



PROGRAM ARBETSGRUPP 10: KRITISK VÄLFÄRDSFORSKNING

SESSION 1 ONSDAG 16 MARS 13:30 – 15:00

13.30-13.35

Kort välkomstinformation

Tid: 13:35-13:55

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*Transforming the 'industrial mentality'? Scenes from a youth
activation centre*

In a time when the very sense of self and aspirations of welfare clients are increasingly targeted and subjected to intervention (cf. Rose, 1989: 11), the chapter explores how the supranational 'active inclusion' policy is managed and resisted locally in a pronounced industrial community that for generations has nurtured working-class, and thus presumably active, bodies and subjectivities. Tampering with high rates of unemployment, the municipality heeded to the European Social Fund (ESF) in order to organise a youth activation centre targeting young adults aged 16-29 who were neither studying nor working. Drawing on ethnographic observations conducted inside the centre, it is shown how the discourse on activation is 'tugged down' and translated to fit local circumstances. More specifically, comparing two projects organised in the centre, it analyses the talk and signs employed by coaches in order to motivate participants to become active and self-reliant selves, as well as the responses given by participants whom, it is shown, may not be as susceptible to hail certain subject-positions as the governmentality-inspired literature on activation sometimes suggests.

Tid: 13:55-14:15

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Unequal partners in a 'partnership model'- psychologists' perceptions of parents' participation in the diagnostic process of autism spectrum disorder

In the last few decades, there has been a call for a 'family-based' approach and a 'partnership model' that promotes parents' participation in children's autism spectrum disorder (ASD henceforth) diagnosis and care (Lilley, 2011; Angel & Solomon, 2017). This approach assumes that parents' agency in the process will level out the power imbalance between professionals and clients within health care. However, the call for parents' participation in diagnosis and care may disregard the very foundation of the relations between parents and professionals, based on specialized, psychiatric, and psychological knowledge, governed by the professional actor.

Initial findings from a discourse analysis of semi-structured interviews with psychologists who perform an ASD diagnostic evaluation and establish an ASD diagnosis in children under the age of 10 years indicate that psychologists regard parents as "partners" as long as they comply with a psychiatric and psychological understanding of their child's challenges. The analysis identified that: 1. For a diagnosis to be established for a specific child, parents must want the diagnosis, cooperate with the professional throughout the diagnostic process, and accept ASD diagnosis for their child. 2. In opposing or rejecting ASD diagnosis or aspects of the diagnostic label throughout the diagnostic process, parents may risk being viewed as "in denial" of their child's challenges, as having a "hidden" ASD diagnosis themselves, or worse- in a refusal of resources and care for their children, as diagnosis acts as "door" for securing interventions, treatments, and care for different struggles. Drawing on the new approach to the sociology of expertise and the understanding of expertise as a network which spread 'not through 'monopoly' but through 'generosity' (Eyal, 2013: 873), these findings suggest that such a 'family-based' or 'partnership model' approach within ASD diagnosis in children, which requires parents' participation and their comprehension and acceptance of the professional's expertise to secure treatments to fulfill their child's needs, strengthens the psychiatric medical discourse, and expands autism expertise. Further, essentially, such 'partnership model,' rather than opening up for parents' agency within the diagnostic process, maintain the power imbalance within health care relations in transforming their effects to subtle and more influential ones, as parents act according to normative behaviors and codes defined by the professional body.

References



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Tid: 14:20-14:40

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Disclosures of intimate partner violence in child maintenance cases

Following a change in the Swedish regulations for child maintenance in 2016, the default rule is that separated parents themselves should agree on a sum that the liable parent pays to the resident parent, as well as practically manage the financial transfer. However, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (SSIA) can intervene if there is a history of intimate partner violence that makes such contacts problematic. Where this is the case, the abused parent must disclose their experiences to an SSIA officer for institutional assessment. This paper uses conversation analysis (CA) to examine 649 calls to the SSIA's customer service, specifically investigating calls where concerns are raised regarding the implementation of the new regulation and the prospects of having to interact with the other parent. The analysis shows that parents' descriptions of violence and conflict tend to be implicit and non-specific, which confirms what previous research on violence talk in other institutional settings has found. In our data, orientations to violence are built in a step-wise manner, incrementally adding information that makes violence inferentially available to the SSIA officer. In most cases, however, call-takers respond minimally and do not treat violence as relevant, and callers must do considerable work to establish it as such. In the few instances where call-takers ask about violence, it is done in a way that discourages further disclosure of such experiences, placing additional interactional burden on the parents. Our findings highlight how the maintenance regulations are problematic in cases where there is a history of abuse, and point to the need for training of SSIA staff, both in recognizing variations of intimate partner violence and for



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developing communication skills relevant for facilitating disclosures
of such experiences.

