

Academic Research Projects on Asia in Finland 2017

Finnish University Network for Asian Studies



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The Finnish University Network for Asian Studies aims to complement and strengthen teaching, doctoral education and expert activities on Asia in the Network's member universities. In addition, it aims to promote multidisciplinary cooperation and distribution of work among the universities in Finland. The Network also promotes international cooperation particularly with Asian universities.

The Network has seven member universities: Aalto University, the Universities of Helsinki, Jyväskylä, Tampere, Turku, and Vaasa, and Åbo Akademi.

The Centre for East Asian Studies at the University of Turku is responsible for the coordination of the Network.

Contact information:

Finnish University Network for Asian Studies
/ Yliopistojen Aasia-verkosto
c/o Centre for East Asian Studies
20014 University of Turku, Finland

Outi Luova
University lecturer, Director of the Network
tel. +358 2 333 5017
e-mail: outi.luova(at)utu.fi

Introduction

This catalogue contains information about on-going or recently completed academic research projects on Asia in Finnish universities and research institutes. The data was collected with an e-mail form that circulated among Asia researchers in Finland during the summer of 2017. Forthcoming academic publications as well as publications between 2014 and 2017 are also included, while Master's theses are omitted.

An electronic version of the catalogue is available on the website of the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies at www.asianet.fi/research-tools.

China

Business & Economy

*Research team: Professor Riitta Kosonen, Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Anu Penttilä, PhD Candidate, Dr. Lu Wei; Aalto University School of Business, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT)
riitta.kosonen@aalto.fi*

Finnish Companies' Labour Relations in the Emerging Market of China

The completed research project examines China's changing business environment, particularly related to the local labour force. The aim is to find out what kinds of challenges and opportunities the rapidly changing Chinese labour markets offer to Finnish companies. We analyze, in particular, issues related to the companies' human resource management.

Publications:

- Lu, W. (2014) *Localization of human resource management practices in China: a qualitative comparative analysis approach*. Doctoral dissertation. Helsinki: Aalto University.

*Riitta Kosonen, Professor, Aalto University, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT)
riitta.kosonen@aalto.fi*

China in Turbulence: Paths Forward for Nordic Business

The aim of the project is to introduce a concept, in which knowledge creation about developments in China is undertaken by the network of businesses, universities and public-sector actors. The hub of the network is the Nordic Centre at the Fudan University, the role of which as a bridge between Nordic firms operating in China, Nordic scholars doing research on China, and Nordic business associations in China is strengthened. The knowledge creation model establishes a dialogue between Nordic universities' academic knowledge on China and their methodological expertise, and Nordic firms' practitioner knowledge which is often of tacit nature. The processing of signals from these two sources helps creating future-oriented knowledge that helps Nordic firms in their decision-making in China. In addition, the network serves as a platform on which businesses can establish links with university students as their potential human resource base for their Chinese operations. Finally, the university partners can utilize the knowledge and contacts created in the project to develop education that meets the needs of businesses.

Project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers
A two-year project which ended in December 2015

Project Participants:

- Aalto University School of Business, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT), Helsinki, Finland
- Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Asia Research Center, Denmark
- University of Gothenburg School of Business, Economics and Law, Center for International Business Studies, Sweden
- Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Copenhagen, Denmark

The project also benefits from the participants' research collaboration with Chinese research organizations, such as the Fudan University and the Institute of Finance and Trade Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

*Paula Makkonen, PhD Candidate, University of Vaasa, Department of Management
paula.makkonen@iki.fi*

Perceived Employability, Person-to-Environment Fit and Career Self-Management Behaviour of Western Self-Initiated Expatriates in China

The whole dissertation is based on 49 in-depth interviews (completed) and focused on exploring the lives of western self-initiated expatriates (SIEs) in culturally and geographically distant cross-cultural career context in China by answering the main research question:

How the employability and person to environment fit of western self-initiated expatriates in cross-cultural career context in China are perceived, and how do they manage their careers by career self-management behaviour?

This dissertation was defended in 2016.

PhD Publications:

- (2015) "Career Self-Management Behaviour of Western Self-Initiated Expatriates in Local Organizations in China" accepted for publishing at *The International Journal of Human Resource Management*, in press.
- (2015) "Employer Perceptions of Self-initiated Expatriate Employability in China: A Person-to-Environment Fit Perspective" accepted for publishing at the *Journal of Global Mobility*, in press.

Other Publications:

- (2016) "Non-repatriating Expatriates: Career opportunities and challenges; choices, considerations and shifts; and consequences"
- (2016) "Perceived Employability Development of Western Self-Initiated Expatriates in Local Organisations in China"
- (2016) "Employability of New-Comer Self-initiated Expatriates from employers' perspective: A valuable staffing alternative?"

*Pia Eva Polsa, Associate Professor, Hanken School of Economics, Department of Marketing
pia.polsa@hanken.fi*

Marketing in China

Publications:

- Polsa Pia and Qinqin Zheng, China and Chinese Communities. Special Issue in *Journal of Macromarketing*, 2015 (editorial) (ISI 0.9)

*Santa Stopniece, PhD Candidate, University of Jyväskylä, Department of Language and Communication Studies
santastop@inbox.lv*

Finnish-Chinese Intercultural Negotiation: Power Positioning and Search of Common Ground

'Rising China' or 'China's rise' is a term that has come to be referred to China's march to being number one, the speed of its economic growth, and its investment around the world during last two decades. Baltic Sea Region so far has not been a major destination of Chinese investments, but Chinese interest in the region has increased in recent years as has local awareness about the possibilities related to Chinese investment, trade and co-operation opportunities. In Finland, government agencies have been established for investment attraction, trade and co-operation purpose, and regional and local governments are also actively involved. Much of the world is approaching China in similar ways right now and power relations tend to switch more to the favor of the Chinese side. In previous research, this newly developing context has mostly been examined from the viewpoint of political, economic, and management aspects.

This study explores what kind of a role does 'the rise of China' play in the intercultural negotiation and search for common ground between Finnish and Chinese representatives in the context of Chinese investment, trade, and co-operation facilitation initiatives in Finland. The study predominantly builds on Positioning Theory (Harré, 1991). It uses methodological tools of ethnographically framed interviewing and observation to study the meanings those involved in co-operation attach to their encounters with the Chinese representatives.

The study at hand deepens our understanding of dynamic qualities of a newly developing intercultural communication context that may have similarities with other Chinese investment, co-operation, and trade facilitation initiatives elsewhere in the world. Theoretically, study contributes new models of understanding the interconnection between power and search for common ground.

Duration: expected defense in autumn 2017

Publications:

- Stopniece, S. (2015). China-Finland co-operation, trade, and investment: in search of common ground. *Journal of China and International Relations*, 3(1), 130-150.
- Stopniece, S. (2016). The simple and the complex nature of humor and laughter in Chinese-Finnish negotiations. *A Nordic Journal on Asia by early career researchers "Asia in Focus,"* 3, 26-36.
- Stopniece, Santa. (2017). Chinese "enormous hospitality" vs. Finnish "meeting among friends": guest-host positioning in China Finland delegation visits. In F. Dervin & R. Machart (Eds.), *Intercultural communication with China*, 145-163. Singapore: Springer.
- Stopniece, Santa. (2017). "The Chinese will not change; we have to change:" adjustment of the Finns to the Chinese in a Chinese investment facilitation context." *Journal of Intercultural Communication*, 44

Education

*Yuzhuo Cai, Senior Lecturer, Adjunct Professor, University of Tampere, School of Management
yuzhuo.cai@uta.fi*

Higher Education in China

Publications:

- Cai, Y., Zhang, H., & Pinheiro, R. (2015). Institutionalization of technology transfer organizations in Chinese universities. *European Journal of Higher Education* (Online first). DOI:

10.1080/21568235.2015.1044548

- Cai, Y., Yang, P., Lyytinen, A., & Hölttä, S. (2015). Seeking solutions through the mirror of Finnish experience: Policy recommendations for regional university transformation in China. *Journal of Higher Education Policy & Management* (Online first), 1-14. DOI: 10.1080/1360080X.2015.1056597.

- Cai, Y., & Yan, F. (2015). Supply and Demand in Chinese Higher Education. In S. Schwartzman, P. Pillay, & R. Pinheiro (Eds.), *Higher Education in the BRICS countries: Investigating the pact between higher education and society* (pp. 149-169). Dordrecht: Springer.

- Cai, Y., & Liu, C. (2015). The roles of universities in fostering knowledge-intensive clusters in Chinese regional innovation systems. *Science and Public Policy*, 42(1), 15-29. DOI: 10.1093/scipol/scu018

- 杨钊, 井美莹, 蔡瑜琢, 阿鲁·李迪纳, & 赛博·霍达. (2015). 中国地方本科院校转型的国际经验比较与启示(Transformation of local universities and international experiences). *国家行政学院学报*, 2015(2), 83-90.

- Cai, Y. (2015). 中荷研究型大学教师信念比较研究 [A comparative study of the beliefs of teachers in research universities in China and the Netherlands]. 吴薇 [Wu, Wei]. 广州, 中国: 广东高等教育出版社 [Guangzhou, China: Guangdong Higher Education Press], 2012. 330 pp., (paperback), ¥46, ISBN: 978-7-5361-4181-0. *Frontiers of Education in China*, 10(1), 166-168. DOI: 10.3868/s110-004-015-0010-3

- Cai, Y., & Kohtamäki, V. (Eds.). (2014). *Transformation of higher education innovation systems in China and Finland*. Tampere University Press.

- Cai, Y. (2014). Enhancing Overseas Chinese Graduate Employability: The Case of Chinese Graduates with Finnish Academic Qualifications. *Frontiers of Education in China*, 9(3), 377-402. DOI: 10.3868/s110-003-014-0031-x

- Hayhoe, R., Marginson, S., Cai, Y., & Jang, K. (2014). Responses to Yang Rui's "China's Strategy for Internationalization of Higher Education: An Overview". *Frontiers of Education in China*. 9(2), 163-187.

- Cai, Y. (2014). Implementing the Triple Helix model in a non-Western context: an institutional logics perspective. *Triple Helix*, 1(1), 1-20. DOI: 10.1186/s40604-014-0001-2

- Cai, Y., & Hölttä, S. (2014). Towards appropriate strategies for international cooperation with Chinese higher education: the Finnish case In Y. Cai & V. Kohtamäki (Eds.), *Transformation of higher education innovation systems in China and Finland* (pp. 323-342). Tampere: Tampere University Press.

Editors: Xiangyun Du, Haiqin Liu, Fred Dervin, Aalborg University, Denmark, University of Helsinki, Finland, CERG-Chinese Education Research Group

Nordic-Chinese Intersections on Education (book project: completed 2017)

China and the Nordic countries are often contrasted by the media, but also by researchers and by decision-makers. The example of Finland is quite telling in this sense: both Shanghai and Finland are outperforming many other countries in the OECD PISA studies and have been lauded for their excellent performances. However, the two places are often depicted as being two extreme opposites in terms of educational and pedagogical practices. Many of the comparisons that one reads about these two places are often stereotypical and essentialist – Can Shanghai represent the whole of China? Are all schools and students the same in the city? Are they all better at rote learning than autonomous learning? Etc. One could easily ask similar questions about Finland.

Under the impact of globalization, the past decade has witnessed a growth of interaction and intersection between China and the Nordic countries in many and varied educational fields, including joint research, publications and mobility initiatives at different educational levels. Due to the request of stimulating innovation in education from the Chinese government, educational institutions in China are willing to borrow 'good' practices from the Nordic countries, which are known for placing equality and social justice at the core of most societal issues. Furthermore, an increasing number of PhD projects are also being conducted on different

aspects of Chinese education from the perspectives of the Nordic countries and vice versa. A few research projects are being carried out on mobility programs for Chinese students studying in Nordic countries and vice versa. This rise of mutual interests thus calls for attention in educational studies.

In order to obtain a broader view on educational studies concerning mutual perspectives between China and Nordic countries, this volume thus proposes a 'snapshot' of research about education that is currently being done in the Nordic countries and in China, through their respective mirror – see the idea of intersection in the title of the volume. The editors and authors reject an approach that presents both geographical spaces as culturally uniform or 'confronting' big entities such as 'East' and 'West'. They suggest a comparative/contrastive approach – the Nordic countries and China 'side by side' – that is critical and reflexive theoretically and methodologically and takes into account e.g. similarities in education, rather than concentrating on differences only.

The volume includes studies on philosophical, conceptual and methodological issues, as well as micro-level empirical studies. It is composed of 15 chapters, an introduction, a conclusion and one or two commentary chapter(s), written by researchers and scholars from China and the Nordic countries. The book is divided into three interrelated sections: 1. Nordic-Chinese intersections: Conceptual and methodological aspects; 2. Experiencing each other's education; 3. Transnational cooperation in education: Policies and practices.

*Suvi Jokila, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Department of Education
suvi.jokila@utu.fi*

International Student Flows: A Comparative Study of the Recruitment of Foreign Degree Students in Finland and China in the 21st Century

Publication:

- Jokila, S. (2015). The Internationalization of Higher Education with Chinese Characteristics: Appadurai's Ideas Explored. *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*. DOI: 10.1080/02188791.2014.940029.

Ethnography & Regions

Project Leader and Coordinator: Juha Janhunen, Professor, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures

Ethnic Interaction and Adaptation in Amdo Qinghai

This is an international multidisciplinary project that invites the cooperation of scholars and students specializing on ethno-linguistic and development issues of the Amdo Qinghai region. The project is based at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and comprises currently a dozen members with varying backgrounds and goals. The members include both under-graduate and postgraduate students, as well as doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers. Their topics of research cover comparative linguistics and areal typology, comparative cultural and religious studies, as well as socio-economic development studies.

Team members: Marja Peltomaa, Lic. Phil., doctoral student; Tiina Hyytiäinen, doctoral student; Aila Pullinen, doctoral student; Mitra Härkönen, doctoral student; Erika Sandman, doctoral student; Anja Lahtinen, PhD; Mari Savolainen, doctoral student

*Riika-Leena Juntunen, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Oulu, Department of History
riikaleena@hotmail.com*

Main Research Interest: Under what conditions places with strong ideology around them and a need to influence the other culture can cross the cultural boundaries, and what actually constitutes a successful spatial transfer. Also, curious about cross-cultural creativity, urban greening, and creative cities.

Publication:

- *Borrowed Place, Mission Stations and Local Adaptation in Early Twentieth-Century Hunan*. October 2015 / Brill series Religion in Chinese Societies

*Suvi Rautio, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Department of Social Research
suviprautio@gmail.com*

Heritage-making in a Chinese Village

Heritage-making is a process whereby the objects and customs of a particular group of people in a particular location are represented and displayed often in the name of preservation; thereof, generating a display of culture firmly rooted in locality. My research revisits the notion of heritage-making by considering locality as a contested terrain through which structural relations of power are enforced. By conducting ethnographic fieldwork in a Dong ethnic minority village in Guizhou province, southern China, I intend to observe the transformation of a village into a cultural heritage site. Taking into account both local and national representations of history and identity, I intend to explore how heritage-making is being negotiated amongst Dong villagers living both inside and outside the village itself.

Gender Issues

Project Director: Tiina H. Airaksinen, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Asian Studies

The aim of the project was to establish interdisciplinary and international research network on women and gender in Chinese Studies in Finland. The project was accomplished in two parts. First, to organize an international seminar exploring the contemporary issues of women in China and the seminar was held at the University of Helsinki in December 2013. Secondly, by publishing the first scholarly compilation focusing on women in China in Finnish: **Enemmän kuin puoli taivasta: kiinalainen nainen historiassa, yhteiskunnassa ja kulttuurissa**, [More than half the sky: Chinese woman in history, society and culture]. The book won Kanava Book Prize in 2016 for the best non-fiction book. The compilation is used as a textbook in Asian Studies at the University of Helsinki and the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies. The project aspires that other disciplines (gender studies, social sciences and political studies) and other universities, open universities and technical colleges can also employ the compilation as a textbook in their study requirements.

The edited volume, "Enemmän kuin puoli taivasta" provides an in-depth research on socio-political and cultural circumstances for women in China and the remarkable changes in their (social) roles during the past century. For the first time, a book published in Finnish (Art House 2016), will focus on the issues of womanhood and women's agency in their private lives and beyond. The book concentrates on analyzing what gender equality in different areas of Chinese society can mean and how feminism as a Western ideology has been perceived in a country oscillating between rapid modernization and indigenous traditions. The nine chapters and thirteen information boxes, written by both Finnish and international experts, are accompanied with illuminating illustrations, historical timelines, and directories of most important key terms and people. As

a result, the book offers an interdisciplinary study to anyone who is interested to learn about women in China - also in the global context. The book covers the most important socio-political and cultural themes relevant for women's agency: politics, family, religion, education, work, feminism, art and literature. Although each writer has his/her own disciplinary approach, they all address the main questions shared throughout the book: what circumstances have facilitated the changes of women's agency, what kind of manifestations do these changes have and what positive or negative impacts have they brought along in China.

Team members: Elina Sinkkonen, DPhil, Senior Research Fellow, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs and Minna Valjakka, PhD, Research Fellow, National University of Singapore

Publication:

Airaksinen, Tiina, Elina Sinkkonen ja Minna Valjakka (eds.), *Enemmän kuin puoli taivasta: kiinalainen nainen historiassa, yhteiskunnassa ja kulttuurissa*, [More than half the sky: Chinese woman in history, society and culture], Art House 2016.

*Pia Eskelinen, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies / Faculty of Law
pia.j.eskelinen@utu.fi*

Urbanization and Rural Women's Land Rights in Chengdu, Wuxi and Shanghai

My PhD study researches rural women, their economic situation and land rights and how the urbanization process affects them in the People's Republic of China. This study will approach the relationship between legal and social norms through custom in the frameworks of durable inequality and materialistic feminism.

This case study describes how All China Women Federation has advanced rural women's land rights contracting through different projects and how arbitration can positively affect rural women in receiving land-expropriation compensation.

The research has received funding from Academy of Finland's Actors, Structures and Law (ASLA) -project.

