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This research examines collaboration in working life, its relationship to human communication and social interaction, and the role of technologically mediated communication in dispersed collaboration. Collaboration is a feature of working life for most people in today’s society, and studies in various disciplines have examined collaboration. This study concentrated on human communication and social interaction as they appear in both face-to-face and technologically mediated communication.

The study was qualitative in nature. It combined two methods: the qualitative interview (N=20) and observation of technologically mediated communication (N=25). The data were analyzed inductively, in which the focus was on the quality, characteristics, processes and meanings of collaboration and communication. Collaboration was proven to take place in communication in interpersonal relationships, teams, and networks. Each of these perspectives highlights specific communication phenomena linked to successful collaboration. Dispersed collaboration was proven to be possible if there is enough communication between collaborators. Thus, physical presence is not necessary for successful collaboration. The results of this study encourage collaborators, team leaders, and coordinators to reflect on the processes of communication and they offer multiple insights into how to develop collaboration in working life.


This research analyses how different groups of people perceive the role of new information and communication technologies (ICT) in social change, and how they make sense out of these claimed changes in society. There are claims for social change in many areas. This research frames its analysis in three areas of social change namely the local-global relation; politics and the political, and ICT.

The study first looks at the theoretical discussions on how different perspectives conceptualize social change in these areas. The theoretical framework then looks at the three dimensions that emerge from the interaction of these three areas; institutional politics, activism, and identity. There are different frameworks for making sense of social change. Lacanian fantasy is one that allows deeper analysis of perceptions and fluidity between the various perceptions. As all fantasies are frustrated, the concept also allows a critical analysis. The theoretical framework finally also looks at what fantasies the theoretical discussions create, regarding social change in the above three areas and dimensions. At the empirical level, the research focuses on the perceptions of the role of ICT in the changing institutional politics, activism, and identity in Istanbul from the local-global relation, politics and the political, and ICT perspectives. The research then discusses what fantasies come out of these perceptions.


Journalistic work in crises includes a variety of tasks: reporting on the scene, editing material in the home office, or broadcasting live. Journalists may be both primarily and secondarily exposed to potentially traumatic events during work assignments. The aim of the present study was twofold, (1) to investigate how previous exposure to potentially traumatic events during work or in personal life is related to current trauma-related distress (post-traumatic stress disorder, secondary traumatic stress, depression and burnout) in journalists, and (2) to study journalistic work, event-related distress, and occupational risk factors in a specific type of crisis-related assignment, the Finnish school shootings in 2007 and 2008.


The author proposes and discusses alternative ways of approaching short film. The book emphasizes short film as an independent and challenging cinematic art form of its own right. The “mystery” of short film is approached by examining the aesthetics of other short forms, The structural parallels between e.g. jokes and short films, as well as narrative strategies found in poetry, offer meaningful references. The research consists of both the analysis of selected short films and the five short films directed during the research process. Research questions are deeply rooted in the practice of film-making and developed during the productions of five short films included in the dissertation. The book is a translation of author’s doctoral dissertation.

Different media vehicles hold a significant role in our contemporary society as important objects of consumption and influential cultural institutions. The field of the study is consumer research and it investigates media consumption from a symbolic perspective as an identity constructing activity. Media contents are approached as products and services that consumers can buy and use. The purpose of this study is to uncover how consumption of television programs and identity construction are connected.


This study concerns the ethics of journalism and virtue. More schematically, the aims of the study are: (1) to show how a plausible and well-defined conception of virtue gives credibility to the view that a virtue approach can also give good action guidance in the ethics of professions; (2) to argue that the virtue conception developed by Robert M. Adams carries the requisite characteristics; (3) to exemplify how earlier work on journalism ethics in general, and virtue-flavored or virtue-based work in particular, would have been more accurate and more nuanced with the help of Adams’ insights; (4) to test in a preliminary fashion how virtue thinking in general and the virtue conception of Adams in particular succeed in journalistic online environments.


The goal of this doctoral study is to describe comprehensive school students’ conceptions and experiences of school bullying during their school history from the perspective of hurtful interaction processes. In previous studies students’ in-depth understanding of school bullying, especially from the communication standpoint, has rarely been investigated. Altogether 365 students aged from 13 to 17 years participated in the study. By means of open-ended questions and detailed written accounts, the respondents described their concepts and experiences regarding school bullying. A categorization of the forms of hurtful communication and responses to it was formed through inductive qualitative analysis.


