is this employability constructed in the informative texts published by the universities and their faculties? 3. Are there any differences in meanings linked with graduate employability in social and natural sciences?
Norio Ota

York University

Micromanagement and Control of Power in Universities

This paper discusses how micromanagement is destroying traditional liberal-democratic academia, and continuing to seek power and control in every aspect of academic life. As a result, a new corporate culture has emerged, which dictates the academic life of faculty members, staff members, and most importantly, the students. The recent onslaught against Humanities and Social Sciences, emphasizing natural sciences and technologies, is one of the most salient phenomena in this context. While many academics have been fighting to protect academic freedom, democratic systems, integrity and quality education, inclusive and fair education, and universal access to higher education, the worst kind of business models have been adopted by many institutions, which have succeeded in commodifying education entirely. This paper particularly refers to the process of creating an honours minor degree program in Japanese Studies at a Canadian university to discuss how the objective was achieved, despite the fact that micromanagement frequently intervened, interfered with, and slowed down the process. It is hoped that this paper will help academics who are fighting for similar causes to understand what to expect and how to break through such barriers.
Homogenization Driven by Institutional Change? The Missions of Fachhochschulen in Germany

After analyzing the role of institutional ownership on the diffusion of mission statements in all 232 German Fachhochschulen, we find that private ownership positively affects the likelihood that a mission statement is adopted. When taking the Bologna reforms into account, however, the effect of institutional ownership disappears, i.e., the Bologna reforms in 1999 led to homogenization across newly founded Fachhochschulen. Based on this finding, we analyzed the contents of the mission statements with regard to the type of institutional ownership (private-, state-, and church-owned) and the founding year (founded prior or after the Bologna reforms) of the Fachhochschulen.
Shattering the Single European Sky

The paper scrutinizes the European Commission’s Single European Sky initiative from a neoinstitutionalist epistemic governance perspective by analyzing the discourses by which different parties involved in the framework propose how the policy should be implemented and what the problems have been in prior attempts to advance it. The analysis shows that the slow progress made in realizing the vision of a more effective European airspace is not simply due to conflicting national interests. That is, member states are not uniform actors with a single, easily defined will or interest but rather, several subnational entities such as organizations engaged in national air control appeal to the national interest to defend their own position. In this article we show that the delayed realization of SES is not due to Commission’s incapability in solving differing domestic interests in harmonizing the European airspace but due to differing field battles SES has triggered. In these skirmishes actors involved account for SES in ways that do not endanger their own interests in the initiative, constantly transforming the SES framework and its outcomes. We argue, the form the SES project ultimately assumes, depends on how well the negotiating parties succeed in persuading each other of where problems of the project lie and by what means they should be solved.
Standardizing and Advocating through a Meta-organization

The world has seen a dramatic increase in the number of international organizations during the last hundred years. Among them there is a constantly growing group of international organizations which can be called meta-organizations. These are organizations whose members are themselves organizations. Despite the fact that meta-organizations flourish in almost all sectors of policymaking, there is surprisingly little research on what makes them so popular, and what role do they play in forming and disseminating global policy standards. Especially in the case of national policy-related organizations it has largely remained a mystery, why they are so eager to join international meta-organizations, even when their activities are mostly tied to national objectives.

In our presentation we approach these questions through a case example. The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), established in 2006, quickly gathered a membership consisting of 100 National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) from 88 countries. We shall show what kind of rationales the IANPHI has offered for joining the organization. We shall also look at how it has been instrumental in codifying a standard NPHI-model while, at the same time, trying to assert its own authority in the field of public health.
Sovereignty in the Millennial World-System