*Project Leaders: Johanna Niemi, Academy Professor, University of Turku and Xue Ninglan, Professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Law
johanna.niemi@utu.fi*

Gendered Choices in Structures of Law and Gender

In this research project, we study law and gender as the central social structures constricting the choices by women and men. Post-modern gender studies, approaching gender as identity, performance or construction, have a difficult relation to earlier feminist theories that emphasized gender as social structure. In this project, we want to acknowledge the structural power of law and gender but also want to lift up the agency of women and men when they make important choices in their lives. Especially, we take up two areas of regulation that are central for the construction of genders and the female body: the regulation of prostitution and the regulation of pregnancy in anti-discrimination law.

Research team: (Finnish side) Doctoral Candidate Amalia Verdu Sanmartin, Doctoral Candidate Marjo Rantala; (Chinese side) Associate Professor Dai Rui-Jun, Guo Hui-Min

Governance & Environment

*Project Leader: Ari Ekroos, Professor, Aalto University, School of Engineering, Department of Real Estate, Planning and Geoinformatics
ari.ekroos@aalto.fi*

Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Efficiency Legislation, Finland/EU–China

The Finland-China research co-operation of this Academy of Finland research project aims at improving the knowledge of Finnish/EU and Chinese policy-makers on energy efficiency legislation and policies applied in Finland/EU and in China; where European climate change mitigation policies have proved successful, this experience should be shared with our Chinese partners, and vice versa.

Research team: Professor Ari Ekroos (Aalto University), Professor Qin Tianbao (Wuhan University), Doctoral Candidate Inga-Liisa Paavola (University of Helsinki), Doctoral Candidate Jenny Rontu (Aalto University), Doctoral Candidate Sara Kymenvaara (Aalto University)

Publications:

- *Climate Law in Finland and China: Outlines of European and Chinese climate change mitigation and energy efficiency regulation*. Eds. Jenny Rontu, Sara Kymenvaara, Ari Ekroos. Aalto University publication series. SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY 6/2015. Helsinki 2015. ISBN 978-952-60-6241-9.

Contents:

I General

- Climate Change Policy and Legislation in the EU and Finland; Sara Kymenvaara, Ari Ekroos
- Climate Change Policy and Legislation in China; Qingchuan Zhang, Tianbao Qin
- Enforcement of Climate Law in Finland; Inga-Liisa Paavola, Ari Ekroos
- Enforcement of Law and Policy regarding Climate Change in China; Yanni Luo, Jingpeng Wang

II Emissions Trading

- The European Union Emissions Trading Scheme; Sara Kymenvaara, Ari Ekroos
- The Development of the Pilot Emission Trading in Developing China; Qingchuan Zhang, Tianbao Qin

III Renewables

- Renewable Energy Policy and Legislation in the EU and Finland; Jenny Rontu, Sara Kymenvaara, Ari Ekroos
- Study on Renewable Energy Law in China; Lele Wei, Miaomiao Li

IV Energy Efficiency

- Energy Efficiency Regulation in the EU and Finland; Jenny Rontu, Ari Ekroos
- Energy Conservation Laws and Policies in China; Chuxiao Yu, Tianbao Qin
- Building's Energy Efficiency Regulation in the EU and Finland; Jenny Rontu, Ari Ekroos
- Laws and Policies on Building Energy Efficiency in China; Jingpeng Wang, Chuxiao Yu

V Land Use Planning

- Climate Implications of Land Use Planning in Finland; Jenny Rontu, Ari Ekroos
- Land Use Planning and Climate Change in China; Qing Liu

VI Carbon Capture and Storage

- Carbon Capture and Geological Storage - the Regulatory Framework in the EU and in Finland; Inga-Liisa Paavola, Ari Ekroos
- Carbon Capture and Storage in China: Status, Regulatory Framework and Outlook; Meng Zhang, Yi Luo

*Outi Luova, University Lecturer, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
outi.luova@utu.fi*

Research Interests:

- Urban Governance in China: Sustainable Development, Eco-cities and Social Issues
- Regionalization in East Asia
- Management of Migration in East Asia
- Ethnic Issues in East Asia

Publications:

- Forthcoming: "Environmental Policies Enter Education Sector: Different Shades of Green at District Level" in *Governance for Urban Sustainability in China: Challenges and Practices*, Jørgen Delman, Oscar Almén, Mattias Burrell, Outi Luova and Yuan Ren (eds), Springer, 2017.
- "Charity Paradigm Change in Contemporary China: from Anti-socialist Activity to Civic Duty", *China Information*, Vol 31, Issue 2, 2017.
- "Cooperation patterns in the Sea of Japan (East Sea) Rim", *Baltic Rim Economies*, May 2017.
- 社区志愿者服务资源的差异性分布与城市治理: 天津市四个市区的比较 in *非政府租住与社会发展*. Peng Xizhe, Jude Howell and Wang Chuanlan (eds), Shanghai: Fudan University Press, 2016.
- "Naisten valtakunta; Lounais-Kiinan mosuo-vähemmistön alue" in *Enemmän kuin puoli taivasta. Kiinalainen nainen historiassa, yhteiskunnassa ja kulttuurissa*. Helsinki: Art House, 2016.
- "International Migration and Economic Development in Northeast China - The Acquisition and Transfer of New Migrant Capital" in Howard Duncan & Zhang Jijiao (eds), *Migration in China and Asia: Experience and Policy*, refereed conference volume of the International Metropolis conference New York: Springer, 2014.
(<http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789401787581>)

*Matti Nojonen, Professor, University of Lapland, Department of Law
matti.nojonen@ulapland.fi*

Two on-going research projects:

Regulations and Practices of Chinese Five Year Plan System - a Comparative Research between Central and Regional Levels

The Philosophy of Traditional Chinese Strategic Thinking

Publications:

- What CCM doesn't tell you: History of generational dynamics in society, in Holden, N., Tienari, J., and Mihailovna, S. (eds.): *Routledge Companion to Cross-Cultural Management* (2015), Routledge, New York
- Nojonen M., Mattlin M., and Keegan K.: Interference by another name,. In Joseph Y.S. Cheng and Marita Siika (eds): *New Trends and Challenges in China's Foreign Policy* (2015) Published by Contemporary China Research Project. City University of Hong Kong
- Mikael Mattlin & Matti Nojonen, Conditionality and Path Dependence in Chinese Lending, *Journal of Contemporary China*, Volume 24, Issue 94, 2015

Chinese National Adverse Event Following Immunization Surveillance System - Programme Evaluation and Safety Signal Detection, 2008-2013

Chinese national adverse event following immunization (AEFI) surveillance system was one of the key surveillance systems to evaluate post-market vaccine safety in mainland of China. After 2 years of pilot study, the online AEFI surveillance system was established in 2007 and covered all provinces since 2008. Till 2013, more than 400 000 AEFI cases were collected, and using the traditional data analysis, some vaccine safety signals were discovered, such as Hepatitis A live attenuated vaccine and anaphylactic shock. With the development of new method of pharmacovigilance, we try to apply new data mining method into database of Chinese AEFI surveillance system, in order to evaluate vaccine safety in China. Also, following guideline of public health surveillance system evaluation developed by US CDC, we are aimed to evaluate this online AEFI surveillance system.

This project was jointly organized by National immunization programme of Chinese center for disease control and prevention, University of Tampere and THL of Finland.

Expected duration of this project was 2013-2016.

Project team: National immunization programme of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, University of Tampere and National Institution for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland

Publication:

- "Surveillance of adverse events following immunization in China: Past, present, and future", *Journal of Vaccine*, 2015

A Disaster City - Tianjin City in Famine, Flood and Earthquake 1958-1976

Publications:

- Paltemaa, Lauri. China's changing disaster management regime, *China Information*, special issue on disaster management v31 n3 (Forthcoming November 2017)

- Paltemaa, Lauri. Persistent Questions and Emerging New Trends - Researching Disasters and Disaster Management in China, *China Information*, special issue on disaster management v31 n3 (Forthcoming November 2017)

- Paltemaa, Lauri. Famines. In Michael Dillon (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of Chinese History*. Routledge, London, 2016 (Forthcoming)

- Paltemaa, Lauri. *Managing Famine, Flood and Earthquake in China: Tianjin 1958-1985*. London: Routledge 2015

- Paltemaa, Lauri. Serve the City! Urban Disaster Governance in Tianjin City 1958-1962. *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 49, Issue 04, July 2015, pp 1143 – 1176

The Internet and the Politics of Technology in Contemporary China

Publication:

- Vuori, Juha A. & Paltemaa, Lauri (2015): The Lexicon of Fear: Chinese Internet Control Practice in Sina Weibo Micro Blog Censorship. *Surveillance & Society*, Vol. 13, No. 3

Other Publications:

- Lauri Paltemaa: Aasian pelilauta heilahtaa, *Ulkopolitiikka* 2/2017, 34-39
- Paltemaa, Lauri. Book review: Jeremy Brown, *City Versus Countryside in Mao's China*
- Negotiating the Divide, *The China Journal* 1/2015
- Paltemaa, Lauri. Mao – Mahdoton mies arvioitavaksi? *Kiina – Kiina sanoin ja kuvin*, 1/2014

*Juha Vuori, Professor, University of Turku, Department of Political Science
juhvu@utu.fi*

The Internet and the Politics of Insecurity in China (Ongoing Research Project with Lauri Paltemaa)

Publication:

- Vuori, Juha A. & Paltemaa, Lauri (2015): The Lexicon of Fear: Chinese Internet Control Practice in Sina Weibo Micro Blog Censorship. *Surveillance & Society*, Vol. 13, No. 3

Article in review:

- Vuori, Juha A. (in review): Post-Totalitarian Politics of Insecurity: Enacting Chinese Limits of Freedom.

Completed Research Project: Dealing with Danger: China's Approaches to Calamities on Local and Global Level

This research project examines the ways in which the People's Republic of China has perceived and responded to a range of major calamities on various levels of politics, domestic as well as international, and how these responses have influenced the country's emerging global agency and relations with other actors. Issues covered in the project include the Cold War, anti-nuclear campaigns, the "war on terror", global climate change, natural disasters, economic crisis, and poverty. The project is multidisciplinary in nature, combining International Politics approaches with those of International Political Economy and Contemporary History. The theory of securitization and the governance perspective in the context of the global economy are among theoretical frameworks applied in the project. The research project is funded by Kone Foundation.

Duration of the project: 2011-2013

Publications:

- Vuori, Juha A. (2015): Climate Politics as Chinese Foreign Policy. In *New Trends and Challenges in China's Foreign Policy*. Edited by Joseph Y.S. Cheng and Marita Siika. Published by Contemporary China Research Project. City University of Hong Kong 2015
- Vuori, Juha A. (in review): *Macrosecuritization with Chinese Characteristics: China's Alignment within Global Security Discourses*.

Published monographs:

- Vuori, Juha A. (2014): *Critical Security and Chinese Politics: The Anti-Falungong Campaign*. London and New York, Routledge, 196 pp.

Published Chapters in Edited Volumes:

- Vuori, Juha A. (2015): Contesting and Resisting Security in Post-Mao China. In Thierry Balzacq (ed.) *Contesting Security: Strategies and Logics*. London and New York, Routledge, 29-43.

Article in review:

- Bourbeau, Philippe & Vuori, Juha A. (revised resubmission in review): Before Security: Pre-emptive Desecuritization and Resilience as Maintenance.

Jing Yang, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Jyväskylä, Art and Culture Studies
tigeryangjing@hotmail.com

My post-doc research project is an ecocritical interpretation of Chinese contemporary art history. Up to the present, there has been very little study of ecological concern in Chinese contemporary art. This project aims to explore how Chinese artists perceive and express ecological and environmental problems, and how they directly engage in solving these problems through the use of art. This research can generate wide interests and impacts to art historians, curators, artists and all who concern the cross-disciplinary synergies between art history and ecological issues.

Publications:

Rising Ecological Awareness in Chinese Contemporary Art: An Analysis of the Cultural Environment. TAHITI: taidehistoria tieteenä, 2016 (1).

International Relations & Regionalism

Julie Yu-Wen Chen, Professor, University of Helsinki, Chinese Studies

Publications:

- Burkhanov, Aziz; Chen, Yu-Wen (2017) Kazakh Perspective on China, Chinese and Chinese Migration. in Michael Dillon (ed.) Chinese Minorities at Home and Abroad. London: Routledge.
- Chen, Yu-Wen; Günther, Olaf (2016) China's Influence in Uzbekistan: Model Neighbor or Indifferent Partner? China Brief 16 (17): 11-14.
- Chen, Yu-Wen; Duggan, Niall (2016) Soft Power and Tourism: A Study of Chinese Outbound Tourism to Africa. Journal of China and International Relations 4 (1): 45-66.
- Burkhanov, Aziz; Chen, Yu-Wen (2016) Kazakh Perspective on China, Chinese and Chinese Migration. Ethnic and Racial Studies 39(12): 2129-2148.
- Chen, Yu-Wen (2015) A Research Note on Central Asian Perspective on the Rise of China: The Example of Kazakhstan. Issues and Studies 51(3): 63-87.
- Lay, Jinn-Guey; Chi, Yu-Lin; Chen, Yu-Wen (2015) Teachers' In-Service Training in Geographic Information System (GIS) and Different Integration Behaviors in Lectures, Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography (J-READING) 1: 29-41.
- Sullivan, Jonathan, Chen, Yu-Wen (2015) Ethnicities in Sinophone Cyberspace, Asian Ethnicity 16(3): 269-273.
- Chen, Yu-Wen; Racine, Emilie; Collins, Neil (2015) Gone but not Forgotten: The (Re-) Making of Diaspora Strategies, Asian Ethnicity 16(3): 371-379.

Jyrki Kallio, Senior Research Fellow, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs
jyrki.kallio@fiia.fi

Probing the "Confucian" Core of Chinese Soft Power

China's soft power dissemination efforts and the rhetorical uses of traditional values as the core of China's soft power, especially in formulating China's foreign policy goals and ambitions as a global power. Discussion on a "Chinese (Confucian) IR theory". Analysis of the roots of Confucianism and its "original" nature with regard on the development of Contemporary New Confucianism.

Publications:

- *Mestari Kongin keskustelut. Kungfutselaisuuden ydinolemus.* (A critical translation into Finnish of the Analects, a study of early Confucianism based on selected texts from the Guodian corpus, and an introduction to later Confucianism, incl. Contemporary New Confucianism.) Gaudeamus, Helsinki 2014.

- "Towards Confucian Communalism: A Match Made in Heaven?" *International Communication of Chinese Culture*. July 2016.
- *Towards China's Strategic Narrative: On the construction of the historico-cultural roots of China's national identity in the light of the Chinese debate relating to the rise of traditional schools of thought*. Acta Universitatis Lapponiensis 339. University of Lapland, Rovaniemi 2016.
- *Mengzi*. (Translation of *Mengzi*, and a discussion about its influence on Contemporary New Confucianism.) Gaudeamus, Helsinki (forthcoming 2018).
- *Mestari Kongin kadonneet sanonnat*. (Selection and translation of Confucius's sayings in other pre-Han sources than the *Analects*.) Gaudeamus, Helsinki (forthcoming 2020).

*Liisa Kauppila, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
liisa.kauppila@utu.fi*

China Shakes and Remakes the Global System: Multi-Level Regionalization in the High North (Doctoral Dissertation)

The doctoral thesis explores the mutually restorative processes of the opening of the Northern Sea Route and Northeast Asian regionalism from the perspective of Chinese actors.

The opening of the Northern Sea Route has recently raised great interest among the energy-hungry and trade-oriented economies of Northeast Asia. In order to realise the huge economic potential of the new route, local governments and businesses of some of the world's largest economies – China, Japan, South Korea and Russia – are currently building or planning on constructing network-like constellations with their Northeast Asian counterparts in the fields of Arctic maritime security, transport and logistics. North Korea enters into picture through the leasing of piers from Asia's northernmost ice-free ports in Rason. The development of such networks may be a crucial step in the process of Northeast Asian regionalism that has suffered from historical tensions.

The project involves fieldwork in Tianjin, Dalian, Shanghai and Jilin province. It has received funding from Joel Toivola Foundation and Turku University Foundation.
Duration: 6/2015-present

Other Research Projects:

- **China and Arctic Riskisation** (ongoing, with Doc. Soc. Sci Sanna Kopra)
- **Promotion of China's Fundamental Responsibility in the Arctic** (ongoing, with Doc. Soc. Sci Sanna Kopra)

*Timo Koivurova, Professor, University of Lapland, Arctic Center
timo.koivurova@ulapland.fi*

Arctic Policy of Finland and China: Comparison

A comparative research on the Arctic policies, discussion and practices between Finland and China.

*Sanna Kopra, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Lapland
sanna.kopra@gmail.com*

- **International Responsibility with Chinese Characteristics** (Postdoctoral Research Project funded by Joel Toivola Foundation)
- **China and Great Power Responsibility for Climate Change** (Book project, Routledge, forthcoming in 2018)

- With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility? China and the International Practice of Climate Responsibility (PhD Project, completed in 2016, University of Tampere)

Publications:

- Kopra, Sanna. Forthcoming. "China, great power management and climate change: Negotiating great power climate responsibility at the UN." In: Tonny Brems Knudsen & Cornelia Navari (eds.), *International Organization in the Anarchical Society*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kopra, Sanna. 2016. "Länsi' ja Kiinan poliittinen identiteetti." ["West" and China's Political Identity]. Discussion essay. *Kosmopolis* 3/2016.
- Kopra, Sanna. 2016. "Great power management and China's responsibility in international climate politics." *Journal of China and International Relations* 4:1, 20–44.
- Kopra, Sanna. 2015. "China's Consideration of Ethics and Justice Issues in Formulating Climate Change Policies." In: Donald A. Brown & Prue Taylor (eds.), *Ethics and Climate Change: A Study of National Commitments*. IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper No. 86, 53–61.

Anniina Kärkkäinen, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Department of Political Science and Contemporary History

The Role of Chinese State Actors in Mitigating Negative Societal Effects of Chinese Companies' Activities in Selected African Countries

Anja Lahtinen, Researcher, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures
anja.lahtinen@gmail.com

Research Interest: China's Soft Power

Book:

- Lahtinen, A. (2017). *China's Diplomacy and Economic Activities in Africa - Relations on the Move*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. (Forthcoming)

Publications:

- Lahtinen, A. (2015). China's Soft Power: Challenges of Confucianism and Confucius Institutes. *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*. Taylor & Francis Online at: (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15339114.2015.1059055>.)
- Lahtinen, A. (2015). "Transforming China: Working Women" [*In:*] *More than half the sky? New roles of women in Chinese society*. Helsinki: Gaudeamus.

