



FINNISH FARM WOMEN'S WELL-BEING IN THE AGE OF THE GLOBAL CRISES

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FROM PREVIOUS STUDY

- Study of social representations of Finnish farm women (emäntä) in newspaper Maaseudun tulevaisuus from 1985 to 2021 (N=282 articles with their illustrations)

1985

Traditional social representation of farm women is challenged by women

1995

Farm women adopt several roles and duties in work and family affairs – out of their own will or out of necessity?

2005

Farm women choose to be farm women. Backgrounds start to vary. Still the segregation of work continues

2015

Farm women fulfill their dreams and aim towards well-being. Is the price triple shift?

2021

"Emäntä" disappears. Women take on masculine duties.

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- From farmer's wife to rural entrepreneur. Shift in agency in time.
- More understanding in various backgrounds of farm women, still need for a more diversive social representations
- Feminisation and masculinisation of agriculture are happening simultaneously in Finland
- Feminisation of agriculture cannot be understood solely in terms of quantitative measure, but through temporal and contextual lens
- Although women's participation in agriculture is increasingly encouraged, there is still limited appreciation of feminine forms of agency and action
- Do we need a term in agriculture for profession that is consisting traditionally feminine duties?

ANOTHER WAY OF READING

- Farm women are the main builders of resilience in the farms
- Besides of taking care of traditionally feminine task women are emphasizing new roles in agricultural communities providing a buffer to farms

1985

Farm women educate themselves to face the new duties and challenges in farming

1995

Farm women adopt several roles and duties in work and family affairs

2005

-Multifaceted role of farm women
-"Builders of the countryside" (MT 7.9.2005)
-Various backgrounds are accelerators of development in farms

2015

Women move into and out of farming in response to changing life circumstances, personal aspirations or broader professional goals

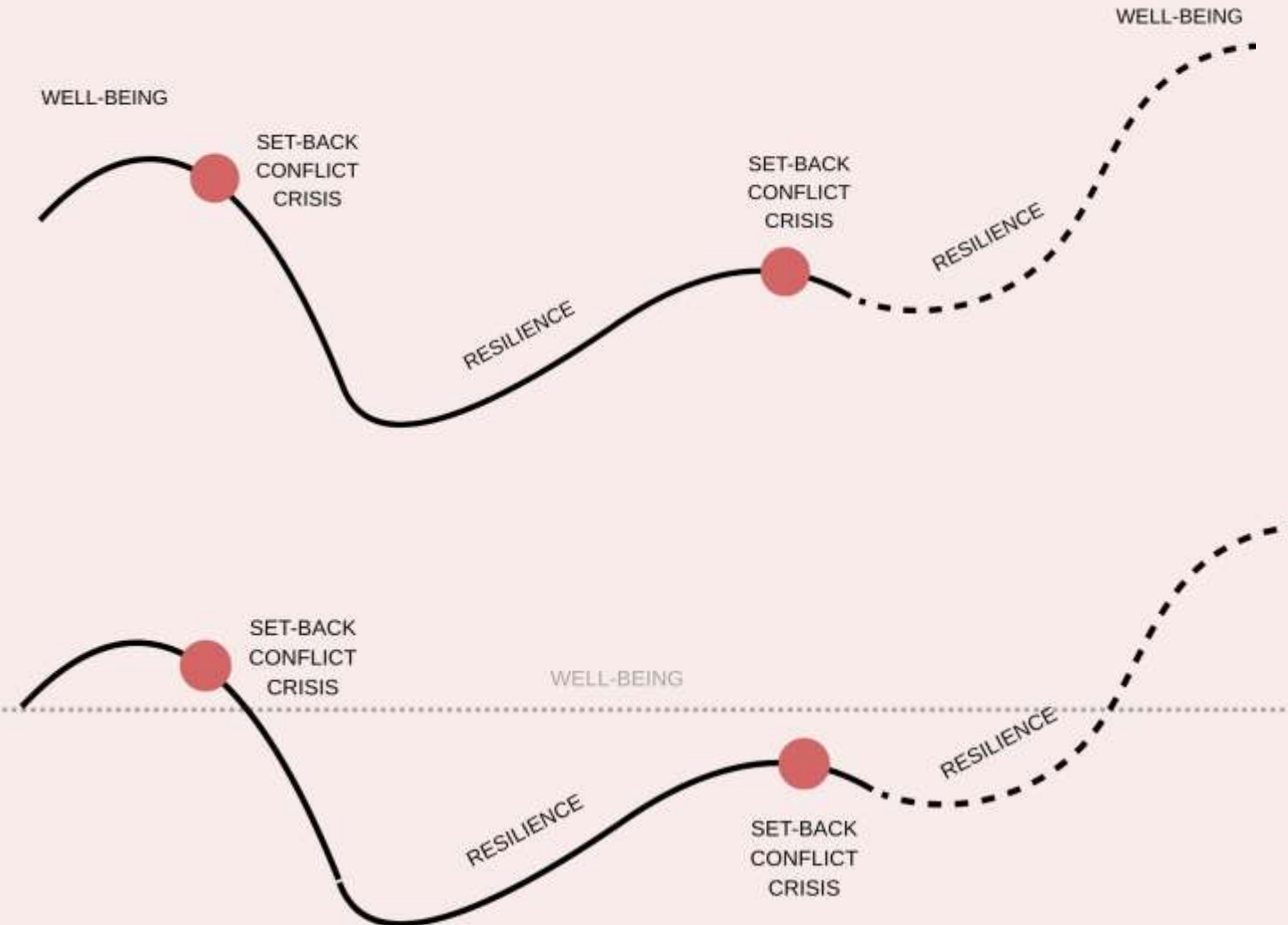
2021

Women take on masculine duties (heavy machinery)

FARM WOMEN, RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING

- 4 interviews (aim at N=25, so 16 % done) of farm women
- Biographical interviews focusing on farm women's wellbeing
- Sen & Nussbaum capabilities approach, central capabilities
 - 1) Life
 - 2) Bodily health
 - 3) Bodily integrity
 - 4) Sense, imagination, thought
 - 5) Emotions
 - 6) Practical reason
 - 7) Affiliation
 - 8) Other species
 - 9) Play
 - 10) Control over ones environment (political and material)

RESILIENCE AND/OR WELL-BEING



- What is resilience and what is well-being?
- Is resilience build in top of well-being or is well-being outcome of building resilience?
- Can building resilience lead to lack of well-being?

WELL-BEING OF FARM WOMEN IN FINLAND – MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

- Many things of the central capabilities are being carried out in Finland (societal and individual level), but are the societal structures resilient?
- Building resilience is demanded in the farms, it is systemic nature of the profession. Is it done at the expense of well-being in the farms?
- Womens role is crucial but is it understood?
- Are farm women experiencing well-being and what it is like?
- Is lack of ill-being well-being?



Female rural entrepreneur, Ilmajoki.
Photo: Sirku Roihuvirta