



Introduction¹

This summer issue of Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies brings four original research articles.

The first article, *Sleep-related Problems and Associations with Occupational Factors among Home Care Personnel*, by Maria Lindholm and her colleagues investigates associations between occupational physical and psychosocial factors and possible sleep-related problems among home care personnel in Sweden. The study is based on a questionnaire targeted at home care personnel in 19 workplaces in the Stockholm region, and the results show that lower job contentment and low back pain were significantly associated with poor sleep quality, lack of rest, and restless sleep due to thoughts of work. The authors argue that sleeping disorders might be considered as an early indicator of adverse health and safety outcomes and sick leave, and may eventually lead to high staff turnover rates that reduce the quality of home care service. The presence of the health and safety problems in home care service thus call for measures to improve psychosocial and organizational working conditions in the sector.

Peter Aske Svendsen and his co-authors also focus on the home care sector in their article *Influence at Work tied to Materiality in Danish Care Work*. The article is based on individual interviews with managers and focus group interviews with employees in three care workplaces in Denmark, and the authors use the so-called Demand-Control-Model to explore influence at work. In particular, their focus is on employee's ability to influence physical design of the workspace, and how physical design of workplaces influence work tasks in return. The sociomaterial perspective on influence and work environment thus illuminates new elements in the work context that hinder and enable employee influence, and draw attention to the constitutive role played by materiality in providing conditions for employees to influence their working conditions.

The third article of this issue, *Key Insights into What Makes Public Organizations Learn from Training Programs*, brings us to Norway. Here, Kristin Reichborn-Kjennerud asks what factors are important for learning to take place in public organizations. Based on a questionnaire, she looks at how different factors condition the way in which employees perceive standardized training programs in a public agency responsible for child welfare, youth, adoption, family counseling, and more. The questionnaire was targeted at professional groups in two departments in the organization – one being more accustomed to and acceptance of standardized procedures than the other. The study shows that employees working in an environment that is positive to employee feedback also perceived the program as more relevant, important, and useful, and that employees working in an environment that prioritized competence development perceived the program to be better organized, implemented, and relevant to their work tasks. Professional culture thus matter for how useful employees perceive standardizing training programs to be, and that routines and standardized procedures need not be contradictory to learning.

¹ You can find this text and its DOI at <https://tidsskrift.dk/njwls/index>.



The last article of the issue, *A Tailspin for Taxi Drivers: Platform Labor, Deregulations, and a Migrant Occupation*, by Helga Hiim Staalhane and Anders Vassenden study Norwegian taxi drivers' perceptions and experiences of the introduction of platform-based transportation network companies. Based on qualitative interviews with 20 taxi drivers and three representatives from the taxi drivers' union, the authors explore the taxi drivers' attitudes and work-life experiences. They suggest that the frustrations of the taxi drivers mainly address the politically enforced deregulation of the taxi industry, and subsequently the introduction of platform labor in Norway. The effects of deregulation and the platform organization of the drivers' working conditions have shown themselves through low wages, low entry requirements, and high job insecurity, factors that are typical for migrant dominated work niches.

Anders Buch
Editor-in-chief