Key words:

Intimate partner violence (IPV), social insurance, child maintenance,
conversation analysis (CA)



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SESSION 3 TORSDAG 17 MARS 11:00 – 12:30

Tid: 11:00-11:20

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Välfärdstjänster på en kvasimarknad - Familjens och marknadens förändrade roll för omsorg och sjukvård

Hälsa- och sjukvården utgör en stor del av det svenska välfärdssystemet, ett system vars grundläggande principer bland annat är universalism och solidaritet. Tjänsterna erbjuds av professionella aktörer utanför familjens reciproka relationer, baseras på individens behov och ska uppfylla vissa grundkrav oberoende av marknadens nycker. Välfärdsnivån för en person ska inte vara beroende av familjens välvilja och inte heller av personens yrke eller ekonomiska förutsättningar.

Under större delen av 1900-talet har hälsa- och sjukvården organiserats offentligt. Något som i efterdyningarna av 1970-talets åtstramningar har kritiserats för att vara kostsamt, byråkratiskt, paternalistiskt och ineffektivt samt inbjuda till överkonsumtion. Men, sedan slutet av 1980-talet erbjuds tjänsterna på vad som närmast kan beskrivas som en kvasimarknad - en marknad som varken är fri eller helt reglerad. På denna marknad finns det möjligheter att välja leverantörer som fritt kan etablera sig. Kvaliteten av tjänsterna mäts genom resultat och på förhand definierade variabler för vad som är viktigt för verksamheten. Detta har medfört att de grundläggande principerna för och driften av välfärdstjänsterna har utarmats.

För att förstå denna utveckling och dessa utmaningar utgår jag från hur äldrevården i en medelstor svensk stad organiseras. Det empiriska materialet består dels av enkäter med äldre som erbjudits en plats på ett äldreboende och dels av intervjuer med administratörer och biståndshandläggare. En analys av relevanta policy- och styrdokument såsom lagen om valfrihetssystem och lagen om offentlig upphandling utförs även.

Det empiriska materialet visar att 1) familjens betydelse för individens välfärdsnivå är viktig, inte bara som ställföreträdande och obetalda vårdgivare utan de är betydelsefulla aktörer i valprocessen. 2) Relationen mellan leverantör av tjänst och mottagare reifieras då de



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äldre betraktas som kunder vilka i sig skapar ett marknadsvärde åt tjänsteleverantörerna. Materialet visar också att 3) det finns en konflikt mellan effektivitet och kvalitet i arbetet med att organisera och hantera begränsade offentliga resurser.

I och med avregleringen blir familjen och marknaden centrala faktorer för hur hälso- och sjukvården fungerar. Dock inte som garantier för bristande kvalitet utan något som bidrar till att understödja en avancerad form av ekonomisering av välfärdssektorn.

Tid: 11:20-11:40

Richard Gäddman Johansson

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Att hantera sårbarhet i vardagen under ett LSS i kris

Detta papper syftar till att upplysa om och delvis utmana hur forskare och akademiker inom sociologi och andra samhällsvetenskaper tenderar till att närma sig frågor som berör mänsklig sårbarhet.

Termen sårbarhet är förekommande inom en rad olika forskningsområden, men det råder delade meningar om dess begreppsliga innebörd likväl mellan som inom dessa områden. Pappret redogör kort för, och presenterar resultat från, en etnografisk studie som genomfördes vid tre bostäder med särskild service enligt lagen om stöd och service till vissa funktionshindrade, 9§ 9 (LSS 1994), och som belyste hur sårbarhet kom till uttryck och hanterades i vardagsinteraktioner mellan stöd användare och stödarbetare i dessa verksamheter (Gäddman Johansson 2021).