Standard treatments of sovereignty in international relations theory conceptualize sovereignty as an absolute, unitary condition. Each state is (notionally) the ultimate constitutional political authority within a given territory. But this Westphalian system of state sovereignty has broken down. At least since 1945 major powers have mutually acquiesced in each other’s’ settling of the internal affairs of their respective client states, and since 1991 the United States has effectively been the only major power. This post-Westphalian system closely resembles the imperial Chinese system of tianxia: "all under heaven." In the new American tianxia the United States is the central state of an interstate system in which the vast preponderance of interstate relationships are (1) associations with the United States, (2) in direct opposition to the United States, or (3) modulated by the United States. In this new, post-modern world-system the most important lever of power is influence at the imperial center. Thus the post-modern citizen of the world inexorably seeks to become, either metaphorically or (increasingly) literally, a citizen of the United States. The emerging liberal, universal, homogeneous state is not the United States per se, but the American tianxia writ large to cover the entire world.
Synchronization of Local Developments

Tiina Kontinen
University of Jyväskylä

Synchronization of Organizational Epistemologies in Development NGOs

International development, and especially non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in development, can be perceived as an organizational field where global mechanisms of institutional isomorphism result into similarities in organizational goals, structures, and practices across the globe. In this particular field, knowledge creation in terms of project management practices such as indicator-based monitoring and evaluation have become dominant. However, organizations are not passive victims of isomorphism, but translate and enact mainstream international knowledge practices in a variety of ways. Drawing on the notion of organizational epistemology the paper aims to investigate how local and global are intertwined in defining the organizational criteria for knowledge in an organization involved in development aid. It analyses this question on the basis of interviews of members of staff of an international NGO working in different continents, and identifies ways in which and to extent to which different knowledge criteria are synchronized in their account.
Empires Past and Present: Whither the EU?

It is a fundamental political question to ask about types of empire when discussing the development of multi-national territorial cooperation. This discussion is sometimes simplified to mean a choice between a federal state or a collection of sovereign ‘power-containers’ meant to represent modern nation-states, while in reality it is much more complex. This chapter analyses the historical development of the concept of empire and compares the development of the EU with recent developments elsewhere. European empires wax and wane, with the Austro-Hungarian and German empires being dismantled, the British and French receding in the face of decolonization, and the rise of the United States and the Soviet Union as empires in the post-WW2 period. Dismantling the Soviet empire still leaves us with Russia and China as ‘regional hegemons’ with claims on empire status. Analyzing characterizations and typologies of empires can tell us something about the current politics and develop understandings of possible future developments. For example, the United States can be seen as an ‘accidental’ empire with little or no claims on territory outside of its modern territorial divisions, solidifying its place in the global order through proxy wars and financial dominance. China and Russia have both claimed extra-border territories, while providing irredentist historical arguments for expansion and employing at the same time soft and hard power strategies around the world. In comparison, what does the new Pan-European construct look like, how is it developing, what type of empire is it becoming? Financial, territorial, ideological, ethno-national, and even ‘civilizational’ arguments have all been used by political actors in the EU to lay claim to the political construct of the EU itself. Given these political contestations, the chapter closes with a discussion on how we can characterize the current European Union and whether or not it can be seen as an emerging empire.
Integration and Disintegration of the European Union

Hanna Rautajoki

University of Tampere

Double Standard of European Integration

What is made of the EU as a political formation in the political rhetoric concerning contradictory EU-legislation? What kind of allegiances does the political discourse entail? This research scrutinizes the current integration crisis in terms of political memberships. How do different stakeholders operate on membership categorizations in their argumentation? I will analyze the case of unsuccessful Single European Sky (SES) initiative, which was set up to harmonize European air space for more efficient aviation. SES has been widely supported and ratified by the Member States, but it has not proceeded as expected. The first set of regulations was launched twelve years ago and since then it has been opened up for revision twice to further the tackling implementation. The winding SES process demonstrates that beneath the discourse on rationality there runs several streams of membership-guided standards structuring the orientations, identifications and political moves of the actors. It seems that complexity in commitments causes complexity in the political process as well. I will take the micro-analytic tool of membership categorization analysis and apply it in a macro-sociological realm of current political controversies to illuminate the features of political community building in the kind of member-statehood, which we contemporarily inhabit in Europe.
The European Union (EU) launched “Youth Guarantee” in all its member states in the year 2013. In EU documents it is stated that the model of this European Youth Guarantee is taken from the Finnish and Austrian “Youth Guarantees”. As a carrot to the implementation of it, the EU is offering a fiscal contribution – a big amount of EU money – to those countries which start the process. (Yet not Sweden, Denmark, Germany and some others that already have the same kind of system.)

