

Abstracts

From Feminism to Favoritism? Gender Representation in University Research

Hans Bonde, Professor,
Institut for Idræt og Ernæring, Idræt,
politik og velfærd,
Københavns Universitet

It would be of immense benefit to society if the enormous sums invested in raising educational standards for women provided greater outputs in terms of research. In Scandinavian countries today programmes in mentoring, research leadership and networking are offered specifically for women. However, over the last twenty years increasingly radical support mechanisms have been introduced to ensure that women are exempt from male competition.

The relatively low numbers of women among the higher levels of Danish research (16 per cent of professors are women) are attributed, in this article, to the opportunities that the Scandinavian welfare model creates for long periods of maternity leave and reduced working hours, which are compatible with the wish among many Danish women for close ties with children and family.

Programmes for increasing the numbers of women are supported to a great extent from above by top male leaders, regardless of whether those men are high-ranking figures in universities or research funding agencies. This suggests a paternalistic tendency on the part of the male-dominated leadership that seeks to protect women from especially younger male competition. Such favouritism can thus be interpreted as being based on prejudice about female weakness and about women's insufficient ability to make independent decisions, which contrary to intentions works against any empowerment of women.

This favouritism is here analysed in the light of John Rawls's A Theory of Justice and Adam B. Seligman's theory of »trust«. This analysis demonstrates that the Danish mechanisms of favouritism that are supposed to help women increase their collective representation cannot be philosophically justified not least because discrimination against women cannot be claimed to exist within Danish research.

The Treaty of Lisbon: The role of European Union in the United Nations

Carsten Staur, ambassadør,
Danmarks Faste Repræsentant ved FN
i Genève

The article reviews the effect of the Lisbon Treaty and of the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) on the role of the European Union in the UN. In 2011, and not without difficulties, the EU obtained an enhanced observer status in the General Assembly, which turned it into a real player, with the EU-Delegation replacing the EU-Presidencies. Getting 28 Member States to agree on the line to take, however, often makes it difficult for the EU to fully use this newfound strength. In the Security Council, where Britain and France are permanent members, EU's role in decision-making remains limited, but the Union plays an increasingly important role in the implementation of Security Council decisions. In the Human Rights Council the need to build bridges between different groupings often leads to a low EU profile. For Denmark, the Lisbon Treaty and the strengthening of EU cooperation in the UN has been a plus.

Politically appointed civil servants, trust and corruption. An empirical investigation of the OECD countries

Lasse Aaskoven,
Fuldmægtig i Skatteministeriet

The extent to which civil servants should be appointed by politicians continues to be the subject of public debate. However can the degree of political influence in staffing the public service influence the level of corruption even in wealthy democracies? On the basis of a simple theoretical model, this paper argues that political systems with a higher level of political appointed civil servants should experience more corruption. The argument is tested empirically on 33 OECD-countries. The results show a statistical significant and substantial association between the degree to which civil servants are political appointed and corruption. This relationship is robust controlling for generalized trust, found to influence corruption in general and a potential driver of more meritocratic civil service systems.