Digitala distinktioner: Klass och kontinuitet i unga mäns vardagliga mediepraktiker

Engl. transl.: Digital Distinctions : Class and Continuity in Young Men's Everyday Media Practices

# Keywords

* Social class
* youth culture
* young men
* media practices
* digital media
* everyday life
* audience
* Bourdieu
* habitus
* cultural capital
* lifestyle

# Details

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Jönköping

## Topics

* Social mediation
* Internet usage, practices and engagement
* Access, inequalities and vulnerabilities
* Digital and socio-cultural environment

## Sample

34 young men (aged 16 to 19) from different class backgrounds in 6 upper secondary schools and study programmes in 2 Swedish cities.

## Implications For Educators About

Other

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Other

## Other PolicyMaker Implication

Influence of class background in digital-media users' practices and engagement

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Researchers

# Abstract

This dissertation explores how social class matters in young men’s everyday relationship to digital media. The aim is to contribute to the existing knowledge about how young people incorporate digital media in their everyday lives by focusing on the structural premises of this process. It also presents an empirically grounded critique of popular ideas about young people as a “digital generation”, about the internet as a socially transformative force, and about class as an increasingly redundant category.

The empirical material consists of qualitative interviews with 34 young men (16-19 years) from different class backgrounds, upper secondary schools and study programmes. Drawing on the conceptual tools of Pierre Bourdieu, three classes are constructed: the “cultural capital rich”, the “upwardly mobile”, and the “cultural capital poor”.

The analysis shows that class, through the workings of habitus, structures the young men’s relationship to school and future aspirations. This also engenders class-distinctive ways of conceiving leisure and digital media use. Through their class habitus and taste, the young men tend to orient themselves and navigate in different ways in what they perceive as a space of digital goods and practices, endowed with different symbolic value in school and society. The “cultural capital rich” are drawn to-wards practices capable of yielding symbolic profit in the field of education and beyond, whereas the other classes gravitate towards the “illegitimate” digital culture but deal with this different ways.

These findings indicate that there are social and cultural continuities at play within recent technological changes. They also expose the structural differences hidden by sweeping statements about young people as a “digital generation”. Finally, they show that class, contrary to popular beliefs about “the death of class”, still represents a pertinent analytical category.

# Outcome

"[C]lass, through the workings of habitus, structures the young men’s relationship to school and future aspirations. This also engenders class-distinctive ways of conceiving leisure and digital media use. Through their class habitus and taste, the young men tend to orient themselves and navigate in different ways in what they perceive as a space of digital goods and practices, endowed with different symbolic value in school and society. The cultural capital rich” are drawn towards practices capable of yielding symbolic profit in the field of education and beyond, whereas the other classes gravitate towards the 'illegitimate' digital culture but deal with this different ways.... [T]here are social and cultural continuities at play within recent technological changes... [and] class...still represents a pertinent analytical category." (Author, abstract)