

# Academic Research Projects in

Finland

on Asia

Finnish University Network

for Asian Studies

2016



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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 eight member universities: Aalto University, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Åbo Akademi and the Universities of Jyväskylä, Oulu, Tampere, Turku and Vaasa.

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

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# 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 2016. Forthcoming academic publications as well as publications between 2013 and 2015 are also included, while Master's theses are omitted.

An electronic version of the catalogue is available on the website of the University Network for Asian Studies at [www.asianet.fi/research-tools](http://www.asianet.fi/research-tools).

## China

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### ***Business & economy***

*Research team: Professor Riitta Kosonen, Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Anu Penttilä, Doctoral 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)  
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#### **China in Turbulence: Paths Forward for Nordic Business**

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

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 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.

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As a part of article based dissertation "**Perceived Employability, Person-to-Environment Fit and Career Self-Management Behaviour of Western Self-Initiated Expatriates in China**" two empirical qualitative articles have been accepted for publishing.

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.

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.

Other forthcoming articles in the review process or to be submitted by the author

- (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  
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## **Marketing in China**

Publications:

- Polsa Pia and Qinqin Zheng, China and Chinese Communities. Special Issue in *Journal of Macromarketing*, 2015 (editorial) (ISI 0.9)
- Polsa Pia, Wei Fuxiang, Sääksjärvi Maria, and Bei Shuyuan (2013) Cultural values and health care service quality in China: A case study of Tianjin's Number One Hospital, *International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance*, vol. 26, no. 1, pp. 55-73.
- Polsa Pia (2013) Crystallization and research in Asia, *Qualitative Market Research –An International Journal*, vol. 16, no 1., pp. 76-93.

*Santa Stopniece, Doctoral Student, University of Jyväskylä, Department of Communication  
santastop@inbox.lv*

## **Intercultural communication of Chinese investment, trade, and co-operation facilitation initiatives in Finland**

This study examines the dynamics of intercultural communication between Chinese and Finnish partners within the context of Chinese investment, trade, and co-operation facilitation in Finland. The importance of co-operation with China has been growing in Finland lately in view of interest to attract Chinese investments and the phenomenon of the so-called rising China. Finland has established governmental agencies to aid Chinese investment and ensured the co-operation of regional and local governments in the framework activities, such as town twinning. This is a productive context for studying intercultural communication, because this kind of co-operation is still new in many ways. There is not much previous experience of Chinese in Finland, and there is also lack of research which would consider intercultural aspects in this context.

The aim of the study is to gain insight into dynamics of intercultural communication between the Finnish and Chinese sides of Chinese investment, trade, and co-operation facilitation initiatives in Finland by exploring situated cultural meanings manifested in working life. This research initiative attempts to find keys to help to bridge cultures as different as Finnish and Chinese in the new context of rising China, as well as critically analyze existing theories and literature on intercultural communication. Because of its context, the study has not only local, but also global significance potential. As the whole world is approaching China in similar ways right now and power relations switch to the favor of the Chinese side, many insights of the study can be applicable on a wider scale and in various settings.

Dissertation publications:

- "Chinese "enormous hospitality" vs. Finnish "meeting among friends": guest-host positioning in China Finland delegation visits," Palgrave volume on *Relation to Interculturality, Power and Identity Politics between China and the Rest of the World* (upcoming end 2015 /beginning 2016)
- "Cultural Adjustment of Finns to Chinese in Chinese Investment Facilitation Context," revised version submitted end May 2015 to *International Journal of Emerging Markets*
- "China Finland Co-operation, Trade, and Investment: In Search of Common Ground," *Journal of China and International Relations*, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 130-150.
- "Opportunities, but Nothing Very Concrete:" The Challenge Finns Face with Chinese Delegations' General Level of Interest in Finland," *Journal for Young Researchers "Asia in Focus"*, 2015, Issue 1, pp .23-29

## 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 organisations 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.
- Cai, Y., Hölttä, S., & Lindholm, N. (2013). Establishing sub-campus in China: A Finnish perspective. *Journal of Research in International Education*, 12(2), 142-154.
- Cai, Y. (2013). Erasmus mundus joint programme and EU's strategy on higher education cooperation with China--lessons from the MARIHE programme. *Journal of European Higher Education Area*, 2013(2), 95-112.
- Cai, Y. (2013). Chinese higher education: The changes in the past two decades and reform tendencies up to 2020. In L. d. C. Ferreira & J. A. G. Albuquerque (Eds.), *China and Brazil: Challenges and Opportunities* (pp. 91-118). Campinas: Anablumme.
- Cai, Y., & Kivistö, J. (2013). Tuition fees for international students in Finland—where to go from here? *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 17(1), 55-78.
- Cai, Y. (2013). Graduate employability: A conceptual framework for understanding employers' perceptions. *Higher Education*, 65(4), 457-469.

