

# NORDCORP 2008

## Multimodal Corpus Analysis in the Nordic Countries

Title Multimodal Corpus Analysis in the Nordic Countries  
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### **Analysis of multimodal spoken language**

The purpose of this application is to fund a collaborative project on the analysis of multimodal spoken language corpora in the Nordic countries, i.e. annotated video-based resources where the various modalities involved in human communication, or human-computer interaction, are recorded and annotated at many different levels.

Multimodal corpora make it possible to study how manual gestures, head movements, facial expressions and body posture interact with speech in face-to-face communication.

### **Multimodal corpora bases for comparative research**

The findings can be used for a number of purposes, among them to develop models of multimodal communication for the design of embodied communicative agents in computer interfaces to databases and for the design of robots.

Multimodal corpora for different language and cultures can also be the bases for comparative research, which can be used for the design and adaptation of multimodal agents for use in different countries (Intercultural Communication Technology).

### **Project activities**

The project will

- (i) further develop research building on the earlier results we have obtained in this field, (ii) start up and pursue a closer cooperation with the purpose of establishing multimodal corpora for Danish, Swedish, Finnish and Estonian with a number of standardized coding features which will make comparative studies possible
- (iii) perform a number of specified studies testing hypotheses on multimodal communicative interaction
- (iv) develop, extend and adapt models of multimodal interactive communication management that can serve as a basis for interactive systems
- (v) apply machine learning techniques in order to test the possibilities.

## **The Role of Religion in the Public Sphere. A Comparative Study of the Five Nordic Countries**

Title The role of religion in the public sphere. A comparative study of the five Nordic countries

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Co-investigators Anders Bäckström, Uppsala University, Sweden  
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### **Religion become more visible**

A major trend in the Nordic countries during the past 20 years is that religion has become more visible in the public sphere.

Profound religious changes have taken place in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland, which include changes in church – state relations and the growth of new religious minorities that demand equal opportunities and roles in the public sphere.

Here, the “public sphere” refers to the state, the polity, the mass media, and the civil society.

### **Comparison of religious changes**

The Nordic countries have different church-state relations as well as immigration histories and policies. At the same time, they have a Lutheran majority church and institutionalized rights for religious minorities. They harbour a combination of common and different features that make for an interesting comparative study.

This four year research project (2009-2013) systematically compares religious changes during the past twenty years by selecting three years for in-depths study: 1988, 1998, and 2008.

### **Research themes**

Four themes are of particular interest: 1. State and religion, 2. The role of religion in public policies, 3. Religion and the media, and 4. The role of religion in civil society.

The study is based on a wide range of quantitative and qualitative data, and the findings will be interpreted within social theories on civil society and social capital. The main research is conducted by senior researchers from all the five Nordic countries, as well as two doctoral students. Four research conferences will be arranged during the project period.

The purpose is to contribute to excellent research on the changing role of religion in the public sphere in the Nordic countries.

## **Gendering ICT in Everyday Life. A Comparative Study of Practices in Family and Extra-family Contexts**

Title Gendering ICT in everyday life. A comparative study of practices in family and extra-family contexts  
Principal investigator Jo Helle-Valle, National Institute for Consumer Research, Norway  
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Jonas Linderoth, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Grant 568,800 EUR  
Reference 2135-08-0126

### **Gender and ICT use in everyday life**

This project's theme is ICT and gender in social relations and leisure contexts, - in particular online entertainments on PCs, in families and among young females.

The project's main research question is: How and to what extent does gender play a part in ICT-use in everyday life?

Through a methodological triangulation an comparison of discursive, survey and ethnographic data from Norway, Sweden and Denmark the project is designed to provide new knowledge on gender equality issues in the Nordic countries, and to enhance the work towards the dissemination of ICT-competence in the public.

### **Challenges for gender prototypes**

The project's analytical starting point is that – according to conventional, prototypical ideas – ICT is a masculine technology, and that the home is a feminine social sphere.

