Gender in Nordic Teacher Education

EIPPEE Conference 9.11.2016 Copenhagen

Venla Toivonen, Jenni Helakorpi & Mia Smeds
Nordic Centre of Excellence ‘JustEd’
Nordic Centre of Excellence (JustEd) ‘Justice through Education in the Nordic countries’

- multidisciplinary and cross-national with 14 Universities and 140 researchers
- How do systems, cultures and actors in education enable and constrain justice in the context of globalising Nordic welfare states?
- research on Nordic educational systems and impact of policies
- main activities: research, researcher education and researcher mobility
- extensive international publication
- coordinated by Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Helsinki
- 2013 - 2018, funded by NordForsk, an organisation that facilitates and provides funding for Nordic research cooperation and research infrastructure.
JustEd spin-off project Gender in Nordic Teacher Education (GENTE)

- Steering group in University of Helsinki and University of Gothenburg
  - researchers and teacher educators
- What we want: more gender awareness into teacher education
- Creating a research based web page for Nordic teacher education
- How?
  - Web page workshops with teacher educators and teacher students
  - Workshop with Nordic researchers and teacher educators
  - Questionnaire for teacher educators in UH and GU
Web page workshops

- Two workshops, one for teacher educators and one for students in Helsinki April 2016
- Finding out
  - needs of teacher educators and teacher students
  - practical ideas for a user friendly website
- Some of the ideas:
  - Teachers in schools need something that is easy and fast to read → visualizing research
  - The web page address needs to memorable and easy to use
  - It needs to be well structured
  - Why this web page exists must be addressed in the front page
Nordic workshops

NERA in Helsinki March 2016

Helsinki GENTE workshop in September

- 20 participants from Nordic countries and Estonia
- researchers and teacher educators
- networking and getting people involved
Steering group workshop and meetings

Photo: Mia Smeds
Questionnaire

- What kind of information and tools teacher educators use and what would they need from the website?
- Launched in University of Helsinki & University of Gothenburg, 13.-27.9.2016
- In Finnish & Swedish
- 5 questions, open answers
- 54 answers, 34 in Gothenburg and 20 in Helsinki
- Teacher educators from different levels of education
Gender in Nordic Teacher Education web page

- **database** of Nordic research
  - gathering and thematizing research
  - **reader** to get started with
  - **links** to already existing useful resources (equality guides, websites, statistics...)
  - **questionnaire** available to be conducted in other universities
  - main language English, research in all Nordic languages

- Target groups:
  1) teacher educators, teacher students
  2) teachers in schools, policy makers

- Launched in NERA conference March 2017
All research

Niiranen, Sonja. 2016.
Increasing girls’ interest in technology education as a way to advance women in technology.

Arnesen, Anne-Lise; Lalhelma, Elina; Lundahl, Lisbet and Öhrn, Elisabet (eds.). 2014.
Fair and competitive? Critical perspectives on contemporary Nordic schooling.

Huuki, Tuija and Sunnari, Vappu. 2015.
Standing by ... standing off – troublesome compassion in the relationships of school boys.

Huuki, Tuija and Renold, Emma. 2015.
Reader of gender for teacher education in the Nordic countries

- On the website – accessible for everybody
- Edited collection of peer reviewed and already published articles based on Nordic educational research
  - editors: Jenni Helakorpi, Ylva Odenbring and Venla Toivonen
  - a short editorial
  - in English
- Overview of the research field
  - for teacher educators
  - also aiming at reaching practitioners; teacher students and decision makers.
  - Challenge: copyright issues
Reader of gender for teacher education in the Nordic countries

● Themes such as:
  ○ education and school choice
  ○ gender, sexuality and everyday practices in pre-school
  ○ physical education
  ○ LGBT – school and sexualities

● Short popular scientific ‘teasers’ for each text:
  ○ “what you will learn from this article?”
  ○ “why you should read this article?”
Networks and future

How do we gather research from all Nordic Countries?

- using already existing networks
- JustEd
- nikk.no
- key persons at all nordic universities

How do we spread the information about the website?

- media
- unions
The project Gender in Nordic Teacher Education

Members

- University of Helsinki:
  Elina Lahelma, Liisa Tainio, Sirpa Lappalainen, Jenni Helakorpi, Mia Smeds, Venla Toivonen
- University of Gothenburg:
  Elisabet Öhrn, Ylva Odenbring and Ann-Sofie Holm
- International perspective from University of Sussex: Gaby Weiner