

The academic-vocational divide and its role in the social reproduction of class and gender



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Oct 31st
12.00h - 13.30h



Seminari A
F. Sociologia, UAB



[Registration](#)

On a societal level, individuals can be expected to follow very different educational paths, depending on social differences such as class and gender. One important factor in this context is the distinction between more academic and vocational types of education.

In the Nordic countries today, this is manifested at the upper-secondary school level in the division between vocationally oriented and academically oriented programmes and institutions. The social class division is particularly evident when comparing academic and vocational programmes, while the gender division is more apparent among various vocational programmes. These divisions play a crucial role in the process of social reproduction in that they provide access to different types of knowledge, identities and thus life opportunities.

In this talk prof. Nylund will give examples of how this division between academic and vocationally oriented education can be expressed in policy, curriculum and educational practice, highlighting its role in the reproduction of unequal social relations such as class and gender. He will also discuss how contemporary policy trends of 'marketisation' of education plays a role in this division.