

Studies of the Society

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Studies of the Scientific Student Working-Group of the Department of Applied Social Sciences of the University of Szeged

SUMMARIES

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Educational institute, faculty, study: University of Szeged, Juhász Gyula Teacher Training Faculty, Social Studies BA

The title of the study: Women's roles in political strategies for public office

Supervisor: Mária Rita Kiss

Modern politics is a war between the images of politicians. During this war, the private lives of these politicians becomes increasingly important, as the trust of the voters is won by introducing elements of their private lives. Part of this civilian life is the woman, who is used as a symbol in the war of political image.

In this study, the effects of the politicians' wives on the image of their husbands in both the United States of America and also in Hungary were studied. Different political structure is present in these two countries. The United States can be regarded as the political image strategies' birthplace, which is why this country was chosen to compare with Hungary. The main reason for the difference between the political structures of these two countries can be found in the differences between these political cultures, which were analyzed by the methods of political anthropology.

The focus of this research was the role of the most influential public officials' wives in political visibility, and the symbolism of this role. While in Hungary these wives are rarely seen in the media and are politically unimportant compared to their husbands, in the United States it is expected of the wives of public officials to be politically active.

In this comparison, the activities of the wives of three Hungarian and three American public officials were contrasted, and it was concluded that the expected roles are the traditional women's roles in both countries even though the Hungarian society is closed and the American is open. Subsequently, the reasons for the different media representation of the wives of public officials in these two countries were explored. As part of this exploration the previously mentioned wives' public activities were compared using case studies with sources consisting of news articles, web pages, and social media profiles. These activities were compared using a specific system of criteria. Additionally, a comparison using Hofstede's value system was performed to discover the reason for the difference in the women's representation in these two different sociocultural atmospheres.

In conclusion, the difference between these two political cultures, the different media representation of the wives of public officials, is that the American society is more masculine, while the Hungarian society is more feminine. However, the American society ensures a bigger role for women in the war of political image.

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The title of the study: The importance of the natural history's results in the social sciences. How do the students of the SZTE feel about the integration of the discipline?

Supervisor: János Farkas DSc

My TDK essay's subject is that why do we need the natural history's results to understand, to explain some historical-, social events, and why do we need to these into the education. I will speak about the third culture's precept, which emphasize the importance of these connecting points. In my work I don not want to mention all of these connection points with the need of fullness just to show the need of these with the following examples: social-biology, humanetology, ecological anthropology and Jared Diamond's theory of the different development rate of societies. On the other hand I will present the result of my questionnaire's result which studied that he SZTE's social studies students and the natural history's students how feel about the common points, and how much they know about the topics mentioned in my essay. Besides these my research subject was to know if it's possible to show a factor which strengthens the acceptance or the rejection of this and to check if there is a need for the integration between the subjects.

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The title of the study: Water polo with Deaf and Hearing Players, and Their Non-sporting Pairs

Supervisors: Csaba Jancsák PhD and László Balogh PhD

Background

The Hungarian national water polo team won the Olympics Games nine times, also the national deaf water polo team has similar results: they won six Deaflympics. One sport, in which they are the leadings, however they meet different difficulties in the life and in the swimming-pool as well.

10% of the habitants of Hungary live with impaired hearing. They live with discrimination and sociocultural differences, but there's a field where they can get out from their closed community and enter in a new group and change their lives with sporting.

The actuality of my topic is the lack of the literature of deaf sport. There are only a few scripts about sportsmen's satisfaction with life, mainly about the disabled people's. As an athlete I am interested in a language minority's water polo's life.

Methods

In Hungary 66, 8% of the men don't do any sports, from this group I asked 15-15 deaf and hearing men (n=30) with the Satisfaction With Life Scale (5 statements, which agree or disagree with, using the 1(strongly disagree) – 7(strongly agree) likert scale). Furthermore, I examined more 15-15 deaf and hearing water polo men (n=30). I watched also other factors, demographical details. As sampling I used the simple reaching technique. I used descriptive statistic, I calculated min., max., standard deviation, mean.

Results

I worked with the Stat soft statistic program and I measured with ANOVA for each statements in the 4 groups. The probability of these results, assuming the null hypothesis are: 1) In most ways my life is close to my ideal $p < 0,0003$. 2) The conditions of my life are excellent $p < 0,0006$. 3) I am satisfied with my life $p < 0,0037$. 4) So far I have gotten the important things I want in life $p < 0,001$. 5) If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing $p < 0,071$.

It is clearly seen that the deaf water polo players' satisfaction is much more higher ($M1=5,73$ $SD1=1,28$) than the non-sporting hearing-impaired's ($M1=4$ $SD1=1,25$) However, for the hearings this result is not true: they are almost equal, but the non-sporting group's results are little bit better ($M2=5,7$ $SD2=1$) than the water polo players' ($M2=5,27$ $SD2=1,03$)

Conclusion

From these results we can see it's worth considering care for the deaf's or disabled's sport, because for a hearing-impaired the sport means more possibilities, than a hearing person. Furthermore, sport is about social contacts, this is a great chance to integrate them to the society.