I studien fann man att stöd användarna och stödarbetarna kom att uttrycka och hantera sårbarhet på olika sätt och i olika ändamål. Återkommande var dock att både uttryck för sårbarhet (egens eller andras) och försök till att hantera sårbarhet (egens eller andras) var nära sammanknutna med föreställningar om och varseblivningar av hot mot individers hälsa och välmående samt personliga säkerhet och frihet. I studien uppdagades det att institutionella krav på hög grad av transparens, ansvarighet och enhetlighet i de sysslor och aktiviteter som stödarbetarna och stöd användarna utövade framhölls utgöra de formellt sanktionerade och verksamhetsföredragna tillvägagångssätten för att hantera och reducera både stöd användarnas och stödarbetarnas uttrycka eller uppfattade sårbarheter. Vidare pekade studien dessutom på hur dessa strategier för att hantera uttryck för sårbarhet i vissa



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sammanhang fick en oönskad omvänd effekt, där samma krav snarare kom att ses som bidragande till att förstärka och framhäva såväl stödandvändarnas som stödarbetarnas uppfattningar om sig själva och varandra som särskilt sårbara.

Pappret lyfter fram dessa resultat och diskuterar dem i relation till konferensens övergripande teman. Närmare bestämt i förhållande till hur erfarenheter av kriser (i det här fallet interaktionella, relationella och organisatoriska kriser med bäring på det vardagliga givandet och tagandet av stöd och service vid bostad med särskild service enligt LSS) kan ses väcka frågor och utgöra grunden för nya kunskaper om hur sociala problem och utsatthet kan förebyggas. Detta är högst relevant, i synnerhet med tanke på att både dem som arbetar med att tillhandahålla stöd och service och de som erhåller dessa typer av välfärdstjänster vanligen beskrivs inom forskning på området som särskilt utsatta grupper vars medlemmar är mottagliga för skada i olika former.

Nyckelord: sårbarhet, sårbarhetshantering, social interaktion, omsorgsarbete, stöd och service, funktionsnedsättning

Tid: 11:45-12:05

Frida Höglund

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Planning for an uncertain future: Advice giving in digital welfare encounters

Digitalization has opened up new options for interaction between clients and welfare organizations in addition to traditional types of encounters, such as telephone and face-to-face. Advice giving is an important task for welfare representatives, which stresses professional authority. While advice has been examined extensively as an activity initiated by professionals, technological developments today enable clients to initiate advice giving interaction through digital channels. This presentation focuses on this aspect of advice giving as a welfare activity by examining clients' use of hypothetical questions to welfare representatives in digital text-based interaction. Hypothetical questions are related to 'what-if'-situations. While their usefulness for professionals has been shown, for example in inviting clients to reflect on morally delicate issues, clients' use of hypothetical questions have received limited attention, and little is known about how advice is



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sought in text-based digital interaction. The presentation draws on conversation analysis to examine hypothetical questions in a corpus of 378 email exchanges on the topic of parental leave between parents and social insurance officers at the Swedish Social Insurance Agency. Initial findings show that clients use hypothetical questions to plan for an uncertain future. In particular, they use the questions to elicit confirmation that their planning is in line with parental social insurance rules, but also in relation to eventual unexpected situations, such as sick leave or job loss. Insurance officers match clients by responding with hypothetical responses (e.g., ‘If...then...’) but they also use non-hypothetical responses. Regardless, insurance officers tend to include descriptions of rules and regulations, in which both personal pronouns (e.g., ‘you’) but also generic pronouns (e.g., ‘one’) are being used. The paper discusses these practices in terms of institutional goals related to (im)personalization and objectivity. It also makes visible how clients’ situations are conditioned by rules and regulations, and how these are realized in everyday digital encounters between clients and professionals, contributing with knowledge on how service provision in the welfare sector is conducted in the digital era.

