



Symposium on Agency
June 6-7, 2013,
University of Helsinki
Programme

Thursday, 9.30-18.30

9.30-11.30

Mustafa Emirbayer (University of Wisconsin): Racial Agency. Comments and discussion
(Commentators Anna-Maija Castrén and XX)

11.30-12.30 Lunch break

12.30-14.30

Suvi Ronkainen (University of Lapland): Acts, deeds and intentions: formulating violent agency

Anna-Maija Castrén (University of Helsinki): Becoming “us”: gender, class and the role of agency in the social networks of newly weds

Elina Paju (University of Helsinki): Humble ground - Exploring agency in the everyday life of children's day care

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-17.00

Kari Mikko Vesala (University of Helsinki): The notion of ‘agency for principal’, entrepreneurship, and social psychological theories of agency

Jarkko Pyysiäinen (MTT Agrifood Research Finland): Effective agents without a cause? Diffusion and reception of entrepreneurship discourse as a relational process

Miira Niska (University of Helsinki): Whose agents? Re-thinking entrepreneurial agency

17.10 – 18.30

Pekka Sulkunen (University of Helsinki): Agency and the saturated society

Petri Ylikoski (University of Helsinki): Agency as a distraction in social theory

19.30 Symposium Dinner at Wellamo (For the speakers)

Friday, 9.30-18.30 (19.30)

9.30-11.30

Margaret Archer (Centre d'Ontologie Sociale at l'Ecole Polytechnique Fédéral Lausanne (EPFL)): The Relational vs. Plural Subject. Comments and discussion. (Commentators Antti Gronow and Suvi Ronkainen)

11.30-12.30 Lunch break

12.30-14.30

Turo-Kimmo Lehtonen (University of Helsinki & University of Tampere) & Jyri Liukko (University of Helsinki): Insurance as a Machine for Producing Exclusion and Solidarity.

Olli Pyyhtinen (University of Turku): From Agency to Agencements, and From Materiality to Materials

Marja-Liisa Honkasalo (University of Turku): Ambiguous Agency

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-16.20

Kaisa Ketokivi (University of Helsinki) & Mianna Meskus (University of Helsinki): The Dilemma of 'the Capable Agent'

Terhi Utriainen (University of Helsinki): Between choice and destiny: enchanted agency with angels

16.30-18.00 Final Conversation: Why a symposium on agency and what have we learned?

18.00-19.00 Wine Reception

The symposium tackles one of the core themes of social research by addressing the dynamics of agency in a variety of settings. Contributions from sociology, anthropology and social psychology are invited to give an open-ended, fluid and case-sensitive insight to theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches to different aspects, modalities and forms of agency in our current society and culture. Understood relationally, agency can take multiple forms and be located and articulated in multiple points within the social organization and relations in which the individual and collective actors are embedded. The seminar invites contributions from a wide array of empirical and theoretical work addressing the question of agency in relation to its historical and structural modalities, life fragilities and other aspects of personhood and social life. Empirically, the seminar covers issues from intimate relations, families and ethnicity to vulnerable lives, entrepreneurship and practices of governance.

Further information:

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