Teemu Naarajärvi, PhD, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures
teemu.naarajarvi@helsinki.fi

China Model as a Part of China's Great Power Role

Publications:

- PhD Monograph Dissertation: "Construction the Role of a Great Power: China's Peripheral Relations, Territorial Disputes, and Role Change, 2002-2012" (2016) (<https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/182420>)
- "China in Global Food Security Governance" (with Niall Duggan), *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 24, No. 95 (2015). E-print ahead of publication: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10670564.2015.1013381#.VX5wrWOIfvM>

Alexandra Jingsi Ni, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
alexa.jingsi.ni@gmail.com

Publications:

- Qian Liu, Jingsi Ni, Jing Huang, Xiaochuan Shi. Big Data for Social Media Evaluation A Case of Wechat Platform Rankings in China, ICDSC 2017 Confirmation 2017, DOI 10.1109/DSC.2017.28

Marita Siika, University of Turku
marsiiika@utu.fi

Research Interests:

- Nordic Relations with China
- The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence in Chinese Foreign Policy Development of Asian Studies in Europe

Publications:

- *New Trends and Challenges in China's Foreign Policy*. Edited by Joseph Y.S. Cheng and Marita Siika. Published by Contemporary China Research Project. City University of Hong Kong 2015. 393p.
- China's Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence Applied to the Nordic Countries: A Case Study on Liu Xiaobo's Nobel Peace Prize. In *New Trends and Challenges in China's Foreign Policy*. pp. 251-303.

Law

Consortium Leader: Nari Lee, Hanken School of Economics, Department of Accounting and Commercial Law
nari.lee@hanken.fi

Legal Transplant for Innovation and Creativity – A Sino-Finnish Comparative Study on the Governance of Intellectual Property Rights (TransIP)

The Finnish Academy project "Legal Transplant For Innovation And Creativity: a Sino-Finnish Comparative Study On the Governance of Intellectual Property Rights" (TransIP) is a comparative law project started since 2013, which explores the concept of legal transplant as a method to induce social changes, in particular to promote innovation and creativity. The Consortium collaborates with two leading Chinese research institutions, which are the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and Shenzhen University. The project, so far, has already carried out several advanced academic activities in both China and Finland, and has several publications in both Chinese and English. At the core of the project is the interaction between Chinese intellectual property (IP) law and social changes - how IP laws foster innovation and creativity. The research of this project is approached through the aspects of: (1) China- EU IP strategic analyses; (2) Copyright issues on extended collective licensing and 3D printing, (3) IP civil, criminal and administrative remedies, and (4) Practical IP issues, specifically on the NPEs in China, and border measures. We aim to study how legal norms have been adopted, how they work in practice and what – expected or unexpected – effects can be seen as a result of the transplantation. Together, part of the research results of the project members are presented in the book 'Governance of IP Rights in China and in Europe' (Edward Elgar Publishing, Dec., 2015). Moreover, there are a few on-going dissertation projects. For further information on the project activities and publications, please contact the project leader Prof. Nari Lee.

*Project Leaders: Ulla Liukkunen, Professor, University of Helsinki and Chen Su, Professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Law
ulla.liukkunen@helsinki.fi*

Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in the Era of Globalization – Nordic and Chinese Perspectives

This research project examined workplace governance through collective bargaining and employee participation from a comparative perspective. The project explored the legal framework and experience in collective bargaining and employee participation in Finland and the other Nordic countries and China, and assessed the roles of these mechanisms in adaptation to changes caused by globalization. The project was a joint effort between the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Institute of Law and the University of Helsinki Faculty of Law.

Duration: 01/2013 – 12/2016

Research team: (Finnish side) Professor Teemu Ruskola, Post-doctoral Researcher Li Haiming, Doctoral Candidate Marja Paavilainen; (Chinese side) Associate Professor Xie Zengyi, Post-doctoral Researcher Deng Li, Post-doctoral Researcher Wu Xiaodan.

More information at <http://www.helsinki.fi/ilostandardsinchina/home.html>

Publications:

- Employee Participation and Collective Bargaining in Europe and China. Jürgen Basedow, Su Chen, Matteo Fornasier and Ulla Liukkunen (Eds) (Mohr Siebeck 2016).
- Ulla Liukkunen, Yritystoiminnan muutokset ja yhteistoiminta. Tutkimus kansallisesta ja transnationaalista työoikeudesta [Mergers, Acquisitions and Employee Participation. A Study on National and Transnational Labour Law] (2013), 73 Forum Iuris, Helsingin yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan julkaisuja, Helsinki.
- Li Haiming, 'The Roles Played by the Staff and Workers' Representative Congress in the Formation of Work Regulations' [original publication in Chinese] in Social Sciences in China, Special Issue: The Institutional Value and Practical Performance of the Labor Contract Law, Vol. 37, No. 1, 2016, p. 152-163.
- Zhang Yihong, 'Labour in Defiance: The Emergence of Autonomous Collective Bargaining in Southern China' 11(2) Journal of Comparative Law (2016).

*Project Leader: Ulla Liukkunen, Professor, University of Helsinki; Director of Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture
ulla.liukkunen@helsinki.fi*

ILO Core Labour Standards Implementation in China: Legal Architecture and Cultural Logic

This research project aimed to improve understanding of the structural forces that influence implementation of the ILO 'core' conventions in China. The project analysed local cultural logics that inform implementation of core labour standards and maps the roles of different actors in this process. Existing and emerging practices that can play a positive role in enforcement of law were also identified. The objective of the project was to sketch a blueprint for Chinese legal architecture capable of implementing ILO core labour standards effectively. In addition to its substantive research outcomes, the project contributed to developing comparative law theory and methodology in terms of examining culturally different legal systems. The project combined expertise from international law, labour law, comparative law, social anthropology and Chinese law and had a strong international profile with a network of global connections and several partners in China, Europe and the US.

Duration: 01/2012 – 08/2015

Research team: Professor Teemu Ruskola, Docent Yifeng Chen, Doctoral Candidate Marja Paavilainen, Doctoral Candidate Wu Yixuan

More information at <http://www.helsinki.fi/ilostandardsinchina/home.html>

Publications:

- China and ILO fundamental principles and rights at work. Ulla Liukkunen and Chen Yifeng (Eds.) (Kluwer Law International 2014).
- Fundamental Labour Rights in China - Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic. Liukkunen, Ulla and Chen, Yifeng (Eds.) (Springer 2016).
- Ulla Liukkunen, 'Employee Participation – Observations on the Legal Framework in Finland and the EU' in Li Lin, Xie Zengyi and Ulla Liukkunen (eds), Rule of Law Development and Judicial Reform: A Comparison between China and Finland, China Forum on the Rule of Law. Social Sciences Academic Press, China, 2016, pp. 161-173.

*Project Leaders: Ulla Liukkunen, Professor, University of Helsinki; Director of Finnish Center of Chinese Law and Chinese Legal Culture, and Yifeng Chen, Associate Professor, Peking University Law School
ulla.liukkunen@helsinki.fi*

Transnational Labour Governance and Posted Workers

Economic globalization has made the transnational movement of workers a growing phenomenon. Such a 'delocalization' or 'transnationality' of posted workers has brought many regulatory challenges for the protection and enforcement of labour rights. This project is a comparative study of the regulatory frameworks between China and EU on posted workers, and to a certain extent, migrant workers. Through conceptualizing 'transnationality', the project aims to develop a general approach for the possible transnational recognition and enforcement of labour rights.

*Fei Lu, Researcher of Comparative Law, University of Lapland
fei.lu@ulapland.fi*

Comparative Study on the Administrative Litigation Systems of China and Finland

The research project is about a comparative study on the administrative litigation systems of China and Finland, with the research question of what should be reviewed in administrative litigation, legality, appropriateness or what else. This research focuses rather on administrative litigation's sensitivity to context than simply comparing law in books or actions.

This research was initiated in 2014 and is expected to be finalized around 2017-2018. The prominent outcome of this research is a doctoral dissertation.

Anu Lähteenmäki-Uutela, Post-doctoral Research Associate, University of Turku, Turku School of Economics, Department of Business Law

Research Interests:

- Chinese Law on Food Safety
- Chinese Law on Animal Welfare

Katriina Pankakoski, Lic. Sc. (Econ), PhD Candidate, University of Vaasa, Department of Business Law Studies

'Valuation of the Trademark for the Transfer Pricing Purposes': A Research of the Problems Related to the Valuation of the Trademark in Applying and Interpreting the Arm's Length Principle in Finland's and China's International Tax Law

This on-going PhD research project examines the difficulties faced by multinational enterprises when setting the internal transfer prices due to the royalties and transfer of the trademark in Finland's and China's cross-border transactions. The purpose of the study is to find out how valuation of the trademark is done for the transfer pricing purposes in the income tax law point of view. The dilemma of applying and interpreting arm's length principle could be described as the universal problem that touches every developed state as well as multinational enterprises around the globe. That is why in this study there will be done a bilateral comparative legal research between Finland and China. The purpose of the comparative research is to find practical solutions to the valuation problem of the trademark, and to consider if there are any legal solution methods that could be adopted in some way to the declaratory Finnish tax act.

*Yajie Zhao, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law
yajie.zhao@yahoo.com*

National Innovation and Intellectual Property Systems in the Mixture of China's Catch-Up and Social Transition

With new insights into the judicial reform at the governmental level, the monograph doesn't only consider Chinese IP enforcement or substantive law, but focuses more on IP national strategies. (currently being finalized)

Other Projects:

Invited by the Central University of Finance and Economics of China, Ms. Zhao participated the academic research project 'EU case studies of anti-discrimination on age-related issues' in 2014. This project is a ministry level project funded by the China Law Society. The project is closed with a synthesis report 'EU case studies of anti-discrimination on age-related issues' on 15 December 2016. The academic result was awarded as Advanced Academic Project of Ministry Level by China Law Society on 27 March 2017.

State-society Relations & Media

*Hermann Aubié, PhD, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
hermannaubie@gmail.com*

Liu Xiaobo's Struggle for Human Rights. A Contextual Analysis

This doctoral dissertation examines the political engagement of the Chinese human rights defender and Peace Nobel Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo from a contextual perspective. It provides a reconstitution of the trajectory of his political thought and activism spanning two decades from the late 1970s, including the 1989 protests, up to the release of Charter 08 before his arrest in December 2008 and his 11-years prison sentence in 2009. I argue that the significance and limits of his long struggle for fundamental human rights in China are best understood in relation to key changes within the Chinese polity and the transnational human rights regime. Completed September 2015.

Publications:

- PhD dissertation, 2016: Liu Xiaobo's Struggle for Human Rights A Contextual Analysis from a Historical Perspective
- Aubié, Hermann and Wang, Xinhong. "(Un)Doing Constitutionalism: The Cases of Liu Xiaobo and Xu Zhiyong". *Asian Studies Review*. Vol 40. 2016

*Jukka Aukia, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
jukka.aukia@utu.fi*

The Disrespected State: China's Struggle for Recognition through Soft Power (Doctoral Dissertation)

The aim of the PhD research is to provide a localized understanding of the present soft power enthusiasm in China. It attempts to explain how the academic and policy efforts centered on the concept of soft power are used to maintain a stable Chinese society amid economic reforms. According to the argument, the soft power rhetoric of China should not be perceived only as a willingness to generate attraction, but also as a policy tool. In the Chinese discourse cultural soft power (wenhua ruan shili, 文化软实力) tackles the challenges of modernization by placing emphasis on cultural safety amid globalization in national image construction.

Publications:

- Aukia, Jukka, 2014, The Cultural Soft Power of China: A Tool for Dualistic National Security, *Journal of China and International Relations*. vol. 2, no. 1, 71-94.

*Junxin Jiang, PhD, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
jujian@utu.fi*

Public Interest Litigation in Contemporary China

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been a popular legal practice as well as a noteworthy social phenomenon in China since the mid-1990s. By examining PIL in the interaction between the state and civil state against the backdrop of socio-economic transition, this study explores how PIL activists make use of legal instrument for their rights defence and public cause. It argues that PIL, as an idea and a litigation instrument based on social justice, rights protection and public participation, is a rightful resistance to the state from civil society in which Chinese citizens have demonstrated their civic spirit. It also shows that PIL has had profound impact on state-society relations. Completed May 2017.

See the doctoral dissertation here: (<http://www.doria.fi/handle/10024/134049>)

Publication:

- Jiang, Junxin. Rightful Resistance through Public Interest Litigation in China. *Asia In Focus*, Issue 1, 2015.
(https://niasasiainfocus.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/junxin_jiang1.pdf)

Sharon Ben-Dor, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures

Tracing the Sources of the Kāśikāvṛtti: A Comparative Study between the Kāśikāvṛtti and Earlier Indian Grammatical Texts

The project uses digital language resources in order to conduct data mining and analysis of texts which belong to the commentarial tradition on Pāṇini's grammar and other Sanskrit grammatical traditions. It aims to find out to what extent later commentaries follow the Mahābhāṣya (2nd century BC), the earliest available commentary on Pāṇini's grammar, and whether they have used other unknown sources. The research focuses on the text of the Kāśikāvṛtti (7th century AD), the oldest available complete commentary on Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī. One of the major questions concerning the Kāśikāvṛtti in the recent years concerns the sources which were used by the authors, Vāmana and Jayāditya, while composing the Kāśikā. The research aims to answer the following questions. Which are the sources of the Kāśikāvṛtti? Did the authors follow an unknown lost tradition, and does the text contain traces of such a tradition? Moreover, may these traces belong to an authentic lost commentary on Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī? Or, on the other hand, did the authors of the Kāśikāvṛtti follow earlier known texts, and if they did, to what extent? The project research is conducted by data text analysis. It uses the available digital format of some Sanskrit grammatical texts, particularly the Kāśikāvṛtti, the Mahābhāṣya and the Cāndravyākaraṇavṛtti. Each argument given in the Kāśikāvṛtti is assigned different tags, particularly in regard to its relation to discussions in the Mahābhāṣya and the Cāndravyākaraṇavṛtti. All the instances which are not found in the earlier texts are marked. In addition, hyperlinks are used for linking the arguments in the Kāśikāvṛtti with the related arguments found in the Mahābhāṣya, the Cāndravyākaraṇavṛtti and in other texts. Such a method will provide precise data about the relation of the Kāśikāvṛtti to earlier available texts and its sources. Moreover, it will highlight instances in the text which may be considered traces of unknown commentary or commentaries which were used by the authors of the Kāśikāvṛtti. The text of Kāśikāvṛtti containing all the data which is gathered by the computer software will be displayed. The project is conducted in collaboration with the Sanskrit Library (sanskritlibrary.org). The project is funded by the Kone foundation, Finland.

Publications:

- The relation of Kāśikāvṛtti to the Mahābhāṣya
- Ben-Dor, S. 2016 Vyākaraṇaparipṛcchā: proceedings of the Vyākaraṇa section of the 16th World Sanskrit Conference. Cardona, G. & Ogawa, H. (eds.). New Delhi: DK Publishers, India, 46 p. 3

*Reija Hietala, Docent, University of Turku, Department of Geography and Geology
reija.hietala@utu.fi*

Livelihood Security in a Changing Socio-economic Environment in Himachal Pradesh, India

The recently completed research project entitled 'Livelihood security in a changing socio-economic environment in Himachal Pradesh, India' identified and analysed the environmental and socio-economic impacts on the livelihoods in urban and rural settings of the mountainous state of Himachal Pradesh. All sub-studies were conducted by researchers from the University of Turku in Finland, University of Delhi, Government PG College, Chamba, and University of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla. The project was funded by the Academy of Finland (2011-2015). The study approach in most studies was exploratory, with a broader aim to understand the relationships between land use patterns and livelihood within the local communities and as perceived by different groups

and organizations. The methodologies deployed cover a broad range from literature-based surveys to different types of field research and interviews.

The findings of the project deal with the broader objectives of the changing patterns of agricultural production with special reference to diversification, as well as forest-based livelihood outcomes, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) forest project activities, the roles of different ethnic groups and non-governmental organizations, and the benefits and shortcomings of tourism as a livelihood source. The research suggests that for better agricultural performance and improved land productivity; irrigational facilities need to be strengthened; an overall governmental programme for supporting the farmers of small land holdings should secure the farmers' livelihood utilities and stop the process of scattered land transforming into wasteland, also the stray of wild animals shall be controlled. Moreover, the forestry CDM projects have been found to involve several financial, ecological, and social challenges which should be urgently recognized, and the conditions of the plantations and the impacts the projects have on livelihood properly and continuously followed by an independent monitoring agency in Himachal Pradesh, and in the other areas as well. The role of the NGOs is acknowledged due to their operations in health and social sector, and the fact that they concentrate on the very poorest and the most marginalized people.

Publications:

- Ma, M., Haapanen, T., Singh, R.B. & Hietala, R., 2014. Integrating ecological restoration into CDM forestry projects. *Journal of Environmental Science & Policy* 38: 143-153. DOI: 10.1016/j.envsci.2013.11.008

- Singh, R.B. & Hietala, R. (eds.), 2014. *Livelihood Security in Northwestern Himalaya. Case Studies from Changing Socio-economic Environments in Himachal Pradesh, India.* Springer Japan. ISBN: 978-4-431-54867-6. 249-258 pp. (More information on the book, see <http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-4-431-54868-3>)

*Virpi Hämeen-Anttila, PhD Candidate, Part-time Lecturer of South Asian Studies, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures
virpi.hameen-anttila@helsinki.fi*

To Make the Short Story Long: The Frame-story Structure in the Sanskrit Narrative from its Beginnings to the Pañcatantra Cycle

My doctoral dissertation that will be completed during the year 2017 belongs to the field of Indian (Sanskrit) literature and combines the disciplines of indology and comparative literature. The methods also combine traditional philology and narratology. The subject of my work is the frame story, a narrative that is placed inside another narrative or another literary text and represents a secondary level of text/narration. This literary device has been very prominent in India from an early age. My dissertation continues the research done in my Master's thesis which dealt with the late phase of the frame story and my other scholarly work which has traced the early history of this device. The aim of the dissertation is to find when, how and why the frame story originated, how it was used in the Sanskrit narratives and how did it develop from modest beginnings to become, not only very varied and elaborate, but also the dominant way of telling stories. The device is partly connected to a particular textual genre, that of mixed prose and verse, that is interesting as such and rarely touched upon. The study presents three successive models of development (Vedic, Epic and Classical) with representative examples from Sanskrit literature between 1000 BCA and 1400 CA that are analyzed from the point of view of how the frame narrative is constructed and what literary and cultural purposes it serves. Main texts connected to the models are the Vedic brahmanas, the epic Mahabharata and the story cycle Pancatantra. The study does not

present a complete history but approaches the subject through the three models and their representatives. Even so, I hope it will interest the scholars of both Indian and general literature, for there have been very few studies of the Indian frame story that have useful of accessible to them. My supervisors are professor Xenia Zeiler and associate professor Klaus Karttunen (South Asian Studies, Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki).