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

## **Nordic-Chinese Intersections on Education**

(ongoing book project)

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.

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## **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.

*Olli-Pekka Malinen, Researcher, Niilo Mäki Institute*

### **Inclusive Education from Teacher' perspective in Mainland China**

The main purpose of the project was to produce new knowledge on how inclusive education looks from teachers' perspective in Mainland China. Inclusive education (全纳教育, 全纳教育 or 融合教育) is a complex and problematic concept which is understood differently in different contexts. In my PhD project, as well as in Chinese context in general, inclusive education is understood primarily as teaching children with disabilities in regular classrooms, not in separate special classes or schools. This PhD project is closely related to a wider international comparative research project that deals with inclusive education in China Mainland, Finland and South Africa. The main research themes of the project are:

- Chinese teachers' sentiments, attitudes and concerns related to inclusive education
- Chinese teachers' efficacy to implement inclusive practices
- Chinese teachers' conceptualisations of inclusive education e.g. the focus groups of inclusion.

Duration: 2009 - 2013

## **Ethnography & regions**

*Project leader and coordinator: Juha Janhunen, Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures, 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

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

### **Macao: A Gambling City**

- Ongoing 2013
- An ethnographic research project including film documentary
- Research team: Jukka Jouhki (Univ. Jyväskylä) and Ronan Browne (independent film producer)
- Funding: The Finnish Foundation for Gaming Research (grant for preliminary field research)
- Website: <http://macaofilm.blogspot.fi/p/our-plan.html>

Publications:

- Jouhki, Jukka 2014 (in press). Rahapelaamisen narratiivinen rakentuminen moraalisenä ilmiönä. Havaintoja rahapeliteollisuuden nopean nousun kokeneiden macaolaisten suhtautumisesta pelaamiseen. *Pelitutkimuksen vuosikirja* 6 (1).



-Browne, Ronan & Jouhki, Jukka 2014. Macao: A Gambling City. Short documentary based on preliminary fieldwork in 2013. <http://vimeo.com/80546341>  
- Jouhki, Jukka & Browne, Ronan 2013. Macao as a Gambling City: Observations through Visual Anthropology. Paper presented at the Second Asia Pacific Conference on Gambling & Commercial Gaming Research (APCG2013) 1-4 December 2013, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. <http://www.gamblingstudies.org/ojs/index.php/apcg/article/view/105>

*Riika-Leena Juntunen, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Oulu, Department of History; Visiting Researcher, Aalto University Design Factory  
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*. Forthcoming October 2015 / Brill series Religion in Chinese Societies

*Suvi Rautio, Doctoral Student, University of Helsinki, Social and Cultural Anthropology, 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, PhD, University Lecturer in Asia-Pacific Studies, University of Helsinki  
tiina.h.airaksinen@helsinki.fi*

**The aim of the project:** to establish interdisciplinary and international research network on women and gender in Chinese Studies in Finland. The project will be accomplished in two parts. First, by publishing the first scholarly compilation focusing on women in China in Finnish: *Enemmän kuin puoli taivasta? Naisten uudet roolit kiinalaisessa yhteiskunnassa* [More than half the sky? The new roles of women in Chinese society]. The compilation will be 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 second part of the project was 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.

Team members: Elina Sinkkonen, DPhil, Senior Research Fellow, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs and Minna Valjakka, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher (Academy of Finland), University of Helsinki

Publication:

**- *Enemmän kuin puoli taivasta? Naisten uudet roolit kiinalaisessa yhteiskunnassa* [More than half the sky? The new roles of women in Chinese society]**

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 could 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. The chapters investigating specific themes can be read independently as informative case studies, but they all also contribute to the multifaceted discussion of women in China and their ability to participate in varied arenas. 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.