Tid: 12:05-12:25
Jessica Wide
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Föräldrars röster om arbete för att motverka orättfärdiga skillnader i barns hälsa, trygghet och läran

Sverige har gått från att vara ett av världens mest jämlika länder till att under de senaste åren ha en av de brantaste kurvorna vad gäller ökad ojämlikhet. De livsvillkor under vilka barn växer upp i Sverige präglas alltmer av ojämlika ekonomiska och sociala förutsättningar. Barns skolresultat har återigen blivit alltmer beroende på föräldrarnas utbildningsbakgrund och boendesegregation i kombination med skolval förstärker barnens ojämlika uppväxtvillkor. Inom ramen för social hållbarhet finns i Sverige och världen idéer om att motverka orättfärdiga skillnader i människors livsvillkor. I denna artikel presenteras resultat från en studie som följt en kommun i Sveriges arbetet med att motverka barns ojämlika uppväxtvillkor. I ett pilotprojekt där kommunens enheter för grundskola, vuxenutbildning, socialtjänst och fritidsverksamheter arbetar i tvärprofessionella team gentemot två grundskolor försöker kommunen verka för barnens rätt



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till jämlik trygghet, jämlik hälsa och jämlikt lärande. Fokus i artikeln är på röster från familjer som erbjudits tvärprofessionellt stöd från kommunen om hur de upplevt stödet och vad de anser varit skälet till stöd.

SESSION 4 TORSDAG 17 MARS 15:00 – 16:30

Tid: 15:00-15:20

Johanna Finnström
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What is fair? A study of non-resident parents who dispute maintenance obligations in Swedish Administrative courts

Lone-parent households are the most economically vulnerable family group in Sweden and almost a third of all lone-parent households in Sweden have incomes under the relative poverty threshold. To many of these households, financial family policy such as child maintenance is an essential source of income (Försäkringskassan, 2009; 2018). Child maintenance is in essence a transfer from the non-residential parent to the residential parent even when administered through the family policy. Previous research suggest child maintenance to have a negative impact on child poverty if paid and received (Hakovirta, 2011; Skinner et al., 2007). The question for this paper is what factors hamper successful maintenance arrangements and whether gendered parenthood is important in understanding arguments of non-compliance. Child maintenance payments can be handled in two ways in Sweden: as maintenance support regulated by the Social Insurance Act (sw. Socialförsäkringsbalken 2010:110) or as maintenance allowance regulated by the Parents' Code (sw. Föräldrabalken 1949:381). Maintenance support is administered by the Swedish Social Insurance Agency who transfers money from the non-resident to the resident parent, while maintenance allowance builds on private agreements and transfers directly between parents. Lone parents in Sweden have formerly been able to choose freely between the two alternatives. Maintenance support has been popular as bases for calculation are transparent, the sum is fixed and payments guaranteed. It has also been perceived to reduce conflict (SOU 2011:51, Schiratzki & Singer 2017; Schiratzki 2002). Since 2016, however, maintenance policies in Sweden changed and the option of letting the Swedish Social Insurance Agency administer transactions is available only if



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there are special reasons. Consequently, maintenance payments have become increasingly dependent on private agreements. It is therefore important to get a better understanding of factors that influence the compliance of maintenance payments in Sweden. This paper adds to that understanding by sharing insights from non-coresident parents who dispute their maintenance support duties in Swedish Administrative courts. A gender perspective is used to investigate whether mothers and fathers who are not living with their child have different understandings of their maintenance obligations and how this relates to parenting norms on the individual and policy level. I will further investigate how parents' arguments for not paying maintenance corresponds to their legal obligations. The latter being especially important since a coherence between legal definitions of maintenance obligations and parent's perceptions of the like are essential for privately agreed payments to work (Smyth & Weston, 2005).

The data build on unique information from parents who dispute maintenance support obligations in Swedish Administrative courts. Court orders from all of Sweden's twelve administrative courts during 2014-2019 have been collected (2977 court orders). A random sample of 1841 court orders have been coded manually to create a quantitative data set used for statistical analysis.



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Tid: 15:20-15:40

Elin Nilsson

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*Care decisions for older couples living with dementia -
persuasion processes in needs assessment meetings*

This presentation examines how social workers in needs assessment meetings balance divergent stances in older couples living with dementia who are applying for services from elder care. The Swedish Social Services Act (SFS, 2001:453) stipulates an individual perspective with self-determination, rather than a perspective rooted in relationships. Sweden also differs from many other countries in regards to autonomy for persons with dementia diagnoses. In practice, this means that relatives or a proxy lacks formal rights to intrude on the persons with dementia's right to self-determination in decisions about care services. However, at the same time social services shall offer support to family members who care for a close relative. In the study we benefit from conversation analytic methodology when analysing 18 needs assessment meetings with couples from four municipalities in Sweden. In the data, spouses in couples express diverging stances towards elder care services proposed by a social worker. The findings suggest that the social workers adopt persuasion processes to manage resistance from the spouses with dementia, and form alliances with the other spouse in the process. The persuasion process entailed several components which will be presented, those are: 'provide more information about the proposal', 'mitigating the proposal', 'positive framing of the proposal' and 'laying down conditions for the proposal'. The findings add to the critical debate on how social workers use discretion when constrained by institutional logics. Relational competence is needed to balance and coordinate supported decision making when assessing the needs of older couples living with dementia.

