



Teaching that Matters for Migrant Students Understanding Levers of Migrant Integration in Scotland, Finland and Sweden



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New blog post: Schools staff members' professional agency as a prerequisite for a change

By Päivi Hökkä and Katja Vähäsantanen

In teachers' work, professional agency is practised in different professional surroundings and at different levels. First, teachers' professional agency is exercised in their daily teaching practices including core pedagogical and instructional practices, making decisions on one's ways of teaching, and developing one's work. Further, agency is exercised when teachers feel in control of the choices they make within their work, and when these choices are based on their own professional goals and interests (Priestley et al., 2012; Vähäsantanen et al., 2008; 2009). Second, teachers' practice of professional agency encompasses the influence exerted on the work community and the organisation. This kind of professional agency can be practised, for example, through influencing and negotiating the contents and conditions of one's work at the community and organisational levels. This includes also influencing and participating in developing educational and organisational practices (Hökkä & Eteläpelto 2014; Imants & Van der Wal, 2020; Pyhältö et al., 2012). Thus, teachers' professional agency can act as a transformative power for teachers to act as designers of curricula and innovative pedagogues with the willingness to be open to changes in their environment and questioning taken-for-granted assumptions at their work (c.f. Sachs, 2016).



Website updates

Outputs: On our website, you can find links to books and journal articles under 'Publications', our past newsletters, and our previous blog posts. If you want to write a guest blog post, please get in touch.

Community and External Resources: If you have any stories, resources or other items to share on our website, let us know. If you want us to share a promotional piece for your work, please contact us.

Events: Our upcoming events are listed under 'Future Events' below. Our past events (including presentation slides and other resources) can be viewed on our website. If you have an idea for an event, please get in touch.



Featured team member

Dr Gil Viry is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology. He joined the University of Edinburgh in 2012 as a Chancellor's Fellow. Using social survey methods, social network analysis (SNA) and sequence analysis, his substantive research focuses on spatial mobility, social networks, family and intimate relationships. He is also interested in studying the spatial dimensions of personal networks and how space, place and spatial mobility relate to individuals' social and professional integration over the life course.

His contribution to the TEAMS project is related to the network data collection and analysis, and the combination of SNA and ethnographic research to study teachers' agency and the structural

conditions that facilitate opportunities for migrant students' integration.

When not at home or the office, Gil spends time roller skating in the city, walking or skate skiing in the mountains. [Read more about Dr Viry here.](#)

Project news

News from Scotland

The Scottish team are in the midst of wave 2 data collection and are spending most of their time scheduling and interviewing school staff and migrant students for the project.

News from Finland

The Finnish team had a meeting with staff members from School 1 on 26th November regarding the Social Network Analysis (SNA) survey and have also sent the log invite to both Finnish schools. The team are now starting to approach and interview participants for wave 2 data collection.

News from Sweden

The Swedish team are continuing to collect data for wave 2 and are working with their two schools to collect staff reflection logs, surveys, and interview school staff. The team are also collecting data from the student surveys and are interviewing students.

Future Events

January 2022 - June 2022 (dates TBC)

Arts and filmmaking workshops in participating TEAMS schools

TEAMS are currently preparing art and filmmaking workshops for migrant students in participating TEAMS schools, to explore the notion of identity. During the workshops, students will explore the many ways that identity can be expressed through artwork, looking at the work of prominent migrant artists. Part of the workshop will be conducted by teachers from the schools, in collaboration with the project's filmmaker [Silvia de Riba](#). Students will then work on their own artwork and creative design, to explore their own experiences and journeys of migration and identity. [Read more here.](#)

To hear more about events and future opportunities (such as seminars, workshops, and outreach activities) sign up via the link at the bottom of this newsletter.



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