Liberated into the online virtual spaces through digitalization, video media has become an omnipresent part of our lives. Simultaneously, the videographic method for conducting and expressing ethnographic research has received increasing attention in the field of consumer culture theory (CCT). Yet, as is the usual case with nascent and still marginal research orientations, the publications about the method have been relatively descriptive, and thus have not explored the potential of the approach from a philosophical perspective.

This dissertation addresses this gap and develops a possible ontology and epistemology for conducting and expressing research on video media. How is videographic expression different compared to text and photography? What could it be like to experience it? While such a philosophical account of essence(s) in video work in CCT calls for establishment, there is also a need to further consider issues about the production of videographic research on a workbench level, i.e. what the production of such visual ethnographic research is like. In this study an epistemology of videographic relation is constructed, in a bricolage fashion, by adapting ‘postmodern’ perspectives from ‘poststructuralist’, ‘radical humanist’ and a Deleuzian ‘superior empiricist’ perspectives.


The emergence of online newspapers in mid 90’s triggered a fundamental shift in media – including traditional business models and journalistic work. The transition of media from traditional print media to new online environment started with delivery channels which were transformed due to the digitalisation and Internet. As a result of the transformation in distribution channels the revenue model of the entire newspaper industry began to crumble.

The target of this study is the financial media in its entirety. At its most extensive it includes financial newspapers, periodicals, web services, financial news agencies as well as tv and radio productions specializing in financial matters. When observing the audiences of the financial media, the research is restricted to the kind of financial journalism which satisfies its users professional need for financial information. In other words the focus is on the variety of financial journalism whose target audience are professionals who in the course of their own work have an absolute need for financial information. The goal of the study is: 1. To describe the effects of the media transition in the operating environment of financial media, from the angle of both the financial media (especially the revenue model) and its audience (readers’ satisfaction and the fulfilment of the function of financial media as a toolkit) and how financial media has reacted to these changes. 2. To understand the dynamics of the transition and its different aspects. 3. To describe innovations born of the transformation and observe potentially identifiable future lines of development based on these, especially through the ongoing discussion in the USA. Empirical data has been collected through separate research projects during 2008–2010.

The dissertation approaches the issues of nationality, gender and social class from the standpoints of cultural studies, media studies, gender studies and higher education pedagogy. Some sociological ideas are also applied to the analysis, especially to the question of social class and the context of the Finnish welfare state. The main research question concerns, what kind of roles media has in the construction of nationality and how these constructions are culturally gendered and classified. This dissertation is composed of an introduction and six published articles and one refereed article manuscript. The articles were published in domestic scientific journals or books. The introduction constructs the framework of the dissertation, concentrating on issues of nationality, gender and social class and their connections to media studies. Nationality, welfare state, equality, gendered and classified Finnishness, "the ordinariness", orders and emotions are regarded as the main concepts of this dissertation. The concepts are used mainly as tools for thinking and discussing with, not as a ready toolkit. Methodological issues are reflected regarding the use of the writer’s personal and the idea of situated and committed knowledge.


After the World War II, space and its exploration became the symbols of modern life and future, especially, in the Soviet Union. The makers of Soviet propaganda were quick to exploit popular enthusiasm for the cosmos, transforming the space program and its celebrated heroes into symbols of the Communist Party’s much larger political project related to the construction of communism. The dissertation aims to demonstrate that visual material and aesthetics played a crucial role in expressing official ideologies of technoutopianism as embedded in Soviet policies of the Khrushchev and Brezhnev eras. The study material comprises photographs, drawings and paintings produced in the Soviet Union between the years 1957 and 1969. The main body of material consists of articles and pictures published in a weekly illustrated magazine Ogonyk. Also, archive material from the Russian State Archive of Scientific and Technical Documents was used. The study lies at the intersection of several disciplines: history, visual communication and photojournalism.


