TIETEELLISTEN SEURAIN VALTUUSKUNTA *Vetenskapliga samfundens delegation*

Taking national language publications into account:

the case of the Finnish performance-based research funding system

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PRESENTATION

1. BACKGROUND & AIMS
2. DATA & RESULTS
3. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Short History

- Finnish scholars have been part of the international research community since the 13th century (the first university founded in 1640).
- Scholarly elite in Finland published in Latin, Swedish and other languages, while Finnish was developing as literary language.
- Finnish as language for learned communication has been debated ever since the first dissertations in Finnish were defended in the mid-19th century.
- Expansion and democratization of the higher education system paved the way for the increased use of national languages.
- During the past decades, the tide in scholarly communication has turned in favor of internationalization and the use of English as a new lingua franca.
- In a European context, the share of English language journal publications in SSH is growing, and is in Finland relatively large (Kulczycki et al. 2018).

Research Questions

- SSH research community in Finland is increasingly concerned about the survival of Finnish language publishing.
- Incentives for increased use of English language journals in the SSH are commonly attributed to the PRFS (Sivula et al. 2015).
- In this paper we investigate how a publication indicator developed for the (PRFS) in Finland takes national language publications into account:
  1. How balanced is the representation of peer-reviewed publications in different languages in the most valued levels 2 and 3 for the SSH and specific fields?
  2. How balanced is the distribution of peer-reviewed SSH output in different languages to different levels in case of journal articles and book publications?
  3. How the number of peer-reviewed SSH journal articles and book publications in Finnish and English has developed in different levels from 2011 to 2016?

PRFS Publication Indicator

- Finland has adopted the Norwegian model (Sivertsen 2016) performance-based funding system (PRFS), in which the weight of outputs is determined on basis of publication type and a quality index of publication channels.
- The quality index (Publication Forum) has three levels for peer-reviewed journals and book publishers: 3 = top, 2 = leading and 1 = basic. There is also a level 0 for channels not qualifying as level 1.
- Weights for counting of publications before 2017:

Publication type	**Level 3**	**Level 2**	**Level 1**	**Level 0**
Peer-reviewed monograph	12	12	6	4
Peer-reviewed article in journal	3	3	1.5	1
Peer-reviewed article in book	3	3	1.5	1
Peer-reviewed article in proceedings	3	3	1.5	1

- The level 2 has included since 2012 three book publishers and over 20 SSH journals and book series publishing in Finnish and Swedish.

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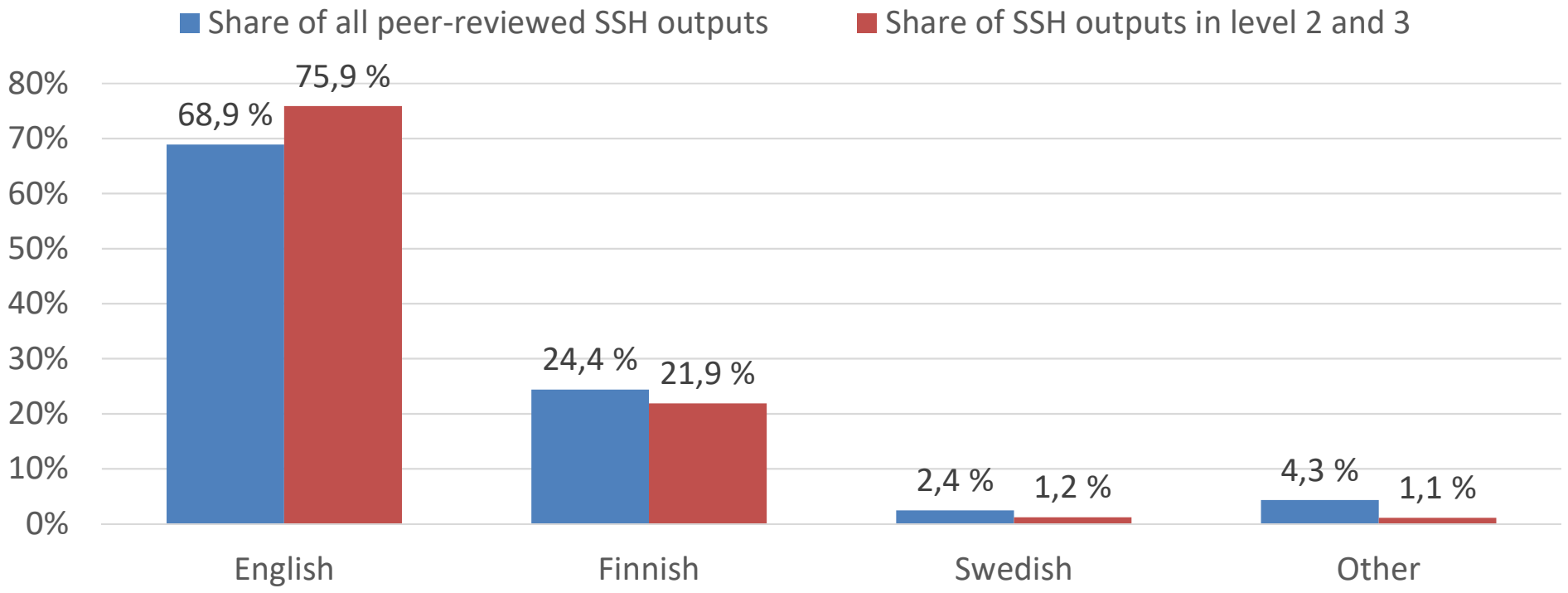
Data