Tid: 15:45-16:05

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*Economic Abuse from Child and Youth Perspectives. A Review
of the Literature*



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Intimate partner violence (IPV) – typically men’s violence against women – is an issue of direct concern for children, even if the violence is not directed towards the child. A growing body of research has documented detrimental effects on children’s health, well-being, and cognitive development, when being exposed to IPV/domestic abuse. In recent decades, research has also explored children’s own perspectives and strategies to cope with being exposed to violence in families. Economic abuse (EA), however, is a form of violence which seldom are studied from a child perspective. Moreover, it is crucial to critically examine the state’s priorities and role in relation to EA and other manifestations of IPV. Research has established that the economic hardship caused violence and EA, are important obstacles for women to leave a violent partner. Furthermore, EA typically continues post separation, also when other forms of abuse have ended. This paper aims to explore existing knowledge on economic abuse from child and youth perspectives, drawing from childhood studies, interdisciplinary violence studies, critical social work and social policy studies. The research review is divided as follows: 1) Findings on children’s direct and indirect victimisation of EA; 2) Findings on EA in young people’s intimate relationships and in the context of honour related violence; 3) Findings on EA in relation to parenting, with discussions on possible implications for dependent children. In conclusion, suggestions for further research are put forward.

Tid: 16:05-16:25

Maria Norstedt

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Self-employment and disability – opportunities and barriers

People with disabilities that lead to reduced work capacity continue to stand far from the labor market in Sweden. This leads to social and economic vulnerability for the group. Self-employment can, in addition to empowerment and self-realization, offer a flexibility that enables support and establishment in the regular labor market for this group. At the same time self-employment involves high demands and risks. In addition, international studies have identified and addressed several barriers that people with disabilities face when they want to start and run their own business. However, there is a lack of current knowledge about what the situation looks like in the Swedish context. In my oral presentation at Sociologidagarna 2022, some preliminary findings from the ongoing study “Necessity or opportunity: Self-



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employment among people with disabilities that entail reduced work capacity” will be presented. The project’s aim is to identify and understand motives and factors that influence the conditions for business ownership by people with disabilities that entails reduced work capacity in the Swedish context.

A central point of understanding in the project is that individuals act within unequal power structures that entail both possibilities and limitations for their actions. The way support for self-employment and for people with disabilities is organized is a factor at the organizational and structural levels that needs to be investigated to obtain knowledge about the conditions of establishing oneself as a business owner who has some sort of disability. Policies and discourses about self-employment, entrepreneurship, and disability, as well as political guidelines in the areas of disability, the labor market, and social insurance are other factors at the structural level that can influence such conditions. To identify and understand the hindrances and the opportunities that influence the group's motivations and conditions for starting their companies, the research questions are investigated through a qualitative exploration of interviews of people with disabilities and of representatives from various organizations such as the Public Employment Agency and other collaborating actors such as Almi Business Partner and Nyföretagarcentrum.

Methodologically, the project builds upon institutional ethnography as developed by Dorothy Smith (2005). The starting point for institutional ethnographies (IE) is always in a group of people – here, the self-employed with disabilities entailing reduced work capacity – whose everyday lives, the local, are shaped by activities that take place in companies, institutions of the welfare state, or within professions, that is, in the extralocal (Smith, 2005). A goal of IE is to account for the way certain knowledge is subordinated to other forms of knowledge and to identify ruling relations. Ruling relations refers to 'practices of governing that depend on selecting, categorizing, and/or objectifying aspects of the social world in order to develop facts and knowledge upon which to base decisions' (Rankin, 2017:3). These practices are found and practiced in institutional processes, which requires an analytical shift from individuals' experiences to representatives' praxis, decisions, and use of discourses and texts (such as laws, assessment tools, job descriptions) in different organizations for example institutions in the welfare state (Smith, 2005).