

### ***Cover text in English***

*On the social and symbolic function of evaluations of education - constructing an object* · Morten Nørholm

ISBN 978-87-992050-3-5

This dissertation is treating evaluations, evaluations of education, with a focus and a perspective limited to showing relations connected to evaluations, to formulating a theory *about* evaluations.

The analyses of the dissertation draw upon theories by Émile Durkheim, Pierre Bourdieu, Ulf P. Lundgren og Staf Callewaert. The empirical material consists of eight evaluation reports regarding educations/formal training programmes for the (semi)professions within a medical field, of different text about evaluations, and of dominant examples of Danish normal evaluation research.

In the dissertation the social and symbolic function of evaluations of educations is constructed. The next time round what is called normal evaluation research is constructed as a symbolically necessary part of the scientific object evaluation of education.

Evaluations of education and an accompanying normal evaluation research - as well as the evaluated educations - are constructed as parts of a tool for social sorting for the reproduction of an existing social order. Next time round this order borrows its legitimacy from a research which - despite administratively allocated externally related to the evaluations and what is evaluated - constitutes a non-autonomous part of an administrative field, a field of power.

"In his dissertation Morten Nørholm contributes with new empirical knowledge within the area of educations of evaluation and of evaluation research. Meritorious is especially the framing of the theoretical perspectives of Bourdieu, Durkheim and Lundgren on the distinction of forms of knowledge, understanding and explanation of the social practices of the agents, and the contribution to a (re)establishing of a scientific approach to the phenomenon evaluation of education. Add to this the archaeological work describing and analysing lexical data, selected front figures within the areas of evaluation and evaluation research in Denmark, as well as the selected evaluation cases" (From the assessment committee's "Conclusion", translated from Danish)