FINNISH ACADEMIC PUBLISHING IN SOCIOLOGY: A CRITICAL REVIEW

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Abstract: The article analyses the current state and changes in academic sociological publishing in Finland. It describes the situation in different sectors of sociological publishing: in scientific journals, in academic publications, and in the publications of the institutional and commercial sectors, especially in textbooks. The article discusses the strengths and weaknesses of each sector. The author is particularly concerned about the future of monographs in the Finnish results-based university system. Through a set of examples, the review paints a picture of the institutionalisation, expansion and differentiation of Finnish sociology. Because Finland is a small language and market area, and a representative of the Nordic model, sociological production is dependent on state measures and support.

Keywords: history of sociology – the Nordic model - publishing – sociology in Finland - sociology of science

According to Morato (2006, 335), there are two main factors that cause the situation to vary from country to country: namely the specific development of sociology and the condition of the publishing industry. The overall situation in academic sociological publishing in Finland is fairly good, although the growth has slowed down and problems can be anticipated. This review aims to give a more detailed account of sociological research and publishing in Finland than that provided in the assessments of various representatives of science policy. In those assessments, the units under review are social and economic sciences (social sciences, economic sciences and political science), or social sciences (sociology, social policy, social psychology and social work).

A working group appointed by the Finnish Ministry of Education describes the publishing profile of social and economic sciences as being a strongly national one and proportionally monograph-oriented in comparison to other fields. Moreover, compilations and conference publications have an accentuated role in article production (Poropudas, Miettinen, Selovuori & Pasanen 2007). According to an assessment by the Academy of Finland (2003), the focal points of research in social sciences (sociology, social policy, social psychology and social work) have, slowly but steadily, become more specialised and international. International publishing has gradually become more active, but there still are significant differences between different fields and different themes. Multidisciplinary women’s studies are an example of facing the socio-political challenges successfully. Methodologically, the field has been in transition ever since the early 1980s, when qualitative data and cultural approaches became more widely used.

Phases of Sociological Research and Sociological Production

The Finnish sociologists’ association, the Westermarck Society, is named after the great social anthropologist Edward Westermarck (Suolinna, Hällström & Lahtinen 2000). Westermarck’s works The History of Human Marriage (1891) and The Origin and Development of the Moral Ideas
(1906-1908) as examples of careful empirical studies into the relationship of biology and culture have affected the British and Finnish cultural climates alike (Allardt 1994, 86-87). The school was internationally, if not even globally, oriented. It had supporters especially among the Swedish-speaking intelligentsia in Finland. Another important force in Finnish sociology was the school of concrete social research, which was influenced by the German historical school of political economy, among others, and whose representatives were mainly Finnish-speaking. In the agrarian and smallholding-dominated Finland the "labour question" of Germany turned into the "agrarian question". Among the topics of research were the conditions of tenant farmers, unemployment and support of socialism. (Alapuro, Alestalo & Haavio-Mannila 1992; Allardt 1994; 1997.)

Scholars from both schools published monographs and articles, although in very different contexts and on very different topics. The representatives of concrete social research (i.e. structural and historical research) were closely linked to governmental planning and the prevailing political discussion. In the clannish and rightist atmosphere of the 1930s, both schools began to lose their ground. It is noteworthy that among the last Westermarckians was also Ms Hilma Granqvist, a female anthropologist who had studied a Palestinian village (1931). The decline of the Westermarckian school did not, however, prevent the national sociologists’ association from taking the name Westermarck Society. During the period 1947-1989 the society also gave out an English-language publication series, the Transactions of the Westermarck Society. The society published monographs up until 1966, after which it started to publish the Bibliography of Finnish Sociology.

