

Editorial: Eeva-Kaisa Prokkola & Tiina Lankila

This year's Yearbook is focusing on the theme of everyday security and inequality, the topic that has become increasingly relevant question in Finland and Europe. By the United Nations (2009) definition, human security refers to the protection of human lives from pervasive threats and situations and the enhancement of human freedoms. The papers of this year's Yearbook point out that even if security is a fundamental question from the perspective of human lives, the production of securities and insecurities are in many ways geographical and contextual in nature.

As the 2015 migration and asylum processes have reminded us, the question of security and protection often intertwine with state borders, citizenship and identity politics, separating the ones who are understood to have the right to protection and welfare and "the others" who do not. Simultaneously, various kinds of borders are drawn within the Finnish society, for example, between Finnish natives and immigrants and between those people who adapt to the competitive labor, educational and identity markets and those who have become marginalized, and are just not fulfilling the criteria of an ideal neoliberal entrepreneurial subject. The differentiation of people's life spheres and knowledge has also become more actual when the traditional media have been accompanied by alternative social media sources. The question of inequality, whether it is visible or not, what are its mechanisms, how it should be resisted, or should it be resisted, is therefore becoming

a more contested area of discussion. Yet, the question of inequality is intimately tied with the experienced everyday security of an individual and social security in general.

The three papers of this Yearbook are discussing about three different sites in and through which the questions of security and inequality are produced and lived out and how ordinary people experience societal circumstances and changes in their own livelihoods.

The first article from Eva Kaján studies the migration-related discourses of 'hate speech' in the Finnish speaking dark net. This original study shows that the anti-migration debate in the dark net is actually very similar with the open net discussions forums. The virtual dark net space does not have a secret language and meanings of their own, but it is linked with the realities of the social everyday life. Thus, the resistance of the virtual hate-speech can start from the everyday social interaction and the conception of equality.

Sara Haapanen's article shows how social inequality becomes visible in the breadline in Helsinki and how it is experienced by the people in need. She shows how the different ways of organizing the food aid have impact on how they become lived out in the locality and whether they stigmatize the area and the people in need. The breadline is the most visible manifestations of social and structural inequality and everyday insecurity in Finland.

The discussion paper from Eeva-Kaisa Prokkola, Vilhelmiina Vainikka and Eva Kaján reports the findings of a survey that was conducted in the south-eastern and western border areas, Lappeenranta and Tornio, in Finland. The survey measured

how people perceive their hometown from the perspective of security and inequality and what are their attitudes towards migration-related demonstrations. The findings suggest that in Tornio, which was the hot spot of the migration and asylum influx in 2015, older generations have a negative experience of the demonstrations and their impact.

As the papers in this Yearbook illustrate, geographical studies of inequality and insecurity are important for many reasons; they can provide knowledge and understanding of social and regional development trends and recommendations for decision-makers, for example. Today, the formation of everyday security is a very complex question where state borders are no longer playing such a crucial role. The conceptions of security and insecurity are formed in the multiple physical and virtual life spheres that are often, simultaneously both, local and global. Geographers can therefore be in the forefront for studying and explaining the spatially complex and interconnected phenomena of everyday security.

References

United Nations (2009). *Human security in theory and practice*. United Nations, Human Security Unit. Available at <http://www.un.org/humansecurity/sites/www.un.org/humansecurity/files/human_security_in_theory_and_practice_english.pdf> (accessed 13 December 2017)