- The data consists of 47,423 outputs published in 2011-2016 that 14 Finnish universities have reported to the Ministry of Education and Culture and that are stored in the VIRTA publication information service.
- Data includes peer-reviewed articles in journals, books and proceedings, as well as monographs, for which universities have indicated social science or humanities field as primary subject category.
- Data contains duplicates, when publications have been co-authored by researchers from more than one Finnish university.
- Language is not mandatory information in data collection but universities have reported language for almost all peer-reviewed publications. Language of publications, for which the information was missing, has been manually checked on the basis of title of publication.

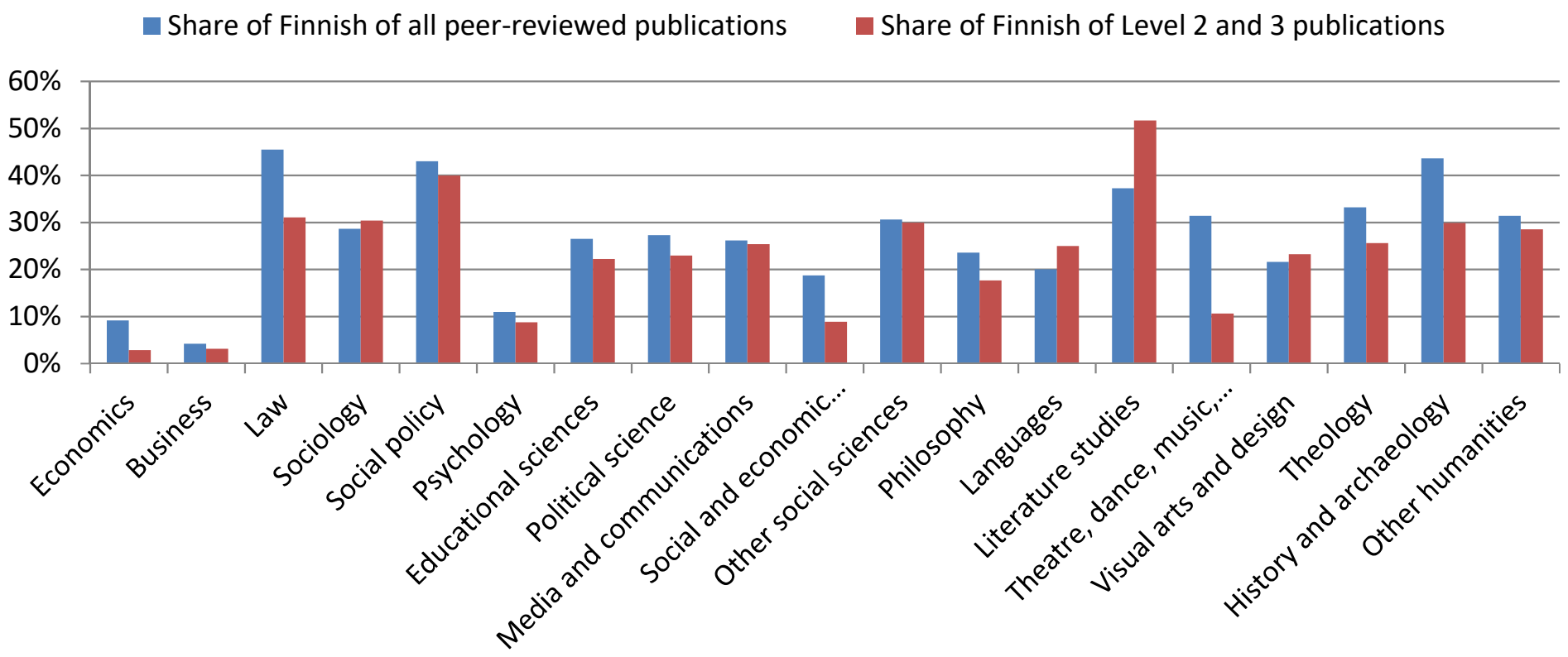
All SSH fields

- English language publications are over-represented in levels 2 and 3 compared to their share of all peer-reviewed publications
- Publications in Finnish are fairly represented in levels 2 and 3, while Swedish and other languages are under-represented.



