



VALTIOTIETEELLINEN YHDISTYS
STATSVETENSKAPLIGA FÖRENINGEN
FINNISH POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

15. Political citizenship and participation among immigrants in Europe

Puheenjohtajat: Päivi Pirkkalainen, paivi.pirkkalainen@jyu.fi

Hanna Wass, hanna.wass@helsinki.fi

Työryhmän kuvaus: European societies are currently witnessing an increasing number of immigrants who are mostly asylum seekers from war torn countries outside the EU. In addition, in many countries a large share of young citizens are descendants from migrants who settled in Europe several decades ago. In spite of this growing diversity, the contemporary European context is highly problematic in terms of social and political inclusion of immigrants. The societal atmosphere is characterized by growing xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments, represented by populist and radical right parties and various actors in civil society. In public discussion on immigration, much attention is paid to the vulnerability of migrants due to marginalization, and to radicalization as a potential outcome.

This interdisciplinary workshop addresses political citizenship and participation among people with migration background, closely linked to a core issue on accommodation of diversity and inclusion. We are particularly interested in the interplay between formal political involvement via elections and political parties and non-institutionalized politics including associations, boycotts, protests and internet activism. The panel invites papers dealing with questions such as how and via which channels migrants in Europe construct their political subjectivity and citizenship? To what extent formal political institutions (political parties, elections) have managed to include migrants? How is civic participation among migrants associated with political involvement and activities? Which type of issues mobilize political action among migrants? Finally, what kind of transnational aspects can be found in nation state based political participation? Theoretically-oriented papers and single-country empirical analyses are equally welcome, as well as cross-country comparisons.

Abstraktit:

Political Resocialization of Immigrants in Finland

A growing amount of migrants across the world are facing the process of becoming a member of a new society, which most often holds different traditions, values, and behavior than the migrants' country of origin. Thus the process of political resocialization has become an even more relevant question. While political socialization is one dimension of the broader socialization process whereby an individual becomes a member of a particular society, political resocialization refers to the process of political socialization followed by migration. Since the 1970s, political socialization has been seen as a lifelong process, affected by the impact of the environment and certain political occasions, which make people adjust their attitudes and behavior. At least four agents of political socialization, which determine individuals' political orientations, has been identified: family, peers, media and political events. Assuming that political socialization is a lifelong process, one might become optimistic about the possibility of political resocialization. Prevailing theories of political socialization, however, emphasize how early political learning deeply conditions later political learning. In my paper, I will illustrate the theoretical framework of the process of resocialization, and discuss about the agents of resocialization in the Finnish context.

Josefina Sipinen, Tampereen yliopisto, josefina.sipinen@uta.fi

Emigrant Representation and Overseas Participation: Evidence from Finland

Globalisation and increased mobility of people have led political terrain to become less confined within state territoriality, and political community has extended beyond state territories. Emigrant representation has become increasingly important and visible, albeit difficult topic, and re-evaluation of the means of emigrant political representation is necessary. The aim of this paper is to find out 1) Should Finnish emigrants have their own overseas constituency, and 2) How the representation of emigrants could be organised in homeland politics. Statistical analyses are based on a data collected from 1 067 Finnish emigrants in 2014. This paper demonstrates through logistic regression that overseas constituency has strongest support among emigrants who have lived longer time abroad as well as among emigrants who visit homeland less frequently. However, parliamentary representation is not the only way to organise emigrant representation in homeland politics. Possible inequality in parliamentary representation could be unravelled by three different means: by quotas and reserved seats; by surrogate representatives, or; by increasing the authority of NGOs, interest groups and lobbyist organisations. This study contributes to the fields of political and migrations studies, and the findings of this paper can be used to develop targeted interventions aimed at advancing emigrant representation.

Johanna Peltoniemi, Tampereen yliopisto, johanna.peltoniemi@staff.uta.fi

Migrant associations as actors in politics of presence? Cases of two Somali youth associations in Finland

This paper analyses the democratic role of migrant associations in Finland. The recent changes in the third sector towards increasing managerialism and service provision role in Finland has often been criticized for diminishing the democratic and advocacy function of associations, as many become working partners with the public sector or adopt logics of the private sector. These dynamics between different roles and functioning logics of associations are analysed in this paper through trajectories of two case study associations run by Somali youth in Finland. First aim of the paper is to analyse reasons and processes for the development of these organisations from voluntary based activities to established third sector organisations. Second aim is to examine to what extent, and in which forms associations that have become close partners of authorities in Finland are able to carry out the advocacy and interest representation function. The paper applies Pierre Rosanvallon's (2011, 187-202) concept "the politics of presence" and asks whether, and in which forms, two case study organisations can be seen as actors in politics of presence. The paper is based on the empirical data consisting of interviews with leaders of migrant background youth organizations and their partners, authorities in the city administration and other funding institutions. The data has been collected in different phases in between years of 2009-2014. The method applied in this paper is a case study method.

