

Editorial note: National social science in global society

Welcome to this fifth volume of *Research on Finnish Society* (RFS). Indeed, already five years have passed since the very first volume of this journal. However, the original idea of establishing our journal was coined more than seven years ago. This may seem like a long time for many of us, therefore it is important to ask what has changed in academic publishing over these years.

In our opinion, social science research published in Finnish journals was on a down whirl spiral in the early 2000s, both the readership and authorship in national publications diminishing. The main reason for that was that the most prominent Finnish scholars were already aiming at publishing in the international journals. These scholars were increasingly collaborating internationally and also sharing their research results and interpretations globally.

In the mid-2000s there were no longer a mass of 'enlightened laymen' who would be interested in educating themselves on social scientific literature. Moreover, the topics themselves covered in national journals were becoming more and more obscure from the point of view of the general public interest. The internationally oriented academics were merely reading and citing studies published in international outlets.

The situation was particularly unfortunate for those who were in the beginning of their academic careers and aiming at conducting research and seeking research funding independently of their senior colleagues. For them, like for many others, there was no point of publishing in Finnish in the journals that were simply not read. In addition, the threshold for publishing in the top impact international periodicals was also too high, especially for those working solely on Finnish empirical data.

The situation described above has not changed much. We continue to have national and international journals, which have different authors and different readers. However, there are still many scholars who are content with sharing their research outcomes with their national colleagues. In one small country there are often less than a handful of researchers working on similar topics.

RFS was established in order to provide a medium for the authors interested in publishing and disseminating their original research contributions to wider than just national audiences. In particular, we were hoping that graduate students across the social sciences would have found our journal. We are pleased to notice that this has come true. About half of our published research articles have been authored or co-authored by graduate students. Many of the articles

published in RFS have also appeared as articles in PhD theses. In these respects, RFS has established its position as a national journal that is published internationally. In 2011, the journal was listed in the publication category of *Finnish Publication Forum Project*. The project aims at classifying the quality of the scientific publication channels, especially journals and book publishers. We hope that our journal can contribute to this effort. In the future, the state funding of the Finnish Universities will partially depend on the amount of publications in the listed journals and publishing series.

This volume opens with an article by Mari K. Niemi. Her articles investigate the result of the Finnish parliamentary elections in 2011 in which the *True Finns*, a Finnish populist and nationalist political party, won the elections and boosted its parliamentary power in national politics. Niemi focuses her analysis on the populist leadership and media strategies of the party's leader, Timo Soini, during the campaigning. The primary data of this article are based on dozens of news stories published in national papers in the spring of 2011.

In the second article, Anniina Kaittila studies the monetary conflicts within co-residential unions in Europe, using the second wave of European Social Survey data from 2004/2005. Most of the previous studies on monetary conflicts within households have applied US data. The European context allows for testing the influence of the institutional differences, and in this case the importance of the gender equality and female labor force participation.

The third article is written by Pekka Mustonen. He analyzes the variation in happiness in the five cities of the Helsinki metropolitan area using welfare survey collected in 2008. Despite of being geographically close to each other, there is a considerable amount of socio-economic and structural differences between the cities. Although most of the variation in happiness appears to be connected to the other subjective evaluations of the respondents, the differences appear to be partly associated with the structural background factors.

In addition to these three research contributions, the volume also offers an interesting discussion article. This article, written by James Hawdon, examines how the Internet and social media can nurture and encourage mass violence within a framework of one of the most widely supported criminological theories: differential association. Hawdon discusses whether or not the core principles of differential association

are met and potentially amplified through social media. He also gives an empirical example of the interconnectedness of so called hate groups in the context of Finnish information society.

The purpose of Research on Finnish Society is to represent the productiveness of Finnish research focusing on relevant themes in social science. Naturally, it is up to the readers who decide whether or not our journal continues to serve its purpose also in the future volumes.

The editorial staff would like to wish warm and joyful summer to all our readers!

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