The first teaching post in sociology was established in the University of Helsinki as early as in the 1890s, i.e. before Finland gained its independence in 1917. The post was an adjunct professorship for Edward Westermarck, which he attended simultaneously with a professorship at the London School of Economics. During the time when Finland was an autonomous Grand Duchy of Russia, the institutions of science and culture had become so well-established that the independence promised by Lenin and the Bolshevists came to mean a mere external sovereignty. By 1946 as many as four universities in Finland had professorships in sociology – the first ones in the Nordic countries. Nevertheless, it can be said that the institutionalisation of sociology occurred only after the Second World War. Fulbright grants and the overall influence of American sociology were, as generally typically European, leading to a strong empirical emphasis and the application of middle-range theories. Research results were often published in mimeograph series, although printed books on the entire industrialising society and the development of its social systems were also published. In 1964, the Westermarck Society established the Sosiologia journal, which has had a central status in the sociological discussion ever since the beginning. Indeed, sociology was the central topic of discussion in the industrialising and democratising society; economics and philosophy still had to wait their turns.

"The golden era of sociology" in the 1960s was a watershed not only in terms of theoretical and methodological discussion, but especially in terms of the number of sociologists. The increase was a result of expanding university level education and the social demand for sociology, and it was also affected by the student revolution. Young sociologists were an active force in the revolution and lecture rooms were filled with students interested in social research and criticism. The annual student intakes have remained fairly high by international comparison even after the student influx.
subsided. It can be said that the turn of the 1960s and 1970s produced both a large number of authors in sociology and the basic readership of sociological publications that has remained faithful even after the field began to lose its popularity in later decades. Sociology as a discipline had been rather undivided and uniform, but the 1970s saw its differentiation into different subfields and diverse orientations. Up until at least the 1980s, Finnish professors of sociology have retained the traditional class division: on the one hand, professors belong to the old and new middle classes, but on the other hand - and more often than in most fields - there are also professors from the working class background (Antikainen & Jolkkonen 1988).

Other central prerequisites for sociological publishing in Finland have been public financial support and symbolic recognition. From 1970 onwards, the Academy of Finland shed its role as a traditional academy and took up a new one as the national science foundation and science agency. It is the main financer of sociological research, and it also allocates financial support to scientific societies and journals. As in other Nordic countries, public support for cultural production is high in Finland. Funding is allocated for translating and publishing non-fiction through different art and culture organisations.

With a ratio of 2.6 books per 1000 inhabitants, Finland tops the list in the rate of literature production among the EU Member States. It is only outdone by Iceland with a ratio of 5.7 books per 1000 inhabitants. Only Denmark, Switzerland and the Netherlands exceed the ratio of 2 per 1000 (UNESCO 1999; Statistics Finland 2006). Two out of three books in Finland are non-fiction, but the proportion of non-fiction books per inhabitant is even higher in Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark. The number of published books has continued to grow and, for example, the number of titles published in Finland between 1980 and 2006 has doubled. The number of individual copies distributed, however, has by no means grown as rapidly because there is a tendency to print small runs.

A majority of the country’s 5 million inhabitants speak Finnish as their native language, the Swedish-language population accounts for approximately 5.5 percent and the Sami language has some 7000 users. Considering the linguistic background, it is understandable that the number of scientific publications in Sami is very low. Finnish and Sami are, however, both part of the Finno-Ugrian language family, closely related to Estonian and Hungarian, for example. Indeed, an overwhelming majority of books are published in Finnish. The proportion of Swedish-language books has decreased from 20 percent in the 1930s to a mere 5 percent today, while the proportion of books published in languages other than Finnish or Swedish has grown from 10 percent in the 1930s to 20 percent in 2006. Most of the foreign-language books are of course in English, thus representing the “new English imperialism” (McKenzie 2003).

The proportion of sociological and statistical publications of all literature published in Finland was 1.4% in 2000 and 1.7% in 2006. The statistics refer to sociological and statistical publications as a single category; nevertheless, there are far fewer titles in statistics than there are in sociology. The proportion of sociological and statistical publications among those in the humanities and in the social and economic sciences was 9.1% in 2000 and 9.6% in 2006. The language of publishing in sociology and statistics follows the general linguistic outlines of publishing presented above. (Fennica 2007.)
There is a saying in Finland that encapsulates how small the country is: “only one idea at a time takes root in Finland”. In sociology, this is visible in central themes or dominant fields in different decades: in the 1950s the focus was in societal structures; the 1960s emphasised social indicators; the 1970s focused on the welfare state; the 1980s investigated different lifestyles and, since the 1990s, the focus has shifted towards cultural research and historical sociology (Alapuro, Alestalo & Haavio-Mannila 1992; Allardt 1994; Alapuro 1995). Nevertheless, one should not ignore the differentiation of sociology that began in the 1970s and notice that by the 1990s nearly all fields of sociology were represented in Finnish research. The development in Finland has been parallel to the international development in sociology. One of the perhaps most significant deviations from the international outlines was the wide-spread interest in Marxist-Leninist philosophy and social research in the 1970s, which gained ground through the student movement. The student movement and other affiliated social movements also searched textbooks and other publications for opposition (critical and non-idolising remarks) of the Soviet Union. Unlike what happened in Germany though, the Finnish movements did not resort to terrorism.