*Piia Eskelinen, PhD Student, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies  
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## **Urbanization and Rural Women's Land Rights in Chengdu, Wuxi and Shanghai**

This PhD thesis researches rural women, their 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. It will also look at the role of law to the situation of women.

This research will consist of three articles. The first article will analyze the implementation of rural women's land rights in selected model pilots in which rural villages that have been transformed into urban towns in Wuxi and Chengdu in central China. The second article will focus on selected model pilots in Shanghai area. The final article will be a comparative article between the three cases. 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**

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

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.

*Shuchen Wang, PhD Candidate, University of Jyväskylä, Department of Art and Culture Studies  
shuchencyrus@gmail.com*

### **Gender, Politics, Market--The Power Structure of Chinese Contemporary Art**

On-going post-graduate research project (since 2012 Autumn)

*Qingbo Xu-Susiluoto, Doctoral Candidate, University of Helsinki, Gender Studies*

### **Meeting by chance – Zhang Kangkang and evolutionary feminism, 2007–2011**

From the title, it is obvious that there are two seemingly odd, confusing and far-fetched combinations: Zhang Kangkang and feminism, and Zhang Kangkang and evolutionary theory. The first combination seems strange because among all the contemporary Chinese women's writers, Zhang Kangkang (1950- ) will be the last one whom researchers would link with a feminist writer. The second one causes even more uncomfortable feelings because evidently I try to mingle literature and biology/psychology, humanities and science. I have two goals in the mind. One is to prove that Zhang Kangkang actually has strong feminist concerns in her works. The second ambition is to harmonize literature and science. I summarize five meeting points between Zhang and evolutionary theory: 1. about femaleness and sex differences; 2. violence, dominance and the Cultural Revolution; 3. ambitious mothers and "avoidantly attached" infants; 4. infanticidal male/females and the birth control policy in China; 5. mating system.

## **Governance & environment**

*Project leader: Ari Ekroos, Professor, Department of Real Estate, Planning and Geoinformatics, School of Engineering, Aalto University  
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### **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

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The Development of the Pilot Emission Trading in Developing China; Qingchuan Zhang, Tianbao Qin

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V Land Use Planning

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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  
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## **Urban Governance in China: sustainable development, eco-cities and social issues**

### **Management of international migration**

### **Ethnic issues in East Asia**

Publications:

- Forthcoming "Environmental policy implementation at district level in Tianjin, China" in *Sustainable city governance in China: Challenges and Practices*. Eds: Jørgen Delman, Yuan Ren, Oscar Almén, Outi Luova, Matias Burrell (2016)

- Forthcoming: "Differential Distribution of Community Volunteer Resources and Urban Governance: Comparison between Four Districts in Tianjin" [in Chinese] in *Non-governmental organizations and the development of the society*, Jude Howell and Wang Chuanlan (eds), Shanghai: Fudan University Press, 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>

- "Divergent Trajectories among Chinese Community Volunteer Associations and Urban Governance: Comparing Four Districts in Tianjin" *Journal of Comparative Asian Devel-*

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

**China and European Union in the Context of Global Climate Change: Analysis of Changing Economic Structures and Related Policies (CHEC) 2012–2014 Finland Futures Research Centre**

CHEC project concentrated on the very topical issue of climate change and its evident impacts on the economic structures especially in the context of China and the European Union. The objective of the research was to analyse the impacts of climate change on the global economic structures and financing mechanism from the point of view of China and EU. The spill over effects of these changes are relevant for assessing the accumulated impacts of climate change. These were profoundly analysed in the CHEC project.

The project relied on the following hypotheses; (i) climate change will have an impact on the global economic structures and financing mechanisms; (ii) the impacts depend on the mitigation and adaptation policies worldwide; (iii) climate change impacts in China and EU have impacts on the global economic structures and mechanisms, and vice versa; (iv) these can be studied using global system models; (v) better understanding of emission trends, driving forces and policies in both regions help to build co-operation and put forward international climate processes.