The study seeks to explain how the production culture of the Finnish commercial radio and the process of choosing music changed 1985-2006. From the methodological perspective this is a case study and the analysis focuses on Radio Paitapiiska in the town of Kurikka in South Ostrobothnia, Western Finland. Radio Paitapiiska was founded and owned by a local family enterprise Kurikka Lehti Ltd until 2003, when Radio Paitapiiska became a part of a locally owned radio group called Kevyt Kanava Ltd. The changes in the production culture are examined through the lens of music selections and the ways choices were made during different periods. during its existence Radio Paitapiiska had five different heads of programmes, and they all had their personal influence on the radio station’s overall process of choosing music. In this study the process of choosing music is examined from four different viewpoints: individual, ideological, economic and technological factors have had various effects on Radio Paitapiiska’s music selections at different times. By analysing the influence of these factors it is possible to better understand how the gatekeeping process of musical content in a local commercial radio station was arranged and how it was developed.


This study focuses on professionally-oriented communication education in the field of medicine. There has been expansive research on communication education in the field of medicine since 1980s. However, in the field of speech communication in Finland medical students’ communication education has not been widely studied. Previous research on communication education in the field of medicine has shown that experiential learning methods are more effective in teaching communication skills than instructional methods. Nowadays experiential methods such as simulation and role-play are widely used in communication education. However, there is a lack of studies comparing medical students’ perceptions and the use and the effect of different experimental methods on learning interpersonal communication competence. In 2006 a pilot course in communication for second-year medical students was developed in co-operation with a speech communication lecturer and clinical lecturers. In this study we explore Finnish second-year medical students’ perceptions of three experimental learning methods, their attitudes to learning communication skills and their self-reported learning outcomes in three groups using different experimental methods.

The study seeks to determine the nature of the media war strategies and the media control in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and by which means journalists are led to identify themselves with the parties of the conflict. Researching the means of the media war in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is important, as it helps to outline the operating environment of journalists and the influence attempts they are subjected to both in the seemingly peaceful phases of the conflict and when the conflict escalates into open, armed confrontation.


With a dramatic increase of pictorial media around us that can be used to present and transmit things seen, such as digital cameras, mobile camera-phones, webcams, and image software, ever more people have become producers of pictures for others to see, and it is often not that clear how these pictures are used and for what purposes. Take, for example, cameras, which have become everyday artifacts that are part of ever more social situations. Cameras are used in several types of situations. In short, cameras have become ubiquitous companions of our everyday life.

This research focuses on two main research questions: 1) how do we use cameras at a time in which they are ever more available, and 2) how do these cameras mediate our actions? In order to answer the research questions, this research is situated within a wider context of a growing body of research on images and the visual, with a theoretical perspective on pictures that is applied and extended to networked cameras and their uses. A larger context of visual orders based on related research is worked out in which non-professionals use camera pictures. Empirical case studies of actual uses are performed, and the ways in which the findings show cameras to mediate our actions are taken into account separately.


The late 1990s was a time of strong economic growth in Finland and Sweden where two large companies, Nokia and Ericsson, ruled the world of telecom and brought considerable tangible and intangible benefits to their home countries. For business journalists their expansion became a source of thousands of stories explaining and celebrating their international success. But when the dot-com-bubble burst in early 2000 it also became obvious that behind this boom was another story of inflated stock market values, over-optimism and imminent structural change in the telecom market. This research focuses on how business journalists in Finland and Sweden compared Nokia with Ericsson in the first decade of the 2000s as this change took place.

The research perspective is social constructionism and the thesis includes interviews with actors business journalists and corporate communicators as well as analysts to understand how they made sense of this development. The articles selected are treated as products of social interaction and their content analyzed as the result of negotiation influenced by the organizing principles of that engagement and manifested in frames. These frames are dealt with as a frame package, a master frame of national champions, Nokia against Ericsson. Of special interest is the narrative value of Nokia and Ericsson as representatives of the other, in this case the neighbour nation.


The doctoral thesis presents an analysis of Finnish environmental coverage, focusing on representations of climate change and eutrophication from 1990 to 2010. The main source of material is Helsingin Sanomat, the most widely-read newspaper in Finland. The analysis adopts the perspective of contextual constructivism and the agenda-setting function of the mass media. Selected models describing the evolution of environmental coverage are applied within an interdisciplinary emphasis. The thesis consists of six peer-reviewed research articles and an introduction.