Päivi Pirkkalainen, Jyväskylän yliopisto, paivi.pirkkalainen@jyu.fi

Somalit aktiivisina kansalaisina

Suomen noin 16 000 somalinkielisten ryhmän yhteiskunnallinen osallistuminen on julkisessa keskustelussa jäänyt usein ongelmakeskeisen maineen alle. Tutkimuksessamme tarkastellaan Suomen somalien poliittista kiinnostusta mitattuna yhtäältä yhdistystoimintana ja toisaalta äänestysaktiivisuutena vuoden 2012 kunnallisvaaleissa. Analyysi perustuu kahteen eri tutkimusaineistoon. Äänestysaktiivisuutta on tutkittu Tilastokeskuksen vuoden 2012 kunnallisvaaleista tuottaman yksilötason rekisteriaineiston pohjalta. Lisäksi on hyödynnetty haastatteluaineistoa, joka on kerätty sosiologian alaan kuuluvaan väitöstutkimukseen Suomen somalien yhdistystoiminnasta (Pirkkalainen 2013). Tulokset osoittavat, että Suomen somalit ovat poliittisesti varsin aktiivisia niin järjestöosallistujina kuin äänestäjinäkin. Somalien yhdistykset ovat pääosin vapaaehtoisvoimin toimivia ja nojaavat usein yhden tai useamman aktiivin sitoutumiseen ja verkostoihin. Näin yhdistyskenttä on myös sangen dynaaminen ja jatkuvassa muutoksessa. Aktiivien väistyessä tai projektirahoitusten loppuessa yhdistysten toiminta hiipuu, mutta toisaalta uusia yhdistyksiä perustetaan ja vanhoja käynnistetään uudelleen. Yhdistykset toimivat useilla aihealueilla: niihin kuuluu esimerkiksi kotoutumiseen keskittyviä toimintoja, kuten kielikursseja ja tukea työllistymiseen, ja harrastustoimintaa omalla äidinkielellä. Varsinaisten somaliyhdistysten ohella monet somalitaustaiset toimivat aktiivisesti kantasuomalaisissa ja monikulttuurisissa yhdistyksissä. Somalitaustaisten äänioikeutettujen vaaliosallistuminen on puolestaan selvästi korkeampaa Virossa tai Venäjällä syntyneisiin verrattuna. Äänestysaktiivisuutta kuitenkin laskee Somaliassa syntyneiden äänioikeutettujen sosioekonominen asema, joka on heikko paitsi syntyperäisiin suomalaisiin, myös

muihin ulkomaalaistaustaisiin äänioikeutettuihin verrattuina. Kun kaikkien sosioekonomisen aseman mittareiden (koulutus, ammattiluokka, tulot ja asunnon omistaminen) yhteisvaikutus on otettu huomioon, somalien äänestystodennäköisyys ylittääkin syntyperäisten suomalaisten osallistumistason.

Päivi Pirkkalainen, yhteiskuntatieteiden ja filosofian laitos, Jyväskylän yliopisto,
paivi.pirkkalainen@jyu.fi

Hanna Wass, politiikan ja talouden tutkimuksen laitos, Helsingin yliopisto, hanna.wass@helsinki.fi

Marjukka Weide, yhteiskuntatieteiden ja filosofian laitos, Jyväskylän yliopisto,
marjukka.weide@jyu.fi

Electoral Behavior of Black African Immigrants in Finland in 2012 Municipal Elections

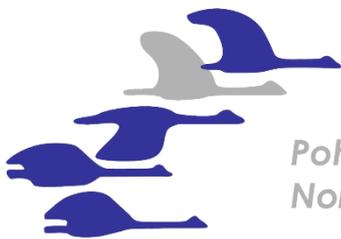
Electoral behavior of immigrant groups in Finland has received little attention in research. This leaves us with little information on how they behave during elections, especially municipal elections where many have political rights. This paper examines this behavior during 2012 municipal elections using Black African immigrants as case study. The focus is on five municipalities - Jyväskylä, Tampere, Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa - where majority of Black Africans live. Data was collected using qualitative in-depth interviews with these immigrants. Findings reveal that the determinants of their electoral behavior vary, with racism, ethnicity and so-called economic rationality topping the list. This is somewhat also related to important indices such as socioeconomic factors, as well as relatively less discussed determinants such as time, disinterest, perceiving municipal election as unimportant, and forgetfulness. The paper is analyzed using ethnicity and rational choice theories.

Thaddeus Chijioke Ndukwe, University of Jyväskylä, tcndukwe@gmail.com

Identity, Citizenship and Sense of Belonging among Muslim Youth in Finland

The aim of this research is to study how young Muslim men in Finland are negotiating their identity, citizenship and sense of belonging. On one hand, why and how some young Muslim men in Finland become radicalized? On that other hand, which factors support the development of positive identities as Muslims and Finnish citizens, and protect them from violent extremism? Identities of young Muslims in Western countries are questioned, and their claims for being citizens and Muslims are often not acknowledged, which causes a sense of alienation. Regardless, most young Muslims in the West do not marginalize nor radicalize, but do well in their everyday life. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to ask what the factors that produce resilience are. Present research will study the Muslim youth that are doing well in schools or employment, and who are active in their communities. Also those who are facing challenges in their lives, or who may be drop-outs and socially segregated. The research will use participatory and ethnographic methods to collect the data. The participants will be young Muslim men (18-30 years of age) from different ethnic backgrounds, mostly representing the second generation immigrants.

Abdisatar Gelle, University of Helsinki, abdisatar.gelle@helsinki.fi



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