Project partners: Research Centre for Sustainable Development (RCSD), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), China

Contributors to the project:

Jyrki Luukkanen (FFRC), Jarmo Vehmas (FFRC), Jari Kaivo-oja (FFRC), Burkhard Auffermann (FFRC), Barry Hughes (Univ. of Denver), Outi Luova (Univ. of Turku), Juha Panula-Ontto (FFRC), Pertti Suomela (FFRC), Chen Ying (CASS), Wang Mou (CASS), Liao Maolin (CASS), Zhang Ying (CASS), Xiong Jianbin (CASS)

Publications:

- Luukkanen, J., Panula-Ontto, J., Vehmas, J., Liyon, Liu, Kaivo-oja, J., Auffermann, B. & L. Häyhä (2014) Structural change in Chinese economy: Impacts on energy use and CO2 emissions in the period 2013-2030. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*. Accepted for publication (11/2014)
- Kaivo-oja, J., Luukkanen, J., Panula-Ontto, J., Vehmas, J., Chen, Y., Mikkonen, S. and Auffermann, B. (2014) Are Structural Changes and Modernisation Leading to Convergence in the CO2 Economy? Decomposition Analysis of China, EU and USA. *Energy* 72(August 2014): 115-125.
- Kaivo-oja, J., Panula-Ontto, J., Luukkanen, J. and Vehmas, J. (2014) Relationships of the dimensions of sustainability as measured by the Sustainable Society Index framework. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology* 21(1):39-44.

*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

Book Articles:

- 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,

China's long insistence on non-interference in sovereign states' domestic affairs has contributed to a widely held impression that China also lends abroad without attaching policy conditions. In this article, we debunk the notion that China's bilateral lending is entirely devoid of conditionality, by showing that it involves elements of political conditionality, embedded conditionality and cross-conditionality, stemming from the varying concerns of Chinese foreign policy-makers and state-linked lenders. We then draw on the path dependence literature to explore the possibility that there may also be more indirect forms of conditionality associated with Chinese lending practices. By 'emergent conditionality', we refer to structural lock-in effects that may cumulatively restrict or re-direct recipient countries' policy-making choices similarly as more direct conditionality would do, even if the PRC government officially shuns conditionality.

*Pekka Nuorti, Researcher, University of Tampere, School of Health Science*

### **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 postmarket 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 were 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. 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:

- 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 of World Politics, University of Helsinki, Department of Political and Economic Studies  
juhvu@utu.fi

## **Ongoing Research Project: The Internet and the Politics of Insecurity in China (together 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.
- Vuori, Juha A. (2013): Speech Act Theory. In Mark B. Salter & Can E. Mutlu (eds.) *Research Methods in Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*. London and New York, Routledge, 133-137.

Articles

In review:

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

## ***International relations & regionalism***

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

### **Probing the "Confucian" core of a Chinese International Relations Model**

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".

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, 2014.
- Towards a harmonious world? Emerging thinking on a Chinese International Relations Model. *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
- Dreaming of the Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation. *Fudan Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, forthcoming.
- Carving Out a Role for a Confucian China on the World Stage. In *Contemporary East Asia and the Confucian Revival*, ed. by Jana Rosker. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, forthcoming.

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



## **Arctic Opportunities as a Driver of Regional Integration in Northeast Asia? Chinese Strategies and Visions for Supranational Maritime Cooperation**

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.

*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, Doctoral Candidate, University of Tampere, School of Management  
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The on-going PhD project focuses on China's rise and its implications for world affairs, especially for international climate politics and great power relations. It examines the interplay between the domestic and international developments of China's climate change practices and analyses how Chinese practices embody and act out responsibilities.

Publications:

- Kopra, Sanna. 2014. "China's Consideration of Ethics and Justice Issues in Formulating Climate Change Policies." In: Donald A. Brown and Prue Taylor (Eds.) *Ethics and Climate Change: A Study of National Commitments*. IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper No. 86, 53-61.
- Kopra, Sanna. 2013. "Kiina – vastuullinen kehitysmaa? Kiinan ilmastodiskurssit ja globaali vastuu." *Alue ja Ympäristö* 42:2, 64-73.
- Kopra, Sanna. 2013. "China's Arctic Interests." *Arctic Yearbook 2013*, 107-122.
- Kopra, Sanna. 2013. "A Responsible Developing Country: China's National Image Building and International Negotiations on Climate." *Quarterly Journal of Chinese Studies*, vol. 1(3), 121-137.