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The title of the study: Description and criticism of society in the songs of Cseh Tamás (Comparing the two albums titled "Levél nővéremnek" in 1976 and in 1994)

Supervisor: Mária Rita Kiss

My dissertation is about the nature of the criticism of society and social imagery in the songs of Cseh Tamás (and thereby, in the lyrics of Bereményi Géza). The goal of my work is to describe the social differences between the Kádár era and the post-communist regime era, and to illustrate them with the view of Cseh Tamás and Bereményi Géza, by comparing the albums „Levél nővéremnek” (1976) and „Levél nővéremnek 2.” (1994). /Levél means letter/

Apart from describing the two eras, I attach great importance to the social and political circumstances that I assume, have a strong affect to the artistic means of expression.

In my analysis, I will denote the two forms of the artists' description of society, including the differences in style, mood and artistic means of expression, and the possible causes of differences, by comparing the albums of the two eras. The most essential assumption of my dissertation is that Bereményi Géza shows the audience a picture of society in his lyrics that is also thematically comprehensible, and he words a criticism of society that is translated into music by Cseh Tamás and Másik János on these two records. The recurring and basic questions of my dissertation are the kind of social differences appearing in the stories of the songs. How is private life and social phenomenon combined? And the one that provides the main topic and method of my work (the comparison) is that what kind of fundamental differences were there in the society of the late Kádár era and the post-communist regime, in the people's private life in the two eras, and in the choices of artistic means of expression.

My work consists of three parts: first I introduce the biography of Cseh Tamás and Bereményi Géza, afterwards I describe the general analysis of the albums including the circumstances of creating, and in the third part I introduce the artistic means of expression, and through them I give an analysis and make a final conclusion. And it is not cheerful, the outstandingly popular songs also point out the cruel changings in a generation: there used to be a more secure life without freedom and now there is a life with more freedom without security.

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The title of the study: Drug abuse in young adulthood. The background, the properties and the prevention of drug abuse in generation of college students

Supervisor: Ildikó Laki

Nowadays, various addictions at the social level, especially drug abuse, is a growing problem among young people. What is the reason for this? Can this be prevented? The first drug use happens in high school. In my thesis I search for answers for the following questions: how does drug use appear in young adulthood, what are the characteristics of drug users and the ones who belong to user group in whole or in a part? My assumption is that drug use is more common in the peer group's cohesion and greatly influenced by family background. The dysfunctional operation of micro-communities encourages young people to find new values and if these are found in a drug user group then to become users themselves. My thesis aims to point out the fact that it is the task of parents and educational institutions to show correct values and that close, personal ties can overcome deviance and anomie. To discover the drug abuse is very difficult, because each case is different. To understand this could last forever.

One part of my empirical studies includes a focus group study among students of the University of Szeged with the aim to get to know the students' attitudes towards the substance use. According to the respondents the strong value system of the family determines the attitude of young people towards drug use which means that it is not always influenced by the peer group. I also interviewed Laci who is receiving treatments in rehab in Dr. Farakasinszky Terézia Ifjúsági Drogcentrum (Youth Drug Centre in Szeged). He is currently twenty-eight years old and was a drug user since he was fourteen. Laci's childhood was largely determined by his parent's addictive behavior. Due to the devaluation of family values the circle of drug users remains a stable community.

In the last chapter of my thesis I introduce some prevention activities that can positively influence young people who need support to find way back to the society.

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The title of the study: The republican presidential elections in Hungary (1990-2012)

Supervisor: Mária Rita Kiss

In my project I paid attention to the six republican presidential elections after the system change. In Hungary the President of the Republic is chosen by the parliament. In the past twenty-two years though the possibility of direct elections was considered many times. In the first part of my project I collected the thoughts about direct presidential elections. In the next part I described the procedure of election before and after 2012. Next I analyzed each election deeper, with two main aspects of analysis. The first aspect is the circumstances of the choosing of candidates. I examined how each candidate could become a potential nominee. The second aspect is the analysis of the votes during the elections. The election procedure suggests that the government and the opposition should agree in the person of the candidate. I examined in my project if this really happens in practice.

The important statement of my work is that the ruling party or parties with their two-thirds of votes don't consult with the opposition about the person of the candidate. We can say that in most cases the candidate of the government will become the President of the Republic, such evidence that there was only one election when the candidate of the opposition won, in 2005. Therefore the result of the parliamentary elections has great influence on the person of the President of the Republic. The most important statement of my project is that during the six elections so far there was a consensus between the government and the opposition only once, in 1990.

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The title of the study: Is there life after growth? The contradictions of economic growth and the degrowth alternative.

Supervisor: Tibor Szabó CSc, Habil

The essence of our current socio-economic system is economic growth which is also presently the most important economic and political objective. The vast majority of economists, political and economic leaders consider the GDP growth as the main solution for social problems, and as the main source of long term economic development and „universal welfare”. Due to rapid economic growth developed countries are able to provide higher standards of service to their population as long as the developing countries continue to struggle to achieve the living standards of welfare states.

