
This study examines the professional listening of judges and attorneys working in the courtroom context. The study approaches the topic from the perspective of well-being at work and empowerment by focusing on optimal listening, professional listening competence, and listening as a management method of relational tensions occurring in professional communication relationships. The study consisted of four sub-studies in which professional listening in American and Finnish courtroom context was examined using a cross-cultural approach. The foci of these sub-studies were in optimal listening, relational tensions of listening and the management of them, the construction of professional listening competence, and the relation of this competence to well-being at work. The data were gathered from judges and attorneys who are still actively participating in work life in Finland and in the United States.

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This dissertation is a study of how ludonarrative videogames, videogames that combine game elements with narrative elements, express and convey meaning. This is done as part of game studies, a multidisciplinary approach to studying games. The purpose is twofold: to build a foundation for better understanding of meaning-making in games, and to provide game designers with tools for analyzing issues related to meaning. The study uses philosophical tools to analyze meaning in games. The philosophical hermeneutics of Hans-Georg Gadamer is used to compare the meaning-making in games to the interpretation of works of art. The theory of the interpretive process is based on the idea of the hermeneutic circle. Wittgenstein’s concept of language-games is used in examining how games should be defined and how their relations to each other should be understood. These philosophical methods are combined with the study of procedurality, narrativity and players. The dissertation consists of an introduction and five articles.

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This study explores self-expressions of English-speaking and Finnish online participants of celebrity gossip through five case studies (articles). Self-expressions are seen as evaluative and hence subjective comments that individuals share with other people. The aim is to better understand how the rhetoric of self-expressions in online celebrity gossip characterizes proximity (sameness) and distance (difference). The study is based on rhetorical criticism and it analyses self-expressions as persuasive texts in which online gossipers construct and control ethos (character) and become part of a community.


The purpose of this study is to investigate the complex interplay among governmental communications, the media and society in Finland from the perspective of professionalisation. Over the past 70 years, communications practices have expanded and changed, from propaganda to publicity, communications, diverse public management and promotion. Therefore, the significance of the media in the context of modernisation has also increased, and changes in the media have had a significant impact on government communications. In a modern media society, the role of government communications is focused on the power of definition, namely how information, motivations of preparation and decisions, and the positions of different parties are publicised. In addition, basic rights and the access to information principle create an ethical and professional foundation for all information officers in a constitutional state. The data used in the study consist of governmental communications norms and guidelines, as well as interviews with the heads of communications in ministries.


The purpose of this study is to understand and describe how to facilitate competent communication in leadership teamwork. Grounded in the premises of social constructionism and informed by such theoretical frameworks as coordinated management of meaning theory (CMM), dialogic organization development (OD), systemic-constructionist leadership, communication competence, and reflexivity, this study seeks to produce further insights into understanding leadership team communication, communication competence, and team facilitation as applied communication research. The study consists of five articles.


This study examines the changes in cultural journalism in newspapers in Finland between 1978 and 2008. The object of study is professionalism, its structures and the structural changes in a developing production environment and cultural landscape. Culture departments in newspapers formed the major forum for cultural
coverage during the research period. In the second half of the 20th century, an increasing amount of discourse concerned the crisis of cultural journalism and criticism. The crisis discourse formed the starting point for this study’s inquiry, particularly the question of whether the volume of cultural coverage and reviewing had decreased and whether the aesthetic consciousness of cultural journalism had become lower, as postulated. The study comprises five journal articles addressing the changes in arts and cultural journalism from different perspectives. In the introduction to the thesis, these different accounts are introduced into a professionalist structures model analysed in Pierre Bourdieu’s framework. The study presents a mixed-method approach using theoretical and methodological triangulation. The core of the empirical research consisted of data gathered through the systematic sampling of culture sections from five Finnish dailies. A quantitative content analysis was complemented and contextualized using data consisting of interviews with culture editors, ethnographical material and textual analysis.

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This study focuses on the role of the Finnish News Agency (Suomen Tietotoimisto, STT) in Finnish society from the mid of 1950s to the early 1980s. It falls in the fields of both media and political history. Primary sources, previous studies, memoirs and interviews were used to explore the role of STT in Finland and how it worked, why it was needed, and what it needed. The period examined in this study coincides with Urho Kekkonen’s 25-year period as the President of Finland.

