



Samforsk

The Social Science
Research Institute

Annual report 2020



FUTUDEM | FIRIPO | BAROMETERN | SPRÅKBAROMETERN | PALO

2020

An unusual year

2020 was an unusual year for Samforsk. We were looking forward to an eventful year, including many international visits. However, the Covid-19 pandemic made all social gatherings practically impossible. Despite the lack of physical meetings, we had a productive year. Our team organi-

sed several research projects, many of them virtually. In addition, the Covid-isolation resulted in many successful publications. In this annual report, you will find a short summary of these research projects and publications of 2020.

Events 2020

Turku deliberates

(Turku keskustele, Åbo samtalar) Implementing a local democratic innovation

As part of the development of a new master plan, the City of Turku sought to engage its citizens in the planning process. It contracted our team at Åbo Akademi University and Tampere University

to do this. We used a democratic innovation, a deliberative mini-public, to decipher what an informed public opinion on the transport system in the city centre looks like. In order to attract a diverse group of people, we used random sampling in recruiting participants. The Turku deliberates -citizens' panel, with 171 participants, took place in mid-May 2020, and was organized online due to

the Covid-19 pandemic. As a novel feature in the growing field of deliberative mini-publics, Turku deliberates also included local councillors deliberating together with citizens in some of the small-groups.

The first results of the citizens' panel were published in the report "Implementing a democratic innovation: Online deliberation on a future transport system". The report presents theoretical arguments for citizen deliberation, describes the process used in Turku deliberates, and highlights the project's main results. The report also lays out policy

recommendations on how to apply deliberative mini-publics in democratic decision-making processes at the local level.

The report can be downloaded from: www.abo.fi/en/turkukeskustele/
For more information about FutuDem, please visit our homepage:

www.futudem.fi

FUTUDEM

The Future of Democracy, FutuDem
A Center of Excellence in Public Opinion Research

FIRIPO to the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures

In December, The Academy of Finland announced that The Finnish Research Infrastructure for Public Opinion, FIRIPO, has been selected to the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures. FIRIPO is a consortium that is coordinated by Samforsk under the leadership of Professor **Kimmo Grönlund**. Other partner universities are Tampere University and the University of Turku.

FIRIPO was already granted three-year-funding as a new initiative in 2019



for building a national infrastructure for public opinion research. The systematic construction of FIRIPO started in January 2020 with funding from the Academy of Finland (AcaFI). FIRIPO will be a national infrastructure for public opinion and choice behaviour research. FIRIPO will provide an infrastructure, aimed especially at the social sciences, economics and psychology, for conducting survey research, including panel and longitudinal designs, and experimental research. An important part of the infrastructure for research in public opinion is a pool of respondents for longitudinal panel-type online surveys. These respondents receive several surveys each year, through

which researchers gather valuable information about how Finnish citizens think about politics and society. In addition, a decision maker online panel, or politician panel, is another panel that launched in 2020. It provides quick and direct access to the attitudes of municipal-level decision-makers in concrete political issues. The online surveys conducted in 2020 are listed below.

Surveys

- **Survey on Covid-19**
- **Survey on Social Equality**
- **Survey on the Swedish language in Finland**
- **Survey on filter bubbles and polarization**
- **Survey on political sophistication**
- **Decision-maker survey**

Webinar series: “New Empirical Research on Deliberation”

As from November 2020, we have organized a short webinar series called “New Empirical Research on Deliberation”. During the first seminar, Professor **Kimmo Grönlund** presented the Turku speaks report “Implementing a local democratic innovation”.

Associate professor **Jane Suiter** (Dublin City University) presented the paper “Using Mini-public to Correct Covid-19 Disinformation” during the second seminar.

The last part of the series was held on 27th of January 2021. Professor **James S. Fishkin** (Stanford University) presented the paper “Is Deliberation an Antidote to Extreme Partisan Polarization? Reflections on “America in One Room””. The seminar series was sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Public Opinion research, FutuDem and the Standing Group on Democratic Innovations at the ECPR.

Barometern

– online panel survey for Swedish speaking Finns

In July 2020 Samforsk published, under the leadership of researcher Dr. **Marina Lindell**, a research report titled “Vad tycker Svenskfinland?” (Opinions among the Swedish-speaking Finns). The report is written in Swedish, and based on data from the survey conducted in 2019. In the survey, opinions and trends among the Swedish-speaking Finns were analysed, e.g. trust, political efficacy, climate actions, services in Swedish and political issues. In the report, the authors analyse different aspects of the Swedish-speaking population in Finland, focusing on politics and society.

