

# X Factor – the Loss of Historical Memory working group

# Welfare economics – discontinuities and continuities

- Social democratic interpretation of the knowledge society in the 90`s -- > investing in people (human capital)
- Thought of as a progressive way to employability:
  - No more capital-non capital divide, but knowledge non-knowledge
  - capital goes where upgraded workers are
- But:
  - Pure financial investment was by large preferred
  - The lack of investment in jobs triggering a vicious circle of low wage-precariousness undermining knowledge society

# Continuities in knowledge society change

- The quest for "impatient" profit proved to be unstable and contradictory (in continuity with past crisis, inconsistent with knowledge society)
- Coherent investment needs political decision/structured bargaining (continuity in change)
- Financial growth model has to be replaced with a more wage-led model (continuity in change)
- Welfare state consistent with wage-led growth (continuity in change)
- Many new bargaining rules, minimum wage rules, investments, incentives must come from EU (discontinuity)

# Historical consciousness in Finland project (University of Helsinki)

- **People were asked about their perceptions on history**
- **Surveys: factors of change, the meaning of the past, significant events, Finland in today`s world**

# Preliminary results

- □ Key experiences that people mention → social generations
- 1. Generation of technology, internationalism and terrorism (1985–1994)
- 2. Generation of EU-membership and recession (1975–1984)
- 3. Generation of the end of cold war and Kekkonen (1959–1974)
- 4. Generation of 1960s and moon flights (1945–1958)
- 5. Generation of war and reconstruction (1930–1944)

# Examples of results

- Finns have a strong historical orientation in international comparison -- > particularly on national history and history of Finland
- multiperspective war image -- > still a cleavage: War of Continuation, Civil war
- Finns want to sustain the welfare state, but it not seen as likely
- Finns are more optimistic about the progress in Finland than globally speaking

# Discussion

- In some cases "too much history" can be problematic -- > conflicts of former Yugoslavia
- "Best practises globalization" and McKinsey approach killing history and by that politics
- Loss of culture of economic history: financial crisis happen and are recurrent!