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Within the last few decades, the videogame has become an important media, economic, and cultural phenomenon. Along with the phenomenon’s proliferation the aspects that constitute its identity have become more and more challenging to determine, however. The persistent surfacing of novel ludic forms continues to expand the conceptual range of ‘games’ and ‘videogames,’ which has already lead to anxious generalizations within academic as well as popular discourses. Such generalizations make it increasingly difficult to comprehend how the instances of this phenomenon actually work, which in turn generates pragmatic problems: the lack of an applicable identification of the videogame hinders its study, play, and everyday conceptualization. To counteract these problems this dissertation establishes a geneontological research methodology that enables the identification of the videogame in relation to its cultural surroundings. Videogames are theorized as ‘games,’ ‘puzzles,’ ‘stories,’ and ‘aesthetic artifacts’ (or ‘artworks’), which produces a geneontological sequence of the videogame as a singular species of culture, Artefactum ludus ludus, or ludom for short. The dissertation consists of an introduction and six articles.
Kauppi, Teemu. *Opettaja kiusattuna: peruskoulun opettajien kokemuksia vertaisrajat ylittävästä kiusaamisesta* [Bullied teachers: primary and lower secondary school teachers’ experiences of ‘cross-peer’ abuse]. Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2015. 132 p. ISBN 978-951-39-6201-2. The substantial corpus of school bullying research has focused on peer bullying among students of equal status. Research of workplace bullying has typically focused on peer bullying of employees by their colleagues (equal status) and of ‘power’ bullying by their superiors (higher status). In both institutional contexts, little attention has been paid to the unclassified type of bullying, in which lower status individuals within an institution bully higher status individuals. In educational institutions, e.g. schools, students and their parents hold comparatively lower status than the professional teachers. This form of bullying is known as ‘cross-peer’ abuse. The present study consists of four articles that examine the phenomenon of cross-peer abuse in educational institutions. The goal of the study was to investigate how the cross-peer abuse in schools manifests itself, with an emphasis on students directing abuse (bullying) at the teachers. The study focuses on the types of bullying, the characteristics of the students who engage in cross-peer bullying, the notions that teachers attribute for being targeted and the people with whom teachers share their experiences. The empirical data comes from an Internet questionnaire completed by teachers in Finland’s primary and lower secondary schools (N=215). The analyzed data consists of the responses of teachers who have experienced bullying by students and or their parents.


Western democracy is based on civil society and on the non-governmental organizations and social movements that operate at its core, offering opportunities for people to act, influence and network. Although interest in civil society has increased of late and research on the topic has become more active, the management and communications of non-governmental organizations remains a scantily researched area. This study examines the strategic management and related communications of a non-governmental organization from the point of view of management, members and clerical workers. The research data were generated in different phases of The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation s strategic working process during 1998-2010. The study is ethnographic and combines case study and (participative) action research methods.

This doctoral dissertation investigates ‘the human question’ in science fiction television. More specifically, it examines how ‘humanity’ is represented and (re)imagined in the original and remade (or re-imagined) versions of three North American science fiction television series: Battlestar Galactica, Bionic Woman and V. The questions asked are: What kind of bodies are represented as human and non-human and how do these representations participate in the construction of the cultural-historical, political and ethical understandings of humanity? What kinds of developments or changes, considering the norms and conditions of humanity, are found when comparing the re-imagined series to their original versions? Special attention is paid on the problematic, strange or queer occasions inherent in the norms and conditions, or definitions, of humanity.

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The research explores political humour in Finland at the beginning of the 21st century and uses the satirical television series The Autocrats as a case example. The series as well as other political entertainment programmes are part of a phenomenon which is identified as the entertainmentalization of politics. The processing of politics with the means of humour is nothing new, yet politics and politicians are increasingly explored in light of entertainment and humorous means of addressing political issues have become more frequent during the past decades. However, the relations between politics and humour may be articulated in different ways, and political humour should not be fundamentally labelled either as a way to maintain the status quo or as a way to undermine the prevailing social order. Examining political entertainment and related public debate deepens our understanding of political culture. The key research question of this study is how The Autocrats and related public debates participate in the production of the cultural conceptions of politics. The research is particularly located in the field of media culture, yet it also employs studies and debates from other disciplines.

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This dissertation studies critical factors, existing in communication from the perspective of supply chain actors, when operating in dyadic relationships. It integrates supply chain management and theories vital when concentrating on industrial networks and supply chain relationships with communication. The thesis has its basis in qualitative research. With one main contractor and its supply chain partners in-depth interviews were conducted. Interviewees represented different organizational levels, the main emphasis being among actual supply chain actors, e.g. boundary spanning people, whose ways of operating reflects the level of the collaboration and partnership in every-day business.
Additionally, two focus group discussions were organized, in order to update and prioritize factors found in in-depth interviews. The data gathered in this study points out the importance of relationship characteristics, that is, factors that were found as critical when operating in dyads, more specifically, in partnership relationships in supply chains.