So far, almost all of those EU countries have announced that they have started the implementation. Yet, the whole idea – as well as concrete measures – seems to be rather unclear. First, Finnish and Austrian models as “models” are a strange choice by the EU, as they differ very much from each other. Second, the societies to which the Youth Guarantee should be implemented are so different from each other (from the point of view all the relevant aspects concerning youth unemployment and marginalization) that it is hard to imagine how one and same “Youth Guarantee” could be implemented to them.

In this paper, I formulate some research questions but use also some very preliminary data from Lithuania and Estonia (and of course the “model country” Finland.) Why does the EU want to have, or rather have a discourse of “having”, EU-level Youth Guarantee? The EU already has many other Youth policy programmes; for what purposes is the (discourse of) Youth Guarantee needed? As, despite of all the fuzziness, certain processes of implementing the Youth Guarantee have really started in some countries (as examples Lithuania and Estonia) – How does the domestication look like? Is it rather making the Youth Guarantee fit to the states’ already existing systems, or are they really modifying the systems to fit to the principles of the Youth Guarantee? Is this EU’s Youth Guarantee a typical “EU project”; how many of EUs “programmes” are, more generally, more rhetoric than real processes?
Politics of Power & Representation

Co-Chair: Peeter Selg, Tallinn University
Co-Chair: Maarit Alasuutari, University of Jyväskyla

Thurid Bahr & Anna Holzscheiter & Laura Pantzerhielm
Berlin Social Science Center

Patterns of Inter-Action and Productive Discursive Inscription?
Metagovernance Norms in Global Governance Policy Fields

The present paper proposes a theoretical framework that combines a trans-actional understanding of power and the discursive constitution of actorship with a methodological procedure that focuses on the historical evolution of inter-actional patterns between organizations in (global) governance fields. It builds on inter-actional strands of social network analysis (SNA) and a discourse-analytical notion of "metagovernance" norms as historically grown perceptions about the proper “governance of governance” (Jessop 2014, Holzscheiter 2015). More specifically, we propose to study how such norms are enacted and struggled about in interactions between organizations, how they are inscribed into and reconstitute the field through processes of reflexive reordering of institutions and processes. To illustrate the empirical applicability of our framework, we use SNA methodology to trace processes of interaction between international organization (IOs) in the field of global health governance, pointing to processes of both deepening and strengthening of ties and the ensuing emergence of relatively ordered “governance architectures” since the late 1990s. Moreover, we point to qualitative empirical shifts in the organization of governance itself during the same time period, and relate these to the contingent (re)articulation of changing metagovernance norms, such as "multi-stake holder partnership", "policy innovation" and "harmonization". The paper therefore seeks to go beyond the dichotomy of inter- and transactional approaches to power and actorship.
Private Early Childhood Education and Care in Finland

Finland has traditionally been considered as a Nordic welfare state, in which services such as childcare are publicly provided. The private sector has been insignificant and comparatively small provider. Recently, the idea of universalism, which has been seen as the foundation of Nordic welfare state, has been challenged by neo-liberal values. As a result the private sector as a provider of childcare services has expanded and became more diverse. While at the past the private sector constituted on third sector providers (non-profit) and small local entrepreneurs (for-profit), at the present larger corporations (for-profit) have been interested in providing as well. Expanding of private sector has been possible by different publicly-paid child care subsidies. At the same time the private sector (non-profit and for-profit) is regulated and monitored by public sector. Hence, It’s well-grounded to question the privacy of the private sector and scrutinize if there has been comprised a so-called quasi-market in between the public and the private sector combining elements from both. However, in the first article of my doctoral dissertation I will strive to compare how different childcare subsidy systems, childcare vouchers and private childcare allowance with municipal supplement, are rationalized by Finnish municipal administrators and local politicians.
Politics of Power and Representation

