

## Interlocking directorates in Finnish sport organizations and sport policy working groups

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### Background and aim of the study

Interlocking directorates is one way to explain and understand organizations and organizational networks. Especially, with the explosion of research on interorganizational relations, it has become even more prominent in the 1990s (Mizruchi 1996). An interlocking directorate occurs when an actor affiliated with one organization sits on the board of directors of another organization. Through that actor is able to get information which can see as power-equipment. An actor who has many interlock ties between organizations is more informed and better able to use information as power-equipment (see f.ex. Borgatti & Foster 2003).

In this paper interlocking directorates is the viewpoint to interpret the sport organizations' and sport policy working groups' organizational social network in Finland. During last 20 years there have been three big structural changes in Finnish sport movement. At the same time there have been governmental changes which have affected to the structure of sport movement. Because of this tight relationship between sport movement and state, these both actors are part of same societal sector and organizational network. The aim of this paper is to find out how the organizational network constitute by sport organizations and sport policy working groups have change during these structural and governmental changes?

### Data and methods

The data consists of sport movements central organizations boards and states sport policy working groups in the period 1993-2014 (n=120). During that period there have been five central organization and 16 different working group. The data have collected from the working group's memos and central organizations annual reports.

The data was analyse in Ucinet-network program (Borgatti & Everett 2002) as two mode affiliation network. In social network analysis, the term "affiliations" usually refers to membership or participation data, such as which actors have participated in which events. From the viewpoint of interlocking directorates, the interest methodologically concentrates to find out the central actors, in other words, those organizations that are most interlocked in the network.

### Results and discussion

In the 1990's the amount of the most central organizations, that had four or more interlocks, was 16 (17%). Although, the power-elite was already narrow, in the 2010's the amount of organizations with four or more interlocks, was 9 (10 %). At same time, the percentage of big-linkers (5-8 interlocks) have come very small. In 1990's the percentage of these organization was 12% and 20 years later 2,5%. Seven organizations were those, who had four or more interlocks in the whole time-period 1993-2014. Four of them were national sport federations, two central organizations and one represents state. Most of the member-organizations have been those with

one or two interlocks. Amount of organizations with one interlock have increased from 1990's 51 % to 2010's 63 %.

As a summary, in the sport organizations and sport policy working groups' network, there have been at the same both momentariness and perfusion, power-elite have been narrow, but stable and the distance between periphery and central have been long. In future the main questions concentrates to find out what kind of power-equipment organization is to the individuals and what kind of networks are those which constitutes by them. These both viewpoints give new perspectives to sport organization research where both interlocking directorates and social network analyse are slightly used.

### References

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