Research has also been carried out in research groups ever since the beginning. For example, Erik Allardt’s Research Group in Comparative Sociology and J.P. Roos's Research Group in Way of Life Studies both produced plenty of publications and discussion in the 1980s. Later on the research programmes of the Academy of Finland have become major signposts for research in sociology. Some of the recent Academy of Finland programmes include the Programme for Social Capital and Networks of Trust and the Programme for Power and Society in Finland.

Journals

The circulation of the Sosiologia journal published by the Westermarck Society is slightly under 2000. Quite naturally, the journal has experienced the institutionalisation and the changes of trends in sociology. At one point, it published theoretical articles only, and even today almost half of its articles can be regarded as theoretical. From a reviewer’s perspective, the articles mediate the international trends in sociology, but often unfortunately, without creative interpretations by the Finnish sociologists who report on them. Indeed, because Finland is a small country and language area, summarisation is one of its besetting sins and this is a vogue that the journal is presently breaking away from. The proportion of qualitative research has grown ever since the 1980s, and nowadays articles based on qualitative research clearly outnumber those based on quantitative research (Erola & Räsänen 2007). Also, the number of female authors contributing to the journal has grown during recent decades. The articles are published either in Finnish or Swedish and they have abstracts in English. To give an example, the titles of the 2007 volume of Sosiologia include the following: Gender stereotypes in e-mail humour; Motherhood’s changing status in the definitions of welfare state citizenship; Al-Qaida and the success story of global terrorism; The concept of social structure in Roy Bhaskar’s critical realism; From societal metaphysics to the study of social life – sketch for the evolutionary-pragmaticist actor’s perspective; Gendered agency: the problem of essence, role, and habituation; Finnish voluntary associations and trust at the turn of the millennium; Employment project as an actor network; Eating disorders on an internet discussion forum - interpretations of the sacred and the profane; The biological as model
for the social: Choice in the field of the new Artificial Insemination Act; The individual subject’s corporeality in first pregnancy; Skateboarding, corporeality, and collectivity.

A discussion forum and abundant book reviews are other offerings of the *Sosiologia* journal. The editorial work is presided over by the editor-in-chief and carried out in teams by the editorial staff. In the past, the editorial staff was fixed, but nowadays the staff turnover has increased creditably. The journal follows a ”weak programme of editorship” by not publishing nearly any theme issues.

Alongside *Sosiologia*, one of the members’ benefits in the Westermarck Society is the *Acta Sociologica* journal published by the Nordic Sociological Association. The NSA is an alliance of the national sociological associations of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. The articles in the journal are characterised by pluralism on the one hand and by the centrality of the (Nordic) welfare state on the other (Allardt 1995). Due to the Nordic nature of the journal and perhaps also because of the fixedness of the editorial board, changes in themes and trends have been slower to occur than for example in *Sosiologia* and other national journals.

At least two international journals in sociology are being edited by Finns at the moment. Pertti Alasuutari is the founding editor of the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*. It should be noted here that Alasuutari’s (1995) methodological teachings have a wide readership both in Finland and abroad. With a total of 44 annual volumes so far, the *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* is published by the *Joensuu University Press* and the responsibility for the editorial work lies with the founding editor Raj Mohan of the Auburn University and M'hammed Sabour of the University of Joensuu. One of the earliest contributors to the journal was Pitirim Sorokin, the renowned Russian-American sociologist who was born among the Komi, a small Finno-Ugric nation. Also the editorial board of the *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* has remained rather fixed throughout its history.

