2 Afhandlingens abstract

The work hereby presented in an article-based dissertation is: 1) a combined empirical study of Danish sports sciences’ two phases of establishment (as natural science in the beginning - and as humanities and social sciences in the late - twentieth century), 2) a science study investigation of alleged dysfunctions in academic disciplinarity and the driving force of science, and 3) finally a speculative quest for a sustainable foundation for our societies and the institution of science. These different ambitions are linked to one another in the following way: The analysis of the second phase of establishment of Danish sports sciences lacked a theoretical basis to be analyzed from, and this challenge was met by means of a critical model (called EVHSEN) for modern science, which arose out of a reflection on whether modern science is a sustainable institution. The model is based on the assumption that human nature is active and that existential search is the active drive of science. Only a limited part of the critical views on academic disciplinarity were supported by the investigations of the early period of Danish sports sciences. Scientific inclinations compatible with the EVHSEN model of drives in science were observed in the second phase of Danish sports sciences.