The study deepens our understanding of workplace interculturality by focusing on the very interpersonal communication processes through which people’s different cultural memberships may surface at work. Informed by critical constructivism and ethnomethodology, the study seeks to develop insights into how people may perceive and perform interculturality across a variety of workplace arrangements, relationships and communication situations. The study comprises four articles. The first one is a critical review of intercultural workplace communication scholarship. The other three articles are empirical research reports that explore relational development, cultural identification and cultural knowledge sharing. They are respectively based on interviews with employees of a Finnish recruitment agency and metal workers recruited from Poland, interviews with female Russian immigrants in Finland performing interaction-intense knowledge work, and records of Skype™ chat conversations of a four-member team embedded in a Finnish organisation and dispersed in Finland and Russia.


This research assesses how eight Finnish nonpartisan newspapers, previously serving as political party voices, acted as opinion builders and attempted to exert influence on social issues and governmental decision-making on the editorial pages during the parliamentary elections of 2011 in Finland. The primary data consists of editorials and other editorial page articles, cartoons as well as eye-catching photographs published in Aamulehti, Helsingin Sanomat, Ilkka, Kaleva, Karjalainen, Keskisuomalainen, Lapin Kansa and Turun Sanomat during the period between 1 April to 1 May 2011. Two research methods are used: quantitative content analysis supported by the qualitative approach.

The study examines how popular music became represented as legitimate culture in Helsingin Sanomat newspaper in 1950–1982. The focus is on the question of legitimation and the strategies used for legitimating popular music in the newspaper. The theoretical background of the study applies Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of cultural fields. The theory suggests that a form of creative action must have its own critics in order to make possible that the form can be considered a legitimate art form. All respected art forms have their own critics, and the critics can effect the cultural hierarchy by shaping the public discourse of the art forms they write about.

The topic is examined by researching all articles that were written by journalists who specialized in popular music, and also by interviewing the journalists who wrote the articles. The empirical data consists of 3 454 articles and 18 interviews.


This doctoral thesis examines cinematic images of girlhood in Swedish girl films in 1995–2006. These years form a specific era in Swedish and transnational media culture when debates over new girls, new feminisms and girls’ popular culture intensified considerably. The study introduces a new concept on the field of youth and teen film studies and girlhood studies – Swedish Girl Film. The dissertation understands Swedish girl films as a mediated and political phenomenon and places the films into their broader societal, historical and political contexts. In addition to the nineteen girl films, the sources of the study include review journalism, girls’ magazines, feminist guidebooks and other contemporary literature and media-pedagogical materials. Theoretically the study is informed by feminist genealogy, feminist girlhood studies and cultural historical film studies. The study explores the place of ‘the girl’ in the feminist movement and theory of the past decades and asks what kinds of stories about the girl were told as part of the feminist project and historiography. The thesis explores Swedish girl films through three intertwining concepts that have been influential in feminist girlhood studies over the past decades: new feminisms, gender equality and neoliberalism.

Expectations are an inseparable part of interaction, whether in interpersonal, intragroup, or organization–stakeholder relations. As a concept, expectations appear frequently in the public relations literature, yet definitions are scarce or narrow. This thesis contributes to the conceptual and empirical understanding of expectations in the context of organization–stakeholder relations and, more specifically, studies how organizations translate their societal roles and how stakeholders form expectations of these roles. The theoretical framework is drawn from Scandinavian institutionalism and corporate responsibility as social connectedness that, first, places organization–stakeholder relations in an institutional context in which meanings are translated by both organizations and stakeholders and, second, recognizes that when the responsibilities of business organizations are assessed as both liabilities and structural embeddedness, expectations can touch upon complex issues with shared responsibilities.

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This dissertation covers a series of questions related to the historical representation of the subaltern and the usage of biographical forms for counterhegemonic purposes. Can alternative approaches to history make use of hegemonic forms for representing the subaltern without being absorbed by hegemony itself?

With a special emphasis on the contributions of Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci, the role of narrative in shaping history appears here as seminal to elaborating an alternative proposal in the fields of historical and biographical film practices.

The book rethinks the strategies that can be pursued to achieve this aim through the examination of cultural practices that have faced these inquiries before, such as Latin American testimonial literature and Third Cinema


The author looks into the impact of the social and cultural shift in the 1960's and 1970's on the limits of the freedom of speech in the Finnish mass media as it was exercised by the press, radio and television. The limits of the freedom of speech were considered in the broad sense of the term, with focus not only on the legal regulation and self-regulation but also on the actual limits in exercising the freedom of speech.
Media discourse linked to images of bioscience that claim to aim at the promotion of health is well-known by the Finnish middle class. Science and technology have been rather unanimous projects in Finland and received only little critical public attention compared to many other European countries. In attitude surveys people in Finland have shown firm and even increasing faith in science and its ability to resolve problems of health and well-being. Among developed countries Finland ranks high in OECD terms of somatic health. However, Finland is left behind by many liberal democracies when we look at statistics on mental health and socio-economic equality. This thesis looks into Finnish science journalism on health and good life and analyses how it addresses the reader, as well as the hierarchy of knowledge and actors that are inherent in it. What values and image of humanity are attached in the popular scientific discourse on healthy citizenship and good life? The thesis is based on four case studies that represent the continuum of science communication in the Finnish media landscape. The methodological footing of thesis lies in the critical school of science communication, discourse analysis and notion of human mind that is compatible with epigenetics and psychoanalytic developmental psychology.