The doctoral dissertation analyzes superhero comics and their complex relationship to American popular geopolitics, the way nation and nationality are “narrated” through various popular texts. The analysis is focused on superhero comics published within the last three decades and shows how these comics not only reflect but actively take part in the ongoing formation and development of popular geopolitics and national identity construction within America. Both masculinity and violence are central in analyzing the superhero’s popular geopolitics, as masculinity itself arises as a determining factor in defining nationhood and nationality. In turn, superheroic masculinity is often defined through the use of violence, which is often portrayed as both empowering and natural. These questions of masculinity and violence are also linked to the questions of power and legality, which will be addressed through the concept of the state of exception. By introducing the state of exception as a way to
analyze the superhero and his complex relationship to the state, the dissertation is able to analyze the superhero’s characteristic contradictions in terms of power and democracy. The final part of the dissertation examines these issues in the post-9/11 context.


The dissertation has four main goals. First, it aims to explore the collaborative interaction of individual stakeholders in SME internationalization, namely the representatives of SMEs and intermediary organizations such as business consultancies, finance companies or innovation centers. Second, the study examines the nature of the interpersonal communication competence (ICC) collaborative interaction requires. Third, the study has methodological objectives to develop a new measure for assessing ICC and to test the applicability of measuring ICC in international business collaboration. Fourth, the study aims to measure the level of the individual stakeholders’ ICC in collaborative interaction that is crucial in SME internationalization. The study was conducted in the context of the entry of Finnish SMEs into China. A web survey was used to gather the research data consisting of the SME and intermediary representatives’ (N=115) responses to both open-ended questions and structured questions and assessment scales. The data were analyzed with mixed methods of data analysis, including content analysis, phenomenographic analysis and statistical analysis.


Although a great number of theories exist about meaning making, empirical research on how the actual audience receives and perceives contemporary art is nearly non-existent. Even less is known about the actual meaning making of violence-related documentary photographic art in an exhibition context. This study aims at patching up these holes in audience research. Firstly, my focus is on analysing communicated verbal expressions that actual viewers have produced as a reaction to viewing two particular bodies of work that have been exhibited in a gallery context. Secondly, this study contributes to audience research by introducing specific concepts that can be employed when studying meaning making regarding violence-related documentary photographic art.

The study is twofold in character. First of all, it includes vast artistic production. Secondly, it contains a study on the reception given the Battered and Notes on Finnish Gun Culture series


The main goal and inspiration for this study has been to construct a model for describing, explaining and justifying the gate keeper activities around the pulp fiction series Jerry Cotton. This model should also provide a basis for developing a general gatekeeping model and theory. The model constructed in this thesis is located between theory and empirical data. The data contains: press reviews of the Jerry Cotton series; prior academic research concerning the series; the script of the issue of Jerry Cotton which was written in Finland (and the amendments made to this script); the publisher’s sales calculations and other material. The vocabularies of pragmatic sociology have made it possible to study the boundary objects and standard packages whose linkages and relations form the actor network and the operating model of the Jerry Cotton series. The more specific analysis divides the series into six network artifacts (models). Each of them forms a separate focus of study, based on their networks as well as the value formats coordinating and equipping these networks; the objects relevant to their operation; and the vocabularies structuring this operation.


In this research the author sets out to interrogate the effectiveness of an independent and voluntary media council, in spearheading self-regulation of media in a young democracy. The focus was on the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), which was introduced in 1995 after the country had embarked on liberal democratic reforms. While many countries in Africa are turning to Tanzania to learn from the experience of the MCT in spearheading self-regulation of media, there appears to be a conspicuous lack of comprehensive knowledge about the effectiveness of the mechanism in ensuring media accountability. For example, in which ways do historical realities in Africa support notions such as liberal democracy and self-regulation that were re-introduced to Africa in the early 1990s? Or is there any evidence which suggests that self-regulation, spearheaded by a voluntary media council like MCT, can be effective in promoting media freedom and accountability in a young democracy like Tanzania? What do journalists and other media stakeholders think about the effectiveness of an independent, voluntary and non-statutory council like the MCT in spearheading self-regulation?