Of the journals published in the related fields of sociology, both *Janus* published by the Social Policy Association in Finland and *Yhteiskuntapolitiikka* (Social Policy) published by the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) publish sociological articles and they have an established readership among sociologists. The authors contributing to *Janus* and other publications in social policy are generally more widely spread in universities around Finland than the authors contributing to *Sosiologia* (Erola & Räsänen 2007). The articles are not available in electronic form and, for that matter, electronic and DVD publications in sociology have gained only a small footing in Finland.

**Universities and Campus Communities as Publishers**

Following Morato (2006), I have examined the publishing of books and reports in three sectors: publications of university presses, publications of the institutional sector, and publications of the commercial sector (cf. Coser, Kadushin & Powell 1982). Let us begin by looking at the publications of university presses.

Up until the 1980s, the publication series of universities and departments were the main channel of publishing - often without a referee procedure. Nowadays, for financial reasons and reasons relating
to the appreciation and image of the series have reduced their importance as a channel of publishing, but there are large differences between the universities. In one field, however, the university publication series have retained their position: they are the main channel of publishing doctoral dissertations. Indeed, most dissertations are published in university series. The only exception is the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki, which does not have a series designated for doctoral dissertations. However, it is possible to publish a dissertation as an online departmental publication. The number of doctoral dissertations has multiplied significantly during the past decade as a result of for example the networked graduate school system supported by the Ministry of Education and the Academy of Finland (Dill et al. 2006). In sociology, however, the growth has been moderate, and presently approximately 20-25 doctoral dissertations are published annually. Sociology as a discipline is taught in ten universities in Finland (all of them are State universities) and doctoral dissertations can be accepted in all of them; nevertheless, approximately every third dissertation is accepted at the University of Helsinki and two in three dissertations are accepted in one of the universities in southern Finland: Helsinki, Tampere or Turku. The library circulation of the university publication series continues to be good, but the status of doctoral dissertations has changed. They no longer represent the top research among scientific publications in sociology, but tend rather to be considered as theses.

University campuses also host other publishers who are formally commercial but factually run by university researchers or student communities. Gaudeamus is a publisher owned by the Student Union of the University of Helsinki, and it focuses on publishing literature in the humanities and social and economic sciences. It gives out approximately 50 titles per year. Vastapaino, on the other hand, is a Tampere-based publishing house owned by a cooperative society of over 2000 members. The emphasis lies on scientific and non-fictional literature in social and economic sciences and the publishing house gives out approximately 20 titles a year. Also other university campuses host similar publishing houses, although they tend to be smaller in size. They are significant producers of translated literature, textbooks and culture and social criticism. Translated literature is increasingly dependant on small university presses, as is social criticism published in the form of a book. When considering the classics of sociology, at least the works of Durkheim, Weber, Marx and Simmel have been translated into Finnish. Many of the translations of Marx were published by the historical, Moscow-based publishing house Edistys (=Progress), and the linguistic quality of the translations can be criticised. Seppo Randell has made a significant contribution by translating the main works of Durkheim into Finnish. Also works by Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Jürgen Habermas, C.W. Mills, Thorstein Veblen, Alfred Schütz, Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, Zygmunt Bauman, Anthony Giddens, Ulrich Beck, Bruno Latour, Manuel Castells, Hannah Arendt, Mary Douglas, Stuart Hall and Eric Hobsbawm have been published in translation. Books by Richard Sennett are popular at the moment. It is obvious that the small publishers on Finnish university campuses are equivalent to the professional publishers of monographs in larger market areas (Coser, Kadushin & Powell 1982), and some of the small publishers may well develop into professional publishers in the future.

An overview of the publication activities of personnel in university departments of sociology and the distribution of publication types is presented in the following statistics on faculties of social and economic sciences (Table 1.). No department- or discipline-specific distributions are available and
publications in social sciences have only been distinguished as a separate type of publication in social and economic sciences since 2000. The existence of the statistics and their becoming more detailed is an indication of tightening university control and the commodification of publishing.

Table 1. Publications (titles) by personnel in Departments of Social Sciences in 2000 and 2006.