*Jukka Jouhki, Senior Researcher, University of Jyväskylä, Department of History and Ethnology
jukka.jouhki@jyu.fi*

Slum Democracy: Political Participation among the Poor of Chennai, India (ongoing)

An ethnographic research project especially about the meaning of voting among urban poor in Chennai. Funding for fieldwork (2014, 2015, total of 2 months): University of Jyväskylä Department of History and Ethnology, Emil Aaltonen Foundation.
Duration: 2014-

Publications:

- Jouhki, Jukka 2017 (in press). Democracy in the slums: Meanings of voting among the poor of Chennai. In Xenia Zeiler (ed.), Research on India in Finland [title pending.] Helsinki: Embassy of India.

Finnish Executives in India

A documentary and research project about Finnish executives' experiences and everyday lives in India and Indian working environment. Funded by Alfred Kordelin Foundation and Oskar Öflund Foundation.

Team members: Ronan Browne, Jukka Jouhki & Marika Paaso (documentary), Jukka Jouhki (research)

Duration: 2014-2016 (documentary), research part ongoing

Documentary:

- Browne, Ronan, Jukka Jouhki & Marika Paaso 2016. Päivä Intiassa. A documentary. Helsinki: Yle, <http://areena.yle.fi/1-3659794>. With English subtitles at <https://vimeo.com/185275524>.

*Research Team: Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Professor Riitta Kosonen, Anu Penttilä, Doctoral Candidate, Aalto University School of Business, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT)
erja.kettunen-matilainen@aalto.fi*

Regional Challenges of Finnish Firms in the Emerging Market of India

The completed study analyzes the opportunities and challenges in different regions of India from the perspective of Finnish companies. On the basis of company interviews, we examine the development of India's major business regions, as well as the institutional environments and the strategies of Finnish companies operating in the various areas of India.

*Mari Korpela, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Tampere, School of Social Sciences and Humanities
mari.korpela@uta.fi*

Mobile Childhood. Children of Western Lifestyle Migrants in Goa, India

Postdoctoral Research project, Academy of Finland. This anthropological research investigates the lives of Western children whose parent(s) have decided to repeatedly spend part of the year in Goa, India. Globalisation means new opportunities for many people and an increasing number of people are taking advantage of the fact that they can move abroad to seek a better quality of life - often conceptualized in terms of a more relaxed life. This research investigates how Western children in Goa experience such a lifestyle. The research asks in what kind of social and cultural environment the Western children (aged 0-10 years) grow in Goa, how they experience it and how they contribute to creating it. The research also examines how the children define their identities and how they experience the mobile lifestyle their parent(s) have chosen. The study is ethnographic; the research methods are participant observation and interviews. Duration: 2011–2013.

*Sonal Makhija, Doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law
sonal.makhija@gmail.com*

Areas of Interest: Legal Anthropology, Urban Space, Design and Access, Human and Women Rights and Ethnographic Methods

My PhD project is an ethnographic study of the 'soundscape of justice' and spatial design in a courtroom in Northern Mumbai, India. The project particularly focusses on the question of 'hearing' and its multiple meanings from the perspective of a case filed under the Domestic Violence Act, and how the question of hearing is intimately connected to the question of justice and access to justice.

*Hanna Mannila, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures
hanna.mannila@helsinki.fi*

Can YouTube be a Guru? Indian Dance Gurus in Transformation: Changing Perceptions of their Status, Role and Function from Text to Digital Media

The PhD research project explores the transformations in the figure of guru and his authority in the Indian society from classical Sanskrit texts to the contemporary media-tized contexts, focusing on the gurus of Indian classical kathak dance. Gurus traditionally have a specific and highly revered position in the Indian society – they can be seen as an embodiment of authority. Gurus and guru-like figures can be found everywhere in the Indian society, from religions and arts to politics and business. This research focuses on kathak dance as the base of exploration, examining the changes and continuities in the authority ascribed to the guru in the transmission of dance heritage from one generation to the next. The approach is multi-disciplinary, combining methodological and theoretical elements from South Asian Studies, Religious Studies, Ethnology, and Communication and Media Studies.

*Satu Ranta-Tyrkkö, Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Tampere
satu.ranta-tyrkkö@uta.fi*

The Consequences of the Mining Industry for Disadvantaged Groups in Northern Finland and Northern Odisha (Academy of Finland 2014-2017)

The post-doc research project explores the role of social work in relation to the socio-cultural, ecological and economic consequences of mining industry for local minority and low-income groups and individuals in two regions of mineral extraction, northern Finland and northern Odisha (eastern India). The study asks whether and what kind of implications the mining industry has on the one hand on the social work needs of the local people, and on the other hand on the actual social work practices in the two regions. Moreover, the study asks how different stakeholders, both within and outside the mining industry, see the existing social work practices and how social work in their opinion should address or alleviate existing social problems. The rationale for doing the study in two distinct, culturally and socio-economically highly differing contexts is to get two localized perspectives on how the mining industry influences social work needs in different contexts, and a broader understanding on whether and how social work can and should contribute as a discipline as well as a profession to the social work needs that are specific to mining regions.

Publications:

- Ranta-Tyrkkö, Satu (2014) Out of Sight, Out of Mind? The Mining Industry in the Peripheral Regions of Finland and Odisha, eastern India. In Kristín Loftsdóttir & Lars Jensen (eds.) *Crisis in the Nordic Nations and Beyond. At the Intersection of Environment, Finance and Multiculturalism*. Farnham: Ashgate, 101-119.
- Ranta-Tyrkkö, Satu (2014) A Finn in India. From Cultural Encounters to Global Imagining. In Stanley Witkin (ed.) *Narrating Social Work Through Autoethnography*. New York: Columbia University Press, 66-91.

*Mowshimkka Renganathan, PhD Candidate, University of Jyväskylä, Department of Ethnology
mowshimkka@gmail.com*

Aspirant Tribes: Politics of Tribal Identity and the Process of Scheduling in the Post-Colonial State (Doctoral research project, Ongoing)

This Ethnographic research focuses on selected tribes in Tamilnadu (India) that are requesting the government to be "scheduled" under the Indian affirmation action program known as the reservation system. The main aim of the study is to understand how the tribal communities aspiring to be "recognised" by the state, live and imagine their everyday identity under the affirmative action policy's definition of "tribal-ness". Additionally, the study also looks at the various kinds of collective identity negotiations the tribes go through in order to legitimise their identity. The research methods are interviews and participant observation. The fieldwork is funded by the Faculty of Humanities, University of Jyväskylä.

Duration: 2016-2020

*Project Leaders: Professor Mikko Ruohonen and Professor Markku Turunen, University of Tampere, School of Information Sciences
mikko.j.ruohonen@uta.fi*

RuralVoice - Mobile Voice Service Deployment for Developing Countries: Case Rural India (2010 - 2014)

RuralVoice aims in developing viable mobile and multimodal services and business models for rural India to help the underprivileged. In addition, the project aims in finding joint business opportunities for Finnish and Indian companies. This is achieved through ecosystem

modeling, development and deployment of new multimodal services and ethnographic research among the stakeholders. On a larger scale, RuralVoice is pursuing towards utilization of voice-based services and innovative business models also in other developing areas in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The RuralVoice project consortium consists of research institutes (the University of Tampere from Finland and the International Management Institute, New Delhi and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad from India), Finnish internationalization and funding experts and technology partner IBM India. The project is funded by Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation. See <http://www.ruralvoice.fi>

Research team: Professor Himadri Das, Senior Researcher Jaakko Hakulinen, Researcher Pekka Kallioniemi, Researcher Vivek Kumar, Researcher Juhani Linna and Researcher Gururaj Mahajan, University of Tampere, School of Information Sciences

*Research Group: Prof. Markku Turunen, senior researchers Jaakko Hakulinen and researchers Juhani Linna, Pekka Kallioniemi and Sumita Sharma, Speech Based and Pervasive Interaction Group, TAUCHI – Tampere Unit for Computer-Human Interaction, University of Tampere
markku.turunen@sis.tampere.fi*

Pre-INCEPT: Preparation Project for Inclusive Technology for Schools for Children with Special Needs (2016)

Pre-INCEPT is a preparation project, which lays foundations for the research and development work of inclusive, digital learning environments in Indian markets. Main target groups are challenged learners and children with special needs, which often are in the most underprivileged position in Indian society. This is due to sociocultural and economic reasons, and due to deficiencies in information, practices and diagnosis. Fortunately, the situation is improving. At the moment, there are (for example) several influential NGO's who offer services for example for the children with autism spectrum disorders. Advances in digitalization have raised interest also among the technology businesses. In Pre-INCEPT, India's varying service ecosystem in learning is mapped and modelled especially in the capital region, and most potential targets for Indo-Finnish collaboration are identified. The project network consists of Finnish and Indian NGO's and companies.

*Research Group: Prof. Markku Turunen, senior researchers Jaakko Hakulinen and Tomi Heimonen, and researchers Juhani Linna, Pekka Kallioniemi and Sumita Sharma, Speech Based and Pervasive Interaction Group, TAUCHI – Tampere Unit for Computer-Human Interaction, University of Tampere
markku.turunen@sis.tampere.fi*

Designing Novel Gesture-based Services for Base of the Pyramid Women and Children (2014 - 2016)

The Speech and Pervasive Interaction (SPI) group at Tampere Unit for Computer Human Interaction (TAUCHI) is working on identify the challenges and opportunities associated with designing and developing novel gesture-based interaction techniques for such women and children. The work is a cumulation of three distinct cases and the majority of the work is carried out in New Delhi, India, with TAUCHI collaborators such as IBM Research Labs, Deepalaya.org, Tamana.org and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. These cases are:

Case 1: GILL: gesture-based health information system for low literate users

India has an acute shortage of trained physicians, roughly 0.6 per 1000 population, when compared to the World Health Organization's target of 2.28 professionals per 1000 population. Additionally, lack of culturally sensitive health information, social inhibitions, prohibitive gender-based roles, poor infrastructure and an overall low health consciousness, especially within rural populations, are all deterrents for opting for professional health care. Providing health information initiates open dialogs among community members that lead to better health practices and helps overcome the prevailing social taboos associated with various health conditions. This work focused on designing and evaluating novel interaction tech-

niques for health information systems to overcome the literacy barriers in information access. After investigating several interaction techniques, a clear preference for gesture-based interaction employing local body-touching was observed in the healthcare domain.

Case 2: GiDAC: gesture-based interaction for differently abled children

In developing regions such as India, children with autism are largely underserved. Additionally, the potential benefits of using computer supported collaboration to encourage social interactions between individuals with autism and typically developed individuals are also underexplored. In light of this, two collaborative gesture-based applications were developed together with IRL and deployed in the Tamana special schools in New Delhi. A strong support in favor of embodied interaction systems for intellectually challenged students has been observed.

Case 3: CityCompass: an embodied navigational game for learning English as a foreign language

As traditional classrooms evolve into collaborative online learning environments, it is imperative to design culturally comfortable interactions for cross-cultural collaboration. Our ongoing research in designing such culturally adaptive interaction paradigms for an online collaborative language learning application is geared towards cross cultural interaction between Finnish and Indian Deepalaya School students. Deepalaya Schools (deepalaya.org) work with marginalized children from the slums in Delhi and provide them education and vocational training. By using CityCompass, an embodied navigational game, two remotely located users communicate using a foreign language in the context of wayfinding tasks; one providing guidance to the other. The route in the virtual environment consists of a sequence of panoramas with multiple exits that must be taken to progress towards the goal. This work emphasizes how technology can promote learning within the classroom and bring the developing world at par, or close to, to the developed nations.

Publications:

- Sharma, S., Srivastava, S., Sorathia, K., Hakulinen, J., Heimonen, T., Turunen, M. And Rajput, N. (2014, Sept) Body-touching: An Embodied Interaction Technique for Health Information Systems in Developing Regions, Academic MindTrek '14.
- Sharma, S., Srivastava, S., Achary, K., Varkey, B., Heimonen, T., Hakulinen, J. S., ... & Rajput, N. (2016, February). Promoting Joint Attention with Computer Supported Collaboration in Children with Autism. In Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (pp. 1560-1571). ACM.
- Winner of the CSCSW 2016 Best Demo Award: Kallioniemi, P., Sharma, S., & Turunen, M. (2016, February). CityCompass: A Collaborative Online Language Learning Application. In Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing Companion (pp. 94-97). ACM.
- Sharma, S. (2016, February). Designing Computer Supported Collaborative Applications for Under Served Indian Children. In Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing Companion (pp. 171-174). ACM.
- Sharma, S., Srivastava, S., Achary, K., Varkey, B., Heimonen, T., Hakulinen, J. S., ... & Rajput, N. (2016, October). Gesture-based Interaction for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in India. In Proceedings of the 18th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility. ACM.

*Mikko Viitamäki, University Lecturer of South Asian Studies, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Arts
mikko.viitamaki@helsinki.fi*

Popularizing Islamic Mystical Philosophy in Pre-partition Hyderabad

The recently started research project "Popularizing Islamic mystical philosophy in pre-partition Hyderabad" studies the efforts of Sufis to transmit their religious worldview to a new generation of followers between the uprising of 1857 and the partition of India in 1947. The study of Islamic intellectual history in India during these ninety years has largely focused on the emergence of reformist Islamic movements. However, the Sufis were not mere objects of the reformist critique, and a number of them challenged the reformists by popularizing their own mystical philosophy.

The Sufis were especially successful in Hyderabad. This study analyses the popular texts produced by Hyderabad Sufis around the turn of the 20th century, as well as the contexts in which these texts were used. Hyderabad Sufis simplified complex issues into diagrams, simplified translations and poems, all written in Urdu. The Muslim reformists encouraged the education of the masses, and in order not to be overridden by their rivals, the Sufis produced straightforward guides to understanding the Quran and Islamic ethics directed to the general public, including the women. These texts spread widely; they were read aloud, listened to, performed and discussed in formal teaching sessions of Sufi brotherhoods, in informal study circles and in the popular musical gatherings in Sufi shrines.

The research throws light to the active role of Sufis in redefining the orthodox Islam and correct Sufi practice in pre-partition India. The fault-lines of contemporary Islamic debates were laid during this period and they affect the lives of the 500 million Muslims living in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and the South Asian diaspora.

*Xenia Zeiler, Associate Professor, University of Helsinki
xenia.zeiler@helsinki.fi*

Indian Video Games and Cultural Heritage

Part of the International Project Video Game Development in Asia. Cultural Heritage and National Identity (<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/gamescultureasia/>), funded by the University of Helsinki Future Development Fund.

Publications:

- Grieve, G., Radde-Antweiler, K. and Zeiler, X. (eds.) (2015) Current Key Perspectives in Video Gaming and Religion: Special Issue of Gamevironments. *Gamevironments* 3 (2015).
- Grieve, G., Radde-Antweiler, K. and Zeiler, X. (eds.) (2015) Introduction to Special Issue "Current Key Perspectives in Video Gaming and Religion", In: *Current Key Perspectives in Video Gaming and Religion*, *Gamevironments* 3, pp. 1-6.
- Zeiler, X. (2015) Current Key Perspectives in Video Gaming and Religion: Theses by Xenia Zeiler
In: *Gamevironments* 3, pp. 53-60.
- Campbell, H.A., Wagner, R., Luft, S., Gregory, R., Grieve, G.P. and Zeiler, X. (2015). *Gaming Religionworlds: Why Religious Studies Should Pay Attention to Religion in Gaming*. In: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, pp. 1–24. doi:10.1093/jaarel/Ifv091.
- Zeiler, X. (2014). *The Global Mediatization of Hinduism through Digital Games*. In: Campbell, H.A. and G.P. Grieve (eds.) *Playing with Religion in Digital Games*, pp. 66-87.
- Radde-Antweiler, K. and Zeiler, X. (2015) *Methods for Analyzing Let's Plays: Context Analysis for Gaming Videos on YouTube*. In: *Gamevironments* 2, pp. 100-139.

- Radde-Antweiler, K., Waltemathe, M. and Zeiler, X. (2014) Video Gaming, Let's Plays, and Religion: The Relevance of Researching gameenvironments. In: Gamevironments 1, pp. 1-36.

International Research Network: The Goddess and the King. Navarātri, Navarātra and Durgāpūjā in South Asia and Beyond

Ongoing research with meetings, presentations and forthcoming publications.
(<http://www.hf.uio.no/ikos/english/research/projects/navaratri/>)

Individual Projects:

- Xenia Zeiler. Durgā Pūjā Committees: Community Origin and Transformed Mediatized Practices employing Social Media
- Xenia Zeiler. Durgā Pūjā on WhatsApp and Facebook. Digital Social Media Practices of Festival Visitors

Mediatized Religion in Asia

Joint forthcoming edited publication (Routledge) and ongoing project by K. Radde-Antweiler (University of Bremen, Germany) and X. Zeiler (University of Helsinki, Finland)

The theoretical and methodical approaches of mediatization by today are established in academic research and have primarily been studied in European and North American contexts. This project goes one step further and discusses different aspects of mediatized religion in Asia. By opening up this new field it also aims at providing new material for the theoretical discussion of the pros and cons of the concept mediatization. It asks critically if this concept is useful in non-'Western' contexts or if it needs to be verified further. The project includes different case studies from various regions and religious traditions in Asia, discussing the data in the light of the current mediatization, highlighting the benefits and limits of this approach. As such, the project exemplifies the intensity and variety of religious constructions related to digital media in Asia today.

