

# **õEarn YoøRespect!ö**

## *Respect in the Status Struggle of Finnish School Boys*

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What is respect among school boys, and how can it be earned? Reaching across disciplines, this paper contends that respect is a dimension of status, along with peer likeability and power position. Drawing on data from interviews and observation, the authors investigate the resources and strategies through which respect is earned and transformed as symbolic power, and examine violence, physicality, materiality, and performances closely as resources. According to the findings, respect among school boys is not about peer likeability: it refers, theoretically, to a self-oriented stance tied to power and masculine veneration. To build respect, which is based on supremacy, a schoolboy credibly combines and transforms the available resources as a symbolic resource of power through active self-project. It was found that the availability of resources and credible strategic use of resources was organized around a complex set of practices and structures both individual and institutional.