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<th>2000</th>
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<td><strong>Published in Finland:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles (refereed)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles (in compilations)</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>University series</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total in Finland</strong></td>
<td>374</td>
<td>496</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Published abroad:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles (refereed)</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles (in compilations)</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total abroad</strong></td>
<td>197</td>
<td>309</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>571</td>
<td>805</td>
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The statistics reflect the versatility of the publication types, the small proportion of the universities' own publication series and, most evidently, the increase in the number of publications. The percentage of titles published in Finland, approximately 60 percent, has remained the same ever since the mid-1990s. The trend is affected by university and department evaluations becoming increasingly widespread.

**The Institutional Sector**

A vast number of specialised research institutes have been established in Finland, and these are referred to as sectoral research institutes. Their primary responsibilities include carrying out commissioned research in the field of their specialisation. In sociological research, the earliest research institute was probably the *Social Research Institute of Alcohol Studies*, which was established in 1950. It was founded by the State Alcohol Monopoly, and therefore it also enjoyed generous funding. The research institute was specialised in methods and measuring and it had its own publication series. Many well-established and recognised sociologists were among the researchers of the now closed down institute. Besides the Academy of Finland, another powerful community in Finnish sociological research is formed by alcohol researchers.
The National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, the National Health Institute, the Occupational Health Institute, the National Research Institute of Legal Policy and the National Consumer Research Centre are all examples of sectoral research institutes that employ sociologists and whose publication series and journals include sociological research. Next to the university publication series, they are also the second largest channel for publishing doctoral dissertations. The circulation of the institute publications varies; however, their circulation in libraries, offices and associations can, at best, reach even significant numbers. The transition from the welfare state to the competition state has raised discussion about the efficiency and need for sectoral research institutes. The institutes themselves have underscored their role in producing innovations and social innovations necessary for the ‘competition state’.

In addition to institutes integrated into state administration or closely affiliated to it, also university departments can operate similarly to sectoral research institutes. The Institute for Social Research affiliated with the University of Tampere has a long history, reaching all the way to the 1940s, in producing research in social and economic sciences, whereas the Work Research Centre of the same university is a young research unit. The Finnish Social Science Data Archive, FSD, on the other hand, is a new form of service designed to operate alongside the Helsinki-based Statistics Finland. Moreover, the University of Helsinki hosts e.g. the Finnish Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies and the Christina Institute for Women’s Studies; the University of Jyväskylä hosts the Institute for Educational Research; and the University of Joensuu is home to the Karelian Institute. The institutes listed here - and the smaller institutes not listed here – all have their own publication series and their researchers are often among the top experts in the field, with extensive publishing activity in other forums as well. One can always raise the question of the relationship between the sectoral research institutes and university departments; as well as around the relationship of sociological theory and applied research.

Textbooks and Their Significance

Textbooks can often have a central status in small language areas and their book markets, and this is also the case in the field of sociology in Finland. The first edition of Sosiologia (Sociology) by Erik Allardt and Yrjö Littunen was published in 1958, and the fifth edition came out in 1984. The work has a pluralistic approach with a moderate structural-functional orientation. The work also constitutes a presentation of Finnish sociological research and Finnish society as a whole. In 1983, after Yrjö Littunen fell ill, Allardt published a new version, Sosiologia I (Sociology I), which had its sixth edition published in 1995. The concepts and references underwent a constant modernisation, but the structural approach of the book remained intact. The work can also be regarded as the major trend or paradigm in Finnish sociology up until the 1980s.

Johdatus sosiologiaan (Introduction to Sociology) (1987) by Pekka Sulkuinen with its eight editions has had a significant status in the field, although it cannot be considered a similar trendsetter or constructor of paradigm as the book by Allardt and Littunen. International references and presentation of the scholarship considered important for a sociologist clearly pass over Finnish research and research into Finnish society. The basic pluralistic approach does not fall far from the preceding textbooks, although the concept of culture and cultural research are given bigger foothold. This line of development is continued in the new basic textbook Sosiologia (Sociology)
(2004) by Kimmo Saaristo and Kimmo Jokinen. This is a concise presentation of different social forms of interaction and especially a presentation of the differences between the traditional and the modern. Textbooks on specific fields of sociology, e.g. in Kasvatussosiologia (Sociology of Education) by Antikainen, Rinne & Koski (2000), Terveyssoziologia (Sociology of Health) by Karisto, Lahelma & Rahkonen (1992) and Johdatus perhesosiologiaan (Introduction to Family Sociology) by Jallinoja (1985), have managed better to maintain a focus on Finnish research and society.

