

## ENGLISH SUMMARIES

### **Nina Holm Vohnsen: Evidence-based Policy-making. Points of Friction between Research and Bureaucracy**

A current ambition in welfare states across Europe and in the US is to base political decision-making on rigorous research. Promoted as “evidence-based policy-making”, “good analysis, or “better governance”, the aspiration finds its roots in the governance paradigm generally referred to as “new public management” and the central concern for developing a cost-effective and agile public sector. Sound as this ambition may seem, it has been questioned from within the civil services and by the research community. Some critics warn that the term “evidence-based” is used too lightly, and often in cases where “evidence” has not fed into the policy processes but rather has been invoked after the fact to support already agreed upon policy; others warn that politics and science are – if not incompatible – then at odds with one another. The article pin points the friction points between science and policy-making and discusses why evidence rarely feeds into policy-making and how the evidence-based paradigm effectively challenges the traditional craftsmanship of the civil service.

Keywords: evidence-based policy, the civil service, policy, bureaucracy, Denmark

### **Julie Rahbæk Møller and Katrine Johansen: The Tension between Dynamics and Stability. An Anthropological Analysis of Working with Development and Treatment of People with Severe Mental Illness in the Danish Welfare Society**

People with serious mental illnesses are amongst the most socially vulnerable people in the welfare society, and numerous social services are targeting this group of people. Changes in welfare society therefore have direct consequences for these people, including the shift from a state focusing on creating stability to a state focusing on enhancing competition and a dynamic development. Based on empirical material from two mental health institutions, we argue that the shift from welfare state to competition state has resulted in a change in the continuum between stability and dynamics in these services. We argue that a key item in this shift is the management tools that are used in health care services today. Staff can observe and describe the lives of mentally ill in more detail with these tools

in order to document the desired change. Therefore, health care workers' daily practices are increasingly controlled and they are allowed little space for reflection. At the same time mentally ill people's requests for stability is at risk of being disregarded in favour of a preference for a certain kind of dynamic development – one that is difficult for them to comply with. Hence we end up suggesting that the concepts of “stability and dynamics” are brought in in future discussions of the contemporary Welfare society.

Keywords: psychiatry, social work, welfare society, development, stability, dynamics, the biopolitical body

### **Lisanne Wilken and Mette Ginnerskov: Internationalization and Economic Inequality at Danish Universities**

Since the beginning of this millennium Danish universities have experienced massive internationalization. Internationalization of universities may be understood as part of the transformation of the welfare society into a competition state, as internationalization aims at improving Denmark's position in the international competition for knowledge and talent. Internationalization has led to a number of changes which are interesting in the discussions of welfare society and competition state. One of these changes regards student economy. In Denmark tertiary education has traditionally been free of charge for all students. Students have also been entitled to generous student support in order to compensate for economic inequality in access to higher education. In 2006 Danish universities introduced tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students creating differentiated admission requirements for different categories of students. And in 2013 and due to a ruling from the European Court of Justice, students from the EU/EEA became entitled to student support if they are also mobile workers according to the Treaty of the European Union. In this article we explore how students at international degree programs in Denmark make sense of economic differences and how they construct symbolic boundaries and moral hierarchies between different groups of students with reference to economy. The article draws on data collected during a fieldwork conducted among students at Denmark's second largest university from 2012 to 2014.

Key words: internationalization, university students, competition state, welfare state, symbolic boundaries, inequality

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**Karen Lisa Goldschmidt Salamon, Simon Lex & Torbjörn Friberg:  
Converging across the Welfare State**

This article outlines a governance value framework and its impact, through a number of management techniques, on welfare organizations in the Oresund region. It does so by means of ethnographic cases drawn from public and semi-public organizations in three sectors: culture, research and logistics (mail). In these sectors, the work environments have been affected by rationalizations and merger processes that affect both employees and citizens. The article looks particularly at organizational mergers and convergence technologies, politically claimed to promote economic and social growth due to the convergence effects as such. It argues that the idealisation of functional convergence as an organisational principle is not value neutral, but produces meanings and mechanisms of social inclusion and exclusion, where the daily operations, internal organizational negotiations and core professional services are not in the forefront. Rather, spectacular, collaborative initiatives and efficiency-enhancing mergers, which receive attention. The policy driven vision of growth and innovation by way of strategic partnerships and functional convergence reflects an idealized, but strategic and opportunistic approach to collaboration and collective cooperation. Convergence in this sense is not a matter of approaching others and their values, but rather the means to an end of commercial value creation.

Keywords: collaboration, convergence, neoliberalism, strategic alliances, governance, welfare state