As there has been a massive influx of ICTs in homes this flow represents challenges to the moral economy of the home as well as for gender prototypes. This is studied through different types of discursive analyses.

However, a contention central to the project is that everyday life is not formed effortlessly according to cultural prototypes and that attitudes, practices in their consequences must always be studied in the practical contexts they unfold in.

### **Research themes**

Thus, we assume that everyday life is linked in complex and unforeseen ways to cultural ideas. It is totality we study through a project that consists of two research themes;

- (i) gendered ICT-use in families
- (ii) young females' gaming and online activities

These themes are linked by four analytical modules:

1. public discourse on ICT entertainment in relation to family and gender
2. local discourses of teachers, parents and pupils on ICT use
3. ICT entertainment practices and identity constructions in families and among gaming girls
4. theorizing gender as language-game

## **Ageing Households and the Nordic welfare models**

Title Ageing Households and the Nordic welfare models  
Principal investigator Jukka Lassila, The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy  
ETLA, Finland  
Co-investigators Svend E. Hougaard, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark  
Nico Keilmann, University of Oslo, Norway

Grant 506,640 EUR  
Reference 2135-08-0109

### **Demographics of households**

We study the demographics of households and their implications on the economic consequences of population ageing.

Probabilistic household projections, which describe the developments of different household types and quantify the uncertainty in these descriptions, will be used jointly with computable general equilibrium models, and related life cycle models, to assess implications of household structure under uncertainty.

### **Household structures implications for welfare model**

It is likely that changes in household structures will have important implications for the sustainability of the Nordic welfare model, whose essential features are related to households and families.

These include large transfers to households, publicly provided health and long-term care services, large public spending on child care and education, and institutions that facilitate extensive female participation in labour markets.

### **Types of results**

We expect four types of results. First, we make probabilistic household projections for Denmark and Finland.

Second, we assess how changes in household types, including migrant households, mediate the economic consequences of population ageing in Nordic countries.

Third, we analyse the implications of varying household positions on the labour supply and consumption decisions of the members of the household.

Fourth, we refine the available economic and demographic models currently used in ageing research to better serve as tools of policy analysis.

## **Youth trajectories: a longitudinal study of risk factors for marginalization in Finland, Sweden and Norway**

Title Youth trajectories: a longitudinal study of risk factors for marginalization in Finland, Sweden and Norway

Principal investigator Thomas Lorentzen, Rokkansenteret, University of Bergen, Norway

Co-investigators Espen Dahl, Oslo University College, Norway  
Timo Kauppinen, STAKES, Finland  
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Grant 567,000 EUR

Reference 2135-08-0104

### **Transition from adolescence to adulthood**

The aim of this project is to shed new light on the transition from adolescence to adulthood, with a focus on the risks of economic and labour market marginalisation, in three Nordic countries, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The one factor uniting the questions we are examining in this project is the focus on critical phases in the transition from adolescence to adulthood, and how this transition may increase the risk of experiencing different aspects of marginalisation.

### **Study of the process of marginalization**

To achieve this, we will utilise nationwide comparable longitudinal administrative dataset, starting in the early 1990s and ending in the middle of the first decade of 2000.

The project draws on and unites two approaches that are seldom combined: a longitudinal, prospective design with a comparative approach. This allows us to study the process of marginalisation, and at the same time systematically contextualise and compare these between three welfare states and their institutions.

### **Higher risk of marginalisation in Nordic countries**

Carrying out such a project in a Nordic context seems to be particularly timely and pertinent as comparative research indicates that transitions from adolescence to adulthood and the Nordic countries entail higher risk of marginalisation in terms of poverty, unemployment, and receipts of social assistance elsewhere.

This is a cause concern as a large bulk of evidence suggests that a disadvantaged start in life tends to hamper one's life chances.