Digital Hinduism

Ongoing research and forthcoming edited and individual publications (Routledge)

Research on Digital Hinduism is a multidisciplinary and multimethodical, actor-centered project. It aims at studying the multilayered interrelationship between actors (be they individuals or groups respectively organizations) and digital media, as related to Hinduism.

Indonesia

*Ratih D. Adiputri, PhD Researcher, University of Jyväskylä, Social Sciences and Philosophy; Doctoral Program of Contemporary Asian Studies
ratih.adiputri@jyu.fi*

The Political Culture in the Indonesian Parliament

My PhD research topic is The Political Culture in the Indonesian Parliament, which purpose is to study the political culture in the Indonesian parliament, the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (DPR) through an analysis of parliamentary procedure and debates on bills related to the regional parliaments, the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRDs) in the timeframe of 1999 - 2009.

The study looks at the parliamentary minutes and legislative procedures and analyzes the language used in parliamentary debates. The study offers an analysis of the Indonesian concepts of parliament, at both the national and regional levels. I argue that the distinctive features of the parliaments have been shaped by Indonesian political culture and by the legislative process. The results highlight distinctive features of Indonesian parliamentary culture: the forum-style of parliament; the seeking of an acceptable compromise in the deliberation process; legislation based on discussion; and different parliamentary features and traditions that shape the vague concept yet the ideal format of the regional parliaments. These combine to emphasize the elite status of the DPR as an institution and the important role of its leaders. This only confirms that parliamentary procedure in the DPR is still influenced by the legacy of the previous authoritarian regimes, especially in the legislative process.

This research is limited to a timeframe of one decade, 1999 - 2009, and 3 DPR periods: 1999; 1999 - 2004; and 2004 - 2009. The timeframe includes years when the parliament was under the authoritarian regime, the transition era, and the move towards democratization. The DPR's role in Indonesian democratization, as a parliament in a time of transition, is important, an importance that can also be seen in comparable cases in other countries that I discuss here, Malaysia and South Korea. The use of parliamentary debates as research material sheds new light on the democratization process in Indonesia. The legislative processes of each law that I examine here are outlined on the basis of the relevant documentation.

The research emphasizes that the political culture of parliament played a significant role in the forms the democratization process took, and offers a new interpretation of the failure of the DPRDs as regional parliaments. Although Indonesia has taken steps towards democratization in its political system, for the break with the authoritarian order to be fully realized, parliamentary procedures and practices need to be reformed.

After the doctoral research, I plan to turn the thesis into a book and a journal article. My future research interests will be in parliamentary studies (political culture, parliamentary debate, parliamentary procedure, and legislative process) and democratization in Southeast Asia.

*Timo Kaartinen, Core Fellow, Docent, University of Helsinki, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
timo.kaartinen@helsinki.fi*

Ethnic Diasporas and Urban Society: Harbours in Eastern Indonesia

*Eila Romo-Murphy, PhD Candidate, University of Jyväskylä, Department of Communication
eila.murphy@kolumbus.fi*

Developing Disaster Preparedness Education via Broadcast Media and Community Involvement

Doctoral dissertation. Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2014, 115 p.
(<https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/44637>)

This dissertation explores disaster preparedness education of communities in Indonesian earthquake-prone areas and identifies critical factors for developing media campaigns and educational programmes for disaster preparedness.

Stakeholder enabling is applied in examining the management of disaster preparedness communication and education, which takes place between the community, the broadcast media, and civic organisations. The social network contagion approach is applied for defining risk, and for reacting to risk in the community. A social constructionist perspective is brought into play to scrutinize risk perception in a cultural context. The information horizon framework is applied to investigate the information seeking practices of community members involved in disaster preparedness.

In recent years, the focus on crisis communication has moved from the response and recovery stage to a preparatory stage, while at the same time crisis and risk communication are equated as continuum. This study centers on the broadcast media and its role as a disaster preparedness educator, focusing on efforts that can facilitate and strengthen community resilience in coping with disasters before they strike. The article-based part of this dissertation is compiled using empirical data from a survey, focus groups, and key informant interviews conducted in Indonesian communities. Information Horizon map drawing was utilized in investigating the information behaviour related to earthquake preparedness. In addition, a literature review investigates current trends extracted from disaster preparedness literature.

In conclusion, the learning process for disaster preparedness takes place within the shared context of various stakeholders, from dialogue between the stakeholders, and from within the web of relationships of each stakeholder. The media campaign model, constructed on the basis of existing empirical studies, depicts the significance of community involvement in the procurement of knowledge, skills and attitudes affecting and molding disaster preparedness. New light is shed on the role of the broadcast media, especially radio, as an information source and participatory agent capable of involving the community in a learning process; which can effectively strengthen disaster preparedness education, and ultimately bolster resilience.

*Project Director: Kenneth Sillander, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Swedish School of Social Science
kenneth.sillander@helsinki.fi*

Contested Values in Indonesia: Values Creation and Value Relations in Contemporary Borneo

Four-year Academy of Finland Research Project (2014–2018) based at the University of Helsinki.

This research project proposes to make a contribution to the anthropological theory of value through a study of value creation and value relations. The researchers adopt an action approach to values to illuminate how values are constructed and articulated through social action. The study focuses on a specific empirical context where the question of value is a vital and pressing concern. It is set among a group of indigenous societies of Indonesian Borneo who occupy sparsely populated frontiers of natural resource extraction which are subject to radical environmental change and associated expansion

of state and corporate control. These processes have destabilized the conditions for making a livelihood and sustaining local social and cultural institutions among these populations, and occasioned contestation of associated values. Through analysis of this empirical material the researchers examine value creation in change, as well as how different spheres of value and associated transactional orders are articulated in societies with pluralistic value orientations. The research is based on multi-sited participant observation in three Borneo societies (Bentian, Luangan, and Ngaju), and will be carried out in cooperation with colleagues who form part of the researchers' international research network.

Research team: Kenneth Sillander (project leader), Isabell Herrmans (postdoctoral researcher), and Anu Lounela (postdoctoral researcher), all from the University of Helsinki.

Jann Christoph von der Pütten, PhD Candidate, University of Tampere, Department of Political Science and International Relations

The China Threat Theory in an Indonesian Context

The PhD research project analyzes the contemporary threat perception of the People's Republic of China in Indonesia.

*Heikki Wilenius, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Department of Social Research / Social and Cultural Anthropology
heikki.wilenius@helsinki.fi*

Justification and Morality in East Javanese Politics

The research is about party politics in East Java, focusing on the contradictions of the Indonesian political system. The following questions are emphasized: What kinds of conflicts do politically active people face in their decision-making and discussions? Can any of these conflicts be thought of as moral conflicts? How are political decisions justified? Through what kind of ideologies are these conflicts and decisions framed and interpreted?

Japan

*Rie Fuse, PhD Candidate, University of Tampere, Faculty of Communication Sciences
Part-time Japanese Language Staff, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Arts
rie.fuse@uta.fi*

Finnishness or Japanese-ness? : Representation of the National in Reception of Aki Kaurismäki's Films in Japan (University of Tampere)

My doctoral dissertation project focuses on representation of nationhood in reception of the Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's films in Japanese media. The study examines representations of Kaurismäki-ness and Finnishness in relation to the social and cultural contexts of Japan, and the interrelation among Kaurismäki-ness, Finnishness and Japanese-ness.

How to Maintain Motivation for Studying Japanese in Finland (University of Helsinki)

Motivation is deeply associated with learning environment. The learning environment for students who study the Japanese language at the Department of World Cultures of Helsinki University might make it difficult for students to retain their motivations to continue studying the Japanese language: there are not enough opportunities for using the language in Finland and materials for their study are difficult to gain, expensive and limited. Their learning environment at the university is also always problematic; studying of a language in 'minor' position has been exposed by difficult conditions. This project examines how students retain their motivations in such a challenging learning environment.

Publications:

- 2017 (forthcoming) 'Effective ways to access Japanese newspapers and magazines in Finland 2nd edition', ASIANET.fi by the Finnish University Network for Asian Studies.
- 2017 'How to maintain motivation for studying Japanese in Finland? Interview with students taking the Japanese language courses Japanese 3 and Japanese 4 at the University of Helsinki', Kokoro: suomalais-japanilainen yhdistys ry:n jäsenlehti.

*Olavi K. Fält, Emeritus Professor, University of Oulu, Department of History
olavi.falt@oulu.fi*

The West and Japan: globalization and transcultural information

Publications:

2014

- Keskus-periferia suhteiden vaikutus länsimaisiin mielikuviin Japanista 1853–1904 – esimerkkeinä Suomi ja Ruotsi. Keskus ja periferia muuttuvassa maailmassa. Toim. Kari Alenius & Olavi K. Fält. *Studia Historica Septentrionalia* 70. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2014, 313–322.
- Keskus ja periferia muuttuvassa maailmassa. Toim. Kari Alenius & Olavi K. Fält. *Studia Historica Septentrionalia* 70. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2014.
- Globalisoituvaa ja verkostoituvaa tiede – Yokohama länsimaisen tieteen näyttämönä 1870-luvun alun maailmassa. Aatteiden ja oppien teillä. Juha Mannisen juhla-kirja. Niina Timosaari (toim.). *Studia Historica Septentrionalia* 73. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2014, 9–24.
- Muumimamma kimonossa. Lehdistön välittämä informaatio Japanista kulttuurisena voimavarana 1990-luvun Suomessa. *Faravid. Historian ja arkeologian tutkimuksen aikakauskirja* 38/2014. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2014, 231–241.

2015

- Globalisation and Cultural Encounters: Japan as a Resource for Global Information Networks in the End of 19th Century. *Transcultural Encounters*. Kari Alenius & Veli-Pekka Lehtola (eds.). *Studia Historica Septentrionalia* 75. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2015, 17–27.

- The Racial Image of the Japanese in the Western Press Published in Japan, 1861–1881. *Race and Racism in Modern East Asia*. Vol. II: Interactions, Nationalism, Gender and Lineage. Edited by Rotem Kowner and Walter Demel. Brill's Series on Modern East Asia in a Global Historical Perspective. Volume 4. Brill: Leiden/Boston, 102–119.

- Hegemoninen länsi: Japanissa julkaistun länsimaisen lehdistön suhtautuminen länsimaisen tiedon ja oppineisuuden hyödyntämiseen 1870-luvun alun Japanissa. *Faravid. Historian ja arkeologian tutkimuksen aikakauskirja* 39/2015. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2015, 33–46.

- Kansainvälisyys vai kansallisuus: Nitobe Inazôn ristiriita? *Faravid. Historian ja arkeologian tutkimuksen aikakauskirja* 40/2015. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2015, 163–175.

- Hiina ja Jaapan. *Maailma ajalugu*. Peatoimetaja Seppo Zetterberg. Kirjastus Varrak, Tallinn 2015, 156–175

2016

- Pieni ja iso ovat kaunista? Kirja-arvostelu: Yasushi, Tanaka, Toshiaki Tamaki, Jari Ojala & Jari Eloranta (toim.): *Comparing Post-War Japanese and Finnish Economies and Societies. Longitudinal perspectives*. Routledge Studies in the Modern World Economy 135, Routledge 2015. *Historiallinen Aikakauskirja* 3/2016, 357–358.

- Bushido: silta yli Tyynenmeren? (referee artikkeli) Ennen ja nyt. *Historian tietosanom.* 4/2016. Munkkien rakkausrunoista Mishimaan ja mangaan: Poimintoja Japanin kirjallisuushistoriasta. Toimittanut Raisa Porrasmaa.

www.ennejanyt.net/2016/11/bushido-silta-yli-tyynenmeren/

- Termodynamiikka, verkostoteoria ja kognitiivinen psykologia historiaa tulkitsemassa. *Historian teoria. Lingvistikään käänteestä mahdolliseen historian*. Toimittaneet Kari Väyrynen, Jarmo Pulkkinen. Vastapaino: Tampere 2016, 312–331.

- Menneisyys nykyisyyden palveluksessa: bushidô kansallisen identiteetin rakentajana 1800-luvun lopun Japanissa. *Faravid. Historian ja arkeologian tutkimuksen aikakauskirja* 42/2016. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2016, 49–62.

2017

- Globaali sota: Itämeren alue Venäjän-Japanin sodan (1904–1905) aikaisena kulttuuri-sena kohtaamispaikkana. *The Barents and the Baltic Sea Region. Contacts, Influences and Social Change*. Kari Alenius & Matti Enbuske (Eds.). *Studia Historica Septentrionalia* 77. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2017, 111–122.

Chen Ying Hsien, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Musicology

Intimate Distance: the Finnish Kantele in Japan

My doctoral project looks at the changing meaning of the Finnish folk instrument in Japanese musical clubs. I am asking what characteristics of the kantele perceived by the Other bring about its transcultural move? To answer this question, this study employs ethnographic method to examine the meaning of playing the kantele in Japanese's daily life.

*Laura Ipatti, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science
ljeipa@utu.fi*

Breakthrough to Renown. Finland's Image Management in Finnish–Japanese Relations from the 1960's to the 2000's

This dissertation research of contemporary history examines the development of Finland's foreign image in the case of Japan. Historical activities of making Finland known, management of Finland's country brand and Finnish image policies together with their reception are traced through the Cold War into the era of social media and e-diplomacy. Means and actors engaged in the process, as well as Japanese ideas of Finland, are studied in Finnish and Japanese archival, newspaper and web sources. Finnish activities are reflected with motives presented in Finnish domestic debate. An ongoing research.

Annamari Konttinen, University Teacher, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies

Politics of the Environment, Politics of the Self. Actor Perspective on the Era of Crystallization of the Environmental Movement in Japan

Risto Kunelius, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Tampere

Media Events, Circulation and Emerging Social Media Practices. Tracing the Meaning of Fukushima (MECER)

The MECER research project examines the relationship of social media and mainstream media in the case of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident. The project is jointly conducted by Japanese and Finnish scholars together with an international network of researchers in five additional countries.

The project is jointly funded by Academy of Finland and Japan Society for Promotion of Science and realized in cooperation with Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. The project runs from Sept 1, 2014 to Aug 31, 2016.

Contact Information:

Principal investigator: Professor Risto Kunelius

Senior Research Fellow: Katja Valaskivi katja.valaskivi@uta.fi

Junior Research Fellow: Anna Rantasila anna.rantasila@uta.fi

Project leader in Japan: Professor Mikihiro Tanaka, Waseda University

*Lasse Lehtonen, PhD Candidate / Junior Researcher, University of Helsinki, Doctoral Programme for Philosophy, Arts and Society
lasse.a.lehtonen@helsinki.fi*

"From the Age of Imitation to the Age of Creation": Musical Meanings of Prewar Japan for the Founding Composers of Shinkō Sakkyokuka Renmei

My PhD dissertation discusses writings and musical works of the Japanese composer group Shinkō sakkyokuka renmei. The main focus of my research is finding out how these composers experienced the modernization and Westernization going on in Japan from their somewhat contradictory position as followers of a fundamentally Western form of art. Apart from shedding light on how the contrast between "traditional" and "modern" was reflected in the arts in the immediate prewar period, my research aims at sketching a methodology for how to approach the topic of "Japanese qualities" in Western art music. The work started in autumn 2014 and will be completed during autumn 2017. For more on my other research and publications, see: (<http://helsinki.fi/people/lasse.a.lehtonen>)

Publications:

- 2016: "'Kachūsha no uta' ja japanilaisen populaarimusiikin synty." Musiikin suunta 38 (2). Accessible online: <http://musiikinsuunta.fi/2016/02/kachusha-no-uta-ja-japanilaisen-populaarimusiikin-synty/>
- 2015: "From voice of the people to nationalism of the state: Musical meanings of Japan in the work of Kunihiko Hashimoto." Musiikki 45 (2): 53–84.
- 2015: "Everyday life as portrayed in the music of the early Shōwa period: With emphasis on works of art music." Aruzasu Nichiō chiteki kōryū jigyō Nihon kenkyū seminaa "Nichijō seikatsu bunka" hōkokusho: 1–17.
- 2015: "Kōichi Sugiyama Japanin videopelimusiikkikulttuurin rakentajana." Musiikin suunta 37 (2): 24–30.
- 2015: "Lähtökohtia taidemusiikin japanilaisuuteen 1930-luvun Japanissa." Musiikin suunta 37 (1): 5–13.
- 2015: "Yūzuru: Sentimentalisuuden ja japanilaisuuden kohtaamia Japanin suosituimmassa oopperassa." Synkooppi 38 (1): 20–25.
- 2014: "Tuonpuoleisen, lohdullisuuden ja japanilaisuuden kohtaamia Kazuo Fukushiman huiluteoksissa." Synteesi 33 (3): 35–47.

Riikka Länsisalmi, Senior Lecturer in Japanese, Adjunct Professor ('Docent') of Japanese Studies Asian and East Asian Studies, Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki

Tandem Learning Language Project for MA and PhD Students

Partners: Hokkaido University, University of Sheffield, University of Helsinki/Länsisalmi 2) Tandem Learning Language Project (TLLP) & seminar series, University of Hokkaido, University of Helsinki, University of Sheffield & University of Leeds, 2014 onwards, grad. & post-grad. in Modern Japanese Studies, Media & Communication, Tourism, a number of MA & PhD theses & publications.

Japanese legal culture and language practices in the lay jury (saiban'in) courtroom (Helsingin yliopiston Humanistisen tiedekunnan Tulevaisuusrahaston apuraha kulttuurien tutkimukseen, 2017)

Japanese Language Pedagogy (national curricula, teacher education)

Partners: Ippo Project, National Board of Education, University of Helsinki
Ippo-hanke: Japania lukioissa ja peruskouluissa (Ippo Project: Japanese Language Education in Finnish Secondary Schools), 2012 onwards, with the support of the Finnish National Board of Education (coordinated by Rajamäki Upper Secondary School), a number of publications, e.g. Länsisalmi, Riikka, 2015. Sammakkona kaivossa vai valtamereillä? Aasian kielten osaaminen avartaa maailmaa, Kieli, koulutus ja yhteiskunta, huhtikuu: <http://www.kieliverkosto.fi/article/sammakkona-kaivossa-vai-valtamerella-aasian-kielten-osaaminen-avartaa-maailmaa/>

Jarmo Nikander, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Turku School of Economics, Economic Geography

Institutional Entrepreneur in Innovation-Driven Regional Industrial Evolution: Evidence from Japan

Doctorate thesis study set out to develop theoretical understanding in the emergence of new firms by taking explicitly into account the role of entrepreneurial skills and resource mobilization processes within different spatially delimited institutional contexts. Further conceptualization on entrepreneurship that conceives spatially diverse institutional resource mobilization and legitimization as a focal aspect in regional development. The latter part of the thesis study gathers empirical evidence from Japanese nascent - developing networks of innovative startup-entrepreneurs of the digital age economy.