Mikko Poutanen
University of Tampere

Limiting Politics and Power – The Representations of Alcohol Policy in Finland

My paper will discuss the problematics of alcohol policy in Finland. While not immediately apparent as an issue of politics and power, the representations of alcohol consumption links directly to representations and acceptable range of politics and policy. I will argue that on the macro-level of defining policy, there are two strains of thought: 1) alcohol as individual consumption (and enjoyment) thus to be deregulated, and 2) alcohol as controlled substance with high potential for various social ills, thus to be regulated.

If alcohol-related social problems such as alcoholism are represented as an individual weakness (and abuse of the product), the role of welfare policy in general is called into question. This would be in line with market-liberal ambitions towards state-led welfare policy.

These two representations contain a lot of implicit assumptions with considerable consequences to how the relationship of the individual and the society are to be drawn. In other words, should the individual hold greater power over himself – even to the point of self-harm – than the state? I will argue that if alcohol policy is indeed deregulated, then the range of alcohol policy is limited, and the power of the state (over health policy) is equally reduced.
Afternoon naps were brought up by children as practices conducive to health and well-being, as the above extract from my fieldnotes illustrates. The afternoon naps function as a bodily routine that is part of the children’s day in the day-care centre. During the nap, the children were required and expected to be able to control the movement of their bodies and stay put. In this presentation based on my PhD-research (2015) I will focus on the afternoon naps by illustrating the nap, children’s bodiliness, bodily functions, and needs linked to techniques of governing bodies. For instance, the knowledge justifying the nap evolves as part of the individual’s self-regulation, the self-control of a docile body (Foucault 1980). The knowledge connected to the information about the benefits and threats of the nap works as to motivate children to resting habits, causing them to believe that these habits are their own best now and in the future. The data of the study consists of ethnographic observations, interviews, children’s drawings, photographs and field work diary. Data were compiled during one spring semester in a 5-6 year-old’s group in a day-care centre.
Power and Authority in Religious Institutions

Chair: Rev. Fran Ota, United Church of Canada

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Frances Ota

United Church of Canada

From Christ to Jesus: Reclaiming the Way

This paper posits that the Christian faith today has diverged from its original roots, and become a separate entity. The paper will trace the evolution of the person of Jesus into the Christ of Empire, a person of power and authority. It examines two streams, the Jesus Movement which survived approximately 60 years after his death, and the Christ Movement of the Apostle Paul, which evolved into the Roman Church, eventually growing to fill the space left with the decline of the Roman Empire, becoming a state religion, the basis for the Constantinian Church model which still exists today and which uses the language of power and empire. It will demonstrate how current religious developments in North America particularly have moved to a militarised Christ who bears no resemblance to the Jesus of the Gospels. Finally, the paper will examine possibilities for a return to the original movement of Jesus and the first disciples, one which opposes empire, power, religious authority and structure.
The Role of Women in the Japanese Canadian Diaspora

Although religion did not loom strongly in the minds of most Japanese emigrants to Canada in the late nineteenth century it often became a major connection to their cultural identity and the social norms of their homeland. Nevertheless, living in a new environment meant adapting to new customs, and the desire for acceptance resulted in the transformation of their traditions. The sense of obligation felt towards Christian ministers who had offered support to the immigrants when they first arrived from Japan often led to conversions or interaction with Christian churches until Buddhist temples were established. The latter then became sites of language schools, clubs for youths, and women’s clubs, a curious mixture of developments that were taking place in Japan and a practical way of creating a sense of community and identity in an often hostile environment. However, although excluded from roles of power and authority, it was women who took the initiative in these developments. This paper will examine the ways that women came to be instrumental not only in the direction that the religious institutions of these immigrants took, but also in the nature of religious practice among the Japanese diaspora in Canada.
State and Church in Post-Secular Eastern Europe: A Czech Case