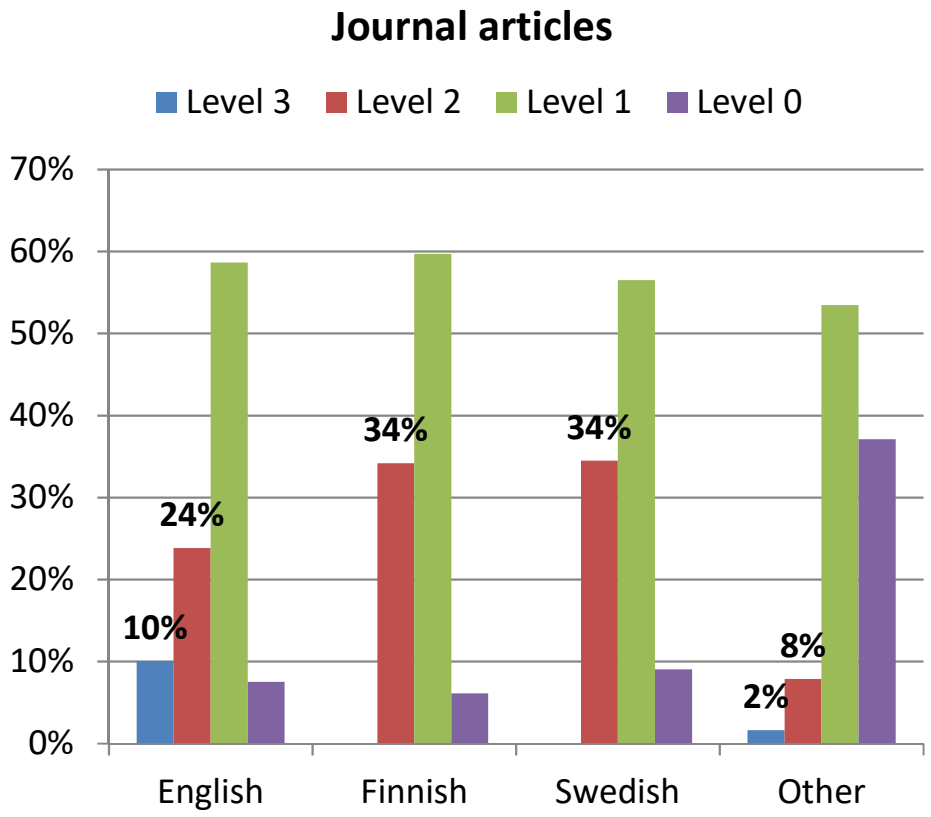
SSH subfields

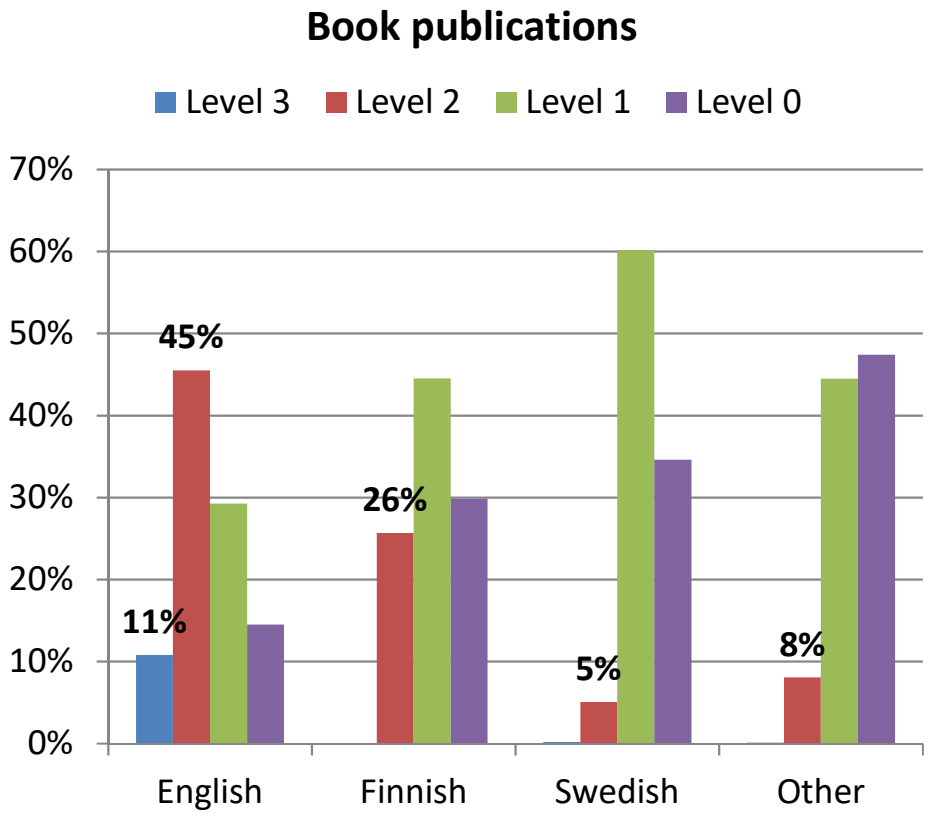
- The share of Finnish language output of all level 2 and 3 publications roughly corresponds to the share of Finnish language publications of all peer-reviewed output in the different subfields.



