Dimensions of worth in work. Values from markets, performances and tasks

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During the classic “Swedish model”-era wages and wage-increases were to a large extent defined in central national collective agreements and coordinated tariffs, under the general principle of “equal pay for equal work”. During the last three decades wage setting has been decentralized and the local space for individual differentiation through performance pay has gained ground – particularly in the public sector and for white collar workers. Performance pay systems define what is valued in work by the employer, but to what extent do the (e)valuative criteria used match the employees’ notions of what should be valued in work? This paper contributes to that question by analysing what dimensions of worth that public sector employees in Sweden believe individually differentiated pay ought to be based on. The empirical data analysed in the paper is from surveys with employees in big public sector organisations. Theoretically the paper is influenced by the sociology of valuation studies, the “orders of worth” theory developed by Boltanski and Thévenot, and the psychological strand of organizational justice theories. The results show the existence of a set of underlying dimensions defining the value of work to different degrees and in somewhat different combinations according to different categories of employees. The main dimensions found in these normative valuations of work are: the employee’s performance and development of tasks; the employee’s attitude to the organisation; the employee’s market value; the employee’s experience and education; the overall organizational performance, and the complexity and responsibility of the tasks performed.
Cinema is an integral part of modern culture. Film production is an extremely risky project. In practice, the studios get huge profits from the rental of a few "blockbusters" and lose millions of dollars on the production of dozens of flops. The rules of the film distribution market is quite simple and the problems with forecasting offers movies usually does not occur. The main difficulty in predicting box office revenues of films occurs on the side of demand forecasting for movies.

In this work, we studied the classical distribution channel for films: the hire of films at cinemas. The aim of this work is to investigate box office revenues and to propose an approach for improving the prediction of box office and IMDB rating of new movies. Predicting movie box office gross is an application of machine learning that has been tackled by very few people. Our experience with the project revealed several key insights into how well movies make money in the box office.

In this paper, we have studied the dynamics of box office revenues in American cinemas. Results show a significant influence of the dynamic aspects of competition among movies in cinemas, the influence of holidays and advertising distributors of films. It was also found that the speed of falling movie box offices are different, the differences are significant and can be partially explained by characteristics of the films.
The conflicting and intertwined logics and relations of Swedish financial education: The state, the citizens, and the private financial actors.

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In 2007, the Swedish government commissioned the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA) to educate citizens on financial matters. Such financial education was claimed to be of utmost importance in Sweden, as well as in other countries, due to citizens’ financial illiteracy – as documented by OECD reports from mid-2000. Since 2010, FSA have partnered up with private financial actors, other authorities and stakeholders, in the financial education network “Gilla din ekonomi”, with the purpose of supporting citizens in achieving greater financial knowledge and confidence. In this paper, I analyze the roles of, and relationship between actors within the financial education network (Gilla din ekonomi) projects: the consumers, the state and private finance companies. The preliminary results show that financial sector actors play the role of “economic experts”, while the state stands for the educations’ legitimacy by safeguarding consumer rights and sanitizing education material from commercial features. Thence, these actors together impel consumers to take on the role of “the economic man”. These concepts and social relations intertwine in practice and make up the Swedish financial education self-narrative of “success”.

Cross-Generational Meanings of Wealth and Class-Making in Wealthy Finnish Families

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Dynastic family wealth has recently interested scholars across social sciences. In debates concerning the economic role of the wealthy, it is now well recognised, that one key dynamic supporting the growing trend of economic inequalities is wealth accumulation across generations (Björklund et al. 2012; Hansen 2014; Piketty & Zucman 2015). To understand the social and cultural dynamics through which dynastic wealth manages to persist, I approach its endurance from the perspectives of cultural analysis of money and class formation. Drawing from 25 in-depth interviews among members of dynastic families in Finland, my presentation analyses the social meanings (Zelizer 1997, 2011) and cultural scripts (Lamont et al 2014) that members of dynastic families attach to their wealth and how these meanings contribute to their classmaking (Bourdieu 1985, 1987). By exploring the cultural processes through which the inheritors make sense of and produce their wealth at the micro-level, I describe the social mechanisms that help to reproduce their class position. I describe how this class-making is supported by specific social meanings (e.g. cross-generational mindset, family values), practices (e.g. upbringing, training programs) and economic strategies (e.g. expected returns and investment strategies).
Through analysis of an ethnographic material on buyers of housing in Stockholm, the paper aims at understanding and explaining processes of: finding information, understanding value and worth, monitoring supply, and identifying ‘interesting’ and/or valuable goods. To study the consumer-side of a market is still relatively uncommon in new economic sociology. This paper is called for since, with very few exceptions, social researchers tend to either lump shopping-exchange-and-consumption into one category, and/or approach shopping with an agenda of critically revelling the faults and problems with consumerism and a market society. This paper instead single out the process of shopping (i.e. information seeking, but not the actual exchange) and analyses what actual buyers of housing feel, think, do and experience when they stroll around in ‘the virtual store’ of housing sites, and go to others’ homes that are for sale. The paper finds that distinct types of shoppers of housing exist, people that for example shop to project themselves in imaginary homes, exclusively focuses on identifying realizable objects, and buyers in need of knowledge and information that ‘socialize themselves’. The typification is built on the relation between differing motivations, valuation-processes and practices among buyers of housing, and it furthers our knowledge about shopping as an important, or valuable, type of activity to be understood and explained in its own right.
Too good to go, too expensive to stay? Collective valuation of care and maintenance in Swedish rural housing stock