## **Sikh Identity Formation: Generational Transfer of traditions in the Nordic Countries**

Title Sikh Identity Formation: Generational Transfer of traditions in the Nordic Countries

Principal investigator Kristina Myrvold, Lund University, Sweden

Co-investigators Knut A. Jacobsen, University of Bergen, Norway  
Ravinder Kaur, Roskilde University, Denmark  
Hanna Snellman, University of Helsinki, Finland

Grant 598,688 EUR  
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### **Transfer of traditions and identity formation**

The research project investigates generational transfer of traditions and identity formation processes among one visible minority group in the Nordic countries: the Sikhs from Punjab.

From the general presumption that migration implies reconstruction of identities, the project explores the various strategies by which Sikh migrants preserve and transmit religious, cultural and linguistic traditions and how the second generation Sikhs, i.e. children born of immigrant parentage, gravitate towards religious identification in attempts to carve out a place for themselves in the Nordic societies.

### **Creation of own cultural translations**

The project brings together six scholars from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the UK who from a shared research framework explore the multiple forms of material and media being used for transmissions of traditions and how the second generation shapes understanding of individual and collective identities in relation to many different “cultural others” in the social fields of home, school, religious community and on the Internet.

Based on research findings in international Diaspora studies, the project investigates how Sikh youth with transnational life-styles adapt more reflexive attitudes towards religion and identity and create their own cultural translations in order to negotiate between contradictory perspectives surrounding them.

### **Ethnographic fieldwork methodological base**

The methodological base is ethnographic fieldwork among Sikhs in the four Nordic countries and analyses of textual material used for educational and edifying purposes.

The project will contribute new knowledge of how migrants mobilize efforts to understand difference, maintain traditions, and fashion new identities on their journey to becoming true citizens of the multi-cultural societies.

## **Philosophical Foundations for Systems Biology (PFSB)**

Title Philosophical Foundations for Systems Biology (PFSB)  
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Grant 600,000 EUR  
Reference 2135-08-0118

### **Development of philosophical foundations for systems biology**

The aim of the project is to develop philosophical foundations for systems biology.

Systems biology is a new and expanding discipline investigating complex living systems through interdisciplinary work. It engages biologists, biophysicists, mathematicians, statisticians and computer scientists who model biological systems and conduct computer based simulations combined with large scale experimental testing. The new discipline faces fundamental philosophical questions that need to be resolved.

### **Three main topics of philosophical problems**

This project will address three main topics of pressing philosophical problems. The first topic is 'Systems and Parts' where we will investigate how to understand the ontology of systems, how the concept of gene is understood in the new discipline, and how properties of systems, parts and wholes are to be understood.

The second theme is 'Levels and Causes' where we will explore the relation between scientific levels, reduction, emergence and downward causation in systems biology. The third theme is 'Methods and Epistemological Issues', where the particular use of models and simulations in systems biology will be scrutinized.

### **Outcome of the project**

The project is carried out in close collaboration with national, Nordic and international research communities.

The outcome will be conceptual and philosophical development produced in interaction with the science itself, resulting in philosophical foundations that will have a normative driving force for the future direction and content of systems biology.

## Competitiveness through quality

Title Competitiveness through quality  
Principal investigator Dominic Power, Uppsala University, Sweden  
Co-investigators Anders Waxell, Uppsala University, Sweden  
Per Lundequist, Uppsala University, Sweden  
Johan Jansson, Uppsala University, Sweden  
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Grant 515,500 EUR

Reference 2135-08-0094

Why are almost all of England's leading manufacturers of high quality shoes located in Northampton? How can Stockholm, Uppsala, Lund and Umeå together account for 10% of all clinical testing in Western Europe? How can we explain the continued success of European audio and hifi manufacturers such as Bang & Olufsen, Linn and NAD despite ever increasing global competition from low-cost countries?

### **RQuality central factor in firms capacity to create competitiveness**

In this project we explore these questions from the perspective that 'quality' is a central factor in firms' capacity to create and maintain international competitiveness.