*Anniina Kärkkäinen, Doctoral 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, PhD, MBA, Researcher  
anja.lahtinen@gmail.com

### **China's soft power and China in Africa**

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). *China in Africa: Challenges of Soft Power*. (Forthcoming).
- Lahtinen, A. (2015). "Transforming China: Working Women" [In:] *More than half the sky? New roles of women in Chinese society*. Helsinki: Gaudeamus. (Forthcoming)
- Lahtinen, A. (2013). *Governance Matters. China's Western Region Development with a Focus on Qinghai Province*. Saarbrücken: Scholar's Press.
- Lahtinen, A. (2013). *Challenges of Qinghai Province*. Helsinki: Studia Orientalia.

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

### **China's Changing National Role Conceptions in its Territorial Disputes**

PhD research project on the development of China's national role conceptions and how they have influenced Chinese foreign policy behaviour related to China's territorial disputes in Central Asia, Southeast Asia and with Japan between 2002 and 2012.

Publications:

- 1) monograph dissertation China's Changing National Role Conceptions in its Territorial Disputes (2016)
- 2) article "China in Global Food Security Governance" (with Niall Duggan), *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 24, No. 95 (2015). Eprint ahead of publication: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10670564.2015.1013381#.VX5wrWOIfvM>
- 3) article "Kiina vahvistaa jalansijaansa Keski-Aasiassa." *Ulkopolitiikka* 2/2013.

Marita Siika, University of Turku  
marsiiika@utu.fi

### **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 of Private International Law and Legal Comparison, University of Helsinki and Chen Su, Professor of Commercial and Social Law, 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 Academy of Finland funded research project examines workplace governance through collective bargaining and employee participation from a comparative perspective. The project explores the legal framework and experience in collective bargaining and employee participation in Finland, other Nordic countries and China, and assesses the roles of these mechanisms in adaptation to changes caused by globalization. The project being a joint effort between the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Institute of Law and the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Law, the research team consists of Chinese and Finnish scholars who offer distinctive yet complementary areas of expertise and experience.

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>

*Project leader: Ulla Liukkunen, Professor of Labour Law and Private International Law, 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, funded by the Academy of Finland, examines the implementation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) core conventions in China and seeks to improve understanding of the structural forces and local cultural logics that influence this process. The objective of the project is to sketch a blueprint for a Chinese legal architecture that will be able to implement the ILO core labour standards effectively. The project, by bringing together experts from international law, labour law, comparative law, social anthropology and Chinese law, is a collective effort that draws on the distinctive but complementary research expertise. The project has strong international connections and cooperates with several partners in China, Europe and the US.

### Publications:

- Roger Blanpain (general editor), Ulla Liukkunen and Yifeng Chen (volume editors), *China and ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*, Kluwer, 2013
- Ulla Liukkunen and Yifeng Chen (eds.) *Fundamental Labour Rights in China: Legal Implementation and Cultural Logic*, Springer (forthcoming)

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>

*Anu Lähteenmäki-Uutela, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Turku School of Economics at the University of Turku, Department of Business Law*

## **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. The study is expected to be completed on 2015.

## **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. To be completed by September 2015.

Publications:

- 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*. (forthcoming)

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

### **Cultural Soft Power of China**

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.
- Aukia, Jukka & Laš, Lukáš, 2013, Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Globalization, Political factors of economic growth and regional development in transition economies, Regionalism and Localization in East Asia, 119-127, Ostrava: University of Ostrava.

*Junxin Jiang, Doctoral Candidate, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies  
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### **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.

Publication:

- Jiang, Junxin. Rightful Resistance through Public Interest Litigation in China. *Asia In Focus*, Issue 1, 2015. Available at [https://niasasiainfocus.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/junxin\\_jiang1.pdf](https://niasasiainfocus.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/junxin_jiang1.pdf)

*Marjaana Mäenpää, Doctoral Student, University of Turku, Department of Political Science and Contemporary History*

### **“The Three Protections”: Protecting the People, Protecting the Nation, Protecting the Party**

This PhD project explores the relationship between Chinese state nationalism (the officially approved and promoted version of nationalism) and the legitimation efforts of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Nationalism has often been mentioned as an important legitimating factor for the rule of the CCP. Both the scholars of Chinese nationalism and legitimacy acknowledge that “nationalism matters” for the legitimacy, but the analysis often stops here, the exception being the research on the Patriotic education campaign. To better understand the relationship between state nationalism and the legitimation efforts of the CCP, this research analyses discourses and narratives related to Wenchuan earthquake that caused major damage in the Sichuan province in 2008. The project will be carried out in the years 2011-2015 and is at present funded by Kone Foundation as a part of the Dealing with Danger: China's Approaches to Calamities on Local and Global Levels (2011-2013) research project.