Although Central and Eastern European states remain officially secular, recent shift to “illiberal democracy“ (V. Orbán) in the region seems to bring along revival of old ties between governments and dominant churches in respective countries; Vladimir Putin’s “special relationship“ with Russian Orthodox Church is primary example of such approximation. Government positions and even legislation in issues such as LGBT rights, abortions or immigration are more than ever pushed through and defended in religious terms, emphasizing “Christian” nature of their nation and state.

This paper will seek to examine strategies of Czech Catholic Church, as being most important Christian church in Czech Republic but at the same time attempting to regain public space and religious dominance in overall atheistic and historically anti-clerical country. Presented paper will put special emphasis on the impacts of recent immigration crisis, local and regional discourse on “Islamic threat“ and how Czech Catholic Church’s response to these trends in terms of its relations with state and general society.
‘15’ the Magic Number: The Introduction of Universal Access to Quality Early Education Before School in NSW Australia

In 2008, all states and territories in Australia have committed to moving to 15 hours of early childhood education for children in the year before school through a National Partnership on Early Childhood Education with the Commonwealth Government, to be implemented by 2013. The preschool program is to be delivered by a four year qualified early childhood teacher, in accordance with a national Early Years Learning Framework, for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year. It was agreed that the 15 hour program will be accessible across a diversity of settings, in a form that meets the needs of parents and in a manner that ensures cost does not present a barrier to access. While the government gave some flexibility to implement this program, in 2015 the program has not been fulfilled and NSW especially was lagging behind and still requires a whole host of investments. In this paper we focus on NSW preschools and the difficulties and necessary adjustments they have faced and are facing in order to provide universal access, such as changing delivery hours, hiring and firing of staff, compliance and enrollment issues and wastage of resources. While by letting the 15 hours go and making this requirement more flexible, many of these issues could be easily alleviated, there is only little sign of the 15 hours to be negotiated. This inflexibility is even more surprising in light of the lack of research evidence that supports delivering a ‘dose’ of precisely 15 hours preschool to young children (Brennan, 2012). For us, however, the magic number of 15 hours offers a unique opportunity to examine the governance of early childhood education and care, the operation of power through data production and the lack of thereof, and the ways in which this number re/channels power flows.

When I participated in the webinar they were encouraging services to think outside the square and if you for instance ran an intensive transition to school program across the last two terms for example then this may be allowed. We were encouraged to contact the department seeking clarification or approval for such programs.

As response to the below ‘sign of ‘flexibility’ - if you look at the abstract, especially the end sentence, I would argue that this kind of flexibility helps the flow of power in channels that are carved out by the government. Especially because transition programs have gained recently powerful positions and shaped in particular ways – supported by scientific evidence – e.g. the development index.
Power, Institutions & Authority, Tampere  
5th International Conference