Distribution of outputs to different levels

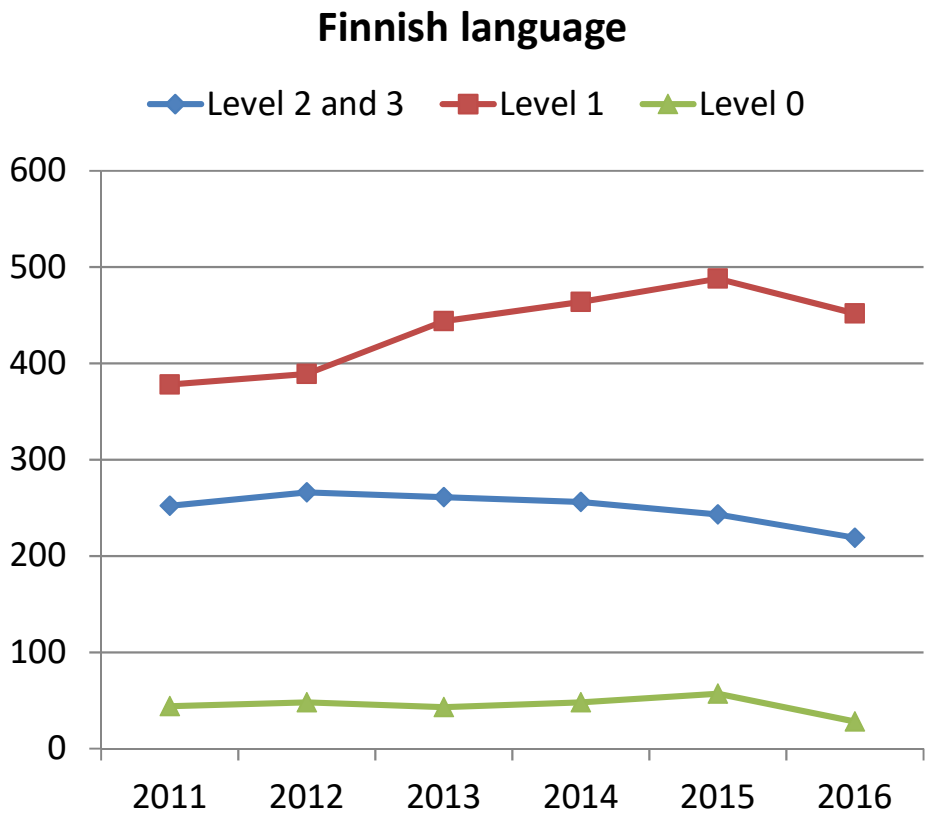
- Practically the same share of journal articles published in English, Finnish and Swedish count in the PRFS as level 0, level 1 and level 2&3 publications.
- English language book publications have a more advantageous distribution.

