A Comparative Study of Disruptive Behavior between Schools in Norway and the United States

Head of project: Professor Liv Duesund, University of Oslo, Department of Special Needs Education / Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

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Summary

This document contains an overview of the research project “A Comparative Study of Disruptive Behavior between Schools in Norway and the United States.” The project was a collaboration between Norwegian and American researchers. The project aimed to enhance our understanding of problems and challenges related to disruptive behavior in schools. The project included a qualitative and quantitative component. The qualitative component consisted of observational studies conducted by master’s students from the University of Oslo, aiming to identify categories of disruptive behavior in schools. The quantitative component consisted of a student-survey including the identified categories. The survey aimed to examine the prevalence of disruptive behaviors as well as how students and teachers react towards these kinds of behavior.

The results from the study indicate that the majority of students in both countries had been disturbed by disruptive behavior and that this occurred on nearly a daily basis. This could help to underline that the issue of disruptive behavior is one of the greatest challenges in schools today. In both countries, reactions from teachers only partially reduced disruptive behavior. There is a need for further research on how teachers cope with disruptive behavior.
Publications and presentations

Publications


Presentations


**Student contributions**

**Number of students from the University of Oslo involved in the project (2010-2017):**

*Exchange students from the University of Oslo to University of California, Berkeley*

Bachelor’s: 155  
Master’s: 11

*Students at the University of Oslo*

Master’s: 5

*Students pursuing further academic careers*

Ph.D.: 3  
Postdoctoral Fellow: 1

**Master’s theses:**

*In English (sorted by year):*

In Norwegian (sorted by year):


From the master’s students, the following moved on to Ph.D. programs:

1. Magnar Ødegård, Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo, 2013-2017
   
   Title of doctoral dissertation: A Comparative Study of Disruptive Behavior between Schools in Norway and the United States. A conceptual and empirical exploration of disruptive behavior in schools

2. Stine Solberg, Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo, 2016-
   
   Title of doctoral dissertation: Supporting Shy Students – A National Study of Teaching Practices: Shyness in Norwegian Elementary Schools – School Leaders in Action

3. Astrid Lenvik, Department of Education, University of Bergen, 2016-
   
   Title of doctoral project: Gifted Education in Norway

From the Ph.D. Students, the following moved on to post.doc:

1. Magnar Ødegård, Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo, 2018-2021
   
   Title of project: A Comparative Study of Teachers’ Coping Skills when Approaching Disruptive Behavior in Schools in Norway and USA
“A Comparative Study of Disruptive Behavior between Schools in Norway and the United States”
Head of project: Professor Liv Duesund

External funding

- Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study, University of California, Berkeley
- Norwegian Research Council
- Norway House Foundation San Francisco
- The Norway-America Association (NORAM)
“A Comparative Study of Disruptive Behavior between Schools in Norway and the United States”
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Research group

University of California, Berkeley

Members:
- Professor Liv Duesund, Department of Sociology (head of research group)
- Professor Hubert Dreyfus, Department of Philosophy
- Professor Elliot Turiel, Graduate School of Education
- Professor David Kirp, Goldman School of Public Policy
- Ph.D. Student Magnar Ødegård, Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology

University of Oslo

Members:
- Professor Liv Duesund, Department of Special Needs Education
- Professor Sven Nilsen, Department of Special Needs Education
- Professor Liv Randi Opdal, Department of Special Needs Education
- Adjunct Professor Finn Skårderud, Department of Special Needs Education
- Ph.D. Student Magnar Ødegård, Department of Special Needs Education
Media coverage

Related to the project in its entirety:


(Aftenposten.no, 2010): Liv Duesund: Interview with Professor Hubert Dreyfus https://www.aftenposten.no/kultur/i/Qm25q/Kunsten-a-yte--sitt-beste

(University of Oslo, 2016): Liv Duesund: Interview with Professor Elliot Turiel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6p_UGfKvKA

Interview with Professor Liv Duesund (University of Oslo, 2018): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWcqS1jr_mg

Related to Magnar Ødegård’s doctoral dissertation:

In writing:


“A Comparative Study of Disruptive Behavior between Schools in Norway and the United States”

Head of project: Professor Liv Duesund


Siste.no (opinion piece, 2018): https://www.siste.no/meninger/arbeidsliv/innenriks/farlig-uro-i-skolen/o/5-47-121976


Videos:

University of Oslo (interview, 2017): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv_L_GF-7vA

University of Oslo (promo-video, 2018): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1sMUXqQdmA

TV2 Nyhetene (2018): interview aired on October 7th, 2018 on the program “1830-nyhetene”. Also found on https://www.tv2.no/nyheter/10104598/

Unpublished correspondence:

a. NRK, Norwegian National Broadcasting (phone)
b. Ministry of Education and Research (e-mail)
c. Lærerbloggen / The Teacher Blog (e-mail)