

Abstracts in English

1. Epistemic governance: An approach to the politics of policy-making

Pertti Alasuutari and Ali Qadir

The aim of the paper is to make a meta-theoretical contribution to conceptions of how power and governance operate in contemporary policy-making. Most approaches to governance generally brush aside the actual mechanics of how influence is wielded and social change effected. To fill this gap we argue that society is managed increasingly through epistemic governance, which works on actors' perceptions of the world and its current challenges. Our point is that regardless of which actors we assume to be influential in affecting public policies, they operate by utilizing a limited number of strategies, in broad paradigmatic as well as in focused practical dimensions. The epistemic work actors are engaged in focuses on three aspects of the social world: (1) ontology of the environment, (2) actor identifications, and (3) norms and ideals, or constructions of what the world is, who we are, and what is good or desirable. As such, we suggest ways to move beyond more or less structuralist explanations of sources and forms of power to reveal the strategies of power at play in attempts to influence policy change in the contemporary world.

2. Integrative school choice as an opportunity for reproducing publicness in contemporary educational governance

Triin Lauri

The aim of this article is to indicate critical aspects related to contemporary educational governance in a pluralistic framework. The problem of educational governance is viewed from the perspective of school choice, i.e. choice as a response to differentiated social pluralism, and choice as a move toward democratic governance, to stress the era of active citizenship and post-dichotomized understanding of citizen/government relations, where governments have the role of initiating deliberation on publicness. Using three ideal-typical educational governance models, the article illustrates how the role of choice, the meaning of education, and the education system's ability to contribute to the public good has been changed. The conceptual model of integrative

choice and reflexive educational governance is proposed by combining deliberative forums and the mechanism design approach.

3. The role of community policing in police's arrangements: developments in Estonia 1991-2013

Priit Suve

In contemporary sophisticated world it is unlikely to find a single comprehensive solution to the problem of safety. At the same time most well-known models of policing are concentrating on some specific problem of safety. During times of complexity a question may rise, why should one focus on particular model of policing when simultaneous combination of many models of policing could be more appropriate? In this article I used Gary W. Cordner's framework to observe the developments of Estonia's police in view of community policing. The case of Estonia is particularly attractive because of the lack of conscious implementation of any model of policing. While only some conflicting trends regarding community policing principles between the philosophical and strategic level has been identified, divergence from the community in a tactical and organizational levels were obvious. In short, the article revealed that the model of community policing is not just a tool of solving particular security problem, but also as a beacon helping to stay on the path.

4. Representation of ethnic minorities in bureaucracy: the case of Estonia

Sergei Ivanov and Raivo Vetik

This paper analyses representation of ethnic minorities in the bureaucracy of Estonia, based on previous research in the field. First section provides an overview of the state of affairs regarding ethnic representation in Estonian bureaucracy; second section locates the Estonian case into the context of the theory of representative bureaucracy as well as a number of other countries comparable to Estonia; third section discusses a perspective of a possible research program, which is focused on participation and representation of ethnic minorities in Estonian bureaucracy. As a point of departure of such a program, we locate the issue of participation and representation of ethnic minorities into the broader context of post-communist transformation: we presume that the main challenges Estonia is facing in its third decade after regaining independence have to do with the quality of democracy and the relationship between the society and the state as well as the issues of social justice. Participation and representation of ethnic minorities in Estonian public life, including bureaucracy, can be regarded as one of the most burning issues in this line. This is the reason why we propose launching a focused research program and outline main directions of the program.

5. The formation and role of the identity of the European Union in its foreign political discourse towards Belarus

Mariita Mattiisen

The paper deals with identity articulations in foreign policy, using European Union's (EU's) human rights policy in Belarus as an example. Based on poststructuralist discourse analysis of formal documents, the study analyzes how does the identity of the EU define this discourse, how does this discourse reproduce the EU's identity, and what can we say about the EU as a foreign policy actor in international relations. In the paper Belarus as a significant Other for the EU is also analyzed. The latter is a good example because of its poor human rights records and 'dictatorship' that is in contrast to the democratic society of the EU. The latter sees Belarus as Europe's 'black sheep'. This figure is also a metaphor for Belarus as the Other. Seeing Belarus as the Other makes it possible to (re)produce the EU's own identity by identifying what the Self is not. Through human rights policy discourse, the EU confirms its self-image as the fighter for human rights and also legitimizes its actions in the eyes of the West and itself.