



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
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NORDIC PERSPECTIVES: Keeping juveniles out of prison

Dr. Timo Harrikari

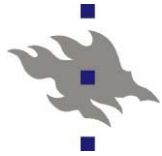
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Beyond McLeish: New Ideas, Lasting Solutions

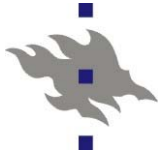
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NORDIC WELFARE STATES

- Social democratic welfare regime and the Nordic Welfare Ethos
 - Universalism, equality, public responsibility
- Childhood in the Nordic Welfare Regime
 - Structural prevention of social problems
 - Shared social responsibility of children's well-being
- Juvenile justice system
 - Roots of the system in the beginning of the 20th century
 - The age of criminal liability is 15 in all Nordic countries
 - Juvenile courts don't exist, specific principles and provisions up the age of 21
 - Child protection and criminal justice function side by side
 - Child welfare boards, child protection institutions, social work



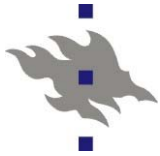
DEVELOPMENTS

■ Since the 1960's

- General principles of Social Policy
- Structural and preventive welfare policies best instruments
- Supporting stability, minimum intervention and avoiding stigmatisation

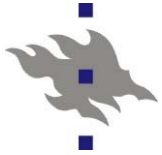
■ Since the 1990's

- Significant turning point: several simultaneous changes
- Great depression and social policy changes:
 - Harsh towards children and the young
- New concepts, discourses and technologies
- Challenges to the Nordic ethos and understanding of childhood



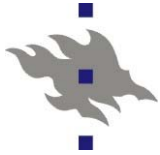
FINNISH JUVENILE CRIME TRENDS

- Conservative backlash
 - Political shift and public concern fed by media
- Increasing intolerance, punitiveness and control?
 - FSDR studies
 - the Finnish youth has become more law-abiding
 - Involvement in property crimes has decreased and the number of violent and drug offences has been comparatively stable
 - Polarisation?
- Punitive shift does not appear to match the Finnish context
 - The use of monetary penalties
 - A fine (70 per cent) and conditional imprisonment (20 per cent) are the most common penalties issued
 - Unconditional imprisonment and community sanctions are used very rarely



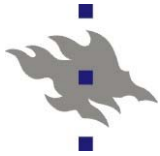
JUVENILE CRIME AND IMPRISONMENT

- Low juvenile imprisonment rate
- Several generative mechanisms
 - Political will
 - Neo-classical, human and rational criminal policy
 - Regulating and changes in provisions
 - Other options to block the ways to the prison
 - Institutional shift to the child welfare institution?



CONCLUSION

The decline in Finnish juvenile imprisonment rate is a result of **political will** and **human, rational, neo-classical criminal policy**. Courts have followed national level regulating and policies. Behind this combination lies the **Nordic welfare ethos** where **societal tolerance is relatively high, structural prevention of social problems** is still a significant part of general social policy and **child welfare institutions** take care juvenile crime



Publications in English:

- Harrikari, Timo (2008) Exploring Risk Governance in the Nordic Context: Finnish Juvenile Crime and Child Welfare *Current Issues in Criminal Justice* 20 (1), 29-42.
- Satka, Mirja & Harrikari, Timo (2008) The Present Finnish Formation of Child Welfare and history. *British Journal of Social Work*, Vol. 38 (3), 1-17.
- Harrikari, Timo & Satka Mirja (2006) A New Regime of Governing Childhood? Finland as an Example. *Social Work & Society*, Vol. 4 (2), 209-216.
- Satka, Mirja & Harrikari, Timo & Hoikkala, Susanna & Pekkarinen, Elina (2007) The Diverse Impacts of the Neo-liberal Social Policies on Children's Welfare and Social Work with Young People: The Finnish Perspective. *Social Work and Society*, Vol. 5 (1), 125-135.



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