You can read the report at: www.barometern.fi/vad-tycker-svenskfinland-resultat-fran-den-finlandssvenska-barometern-2019-2020/

Språkbarometern (Language Barometer)

Since 2004, Språkbarometern has been used to study how linguistic services have been implemented in bilingual municipalities. Språkbarometern measures how members of the linguistic minority in different municipalities perceive linguistic ser-

vices. Språkbarometern is conducted every four years and was conducted in 2020, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Association of Finnish Municipalities. The Ministry of Justice will publish the research results of Språkbarometern 2020 in February. Commissioned by the city of Helsinki, Samforsk wrote a report on the language climate in Helsinki in February 2021.

Palo

Participation in long-term decision-making (PALO) is a multidisciplinary research project that focuses on the problems related to long-term decision-making practices. The PALO consortium consists of four organizations, one of which is Åbo Akademi University. PALO is funded by The Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland. The funding period is 2017–2022. The PALO project aims to strengthen democracy by developing better practices for deliberative citizen participation and public decision-making. Director of research, **Lauri Rapeli**, is also one of the work package leaders within PALO. In 2020, PALO produced several publications concerning future-oriented decision-making in democracies. Read more about PALO at:

<https://paloresearch.fi/en/>



Professor Kaisa Herne (left) and Academy Research Fellow Dr. Inga Saikkonen. Both work package leaders within FutuDem. Kaisa leads WP6 “Participatory and deliberative democracy” and Inga WP1 “Democracies at risk”



Select Publications

Journal articles and other refereed publications

Christensen, H. S., & Rapeli, L. (2020). Immediate rewards or delayed gratification? A conjoint survey experiment of the public's policy preferences. *Policy Sciences*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11077-020-09408-w>

Christensen, H. S., Svensson La Rosa, M., & Grönlund, K. (2020). How candidate characteristics affect favorability in European Parliament elections: Evidence from a conjoint experiment in Finland. *European Union Politics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116520929765>

Gherghina, S., & Silagadze, N. (2020). Populists and referendums in Europe: dispelling the myth. *Political Quarterly*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-923X.12934>

Grönlund, K. (2020). Partisanship and citizen deliberation. In Oscarsson, H., & Holmberg, S. (eds.), *Research Handbook on Political Partisanship*. pp. 349–357. Edward Elgar.

Himmelroos, S., & Rapeli, L. (2020). Can Deliberation Reduce Political Misperceptions? Findings from a Deliberative Experiment on Immigration. *Journal of Deliberative Democracy*, 16(1), pp. 58–66. <http://doi.org/10.16997/jdd.392>

Huttunen, J., & Christensen, H. S. (2020). Engaging the Millennials: The Citizens' Initiative in Finland. *Young*, 28(2), pp. 175–198. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1103308819853055>

Jäske, M. & Setälä, M. (2020) A Functionalist Approach to Democratic Innovations. *Representation*, 56(4), pp. 467–483. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2019.1691639>

Koskimaa, V. (2020). The 'genetic' effect: Can parties' past organizational choices condition the development of their internal distribution of power in the cartel party era? Evidence from Finland, 1983–2017. *Politics* 40(3).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263395720901422>

Koskimaa, V., & Rapeli, L. (2020). Fit to govern? Comparing citizen and policymaker perceptions of deliberative democratic innovations. *Policy and Politics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1332/030557320X15870515357288>

Lindell, M., & Ehrström, P. (2020). Deliberative Walks: citizen participation in local-level planning processes. *European Political Science*, 19(3), pp. 478–501,
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-020-00243-4>

Mattila, M., Papageorgiou, A. & Rapeli L. (2020). Interest through necessity? The impact of personal health on the stability of political interest in the United Kingdom. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 22(3).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1369148120912378>

Näsman, M., Nyqvist, F., Lindell, M., Nygård, M., & Björklund, S. (2020). Vem kan man lita på? Förändringar i politiskt, institutionellt och socialt förtroende bland äldre i Österbotten [Who can one trust? Changes in political, institutional and social trust among older people in Ostrobothnia]. *Politiikka*, 62(4), pp. 354–378. <https://doi.org/10.37452/politiikka.91037>