Alongside Allardt and Littunen’s Sosiologia, Antti Eskola’s (1962) textbook on sociological research methods dominated the markets and teaching for two decades. It can be labelled as a representative of moderate positivism. Qualitative data and cultural research began to emerge in the 1980s (Alasuutari 1993), but their use was not left without criticism (Töttö 2000).

What is noteworthy about these textbooks is the fact that they are all published by the biggest commercial publisher in Finland. The textbook market is large and profitable enough for a commercial publisher. The status of a textbook is legitimised not only by the name of the author, but also by the title. In Finnish sociology, that title is Sosiologia.

The monopoly of big commercial publishers is, however, being brought down. For example, the textbook on the sociology of age by Sankari and Jyrkämä (2001) and the general presentation of Finnish demography by Koskinen, Martelin, Notkola, Notkola & Pitkänen (2006) are published by the small campus-based publishers introduced above. In this connection, I would like to mention two pioneering protagonists in these fields: Marjatta Marin (2000), a pioneer of sociology of age and social gerontology; and Tapani Valkonen (1993), a pioneer of demography and social epidemiology.

The Message of Monographs

Publishing can be regarded as mediation of ideas through publishers, who also act as gatekeepers (Coser, Kadushin & Powell 1982). The articles by Allardt (1994) and Alapuro (1995) give an overview of the Finnish field of sociology and especially of the Finnish monograph production up to the mid-1990s. Up until the mid-1990s, the production of monographs was abundant both in terms of their numbers and topics. What, then, are the ideas of Finnish society introduced in the most significant monographs and extensive edited volumes of the past years?

At least one idea and topic of heated discussion is easy to bring forward, the Nordic model. Finland has developed into a Nordic welfare state later than the rest of the Nordic countries, but is it also turning into a competitive state faster than its neighbours? Manuel Castells and Pekka Himanen (2002) seem to believe in a ‘virtuous circle’ of the techno-economic innovations and the welfare state, and for example Risto Heiskala, Pertti Alasuutari, Raimo Blom and Asko Suikkanen consider the change to be well on its way already (Heiskala & Luhtakallio 2006; Blom, Melin & Pyöriä 2002; Suikkanen 2001). The focus of social policy has changed (Julkunen 2001), although the basic structures of the welfare state remain intact. This change naturally affects families as well, but it has not been able to change the significance of family as an institution (Jallinoja 2006; Alestalo & Flora forthcoming). So far, the change has not been as clear in education or at least not...
in the general education system that excels in PISA and IALS assessments and where the students still have space and support for motivated learning (Antikainen 2007; Gordon & Lahelma 2000; Rinne 1998). Paradoxically enough, the discussion about the Nordic model is becoming heated not only in social policy, but also in education and economics. It should be noted here that the monographs also cover themes that are relevant outside the Nordic countries and Europe (Sabour 2001; Riska & Wegar 1993).

Another easily discernable idea and target of social criticism is old and yet in change. Through the “new consumerism”, the ecological crisis questions and changes the modernisation of both production and consuming (Massa 1994; Rannikko 1996; Sulkunen 1997; Wilenius 1997).

Referring merely to these two central themes, I have had to resort to referencing edited publications and articles. This reflects inherent changes in publishing: not solely or primarily the change in the publishers per se, their mergers and so forth, but also the changes in the working conditions of researchers/authors.

Conclusion

Because Finland is a small language and market area, state support and control and the working conditions of university researchers are the central prerequisites of publication production in Finland. The production of articles is expanding and improving in quality, although the contents of the articles seem to suffer from becoming rather one-sided. The production of monographs in social and economic sciences is more extensive than in many other fields, but it is increasingly dominated by doctoral dissertations and translated literature. One cannot escape the fact that books are being treated as commodities.

Note 1. Before the introduction of the ISBN system, the definition of a book was not an unambiguous one. According to a UNESCO definition for statistics, a book is a printed, non-periodical publication of at least 49 pages excluding the covers.

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References:


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