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In this presentation I will approach care and maintenance of wooden housing stock in rural Sweden from the point of view of worthiness of repair. I will focus on pragmatics of economic activities of house owners as well as other actors that contrast the ideas of economic efficiency of new materials and solutions to repair and reuse in a traditional way.

The empirical material is based on the conversations in the online discussion forum aiming at promoting the values of conservation and care for the old in ordinary buildings. In focus is the range of care and maintenance questions raised by owners and tenants of the buildings that relate to the problem of efficiency and economic worth versus other “orders of worth”, and justification strategies for different renovation solutions.

Additional focus is on strategies of actors who intentionally challenge the borders of value judgements and offer solutions that are received by other forum members as inappropriate, ungrounded and endangering the efforts of preservation.
Social Entrepreneurship in Textile, Fashion and Design - Work Integration Social Enterprises and Corporate Social Responsibility within the Swedish Textile industry

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Sweden has in recent years received a large number of migrants who experiences obstacles to become integrated in the labor market and socially included. Social enterprises focused on labor integration, but also established private companies, have thus seen an opportunity in validating and job-training individuals with specific skills as a form of social entrepreneurship. In this study organizations in the form of Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISE) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), within the Swedish textile industry, are investigated. Theoretical perspectives are organizational institutionalism and economic sociology/sociology of work. Granovetter’s (1985) concept of embedded economic action and the role of social entrepreneurship within institutional fields will be emphasized. Research questions are what motivates and characterizes organizations within WISE or ones working within CSR. Which role plays "goodwill" or legitimacy in the institutional environment? Which are the economic and/or social benefits to work with WISE and/or CSR? Furthermore, it will be investigated if the persons with migrant background, who have practiced or gained work within WISE or CSR, will succeed becoming established in the labor market, either as employees or as entrepreneurs themselves.

Keywords: Migration, Embeddedness, Labor markets, Social entrepreneurship, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Work integration social enterprises (WISE), Social integration
Consumer cynicism in Russia as a creative form of political participation

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Consumer culture and politics are recognized as overlapping domains. Economic grievances and severe restrictions in consumer choices could form the basis for public discontent and trigger further political instability. Indicators of Russians' reactions during previous crises (1998, 2008) were compliant with this theoretical approach: Russians were ready to participate in protests regarding the economic problems and protest against lower standards of living. In contrast, current economic crises (2014-2017) stands out: today's indicators of protest potential due to economic deprivation have decreased sharply, manifesting that Russians are not ready to participate in protests regarding the economic problems. However it would be premature to conclude that Russian citizens remained reluctant to protest and refuse to deal with market instability. Period between 2013-2017 was marked with a burst of two important indicators: growth of consumer protection lawsuits and rise of formal consumer complaints. Lack of collective action indicates alternative ways of building the social resilience, invisible for optics of political analysis. Results based on the representative survey of Moscow residents demonstrate pervasive suspicion and cynicism regarding sellers, forcing some Moscow residents to become more calculating. Cynicism has become a powerful critical tool, encouraging everyday consumer creativity. This study shows that rising reflexivity and activity of consumers leads to enhanced personal autonomy on the micro-level of everyday experience.
Scientific evaluation practices and intellectual boundaries in economics

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Following the 2008 financial crisis, scholars from different fields have shown increasing interest in the economics discipline and the enduring dominance of a broad mainstream, and simultaneous marginalization of heterodox economics. One area where the boundaries of a disciplinary style of reasoning are negotiated is peer review. Recent work in the sociology of (e)valuation argues that scientific quality concepts and evaluation practices are diversified. This paper focuses on the evaluation practices involved in the appointment of professors in economics. It draws on a qualitative analysis of expert evaluation reports from four Swedish top universities over 25 years. Theoretically informed by the sociology of evaluation and the concept of boundary work, it asks how quality judgement is related to a disciplinary style of reasoning, and how evaluation has been transformed over time. The analysis suggests that the economists’ concept of quality is tightly linked to notions of a disciplinary theoretical core, to modelling, and to the epistemic ideal of simplification, and that a marked shift in the disciplinary evaluation practice is evident with the recent emergence of economics journals rankings as a specific “judgement device”. Thus, understanding evaluation practices is key to understanding the stabilization of this style of reasoning.