

Presentation Proposal
The Nordic Law and Gender Conference
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Poverty in the Nordic Welfare Societies

The topic of the PhD-project is poverty in the Nordic welfare societies. The purpose of the research is to discuss the concept of poverty in law using a gender perspective that intersects with age, ethnicity and handicap. Drawing upon the Vulnerability Theories, the Capability Approach, and rights-based Nordic welfare discourses, I discuss the identification/construction of the subjects of poverty in the Nordics (in the sense of persons subject to poverty) and of their experiences. Further, with a «pro persona» and locally based approach, I offer a starting point for a discussion on how the concept of dignity in the law should be construed, with the economic/material dimensions and aspects like relations, integrity, freedom, security and creativity as fulcrums. Using the concept of dignity, I seek to explore the transformative potential of equality. Drawing inspiration from critical, constructive feminist methods, I see the concept of dignity in the law as «continually subject to the effort to reappraise, deconstruct and transform» (Bartlett, T.K Feminist Legal Methods, 103 Harv. L. Rev 829 1990).