Abstract: "Inter-collaboration" as social practice within the neoliberal Danish welfare state

Collaboration across professions and disciplines seems to be revitalized as a way of solving a variety of challenges, in the present Danish welfare state reforms of social action, health rehabilitation, employment and education. Through a minor initial literature study of the Danish welfare state history, the paper sets out to present a critical sociologic reading of the literature. In doing so this reading historizes the struggles of the welfare state related to the professions in an attempt to identify and grasp structures of interdisciplinary/professional collaboration today. Pierre Bourdieu's comprehension of power and status, frames an approach of understanding. It emphasizes the development of symbolic forms of power within the state, as central to the ability and tendencies in the present welfare state. Particular interesting to what is at stake is two breaks. First the emergence of the welfare state, or perhaps transition from nation state to welfare state, which is interpreted in various ways in welfare state literature. Second the transformation into what is public articulated as the 'competition state', and here understood as a 'neoliberal welfare state'. The basis of this investigation is the arbitrary historical, cultural, economic and political processes, which are enlightened in the research of welfare, although the structure often seems shaded from different ideological normativity.

On this basis a preliminary construction of characteristics is summarized. The purpose for these characteristics is a part of defining the object to a closer examination, of a social practice of 'inter-collaboration' within the neoliberal Danish welfare state. The characteristics are organized in order to the Bourdieuan concept of capital; as an economic 'efficiency capital', a cultural 'formation capital', and as a social 'management capital'.