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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>The subject of the thesis is the way of thought, writing, talk and action constructed in time and place in Finnish academic sociology. The institutional, textual and political problems of outlining and defining sociology run through the whole thesis. A more exact outline comes from the actual subject of research, Professor Erik Allardt's ongoing life work. Allardt's work has had a broader impact than just on Finnish academic sociology and through this both the university institution and research politics enter into my research.</p> <p>Many of the theoretical concepts of the thesis are based on the works of Pierre Bourdieu, Steven Shapin, and Helga Nowotny. The research material is first and foremost texts that have produced and interpreted Finnish sociology, secondly archive material, the most important of these are the protocols of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki, but also expert statements found in the archives of other universities and the protocols of the Central Board of Research Councils from 1986-1990, third oral and written reminiscences. The method of research is linking the central fragments of texts through concepts with the already ample history writing of Finnish sociology. This method is more a method of presenting than of explaining things.</p> <p>The titles of the three main parts of the thesis are 'Habitus and Capital', 'Fields' and 'Practices'. In chapter two of part one Allardt's background and resources, on which his career was built, are presented. In chapter three of part two a general picture of post-war Finnish sociology is presented. In chapter four Allardt's activity as an academic actor is analyzed according to different forms of university capital. In chapter 5 the non-academic aspects of Allardt's political activity and his links to fields of economy are analyzed. Chapter 6 of part three presents Allardt's work through various archive materials and reminiscences. Chapter 7 deals with the heart of academic matter, writing. In chapter 8 the historical self-understanding of Finnish sociology is analyzed.</p> <p>In Erik Allardt's career there is an unusual and balanced program-view of the function of sociology in society and an attempt to realize this view on all levels, both in research and in participation in society. It is a question of acting in an area, where research produces information, that is experienced as convincing and needed, that creates and forms a view of society, that 'needs' more of that information and that supports the production of such information. Allardt's lifework is part of a time, where in this area at least from time to time a certain 'balance' was achieved. He has had a central part in at least the following developments in Finnish society. The professionalization of science has brought scientists closer to other highly educated professional groups. Mass university education has produced scientifically trained professionals in many fields. This might have led to the questioning of the former special position of authority of science. The same phenomenon has also created a 'mass audience' for science, that is capable of following scientific reasoning and discussions.</p>			
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