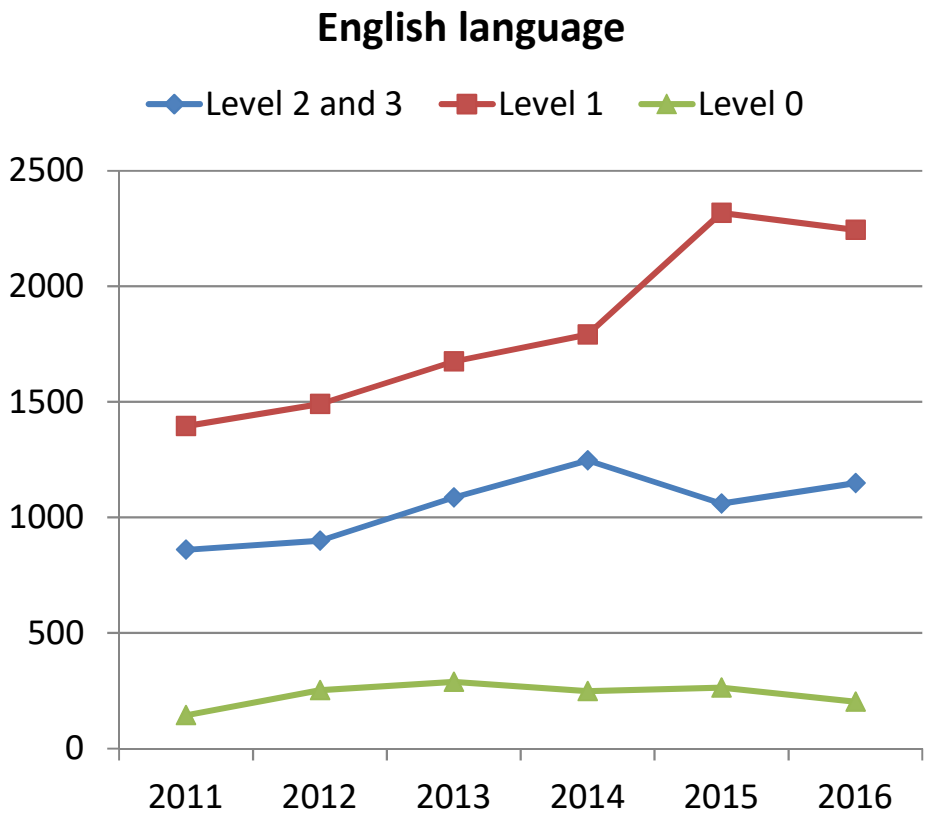




Development of journal publications

- Finnish and English language journal articles show quite similar development
- Strongest increase in Level 1, however in case of English language also in Level 2