Rapeli, L., Mattila, M., & Papageorgiou, A. (2020). Breaking a habit: The impact of health on turnout and party choice. *Party Politics*, 26(2), pp. 133–142.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068817753060>

Rapeli, L. and Saikkonen, I. (2020). How will the COVID-19 pandemic affect democracy?. *Democratic Theory*, 7(2), pp. 25–32. <https://doi.org/10.3167/dt.2020.070204>

Saikkonen, I. & White, A.C. (2020). Strategic targeting: authoritarian capacity, state dependent populations, and electoral manipulation. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*. Advance online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2020.1740715>

Setälä, M., Serup Christensen, H., Leino, M., Strandberg, K., Bäck, M., & Jäske, M. (2020). Deliberative mini-publics facilitating voter knowledge and judgement: experience from a Finnish local referendum, online first, *Representation*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2020.1826565>

Strandberg, K., & Lindell, M. (2020). Citizens' Attitudes toward Municipal Mergers: Individual-level Explanations. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 43(4), pp. 296–316.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12170>

Other publications

Grönlund, K., Herne, K., Jäske, M., Liimatainen, H., Rapeli, L., Värttö, M., Schauman, J., Sirén, R. & Weckman, A. (2020). Implementing a democratic innovation: Online deliberation on a future transport system, City of Turku research reports; no. 4 4/2020. https://www.turku.fi/sites/default/files/atoms/files/tutkimusraportteja_4-2020.pdf

Lindell, M. (eds.) (2020). Vad tycker Svenskfinland? Resultat från den finlandssvenska medborgarpanelen Barometern 2019–2020 [Opinions among the Swedish-speaking Finns. Results from the citizen online panel Barometern 2019-2020]. Åbo & Vasa: Social Science Research Institute.

Rapeli, L., & Lindell, M. (2020). Ehdokkaat ja tulevaisuuteen suuntautuva demokraattinen päätöksenteko [Candidates and long-term democratic decision-making]. In Kestilä-Kekkonen, E., & von Schoultz, Å. (eds.), *Ehdokkaat vaalikentillä: Eduskuntavaalit 2019* [Candidates on the Electoral Arena – The Parliament Election 2019]. pp. 136–146. Ministry of Justice.
<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162450>

Rapeli, L., & Koskimaa, V. (2020). Kansalaisten kiinnittyminen politiikkaan [Citizen attachment to politics]. In Borg, S., Kestilä-Kekkonen, E. & Wass, H. (eds.) *Politiikan ilmastonmuutos: Eduskuntavaalitutkimus 2019* [Climate change in politics: The National Election Study 2019]. pp. 420–438. The publications of the Ministry of Justice. Helsinki: Ministry of Justice Finland.
<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/162429>

Strandberg, K., & Borg, S. (2020). Internet ja sosiaalinen media osana vaalikampanjaa [Internet and social media as part of the election campaign]. In Borg, S., Kestilä-Kekkonen, E., & Wass, H. (Red.), *Politiikan ilmastonmuutos: Eduskuntavaalitutkimus 2019* [Climate change in politics: The Finnish National Election Study 2019] (pp. 103–122). The publications of the Ministry of Justice. Helsinki: Ministry of Justice Finland; No. 5., <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-259-838-7>

Strandberg, K., & Staffan, H. (eds.) (2020). Ur majoritetens perspektiv: Opinionen om det svenska i Finland [Through the majority's perspective: Opinions on the Swedish in Finland]. (842) *The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS)*.
<http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi:sls-978-951-583-517-8>

Suuronen, A., Grönlund, K., & Siren, R. (2020). Puolueiden äänestäjät [The parties' voters]. In S. Borg, E. Kestilä-Kekkonen, & H. Wass (eds.), *Politiikan ilmastonmuutos: Eduskuntavaalitutkimus 2019* [Climate change in politics: The Finnish National Election Study 2019]. pp. 260–287. The publications of the Ministry of Justice. Helsinki: Ministry of Justice Finland; no. 5.
<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-259-838-7>

The Samforsk team

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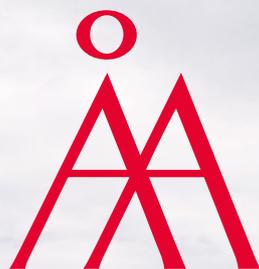
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