In recent years many have highlighted the importance of scientific research and technological innovation to national and regional industrial competitive advantage.

We argue in this research proposal that excellence in research and innovation is not enough to understand the success of many industries and firms. It is necessary to understand other elements of competitiveness and regional advantage as well. In particular, we focus on the role of 'quality'.

### **Innovation rests on ability to build dynamic clusters**

The suggestion is that by making and providing quality goods and services - that may be based on the latest technologies or equally on ageold craft traditions - firms in high cost countries in Western Europe have found a sustainable way of competing against firms in low-cost countries.

We suggest that innovation and ultimately competitiveness rests upon the ability to build dynamic clusters - i.e. a geographical concentration of firms and associated institutions in a particular field - that aim to achieve the highest quality offerings and to construct sustainable brands associated with high quality.

## **Organizational Change for Innovation and Institutional Entrepreneurship in Health-care System**

Title Organizational Change for Innovation and Institutional Entrepreneurship in Health-care System  
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Arne Isaksen, University of Agder, Norway

Grant 600,000 EUR  
Reference 2135-08-0138

### **Investigation of organizational change**

The focus on this research project is to investigate how organizational innovations come about through the interplay between renewal dynamics at multiple levels in the context of health care systems.

The proposed project seeks to investigate the organizational change process and innovation underpinning the creation and modification of clinical practices from the point of view of human agency by using case studies on Sweden, Norway and Finland and comparing them cross the cases and countries.

### **Breakthroughs in laboratory experimentation and patient care**

Some pioneering works have already peeped into this Pandora box but arguably much remains to be uncovered in this area of research.

Medical innovation draws on a vast global knowledge base, and extensive research activity has subsequently paved the way to major breakthroughs in both laboratory experimentation and patient care through innovative clinical trials.

At the same time it is recognized that the intersection of such wide knowledge bases and ever increasing pace of medical innovation brings about challenges in the modes of organization and day to day practices.

### **Institutions' impact on organizations innovation**

This research project examines the answers to 'how institutions facilitate and/or hamper organizational innovation in the Nordic healthcare systems' and 'how do key actors influence the course of events and aim to change the very same institutional setting they are embedded to'.

## **Nordic Dialect Corpus and Collaboration – NorDiaCorp**

Title Nordic Dialect Corpus and Collaboration - NorDiaCorp  
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Hóskuldur Thrainsson, University of Iceland, Iceland  
Camilla Wide, Copenhagen University, Denmark  
Karen Margrethe Pedersen, University of Aarhus, Denmark  
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### **Grammatical variation across the Nordic language area**

The main purpose of NorDiaCorp is to harvest the fruits of the substantial joint efforts to document and investigate grammatical variation across the Nordic language area over the last 4-5 years and make the results and experiences from this collaboration more generally available both to the Nordic linguistic research community and to the interested public.

### **Project activities**

NorDiaCorp is composed of four work packages:

- (i) Data collection in Sweden and Finland
- (ii) Maps, overviews, and related dissemination
- (iii) Networking
- (iv) Focused fieldwork excursions.

### **Subgoals**

These relate to the following sub-goals:

- NorDiaCorp will contribute towards the completion of the first pan-Scandinavian dialect
- collection and database over, the Nordic Dialect Corpus (i.e. modern research infrastructure)
- NorDiaCorp will lead to systematic overviews of the findings established within the existing
- Nordic research collaboration on dialect syntax/grammar (i.e. maps and other dissemination)
- NorDiaCorp will develop and expand the existing collaboration on Scandinavian dialect
- syntax into a more general collaboration on Nordic language variation (i.e. networking including researcher training)

- NorDiaCorp will continue and further develop the highly successful practice of focused field
- trips to selected places and areas in the Nordic countries, conducted by vertically composed
- teams of linguists (i.e. researcher training and data collection)