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The doctoral study examines screenwriting in Finland during the first decade of sound film, 1931–1941. A lively public discussion on the rapidly growing domestic cinema took place on the pages of film magazines and other publications in the 1930s. One of the questions debated was the "screenplay problem". What would be the best possible subject matter for Finnish cinema? Who should write films? Should the producers prefer original material over adaptations? How to write a good screenplay? Would recruiting experienced novelists and playwrights improve the quality of films? The study looks at the aesthetic and ideological values that influenced the practice of screenwriting and the formation of screenwriting as a profession. It opens up new perspectives on the history of Finnish cinema and literature.

The television and the ways it has invited the audience to take part have been changing during the last decade. Today’s interaction, or rather participation, comes from multiplatform formats, such as TV spectacles that combine TV and web platforms in order to create a wider TV experience. Multiplatform phenomena have spread television consumption and traditional coffee table discussions to several different devices and environments. Television has become a part of the bigger puzzle of interconnected devices that operates on several platforms instead of just one. This thesis examines the Finnish television (2004–2014) through the notion of audience participation and introduces the technical, thematic, and social linkages as three different phases, interactive, participatory, social, and their most characteristic features in terms of audience participation. The aim of the study is also to focus on the idea of a possible change by addressing the possible and subtler variations that have taken place through the concept of digital television.


Changes in the media environment and citizenship education have made it possible for media education to become an integral part of official education, youth and library policy. This research studies media education policy from the point of view of governance. The methodological viewpoint is analytics of governance and the method is discourse theoretical analysis. Basic concepts from analytics of governance (subject, technique, technology and rationality) formed an analytical frame to identify technologies of governance in texts. Discourse theoretical analysis enables studying and deconstructing how vast goals and technologies of governance become visible in micro textual instances. The research data consists of interviews with officials who have partaken in the construction of Finnish media education policy in the Ministry of Education and Finnish policy documents dealing with media education and media literacy from the years 1999–2013. The document data consists of programs, reports and strategies produced in the Ministry of Education and Culture.


This thesis explores the on-going change in the media sector, using service-dominant (S-D) logic as a lens to explain it. The starting point is the basic premise of S-D logic: value co-creation between customers, partners, employees, and competitors. The novelty in this work is the application of (S-D) logic in the context of industry transformation. Another aim is to introduce service management to the field of media management and economics. The study also offers tools for media professionals in their search for sustainable competitive advantage. Two research questions structure the work: (1) how does a transfer from a goods-dominant to a service-dominant logic manifest itself in the current business practices and future trends in the media industry, and (2) what are the central topics to understand better the on-going change in the media sector. Case studies have been carried out with face-to-face semi-structured interviews (n = 50).

This dissertation represents the field of interpersonal communication and focuses on support in Finnish men’s friendships. The purpose of the interpretive research is to depict and understand the phenomenon of social support and supportive communication through men’s experiences. The research aims to distinguish men’s supportive functions, goals and support approaches with friends, and the meaning of three contexts—relationship, gender, and culture—in supportive conversations. By doing so the dissertation addresses the leading theory on supportive communication, the theory of person-centeredness. Men are said to avoid talking about emotional troubles, which reflects on the stereotype of men being poorly skilled at comforting. In fact, many of the problems that Finnish men may encounter in life are rationalized for being the result of little self-disclosure and agentic relationships. Yet, no study so far has explored Finnish men’s supportive communication with friends. Previous, mainly Anglo-American research has found that men and women evaluate similar types of supportive messages as most sensitive and helpful. Nevertheless, men do not discriminate as strongly as women between the highly sophisticated and less sophisticated supportive communication. This is usually explained by men having lesser motivation and skill in providing and processing of such support.

This dissertation comprises of four peer-reviewed original publications and an overviewing thesis.

The research was conducted with multiple methods: The data consists of two sets of interviews, thematic and episode interviews, as well as of social support definitions. The empirical material was gathered with 25 Finnish men (21–67 years of age). The data were analyzed with both qualitative and quantitative means.

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Life publishing is a contemporary phenomenon, including multiple practices of self-representing and life-telling online. The main objective of this doctoral thesis is to understand how Finnish people have become culturally appropriated life-publishers during the years 1995-2014. There seems to be three intertwined phases during which an appropriation process takes place. Theoretical context of the book combines the theory of cultural appropriation by Mikael Hård and Andrew Jamisom (2004) with the socialization theory of Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann (2000).