Economic growth, however, conceals several self-contradictions by causing an increase in inequalities, pollution and concentrated usage of resources in an increasingly intensive way. In the result of my study I reveal that - contrary to the prevailing public opinion - economic growth does not lead to long-term economic prosperity because growth has ecological limits. As many scientists (e.g. the members of *Club of Rome* with their reports) have already demonstrated the natural resources are finite and the ecological footprint of humanity has already overshoot the biocapacity of the Earth. In the long run economic growth with the rapid increase of resource usage and pollution does not lead to wealth but it causes natural disasters and social conflicts, through which even the satisfaction of basic needs of humanity are called into question. The current system is unsustainable and threatens to collapse.

In my thesis beyond the introduction of the components of the contradictions and unsustainability I seek for possible solutions examining whether there may be another way of development than economic growth. As a result of the above mentioned, I outline the degrowth alternative (based on the book of *Serge Latouche: Little treatise on serene degrowth*) which can provide a solution for the current social problems and can be a way out from the threatening ecological crisis. The base of the concept formed by value changes, frugality, reduction of production and consumption, economic and energy relocalization as well as changeover to renewable energy sources and recycling. By studying many alternatives and movements around this concept I consider the degrowth vision a possible path for a social and a global economic system to evolve, which is foremost, sustainable on long term, livable and consists of smaller communities open to the world who live in harmony with nature and manage resources in a wise way.

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The title of the study: Voluntary youth – youth volunteers

Supervisor: Ildikó Laki

My TDK project is about the volunteering work of the age group between 14 and 29 years in Hungary. My purpose is to explore the attitude of the youth about this subject and to see their activity in this topic.

In the first part of my project, I introduce my survey of the opinions about volunteering and the utility of it. Afterwards I show the results I got. Then through five interviews I show the importance of the institutional level of volunteering and the social usefulness of it.

The important statement of my work is that the interviewed youth, young adults think that volunteering is important and useful in the Hungarian society, but they do not see enough possibilities to work as volunteers – at least in Hungary. The most questioned people already heard about volunteering, but didn't know the exact content of the work. Therefore we should use a unified definition, which would summarize the meaning of volunteering. A voluntary system is needed in Hungary, in which the youth could join in time and so they could use their experience in their later studies. The already existing host organizations should become available for the youth.

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The title of the study: The praise of the femininity. The antifeminism, „new” social movement.

Supervisor: Tibor Szabó CSc, Habil

The main topic of my dissertation is the antifeminism, as a social movement. It includes more highlighted points, mostly the protection of the family and male-female relations. In my view, it is more and more important to be able to create/find safety in the epoch of instability. I call the antifeminism as a „new” social movement, because this conservative view had become relevant in the postmodern age. In fact women already achieved equality between man and women and equal rights adopted by the law.

The classical model was one of the basics of my dissertation. I terminate that by the religion and some determinative philosopher's thoughts (for example: Aristotle, Kant). These had significant effects on the thinking of the humanity, because they used classical relationship samples efficiently for thousands of years. Man and women were distinguished by their genital characteristics, they were appropriate for other „tasks”. With the appearance of the feminism women started to work because of some social and economic reasons, therefore some kind of „masculinization” also started in the society. Thanks to this process nowadays women have to work and have their family only on the second step of the podium. The antifeminist views are conservative, their aim is to restore the image of the classical family. In my dissertation I would like to introduce the antifeminist arguments with my thoughts and through some authors. There are fewer professional literature related to this topic, than the feminism, but I highlighted the ones which mostly represents this social theory. Finally, the aim of my dissertation was to introduce the antifeminism, as a social movement with its relevance in the postmodern age. This movement can offer solutions for the women who recognized that excessive virilization can also have negative effects and consequences. Regarding the future my conclusion is that feminism and antifeminism will be part of the society, because women need a theory, argument, value which they can fight for. According to this, the question is that which movement will have stronger influence on the followers and will be determinative. For the time being both movements are reasoned.

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Author: Tamás Ottó Varga**E-mail:** tamas.otto.varga@gmail.com**Educational institute, faculty, study:** University of Szeged, Juhász Gyula Teacher Training Faculty, Social Studies BA**The title of the study:** Political advocacy of university students on 'Facebook'**Supervisor:** Mária Rita Kiss

The topic of my research is Facebook as political communication channel. I conducted the study primarily as an instrument of the advocacy policy of student self-governments. It seems evident that this is the easiest way to contact today's university students – the members of Generation Y –, to mobilize them for advocacy goals if necessary. What the problem comes down to is this: how are university self-governments able to make the most of this opportunity?

In the center of my survey is the demonstration of the students of the University of Szeged against the tuition fee in autumn 2011. This is completed with the general description of the communication of the Self-Government of the University of Szeged and with the examples of other Hungarian universities.

I think it is necessary to note that the thought of the investigation of the advocacy Facebook communication and the work afterwards have already started after the student movements in 2011. The events of December 2012 have raised its political communication relevance further.

My opinion is that I also have to reflect on these in the final version.



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