In this doctoral thesis the author studies a phenomenon which she has titled as public political performance. By public political performance she refers to a public event (a 'show', display, demonstration) the purpose of which is to expose in public and challenge those social-political norms, practices, and relations of power which usually remain invisible in the sway of routine political life. She is interested especially in how performance works as a form of non-linguistic, or wider than linguistic, political communication. She theorizes and analyzes, through several illustrative examples, performances from three perspectives: as corporeal (bodily), visual, and aesthetic communication. In construction of theory she uses and partly reworks ideas from thinkers such as Jürgen Habermas, Michel Foucault, Hannah Arendt, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Jacques Ranciere. The study shows that public political performance is a sensitive, even volatile phenomenon and because it often manifestly exposes the fundamentally violent power structure of society – as when, for example, street demonstrations induce strong counter reactions from the police and political authorities – and puts this order under critical public scrutiny. Political authorities do not take such challenges lightly, which is why public performances sometimes instigate serious political controversies.


The study analyses Finnish road movies as narratives of resistance and freedom from the end of the 1950s, when the first modern Finnish road movie was released to the 2000s. The study comprises 24 road movies and 42 other films with significant road images. By expanding the concept of the road movie emphasizes the constitution of the genre as a hybrid or, more precisely as a genre extending to variety of genre influences.


As an investigation on communication, gender and leadership, the doctoral dissertation examines how women leaders operating in the political and business domains are characterized in public discourse. The project comprises five empirical case studies, which have been carried out as independent investigations. The focus is on the characterization of two high-status women leaders, namely Hillary Clinton and Nicola Horlick, and the manner in which they are portrayed in news reports and the way they portray themselves in autobiographies. Drawing on the findings of the five case studies, the research project addresses the following question: How are characterizations of women leaders socially constructed in public discourse? To answer the question, the study analyses the data from a linguistic perspective on discourse where language forms are taken as the starting point for discourse analysis, and the linguistic structuring of words, phrases and sentences are examined in relation to their context, i.e. their linguistic function, textual content and/or situational and socio-cultural setting. The analysis draws attention to linguistic communication processes and the idea that meanings of social phenomena are generated at all levels of language use.
Subtitles are a widely read text type in Finland, and their quality is often a topic of rather critical discussion. When viewers express their opinions on subtitles, their comments are often negative in tone and concentrate on translators’ errors. In addition, viewers often question whether subtitles are needed at all, since many viewers think that they are capable of following English-language programs in the original language, without subtitles. These comments, however, do not offer a complete picture of authentic viewing situations and of how well subtitles actually serve their audience. It is the purpose of this study to investigate what real viewing situations are like and how viewers watch a subtitled film. In addition, this study investigates the formation of opinions and interpretations in a social context, in viewers’ discussions of their experiences. The methodology employed in this study consists of qualitative, ethnographic reception research approaches, adapted from media studies into a translation-related context. The method of data collection is focus group research. This study investigates the reception of the film Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason as it was shown in Finnish cinemas, with Finnish and Swedish subtitles.

The study discusses the relations between journalism and humor. The central goal is to present mechanisms via which humor may contribute to the societal objectives set for journalism. First, the study pursues this goal theoretically. Scientific literature on journalism and humor is discussed and new conceptualizations are created by analyzing and comparing the terminology and translators’ errors. In addition, viewers often question whether subtitles are needed at all, since many viewers think that they are capable of following English-language programs in the original language, without subtitles. These comments, however, do not offer a complete picture of authentic viewing situations and of how well subtitles actually serve their audience. It is the purpose of this study to investigate what real viewing situations are like and how viewers watch a subtitled film. In addition, this study investigates the formation of opinions and interpretations in a social context, in viewers’ discussions of their experiences. The methodology employed in this study consists of qualitative, ethnographic reception research approaches, adapted from media studies into a translation-related context. The method of data collection is focus group research. This study investigates the reception of the film Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason as it was shown in Finnish cinemas, with Finnish and Swedish subtitles.

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(PhD afhandling) and doctoral thesis (Doktordisputats). I have chosen to call Finnish doctoral dissertations for doctoral theses because there now and then appear also licentiate theses in Finland. Licentiate theses are also called Ph.D. theses in NCOM. Unfortunately, the vocabulary is not settled yet. The most dissertations are available full-text on the Internet, although the links are not left to the list.