*Eija Niskanen, Researcher and Teacher, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures
eija.niskanen@helsinki.fi*

Research Project: Moomin brand in Japan (assisted by Meiji University, Global Japanese Studies in Tokyo)

Conducting research on Moomin brand in Japan, especially on the two TV animations (1969-72; 1990-92) realized by Japanese animation studios, and the related merchandise to them. Also, influence of Moomin on Finland's country image in Japan is part of the research.

Other Research: Co-production of Animation between Finland and Japan for Finnimation, Report on Co-production Possibilities 2016.

Industrial research for Finnimation on the possibility of Finnish-Japanese animation co-projects, 2016. www.finnimation.fi

Membership: Film Festival Research Network member. Written two academic articles on Asian film festivals.

Publications:

- Upcoming: Article in a UK collection on Princess Mononoke by Studio Ghibli
- "Deer Gods, Nativism and History: Mythical and Archeological Layers in Princess Mononoke" in Princess Mononoke - Understanding Miyazaki's Monster Princess. ed. by Rayna Denison, UK 2017.
- "Ordinary Extraordinary: 3.11 in Japanese Fiction Film". Film on the Faultline, ed. Alan Wright, Intellect Books, UK, 2015.
<http://www.intellectbooks.co.uk/books/view-Book,id=5149/>
- "Studio Ghiblin shintolainen ekologia". Lähikuva, 1/2014. Toim. Tytti Rantanen, Turku. Keywords: Moomin and Adaptation. In: Tokyo University Information Studies keyword publication on Japanese content industry. Ed. by Jason G. Karlin Kadokawa Contents Academy/Tokyo University. 2016.
- Forthcoming: "Cinephilia and documentaries - Yamagata International Film Festival". Film Festival Yearbook, Documentary film festivals. ed. Aida Vallejo (2016). UK
- "Aki Kaurismäki and Japan". Aki Kaurismäki. Ed. Peter Austin, University of Sussex Press, UK; 2017.

*Pilvi Posio, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
phahon@utu.fi*

Community, Place and Citizen Participation in Post-tsunami Tohoku

This research is a PhD dissertation project started in 2014. It studies the relation of sense of community, place attachment and local citizen participation in the recovering communities of the tsunami-stricken areas in Tohoku, Japan. The aim is to examine how these factors relate to community resilience during the long-term reconstruction process.

*Anna Rantasila, PhD Candidate, University of Tampere, Faculty of Communication Sciences
anna.rantasila@uta.fi*

An ongoing PhD research project about mediation of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. The project focuses on mainstream news media's coverage of the disaster in Finland and across the globe, and on social media responses the disaster evoked. The project is an independent offshoot of a joint research project with Waseda University, Japan, and University of Tampere, Finland, that concluded in 2016.

Juha Sahi, PhD, University of Oulu, Department of History
juha.sahi@oulu.fi

The evolution of Finnish Forest Industry's Export Networks to East and Southeast Asian Markets 1945–2000 (Ongoing postdoctoral research)

Publications:

- Juha Sahi (2017). Most-favoured-nation treaty in service of trade? Case: early trade policy relations between Finland and Japan and their impact on the sales networks of the Finnish forest industry. *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 65:1, s. 88-105, DOI: 10.1080/03585522.2016.1261736
- Juha Sahi (2016). *Verkostot kaukaiseen itään. Suomen kauppasuhteet Japaniin 1919–1974* [Networking with the Distant East. Finland's Trade Relations with Japan 1919–1974]. Acta Universitatis Ouluensis B 138. Oulu: Oulun yliopisto. (758 pages)
- Juha Sahi (2015). Hunting for New Markets: Networks of Trade between Finland and Japan during the Interwar Period. In Alenius, Kari & Lehtola, Veli-Pekka (eds.). *Transcultural Encounters*. Rovaniemi: Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys, pp. 29–43.
- Juha Sahi (2015). The Trans-Siberian railway as a corridor of trade between Finland and Japan in the midst of world crises. *The Journal of Transport History*. Volume 36, Number 1, June 2015, pp. 58–76.
- Juha Sahi & Kazuhiro Igawa (2015). Finnish-Japanese trade relations from protectionism to free trade, 1919–2010. In Tanaka, Yasushi; Tamaki, Toshiaki; Ojala, Jari & Eloranta, Jari (eds.). *Comparing Post-War Japanese and Finnish Economies and Societies: Longitudinal perspectives*. Routledge Studies in the Modern World Economy 135. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 157–194.

Juha Saunavaara, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Oulu, Department of History
juha.saunavaara@oulu.fi

Recreating a Region: Allied Occupation of Japan and its Legacy to the Postwar Hokkaido (Duration: September 2012 - August 2015)

The concept of a region has become an important catchphrase in academic and political discourse during the past decades. This research approaches the concepts of region, regional identity, region-building and institutionalization of region through a specific spatial and temporal context, i.e. early postwar Hokkaido. This study is built on a hypothesis that years from 1945 until 1952 formed an exceptional period in the history of Hokkaido, during which it was remolded by foreign actors.

The starting point of this study is a conception that regions can be conceptualized as social and historical processes that gain their boundaries, symbolism and institutions in the process of institutionalization. The theory of institutionalization of regions offers one solution to the conceptualization of the dimensions of region-building processes. Study is based on archival sources located both in Japan and the United States, as well as, diaries, memoirs and other introspective material.

Tommi Tapanainen, Assistant Professor, Hanyang University (research started while Visiting Researcher at University of Turku, School of Economics)
tojuta@gmail.com

Relationship Management of Information Technology Managers in Japanese Technologically Advanced Hospitals

This research addresses the relationship management of information technology managers in Japanese technologically advanced hospitals, in particular with respect to the implementation of new information system projects. The research hopes to

contribute to understanding of management mechanisms and relationships between the information technology staff and the clinical staff which help these advanced hospitals implement new technologies rapidly.
Duration: Ongoing from 1. January 2014.

Kiyoko Uematsu, PhD Candidate, University of Oulu, Faculty of Education

Are They Ready to Teach 'Global Issues'? A Comparative Study of Students in Finland and Japan

This research examines the process of becoming 'globally oriented' educators, in particular, by analyzing the voices shared by students in teacher education at University of Oulu and University of Hiroshima. In my research, I try to explain: how students in teacher education envision skills and attitudes needed for their future pupils as 'global citizens', how they perceive the importance of becoming 'globally oriented' teachers, and ways in which teacher education foster competences necessary for becoming global-minded educators. The conceptual framework of critical global citizenship education is used as theoretical lens for this study. The extended model adopted from Gaudelli (2009) is used as analytical tool to examine themes and conceptualizations arising from questionnaires and interviews of Finnish students and Japanese students. A mixed methodology of quantitative and qualitative methods will be applied to analyze students' perceptions, which are collected through questionnaire and interviews with students in teacher education. The implication of this research shed light on discerning areas to be further examined and critically reflected upon by teacher educators in an effort to foster socially responsible global teachers in the selected research context.

Malaysia

Karen Heikkilä, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Department of Geosciences and Geography

Semai Ethnogeography: Place-Naming, Environment and Belonging in an Orang Asli Cultural Context

This doctoral dissertation project examines notions of traditional geography (ethnogeography), via place-names and related oral history, among the Semai Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia. Ethnographic fieldwork was conducted at intervals from 2010 to 2012. This research is expected to shed light on Semai spatial sensibilities and the authority of customary territory, place-names and oral history in anchoring indigenous identity and knowledge in post-colonial, industrialized Malaysia.

Mongolia

*Research Project: Juha Janhunen, Professor, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures and Wu Yingzhe, Professor, Inner Mongolia University, Department of Mongolian Studies
asiemajeure@yahoo.com*

Corpus Scriptorum Khitanorum

The project aims at the ultimate publication of the extant and newly found documents in the Khitan Small Script (Qidan Xiaozi).

*Mari Valdur, PhD candidate, University of Helsinki, Social and Cultural Anthropology
mari.valdur@helsinki.fi*

Personhood, Subjectivity and Agency: An Ethnography of Reproductive Healthcare in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (working title)

This project looks at the changing interconnected notions of kinship, personhood, gender and health in today's Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia by asking two questions: Why does a woman have an abortion in Ulaanbaatar? And why are some abortions carried out by informal rather than by legalised means? It aims to contribute to the debates on 'personhood', 'subjectivity' and 'agency' with a particular focus on gender. This involves research on the issues of availability and access to reproductive healthcare and its position within the broader context, not least in relation to other medical and other well-being services in the city. The ethnography is anchored in the work with a private reproductive healthcare provider, its clients and their families, particularly women, but involves also state institutions, other service providers and relevant organisations. The field research is taking place between May 2017-August 2018, while the project duration is 2016-2020 funded by the Doctoral School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Helsinki.

Nepal

*Aleksi Ilpala, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Department of Political History
aleksi.ilpala@helsinki.fi*

In the Shadow of the Singha Durbar: Democratization of Powerlessness in Republican Nepal

Publication:

- Six Years Without a Constitution: The Dampened Expectations for Nepalese Democracy. March 2015. *Asia In Focus*, Nordic Institute for Asian Studies.

Both the author's MA thesis and publication puzzle over the anxieties of the democratic process in post-conflict Nepal. Although the recent elections gave Nepal's politicians a new mandate to finish the constitution-drafting process, the negotiations surrounding the troubled issue continue. Despite the established formal democratic institutions and procedures, authoritarian legacies and pre-democratic political practices, values and attitudes co-exist with the new democratic establishment with negative consequences for governmental stability.

*Research Project: Heidi Westerlund, Professor, and Sidsel Karlsen, University of Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy
heidi.westerlund@uniarts.fi*

Global Visions through Mobilizing Networks: Co-Developing Intercultural Music Teacher Education in Finland, Israel and Nepal

The "Global Visions Through Mobilizing Networks" research project, coordinated by the University of the Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy in Finland, seeks to co-develop intercultural music teacher education by engaging three different institutions, and their respective music teacher educators and researchers, in processes of collaborative and research-based learning. The three institutions involved are the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv and the Nepal Music Center in Kathmandu. The ultimate aim is to envision programmes of music teacher education which will equip students with the necessary skills and understandings to work within

increasingly diverse environments. The project is funded by the Academy of Finland during the years 2015-2019.

Teacher education institutions worldwide face the challenges of equipping future teachers with the necessary skills and understandings to work within increasingly diverse environments. Music teacher education is no different in this respect. What if music teacher education could be developed across borders, through global interaction, by institutions joining each other in mobilizing networks in order to learn from each other? What then would become the visions for intercultural music teacher education?

Principal investigators of the project: Professor Heidi Westerlund, University of the Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy and Professor/Docent Sidsel Karlsen, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Department of fine arts and computer science/University of the Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy.

Other researchers in the project:

From the University of the Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy: Dr Heidi Partti, Dr Alexis Kallio, Laura Miettinen, Vilma Timonen and Danielle Treacy. From the Levinsky College of Education: Dr Claudia Gluschankof and Amira Ehrlich. From the Nepal Music Center: Principal Iman Shah.

Read more: <http://sites.uniarts.fi/web/globalvisions>

Publications:

- Karlsen, S. 2017. Policy, access and multicultural (music) education. In P. Schmidt & R. Colwell (eds.) *Policy and the political life of music education*. New York: Oxford University Press, 211-230.

- Karlsen, S., Westerlund, H. & Miettinen, L. 2016. Intercultural practice as research in music education: An outline of an ethics-based rationale. In P. Burnard, E. McKinley & K. Powell (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of intercultural arts theory, research and practice*. New York: Routledge, 369-379.

- Miettinen, L., Gluschankof, C., Karlsen, S. & Westerlund, H. (in press). Initiating mobilizing networks: Mapping intercultural competences in two music teacher programmes in Israel and Finland. *Research Studies in Music Education*.

- Westerlund, H., Partti, H. & Karlsen, S. 2017. Identity formation and agency in the diverse music classroom. In R. A. R. MacDonald, D. J. Hargreaves & D. Miell (eds.) *Handbook of musical identities*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 493-509.

Other Publications:

- Timonen, V. & Treacy, D. 2015. Training Ignorant experts? Taking Jacques Rancière seriously in music teacher education. *Finnish Journal of Music Education*, 18(2), 84-87.

Read more: <http://sites.uniarts.fi/web/globalvisions>

North Korea

Sabine Burghart, University Lecturer, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies (managed various training projects on economy, trade, renewable energy etc. in the DPRK between 2004-07 and 2001-12)
sabine.burghart@utu.fi

Research Interests: North Korean Politics, Economy and Society

Publications:

- forthcoming (2017) (with Denis Park and Liudmila Zakharova) A Comparative Analysis of the DPRK's Economic Exchanges with Russia and the EU in 2000-2015

Research (Dissertation, 2015): Development(-oriented) projects in North Korea are implemented in a specific institutional environment with various stakeholders – donors, international aid organisations, DPRK government and beneficiaries – involved. Observers contend that the hybrid institutional setting where cooperation between international aid organisations and DPRK authorities takes place causes various conflicts and costs that are higher than in other countries. Because of this situation some speak of a North Korean “exceptionalism” and argue that ‘normal’ development cooperation with the DPRK is not possible. In contrast, others argue that most constraints which influence the cooperation between aid agencies and the DPRK government are not uncommon in the aid industry in general, and thus not a unique phenomenon of the North Korean context. The aim of this study was to identify and examine both the constraining and enabling elements of the institutional environment for development projects in North Korea, and to discuss various strategies – acquiescence, compromise, avoidance, defiance, and manipulation (Oliver 1991) – employed by the aid actors to deal with the demands of the institutional setting. The study is based on fifteen expert interviews.

Pekka Korhonen, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Social Sciences and Philosophy
pekka.a.korhonen@jyu.fi

North Korean Religious Music

Publications:

- Cathcart, Adam, & Korhonen, Pekka (2017). Death and Transfiguration: The Late Kim Jong-il Aesthetic in North Korean Cultural Production. *Popular Music and Society*, 40 (4), 390-405. doi:10.1080/03007766.2016.1158987

(<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03007766.2016.1158987?journalCode=rpms20>)

- Korhonen, Pekka (2017). Música [religiosa] moderna en Corea del Norte / Modern North Korean [Religious] Music. In Wonjung Min (ed.), *Comunicación política, diplomática y sociocultural entre Corea y el mundo*. Macul: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. No page numbers; electronic publication, available at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Comunicación-pol%C3%ADtica-diplomática-sociocultural-Spanish-ebook/dp/B071FS4LS9>

- <https://morandisco.wordpress.com>

- Korhonen, Pekka. Rock Gospels: Analyzing the Artistic Style of Moranbong Band, in *Sinonk* 4.3.2014

(<http://sinonk.com/2014/03/04/rock-gospels-analyzing-the-artistic-style-of-moranbong-band/>)

- Korhonen, Pekka. Is He or Is He Not? Political Authority, Media Appearance, and the DPRK Leadership Question, in *Sinonk* 20.5.2014
(<http://sinonk.com/2014/05/20/is-he-or-is-he-not-political-authority-media-appearance-and-the-dprk-leadership-question/>)

*Juha Vuori, Professor, University of Turku, Department of Political Science
juhvu@utu.fi*

Research Interests: North Korea, IR and Non-fiction Film

Publications:

- Vuori, Juha A. (2015): Strange Encounters: Past, Present, and Future Conceivable Life. In Rens Van Munster & Casper Sylvest (eds.) *Documenting World Politics: A Critical Companion to IR and Non-Fiction Film*. London and New York, Routledge, 183-198.

The Philippines

*Charisse Reyes, PhD Candidate, University of Tampere, Faculty of Management, Higher Education Group
reyes.charisse.x@student.uta.fi*

Publication:

Reyes, C. N., & Reyes, J. A. L. (2015). Exploring Publication Productivity in the Philippines: A 10-year Gendered Analysis of Six Academic Disciplines. *Asia-Pacific Social Science Review*, 15(1), 26-45.

This article presents a gendered analysis exploring publication productivity in the Philippines using bibliometric data from the Web of Science. It investigates the temporal pattern of journal article publications for six disciplines, its gendered distribution, differences between disciplines, patterns of authorship and collaboration, and how much women authors contribute and participate in research collaboration. Statistical analyses revealed that although overall publication productivity increased in number from 2003 to 2012, the percentage of female contribution and participation remained almost unchanged. Significant differences were also found among disciplines using logistic regression. Implications of the results in relation to the contemporary environment of higher education institutions and the socio-cultural context of the country are also discussed.

Russia (Eastern regions)

*Project Team: Ekaterina Gruzdeva, University Lecturer, Department of Modern languages, University of Helsinki and Juha Janhunen, Professor, Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki
asiemajeure@yahoo.com*

Sakhalin Nivkh Language Documentation and Revitalization

Singapore

Charisse Reyes, PhD Candidate, University of Tampere, Faculty of Management, Higher Education Group

reyes.charisse.x@student.uta.fi

Frames in the Institutionalization of the Entrepreneurial University Model: The Case of the National University of Singapore. (Dissertation, to be published September 2017)

The purpose of this study was to analyze the university's transformation in building up the entrepreneurial university model based on the government's policy framework in promoting entrepreneurship. In order to understand the drivers of transformation, the concepts of institutionalization and the entrepreneurial university were utilized in this research. The research questions were focused on determining the extent and factors that contribute to the institutionalization of the entrepreneurial university model by taking the National University of Singapore (NUS) as a case study institution.