Powerful Numbers

Sirke Mäkinen  
University of Tampere

University Rankings and Russia’s Entry into the Global Education Market

Recent studies have discussed the impact of global university rankings on national education systems and HEIs as well as their methodological defects. According to Ellen Hazelkorn (2009, 2014, 2016), global university rankings have moved away from their initial purpose - benchmarking and filling the information gap - and transformed into a strategic tool. A metaphor of the Olympic Games has also been applied to global university rankings (Yudkevich, Altbach and Rumbley 2016) informing us about the ‘seriousness’ of this ranking game in international relations; global rankings are used for geopolitical positioning (Hazelkorn 2014). In this paper, it is assumed that Russia is no exception in this respect, but has been caught up by the idea of global competition in the field of higher education and its importance from the point of view of Russia’s global positioning. The importance of global rankings is manifest in the 5-100 programme with the help of which the Russian government has planned to raise five Russian universities into the top-100 of the most established global university rankings (ARWU, Times Higher Education, QS) by 2020. But how Russian state and university authorities actually represent this ranking game and Russia’s role in competition in the field of higher education? With the help of a comparative case study, this paper seeks to explore these representations and their differences at the state and university level, and in particular, the interplay between the global and the national in the ranking discourse, and the policies that this discourse endorses. The empirical part of the study is based on policy documents, public statements of state and university representatives, and interviews of university representatives in the 2010s.
Power, Institutions & Authority, Tampere
5th International Conference

Powerful Numbers

Leena Tervonen-Gonçalves
University of Tampere

Marja Alastalo
University of Eastern Finland

Persuasive Aesthetics of an Online Benchmarking System

The number of policy relevant indicators has grown exponentially during the last decades. The fashion of evidence-based policy-making has further accelerated this trend. In this frenzied desire to achieve rationalized decision-making it is often forgotten, that in the processes of comparison, policy gets reduced, focused and new meanings are attached to it. According to Espeland & Stevens (1998), it is with the process of commensuration that social, political and cultural differences turn into magnitudes, qualities into quantities. In addition, the measured phenomenon is also detached from its local context(s). These limitations that are linked to the processes of comparative measurement and commensuration of policies should be made visible. Although the debate around these limitations is an old one, the use of modern techniques and attractive modes of interactive visualization (e.g. web based policy scoreboards) might obscure the dimensions of power and authority involved with them. In our presentation we explore one such database established by a Finnish governmental research institute (THL) which aims at picturing the policy performance of Finnish municipalities in the area of health promotion. We will discuss commensuration of policies in general and persuasive aesthetics of this online benchmarking system in particular.
Powerful Numbers

Sylvain Malcorps

*Université Libre de Bruxelles*

**The Newspaper Company and its Web Analytics: The Rise of Commercial Control on Online Audience Understanding Practices (a Belgian Case).**

From newspaper’s circulation figure to web analytics, numerical audience-related data constitute for decades one of the main bargaining arguments for the newspaper industry to express how valuable the audience they attract is. Besides more qualitative audience understanding approaches (e.g. readership surveys), numerical data about media audiences behavior seem to prevail on the audience marketplace partly because of their low production cost. Philip M. Napoli also shows how control motivates this rationalization process: audience data appear to provide more control and predictability on audiences’ behavior as well as they confer legitimacy to their users. But how do this reliance on specific numbers emerge in the newspaper industry?

This paper investigates how web analytics have gained commercial importance around 2000 in the Belgian publishing company “Mediafin”. Based on an ethnographic research within the company on the use of such data, first results show that the interest for these statistics has grown as the first Belgian online ad sales agency was created. Interviews reveal how web analytics started to play a key role in the company’s online business activities at the same time as other major actors interested in online audiences were establishing - mainly trade - relationships. This paper aims at tracing some of the power dynamics at stake between Mediafin and other specific actors on this issue in the early 2000s.

Foster critical reflection on this process of rationalization of audience understanding is important because of its influences on how media actors perceive their audience and the types of content they consume.
The Imperative to Protect Data

This presentation will discuss the effects of the datafication and digitalisation of education policy in the context of the Russian Federation. It will tap into the policies and practices invented as a result of rising audit cultures and the scientisation and datafication of education governance. These processes turn sites of public examinations into sites of numerical data production on education, and make school systems accountable to data production. The presentation will explore the recent introduction of obligatory video surveillance equipment during public examinations in the Russian Federation, drawing on the concepts of “infrastructure of accountability” (Anagnostopoulos et al., 2013) and “data infrastructure” (Sellar, 2014), as well as Actor-Network-Theory toolkit.
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