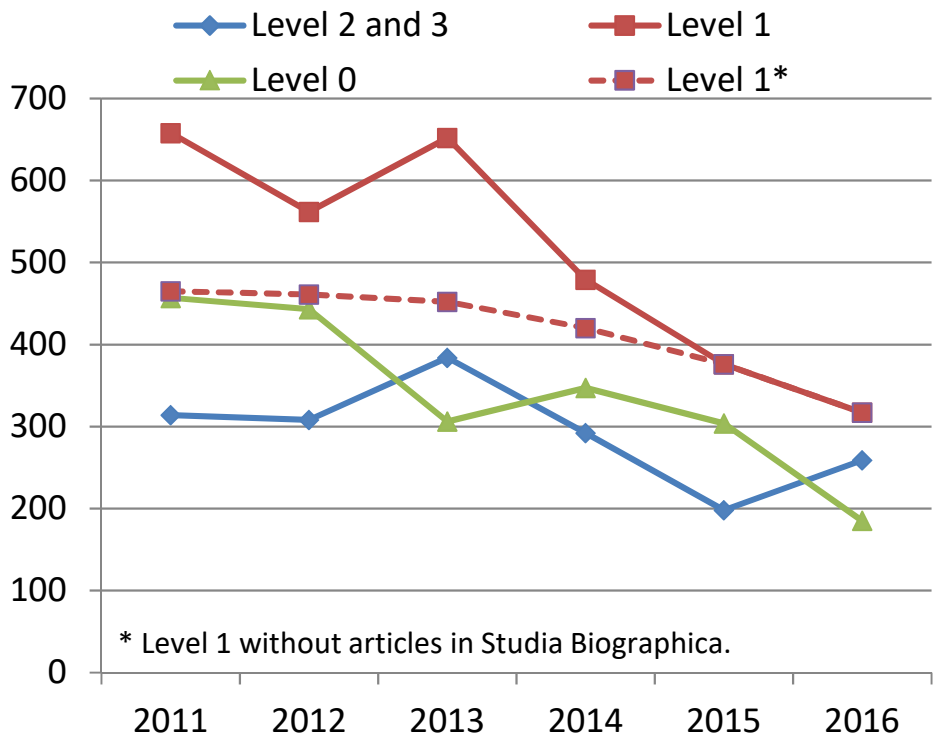




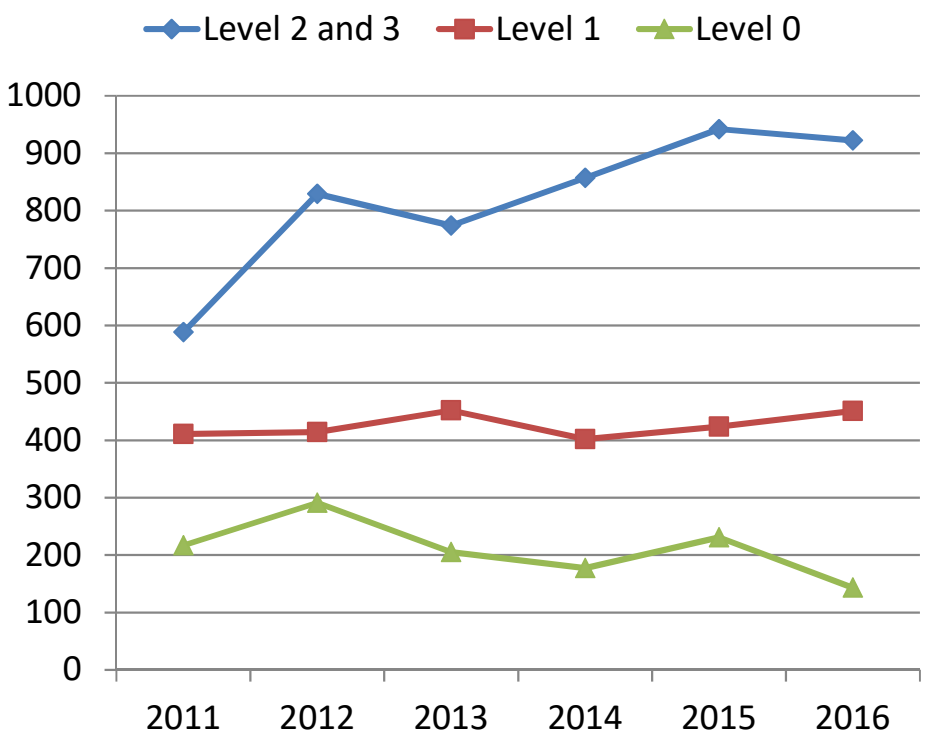
Development of book publications

- Finnish language book publications decrease in all level categories, while English language book publications show more positive development in all levels, even if publications are equally valuable to universities in PRFS.

Finnish language



English language



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Balanced multilingualism?

- The Finnish case demonstrates that it is possible to develop a publication indicator that takes national language publications adequately into account.
- The rating of outlets results in a balanced representation of Finnish, Swedish and English language journal articles in different levels, including levels 2 and 3.
- The rating is, however, more favorable to English than Finnish and Swedish language book publications in levels 2 and 3.
- Overall, publications in languages other than English, Finnish and Swedish are under-represented on levels 2 and 3.
- These findings point at both opportunities and challenges for balanced multilingualism in science (Sivertsen 2018)

Incentives and Effects of PRFS?

- Relatively large share of national language outlets on Level 2 has not deterred internationalization of SSH in Finland.
- Besides PRFS, internationalizing incentives may come from other evaluation contexts, such as increased international competition for positions and project funding.
- PRFS perhaps values Finnish language publications higher than other kind of evaluations.
- Transformations of publication patterns depend also on other factors like the rise of open access, the growth of the number of scholars, etc.
- It is difficult to explain the development of publishing patterns in Finland in terms only of the PRFS.

What next?

- STI Leiden
- Extension of analysis to PRFS in other countries?

THANK YOU!