Publications:

Charisse N. Reyes, (2016) "Framing the entrepreneurial university: the case of the National University of Singapore", *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies*, Vol. 8 Iss: 2, pp.134 – 161

South Korea

Sabine Burghart, University Lecturer, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies

sabine.burghart@utu.fi

Research Interests: South Korea Development Assistance, South Korean Politics

Research project: South Korea's development assistance: A case study from Tanzania. Among the East Asian donor countries studied, South Korea has so far received less scholarly attention than China and Japan. This project examines South Korea's approaches towards development assistance in general and its interpretation of ownership in particular. Country ownership is a core principle of development cooperation and implies that recipient countries take the lead in the formulation, decision and implementation of development policies. However, as scholars have shown, the realization of national ownership is often accompanied by extensive donor presence (c.f. Beswick 2013, Schierenbeck and Hasselskog, *forthcoming*, Whitfield 2009, Whitfield and Fraser 2009). For this single-case study, Tanzania – one of South Korea's top aid recipients in Africa (USD 11 mio. in 2015) – has been selected. This research is based on semi-structured interviews with 10-15 informants including South Korean donor representatives, aid workers, Tanzanian government officials and aid beneficiaries.

Publications:

- forthcoming (2017) Ownership in East Asian Aid Discourses, *Forum for Development Studies*

- forthcoming (2017) Intersections of Ethnicity, Gender and Class: An Analysis of Complex Inequalities Concerning the Labour Market Integration of T'albukmin and Chosŏnjok, *Vienna Taiwan Studies Series 3*, Muenster, Berlin, Vienna and Zurich: LIT.

Research Interests: Popular Culture, Social Movements

Publications:

- Book review: Nouveau-riche nationalism and multiculturalism in Korea: A Media Narrative Analysis. Routledge Advances in Korean Studies, 31. By Gil-Soo Han. London; New York: Routledge, *Pacific Affairs*, March 2016
(<http://www.pacificaffairs.ubc.ca/book-reviews/book-reviews-2/forthcoming-book-reviews/>)
- "What really matters in creating mass mobilization, classical organization or new social media? A comparative case study of the mass mobilization process in France and South Korea", in *Contention*, Autumn 2014.
- "What makes mass mobilization possible? Korea's candle light movement case in 2002 in *Wiener Beitrage zur Koreaforschung*, June 2014.
- "La théorie du complot et la communication politique en Corée du Sud", *Hermès*, avril, 2014. (Conspiracy theory and political communication in South Korea)

*Katri Kauhanen, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
katri.kauhanen@gmail.com*

Women's Movement Re-examined: the Korean National Council of Women in Authoritarian South Korea, 1959-1989

This doctoral dissertation studies the mobilization, networks and activities of the Korean National Council of Women, a South Korean women's organization established in 1959 in order to convene female leaders together and join the Korean women to be part of the International Council of Women. The study reveals an organizational history of the Korean National Council of Women during the Cold War intertwined in the larger narrative of Korean history, Korean women's movements and transnational feminisms of the 20th century and argues that the dynamism of women's activism through women's organizations during the authoritarian era, largely overlooked so far, signals a bridge, not a gap, in Korean women's movements. The study is based on Korean and international archival records, publications of the women's organizations and contemporary print media that are analyzed through historical and network analysis.

Ongoing since spring 2015, to be completed in 2019.

*Jeong-Young Kim, PhD, Senior Lecturer (BE) of Korean in the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki,
jeong-young.kim@helsinki.fi*

A Typological Hole in Teaching Deictic Demonstratives in the KFL Classroom

Joint research project with Mitsuyo Kuwano Lidén (Stockholm University), funded by Erillisrahoitus Helsingin ja Tukholman yliopistojen yhteishanke.

Finnish and Korean Hearer Honorifics & Politeness in the Context of KFL

Partner: University of Oxford

Publications:

Kim, J-Y (2016) Implications for Teaching the Korean Hearer Honorifics in Sweden and Finland. *Orientaliska Studier*, vol. 148, pp. 147-166.

Kim, J-Y (2016) Influential Factors in the L2A of -nita and -yo by Swedish and Finnish Speakers. *Journal of the International Association for Korean Language Education*, vol. 2. 2, pp. 125-151.

*Antti Leppänen, Affiliated Researcher, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
antti.leppanen@gmail.com*

Communities of Business: Trade Associations of South Korean Small-scale Entrepreneurs as a Culture of Economy

My ongoing postdoctoral research project is titled "Communities of business: trade associations of South Korean small-scale entrepreneurs as culture of Korean economy," which investigates the organizational as well as individual practices of South Korean self-employed business keepers as form and case of Korean economy of culture. My research has been especially informed by anthropologist Stephen Gudeman's ideas of the cultural construction of economy, consisting of the realms of communality (or community) and market, the specific culture being a result of the dialectic and tension between the two. The special case investigated during the fieldwork in South Korea in 2010–2011 and in subsequent research visits has been that of producers of rice cakes (tteok), which are mostly manufactured in small family-operated shops. Tteok being regarded as traditional Korean food, consumed mainly in rituals and celebrations (nowadays increasingly also as snack and meal substitute) and made predominantly of rice, my research is also a study of cultural and social significance of food. The goal of the research and writing is to produce a monograph, in its current stage tentatively titled "Organization, skill, and taste of rice cakes: culture of local and national economy in South Korea."

Vietnam

*Taina Dahlgren, Senior Research Fellow, University of Helsinki, Department of Political and Economic Studies
taina.dahlgren@helsinki.fi*

Finland and the Vietnam War

Doctoral thesis to be completed in 2016.

*Sauli Hurri, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Department of Political Science
sauli.hurri@gmail.com*

Working title: The Poor Investing in Transition - Smallholder Financing Patterns in Restructuring Vietnam

In the context of Vietnam's restructuring towards "socialist-oriented market economy", this PhD project is to study the transformation of rural livelihood systems in poor areas, from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. In particular, the focus is at poor households' financing of their participation in transforming commodity chains. Smallholder households in rural Vietnam, especially the poor, have difficulty in accessing formal financial services, which leads to wide practice of informal financing mechanisms to cover agricultural investment needs. Only limited research is available on the nature of such informal financing practices. The PhD project aims at a systematic presentation of financing patterns of rural households in transforming commodity chains, which in turn is expected to make a basis to contribute to theories and discussions regarding nature of rural restructuring processes.

The research work started in early 2015 and is expected to be finished by 2018-2019.

Regional Issues and Comparisons within Asia

Research Group: Professor Olavi K. Fält, Post-doctoral Researcher Riika-Leena Juntunen, Post-doctoral Researcher Tuula Okkonen, PhD Candidate Juha Sahi, Post-doctoral Researcher Juha Saunavaara, PhD Candidate Ari Uusitalo; University of Oulu, Department of History

East Asia and the West in the 19th and 20th Centuries Encounters, Interaction and Images (EAW)

Ongoing research:

- Fält: Globalisation and cultural identity: Western image of Japan in the post-war world
- Juntunen: Local religion and space in 20th century China (Funding: Jenni and Antti Wihuri Foundation)
- Okkonen: Vanhat muistomerkit, uudet vallanpitäjät: Yhdysvaltojen monumenttipolitiikka Japanissa 1945-52 (Old monuments, new ruling powers: USA's monument policy in Japan in 1945-1952)
- Sahi: Suomen kauppasuhteet Japaniin 1919-1974 (Funding: the Finnish Doctoral School of History) (Finland's trade relations with Japan, 1919-1974)
- Saunavaara: Recreating a region: The Allied occupation of Japan and its legacy in post-war Hokkaido (Funding: Academy of Finland)
- Uusitalo: United States and Philippine Independence 1930-34

See for more: (http://www.oulu.fi/transculturalencounters/east_asia)

*Timo Kaartinen, Core Fellow, Docent, University of Helsinki, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
timo.kaartinen@helsinki.fi*

Nature Making, Land Conversion and the Global Resource Economy, (2011-2016)

The research aims at providing a comparative view of how global resource regimes transform local environments, societies, and ideas about nature. Industrial agriculture, nature conservation and ecosystem services presently sustain a nature-making practice which creates a sense of land as a scarce resource with a predictable economic potential. The question addressed in the project is how people come to terms with the uncertain effects of their own activity: what constructs of human existence and agency routinize the political orders and environmental relations emerging from the conversion of land to new uses?

The research brings together two discussions about humanity and nature. The first of these concerns the alleged need of liberal capitalism to turn the biophysical world into a source of commodity values. The second is the anthropological discussion about the ontological categories and perceptions of nature. Whereas the first debate subjects the environment to political-economic projects, the second recognizes that human intentions are shaped at the interfaces between culture and nature. By studying such interfaces, the project explores the limits of explaining ecological phenomena by social and biophysical structures.

The study draws from political and human ecology and the anthropology of ontology, perception and knowledge. It is based on ethnographic case histories with a focus on socio-natural commodities and landscapes which generate hybrid forms of knowledge and combines ethnographic fieldwork with statistical and documentary analysis of global technologies and institutions.

Research team: Timo Kaartinen (project leader), Markus Kröger (post-doctoral researcher, political science), Tuomas Tammisto (doctoral student, anthropology), Jenni Mõlkänen (doctoral student, anthropology), Maija Lassila (doctoral student, anthropology)

Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Aalto University School of Business (on leave), Adjunct Professor, Visiting researcher, Turku School of Economics

Regional Economic Integration and Business Environments in South-east Asia

This research theme analyzes the impact of regional integration on the business environment in the ASEAN region. In particular, the experiences of Finnish companies operating in Southeast Asia are investigated as regards regional economic integration, such as the ease of trade and the possible trade barriers that firms face.

Publication:

- Kettunen, E. (2014) Foreign firms' views on ASEAN integration: Reflections from Finnish companies in Southeast Asia. Paper submitted to 31st Euro-Asia Management Studies Association (EAMSA) Annual Conference, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 29 Oct – 1 Nov.

Trade Barriers in Emerging Markets? The Geography of Trade Policies in East and Southeast Asia

This project explores free trade agreements (FTA) in East and Southeast Asia, focusing on foreign firms' experiences on regional economic integration and the implementation of the FTAs. Taking a multi-scalar approach, the FTAs are positioned in the framework of global trade policy, but also noting the firm-level realities, especially those of the investing Finnish companies in Asian emerging economies, particularly in China, South Korea, and Southeast Asia. The investigation covers some of the most important free trade agreements in the region, such as the EU-Singapore FTA, the EU-Korea FTA, and the China-ASEAN FTA. Triangulating between multiple sources of data, the study draws e.g. from the World Bank and WTO reports, business confidence surveys, and personal interviews with investing firms. The focus is on the trade partnerships of host countries, their networks of FTAs, the tariffs and non-tariff barriers applied, as well as the ease of the regulative environments before and after the FTA. By putting the findings in the framework of the global trade policies, the study contributes to our understanding of firm-state relations in the context of the multi-scalar governance of trade.

Publications:

- Kettunen, Erja (forthcoming) Trade between Finland and Japan, free trade agreements and the location of firms. In: *Interaction, Influence and Entanglement - 100 years of Finnish-Japanese Relations and Beyond*, ed. Saunavaara, Juha & Seija Jälgäin & Kiyoko Uematsu-Ervasti.
- Kettunen, Erja & Claes G. Alvstam (2017) Free trade agreements and responsible business: Examples from the EU's bilateral agreements in East and Southeast Asia. Proceedings of the 22nd Euro-Asia International Research Conference, June 21-23, University of Parma, Italy.
- Alvstam, Claes G., Erja Kettunen & Patrik Ström (2017) The service sector in the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Singapore: Closing the gap between policy and business realities. *Asia Europe Journal*, 15: 1, 75-105.
- Kettunen, Erja (2017) Exploring the OBOR initiative and the geography of trade policies in China. Paper at the International workshop *China's "One Belt, One Road" Global Strategy: Implications, Prospects and Constraints*, January 19-20, Aalborg University, Denmark.
- Kettunen, Erja (2016) On MNC-host government relations: How Finnish firms respond to national and regional policies in ASEAN. *Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies*, 34: 2, 54-76.
- Kettunen, Erja (2016) Vapaakauppasopimusten nuudeliteitto. *Kaupapolitiikka* 3/2016, p. 26. Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [*The noodle soup of free trade agreements. Trade policy magazine; in Finnish.*]

- Kettunen, Erja (2016) Exploring the business view on ASEAN integration. In: *Gränssöverskridande – en vänbok till Claes-Göran Alvstam*, ed. Berg, Linda & Inge Ivarsson & Rutger Lindahl & Patrik Ström. Centrum för Europaforskning vid Göteborgs universitet.
- Kettunen, Erja (2016) The EU-Korea FTA: Trade partnership facing business-level constraints in the Korean regulatory environment. Proceedings of the 21st International Euro-Asia Research Conference, *Asia-Europe Strategic Partnership in a Dynamic World: Business-Economic Linkages and Political Interdependence*, June 22-24, Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea.
- Kettunen, Erja (2015) MNC-government relations in ASEAN countries: Business response to national and regional policies. Proceedings of the 20th International Euro-Asia Research Conference, *Asian Development, Institutional Change and Business Strategy in an unstable World Economy*, May 27-29, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany.
- Kettunen, Erja (2014) China's policy environment toward foreign companies: Implications to high tech sectors. *AI & Society. Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Communication*, 29: 3, 403-413. Special Issue: Competition and Innovation for Smart and Creative Society. DOI 10.1007/s00146-013-0466-y.
- Kettunen, Erja (2014) Foreign firms' views on ASEAN integration: Reflections from Finnish companies in Southeast Asia. Proceedings of the 31st Euro-Asia Management Studies Association Annual Conference (peer-reviewed) *Regional Integration, Value Chains and Multinational Firms*, Oct 29 – Nov 1, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand.

*Silja Keva, University Teacher, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
silja.keva@utu.fi*

Parliaments in the Asia-Europe Dialogue Parliamentary diplomacy in Japan

Both themes above are related to my article-based doctoral dissertation, which is to be completed in 2018.

Publications:

- Keva S (2017) Asia-Europe Parliamentary Dialog: Strong Economic, Strong Politics but What Value? In Harst van der J, Halbertsma T (eds.) *China, East Asia and the European Union*. Brill, Leiden, 233-252.
- Keva S (2017) Japan in the Asia-Europe parliamentary dialogue: Domestic actors on the international stage. *Asia-Europe Journal*, 2017, DOI 10.1007/s10308-017-0466-5.
- Keva S (2017) ASEM and the People's Involvement: a Focus on the Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP). In Gaens B and Khandekar G (eds.) *Interregional Relations and the Asia-Europe Meeting*. Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming 2017).

Esa Kirkkopelto, Professor of Artistic Research, University of the Arts Helsinki - Theatre Academy, Performing Arts Research Centre TUTKE

Shifting Dialogues: Asian Art and Performance

Shifting Dialogues: Asian Performance and Fine Arts was a joint research project between Theatre Academy Helsinki and Academy of Fine Arts (AAPC, i.e. Asian Art and Performance Consortium) at the University of the Arts Helsinki. The project was funded by Academy of Finland in 2011-14.

Three doctoral students have completed their theses during the project (Tängeberg-Grischin, Koh and Kato) and. The Project organised three international symposia that reflected the individual research initiatives of the project members. The symposium of 2012 was titled *The Politics of Site, Locality & Context in Asian Performance and Visual*

Arts. In 2013, the symposium focused on Objects of Desire: Sexual Artifice in Asian Art and Performance. The third and final symposium Documenting Asian Art and Performance: Embodied Knowledge, Virtuality & the Archive took place in December 2014.

As a result of this project, several publications around the themes of the symposia are currently being prepared. The AAP Consortium is also planning to create new research projects in the future.

More information on the contents of the research project and future plans can be obtained from Anna Thuring (amthuring@gmail.com or anna.thuring@uniarts.fi)

Research Team AAPC (Asian Art and Performance Consortium):

- Consortium leader: Dr. Esa Kirkkopelto; Academy of Fine Arts; Professor of Artistic Research, University of the Arts Helsinki – Theatre Academy, Performing Arts Research Centre TUTKE
- Project leader: Dr. Ray Langenbach.
- Researchers: Dr. Anna Thuring, Dr. Jukka O. Miettinen, Dr. Maya Tångeberg-Grischin, Dr. Stefan Kuzay, Dr. Jay Koh.
- Doctoral students: Mikko Bredenberg, Shoji Kato (doctorate completed in March 2015).

*Research Team: Professor Riitta Kosonen, Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Dr. Päivi Karhunen, Aalto University School of Business, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT)
riitta.kosonen@aalto.fi*

Business Environments in Russia and China

This research project addresses the internationalization of Finnish companies to Russia and China from multiple perspectives, including local business networks and problem-solving in different business functions. We analyze, in particular, business risks and strategic adaptation of Finnish firms, with comparative insights from other Nordic firms' experiences in these markets. The project is conducted in cooperation with research partners from Copenhagen Business School, University of Gothenburg, and Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.

Publications:

- Kettunen, E. (2014) China's policy environment toward foreign companies: implications to high-tech sectors. *AI & Society*, 29(3), 403-413. Special issue "Competition and Innovation for Smart and Creative Society".

*Pekka Korhonen, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Social Sciences and Philosophy
pekka.a.korhonen@jyu.fi*

My main fields of interest are in political and world political theory, rhetorical and narrative theory, as well as conceptual history. I have done research especially on the history of the concept of Asia during the past 2500 years in various languages from classical Greek, Roman, Medieval and modern European authors to more recent Chinese, Japanese and American formulations of the concept. Related fields of research are the various processes of Asia Pacific integration, Asia-Europe relations, and East Asian politics, especially between Japan, all Chinas and both Koreas.

My side interests are in world demography, family politics, maps and history of cartography, politics of popular art - manga, anime and music, especially little-known aspects of North Korean music - religious architecture, as well as boreal and temperate dendrology.

The Concept of Asia

Study of the history of the concept of Asia in Western and Eastern cosmological constructions in various languages: 1. Ancient Greek and Roman cosmology, 2. Medieval European Cosmology, 3. World geography of the Explorations, 4. Inserting Asia into ancient Chinese cosmology, 5. Russian geopolitics, the Urals and Aryan race theory, 5. Asia in Tokugawa Japan and Buddhist cosmology, 6. Asia as culture: Rabindranath Tagore, Okakura Tenshin and Sun Yatsen, 7. Asia as conquest: The Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere, 8. Asia as economics: the current Asian Miracle. Duration: 2000 - long towards the future.

Publications:

- Korhonen, Pekka. Leaving Asia? The Meaning of Datsu-A and Japan's Modern History, *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Volume 12, Issue 9, No. 3, March 3, 2014. (<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Pekka-Korhonen/4083>)

East-West Conceptual Contestations (Academy of Finland funded research project 2015-2018)

The project is on conceptual contestations between East Asia and the West/Euro America. The idea is to enhance understanding of the political changes taking place in the contemporary world system by investigating the intellectual roots and cultural heritage of different conceptualizations of the structure and functioning of the world in East Asia and the West. This takes place by investigating traditional Asian conceptualizations, their amalgamation with Western concepts, and their usages in contemporary discourse, all this in light of constant conceptual changes in the West. This is grounded on the theoretical perspective that conceptual transformation reflects political changes in the world. There is a special emphasis on China, because of its present phenomenal rise to the world economic and political scene, but general view is on the whole region, Japan, the Koreas and Southeast Asia included.

Publications:

- 'Response', in Mahendra Gaur (ed.) *Studies on Japan*, New Delhi: Foreign Policy Research Centre, 2015, 27-31. <http://www.fprc.in/pdf/japan-pragya.pdf>
- Kirja-arvostelu teoksesta: Mestari Kongin keskustelut : kungfutselaisuuden ydinolemus / Keskustelut-teoksen suomentanut ja selityksin varustanut sekä taustoittavat luvut kirjoittanut Jyrki Kallio. [Helsinki]: Gaudeamus, 2014 - ISBN: 978-952-495-337-5, *Politiikka*, 2015, vol 57, no 3, 199-200
- 'On ASEM and the Cartography of Asia, Africa and Europe', *AEI Insights: An International Journal of Asia-Europe Relations*, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 2015, Vol 1, no 1, 35-53.
- 'Death and Transfiguration: The Late Kim Jong-il Aesthetic in North Korean Cultural Production', by Adam Cathcart and Pekka Korhonen, *Popular Music and Society*, 2016, DOI 10.1080/03007766.2016.1158987

*Project Director: Outi Luova, University Lecturer, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
outi.luova@utu.fi*

Maritime Co-operation in Northeast Asia

The purpose of this initiative is to conduct multidisciplinary studies on the starting points, actors, dynamics, potential and challenges of regionalization in the maritime Northeast Asia. It aims to contribute to comparative research on regional maritime co-operation and theory-building in regional studies.

*Project Director: Jyrki Luukkanen, University of Turku, Finland Futures Research Centre
jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi (sdf-info@utu.fi)*

Green Energy Transitions in Least Developed Countries (GET-LDC) (2014-2018)

Consortium project together with Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI) in the University of Helsinki.

Funded by the Academy of Finland 2014-2018

The concept of green economy is predicted to replace sustainable development as the new driving force of environmental action. A green economy is defined as low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. Although the concept has received various criticisms, there is little empirical research related to its policy expectations or concerns. Developing countries rich in natural resources, such as Cambodia and Laos, may be able to benefit from green growth by having the opportunity to jump-start their transition towards a green economy. This project proposes a new framework to analyse green growth transitions in Cambodia and Laos and other developing countries in two extremely natural resource dependent sectors; forestry and energy.

The project consists of five phases. The first phase, scoping, includes streamlining the approach and engaging relevant stakeholders in different sectors in both countries. Second and third phase examine the role of energy and forests on three scales (local, national and international) with multidisciplinary materials and methods. The interaction between the scales is also studied. The results of the analyses are utilised in the fourth phase where different modeling tools are used for future scenario building. These models engage and combine both forest and energy sectors. Fifth phase is the synthesis. Future workshops are arranged in both Cambodia and Laos with the same actors as in the scoping phase. The results are disseminated and the scenarios are further developed based on the feedback and interaction with the stakeholders.

The consortium has solid experience of the research topic and methods as well as extensive networks of stakeholders in the target region. FFRC brings in their expertise and research networks related to energy governance in the Mekong region. VITRI has extensive experience from forest governance research in Southeast Asia. The project will produce policy relevant results for Finland's development cooperation, development finance institutions and the development actors in Cambodia, Laos and other natural resource dependent LDCs.

*Project Director: Jyrki Luukkanen, University of Turku, Finnish Futures Studies Centre at Turku School of Economics
jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi*

Redefining Energy and Climate Policy in the Least Developed Countries: Analyzing Institutions and Initiatives in the Mekong Region (RECLAIM) (2013–2014 Finland Futures Research Centre)

RECLAIM project analyses the opportunities and challenges that emerge when climate change initiatives are introduced in the least developed countries, specifically herein Laos and Cambodia. The research examines whether it is possible to simultaneously pursue development, mitigation and adaptation and how this will affect to poor and vulnerable groups. The aim is to identify and analyse the drivers, actors and institutions that influence climate compatible development. The research addresses these questions through quantitative analysis of energy-economic systems and development pathways as well as qualitative research on the actors and forces shaping climate policies. The aim of the quantitative analysis is to provide useful information for future planning through defining a framework within which the future energy needs and related climate policies can be assessed.

Qualitative analysis focuses on the development, adaptation and mitigation nexus in Laos and Cambodia. The research themes include analysing the possible trade-offs and synergies of mitigation initiatives with poverty reduction, governance of climate change adaptation and the move from one-off energy initiatives to a more coherent approach to support a transition to a pro-poor low-carbon pathway. One example of these attempts is benefit-sharing approach, which means the revenue and profits from energy projects are directed to support the local communities and environment.

The climate mitigation initiatives studied in RECLAIM are:
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM)

Project partners:

Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER), Chiang Mai University, Thailand;
Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Cambodia; Ministry of Environment (MoE),
Cambodia; National University of Laos (NUOL), Laos; Ministry of Energy and Mines
(MEM), Laos

Contributors to the project:

Jyrki Luukkanen (FFRC), Visa Tuominen (FFRC), Mira Käkönen (FFRC), Jarmo Vehmas
(FFRC), Louis Lebel (USER), Dany Va (RUPP), Try Thuon (RUPP), Ponlok Tin (MoE),
Khamphone Nathavong (NUOL), Saykham Voladet (NERI), Noora Stenholm (FFRC)

Publications:

- Lebel, L., Va, D., Thuon, T., Voladeth, S., Kallayanamitra, C. & M. Käkönen (2015, forthcoming) *The framing and governance of adaptation projects in Lao PDR and Cambodia*.

- Luukkanen, J., Akgün, O., Pasanen, T., Keski-Väli, I., Panula-Ontto, J., Kaivo-Oja, J., Tuominen, V., Vehmas, J. & H. Lakkala (2014) Energy Dependence and Potential for Renewables. Analysis for Future Trends and Potentials for Renewable Energy Development in Cambodia and Laos in B. Sudhakara Reddy & Sergio Ulgiati (eds.). *Energy Security and Development-The Changing Global Context*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, United Kingdom.

- Käkönen, M., Lebel, L., Karhunmaa, K., Va, D. and T. Thuon (2014) Rendering Climate Change Governable in the Least-Developed Countries: Policy Narratives and Expert Technologies in Cambodia. *Forum for Development Studies* 41(3): 351–376.

*Project Director: Jyrki Luukkanen, University of Turku, Turku School of Economics, Finland Futures Research Centre
jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi*

Scaling Up Low Carbon Household Technologies in the Lower Mekong Sub-region (DIAMOND) (2013–2015 Finland Futures Research Centre)

The primary aim of the project is climate change mitigation and reduced deforestation through the provision of low cost water purification technologies to the rural poor. At the same time, the project will sustainably scale up, through carbon finance, the production and dissemination of low-cost clean water treatment solutions to poor households in Cambodia and Lao PDR. The local supply chains of the two carbon projects by Hydrologic Social Enterprise and TerraClear will be strengthened and the projects will be developed into Gold Standard projects for voluntary carbon markets (VCM). Targeted customers are rural households who currently have no or only a partial access to clean water. Ceramic water purifiers are able to provide a number of co-benefits to end users (including the adaptive capacity of end users to climate change) and throughout the supply chain. The project aims to ensure these co-benefits are also realised. The scaling up and sustainable mass dissemination activities will be complemented by a research report prepared by Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC).

Project partners: Nexus - Carbon for Development, Singapore; Hydrologic Social Enterprise, Cambodia; TerraClear, Lao PDR

Contributors to the project:

Finnish Futures Research Centre, Jyrki Luukkanen, Kamilla Karhunmaa, Visa Tuominen, Outi Pitkänen, Nexus, Jo Hazelwood, Hydrologic, Rachel Pringle, TerraClear, Nathan Cole

Research Project: Principal Investigator: Hans-W. Micklitz, Professor of Economic Law, University of Helsinki (FiDiPro) and the European University Institute (hans.micklitz@eui.eu); Project Coordinator: Pia Letto-Vanamo, Director of the Institute of International Economic Law (KATTI), University of Helsinki (pia.letto-vanamo@helsinki.fi)

The External Dimension of European Private Law

This research project funded by the Academy of Finland, under the Finland Distinguished Professor (FiDiPro) funding programme, started in September 2015. The FiDiPro/EDEPL project focuses on searching for the potential influence and impact of the European Union on international organizations and institutions in private law making, on powerful states such as the United States, Brazil, China, Japan and Russia as well as on respective economic regions such as Mercosur, ASEAN Countries and Africa. The aim is to develop a normative model that depicts the interaction of the European Private Law with legal system in foreign jurisdictions, International Law and Transnational Law, as well as how EU uses its external relations power to influence the private law making by International Organizations and Transnational Private Bodies. The project has already initiated research on the dissemination of European Private Law and Policy through International Trade Law and Consumer Law.

Research team: Lucila de Almeida, postdoctoral researcher, University of Helsinki
Marta Cantero, postdoctoral researcher, University of Helsinki

For further information on additional project activities and publications, please visit: http://www.helsinki.fi/katti/english/FiDiPro_project.htm

- (Subproject on Asia at large):

The External Dimension of European Consumer Law, which focuses on consumer protection in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australia from a comparative perspective. As part of this research strand, in January 2017, FiDiPro/EDELP co-organized a Conference in Hong Kong with the aim of identifying external influences in consumer law and policy in Asia. The research result of this project will be published in 2018.

- (Subproject dealing with Russia and China):

The External Dimension of European Energy Law has twofold dimensions. The first part investigates the impact of the private law dimension of EU energy law in commercial contracts performing the supply and transmission of natural gas flowing from Russia to EU. The second part extends the investigation to China, among Brazil and South Africa, to investigate the influence of European Private Law in the recent global trend of establishing gas markets. The research result of this project will be published in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

*Project Leader: Anja Nygren, University of Helsinki, Department of Political and Economic Studies
anja.nygren@helsinki.fi*

Environmental Vulnerability, Social Resilience and Multi-scale Governance (ENVGGOV) (2015-2016)

The project analyses environmental vulnerability and social resilience in three different river basins, of which one is in Asia. The project looks at water-related vulnerabilities and how they are related to land-use changes. It examines the multi-scale forms of environmental governance, paying special attention to the diversity of actors with their different access to knowledge and power. The research seeks to reformulate conventional approaches to governance by broadening the analytical framework within which diverse modes of governance are linked together and by developing approaches, which carefully consider the ecological, political-economic and socio-cultural processes that shape people's vulnerability to environmental risks and their ability to cope with them. The research has three case study areas: 1) Grijalva-Usumacinta river basin in Mexico, Latin America 2) Xe Bang Fai river basin (a major tributary of Mekong river) in Laos, South East Asia and 3) Vantaanjoki in Finland, Europe. These cases offer a combination of socio-spatial diversity relevant for gaining insights into environmental governance structures and practices.

Research team:

Project leader Anja Nygren:

Development Studies, Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki

Sub-project leaders:

Markku Kanninen, Viikki Tropical Resources Institute, University of Helsinki

Sirkku Juhola, Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki

Post-doctoral researchers:

Maarit Kallio, Viikki Tropical Resources Institute, University of Helsinki

Mira Käkönen, Development Studies, Political and Economic Studies, University of Helsinki

Adrián Monge, Viikki Tropical Resources Institute, University of Helsinki

Aleksi Räsänen, Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki

*Henna-Riikka Pennanen, Post-doctoral Research, University of Turku, The John Morton Centre for North American Studies
henna-riikka.pennanen@utu.fi*

Ongoing Research:

- **19th Century U.S. American Orientalists' Idea of "the West"**

- **Recent U.S. Policies Regarding the South China Sea**

Publications:

- (Forthcoming) Asia's Hope and Pacific Peril: Emergence of Japan as a Military Threat in the American Press at the End of the 19th Century.

- Pennanen, Henna-Riikka. "Keltainen vaara" uhkana Lännelle, 1894–1900 ("The Yellow Peril" as a threat to the West, 1894–1900). In *Länsi: käsite, kertomus ja maailmankuva*. (The West: Concept, Narrative, and Worldview). Eds. Jukka Jouhki & Henna-Riikka Pennanen. Helsinki: SKS, 2016.

- Pennanen, Henna-Riikka. Material, mental, and moral progress: American conceptions of civilization in late 19th century studies on "things Chinese and Japanese". Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2015. [Dissertation]

*Project Director: Pirkko Pitkänen, Professor, University of Tampere, School of Education
pirkko.pitkanen@uta.fi*

Transnational Migration in Transition: Transformative Characteristics of Temporary Mobility of People (EURA-NET), funded By the European Union's 7th Framework programme for the period 2014-2017.

EURA-NET is a three-year research project conducting theoretical analyses and empirical studies in eleven countries in the Euro-Asian transnational space seeking to understand the current characteristics and related policy impacts of temporary transnational migration and mobility between Europe and Asia. Interviews are being conducted with temporary migrants and national policy-makers in China, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine.

The project will help national and international policy-makers to address the challenges arising in increasingly interconnected and mobile world. This will be done by discovering how politics structures the movement of people in sending, transit and receiving countries and by shedding light on the international practices and experiences of individual migrants.

*Project Team: Professor Mikko Ruohonen, Researcher Katriina Löytty, Researcher Timo Ingalsuo, University of Tampere, SIS CIRCOMI
mikko.j.ruohonen@uta.fi*

DD-SCALE Programme (2014-2016)

University of Tampere, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences and University of Helsinki have started a research and development project on Dynamic Distributed Software Development in Global Value Networks (see www.ddscale.fi)

Research topic and objectives

Offshoring of software development (SD) to cost competitive countries (CCC) and regions has gained increased popularity in US and Western Europe since year 2000. CCCs have dominated but it also clear that not just the labour costs matter. Service levels requirements, dynamic capabilities building and community-based activities are growingly needed for managing dynamic distributed software development work (DDSD). The one-way migration of RDI operations to CCCs are increasingly raised questions on the rationale of these activities. In the context of offshoring and change in software development work practices, ICT-companies have been living in a remarkable organizational change. The market of ICT solutions is currently growing slowly. The impact of slow growth is a constant pressure on pricing and ultimately on profitability. The space of sustaining profitability is focused on improving company operations. From the technology point of view, the pressures come from increasing popularity of cloud computing and big data which are examples of the technology trends guiding future plans of ICT-companies. When it comes to the software development/engineering (SD/SE) core areas, the work practices and competence management involved in high performance are increasingly important for the industrial software organizations working in Finland and competing globally. In modern organizational settings, higher performance is increasingly designed to be achieved with flexible partnering and collaboration structures (e.g., outsourcing in different forms). Such organizational forms require new ways of working and managing the performance levels. The required means for sustaining the company in the market are improving the cost-efficiency of operations, time-to-market capabilities and gaining market share with innovations. In practice, an increased urgency of caring the efficiency, productivity and effectiveness of software operations throughout the whole global value chain is needed.

The objectives of this research are in creating new frameworks, tools and work practices for managing dynamic distributed SD work and developing the evaluation solutions for their operations. Furthermore, the challenge of increasing the human and social capital to scale high-performing teams to a high-performing organizations is addressed. The practical outcomes from this on-going programme are both the improvements in SD work management in the industry level as well and provision of enhancements for their current SD work performance assessment. This proposal focuses on academic results which will be disseminated with European, US and Indian partner researchers about the changing sourcing network (onshore, nearshore, offshore) in global value networks.

*Mary Hyunhee Song, PhD Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies
mahyso@utu.fi*

Culinary Nationalism and Local Development in East Asia: UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy (Doctoral Dissertation)

Sebastiao Teatini, PhD Candidate, University of Oulu, Department of Education

When East Meets West: How English Language Teachers in Finland, Japan and Korea Plan to Use Technology as a Collaborative Tool in the Classrooms

Finland, Japan and Korea are technologically advanced societies but their attitude towards how to more effectively use this technical sophistication manifests itself differently in their respective educational systems. The approach chosen is a multi-layered academic case study where I investigate novice English teachers in those countries and their conceptualization of language learning. The main question is how these young teachers plan to integrate technology in the classroom in order to foster collaboration and cooperation between the students. Since collaboration can be influenced and altered depending of the social context, a recognition of social awareness is always valuable in order to gain a solid understanding of the depth and parameters of a collaborative task.

*Anna Thuring, Freelance Lecturer, Researcher, University of Arts Helsinki Theatre Academy, Theory and History of Performance
anna.thuring@bastu.net*

Asian Influences on Finnish Performance

An on-going research and publication project deals with Asian influences on Finnish performance (theatre and dance). The first stage of the project was funded by Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation in 2010. The project group consisted of three researchers, Dr. Jukka O. Miettinen, Dr. Stefan Kuzay and Dr. Anna Thuring. The Finnish Cultural Foundation (Suomen kulttuurirahasto) is currently funding the second phase of the project, which will result in a Finnish-language publication that looks at the visits of Asian performers in Finland during the past 100 years, as well as their influence and reception in Finland. The book will be published in 2018 and will include both historical research and interviews of contemporary Finnish artists. The project group consists of Mr. Veli Rosenberg, Dr. Jukka O. Miettinen and Dr. Anna Thuring. The project is conducted in collaboration with University of the Arts Helsinki Theatre Academy that has agreed to publish the volume in its publication series.

Urban Creativity in East Asian and Southeast Asian Cities

The two-year postdoctoral research project at the Asian Urbanism cluster in the Asian Research Institute broadens up the interdisciplinary research on the artistic and creative practices in urban public space in East Asia at the nexus of Asian Studies, Art Studies and Urban Studies. The research draws on extensive fieldwork and photographic documentation in East Asian cities since 2011, and continues to build up the comparative perspective through Southeast Asian cities, such as Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Yogyakarta. The main aim is to examine the complexities and characteristics of the reciprocal relationship between urban creativity and the city in question.

Publications:

- Valjakka, M. (2017) *Seeds for Hope: The Power of Aesthetics for Urban Creativity in Hong Kong*.
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