*Iiris Ruoho, Senior Research Fellow, University of Tampere, Journalism and Mass Communication*

### **Imagined Everyday Life: Television Drama and Modernization of Society in China**

## India

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*Reija Hietala, Docent, University of Turku, Department of Geography and Geology, and the Research Team*  
*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>)

*Jukka Jouhki, Senior Lecturer, University of Jyväskylä, Department of History and Ethnology  
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### **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.

### **Finnish executives in India: A multimedial research project (2014-2016)**

A research project about Finnish executives' experiences and everyday lives in India and Indian working environment. Project results in a radio-documentary, a television documentary and an ethnographic research article in 2016. One-month field-research period in 2015. Funded by Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Oskar Öflund's Foundation and University of Jyväskylä Department of History and Ethnology.

Research team: Jukka Jouhki (project leader, Univ. of Jyväskylä), Ronan Browne (Full Focus Media, filming), Marika Paaso (Yle, radio).

*Research team: Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Professor Riitta Kosonen, Anu Penttilä, Doctoral Candidate, Aalto University School of Business, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT)  
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### **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 institu-

tional environments and the strategies of Finnish companies operating in the various areas of India.

*Mari Korpela, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Tampere, School of Social Sciences and Humanities  
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### **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.

*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.



*Project lead: Professor Mikko Ruohonen and Professor Markku Turunen. 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*  
[mikko.j.ruohonen@uta.fi](mailto: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>

Publications:

- Ruohonen, M., Turunen, M. & Nykänen, P. (2013) Voice-based Mobile Service Innovations for Primary Healthcare in Rural India; Research in Progress. FIIB Business Review (FBR) 2(3), July – August.
- Ruohonen, M., Turunen, M., Kumar, V., Linna, J. & Das, H. (2013) Mobile Voice-based Educational Services for Rural India: Project RuralVoice. In Ley, T. et al. IFIP AICT 395, IFIP International Federation of Information Processing, Springer. pp. 3-11.
- Ruohonen, M., Turunen, M., Hakulinen, J., Linna, J., Nanavati, A. & Rajput, N. (2013) E-Inclusion Innovation for Rural India: Mobile Voice and Tablet Based Educational Services. Presented in Torun, Poland and published in Reynolds, N. & Webb, M. (eds) (2013) WCCE 2013 10th IFIP World Conference on Computers in Education, Torun, 19 Poland July 1-7, 2013, Vol. 2, Nicolaus Copernicus University Press, ISBN 978-83-231- 3093-2, pp. 218-227.

*Sanni Sivonen, Junior Researcher, University of Eastern Finland, Finnish language and cultural sciences*  
[sansivo@uef.fi](mailto:sansivo@uef.fi)

### **Stone carving and tourist arts with religious motifs in Mamallapuram, South India**

I'm at the final stages of my PhD on the topic of stone carving and tourist arts in Mamallapuram, South India. My research focuses on the town of Mamallapuram, located in the state of Tamil Nadu in Southern India which is a popular tourist destination famous for its stone carvers and ancient rock-carved monuments protected by UNESCO. It's current stone carving tradition is a mixture of ancient Indian Hindu stone carving practises for religious use and curio trade for international tourists. My work focuses on the artistic, religious and spiritual meanings of the stone carvings based on the views of stone carvers and foreign tourists. I analyse them by using the concept of agency of the objects, as suggested by Alfred Gell (1998) and Bruno Latour (2005) in his actor-network-theory (ANT). In addition my study looks at the impact of international tourism on stone carving and what are the particularities of the current stone carving tradition in Mamallapuram.

*Sirpa Tenhunen, Professor, University of Helsinki, Social and Cultural Anthropology*

### **Appropriation of mobile technology in India**

As my previous research projects on women's wage labour in urban India or gift giving in rural India, this project seeks to understand unexpected cultural manifestations of market economy.

*Research group: Prof. Markku Turunen and Prof. Sirkku Kotilainen, researchers Juhani Linna and Sumita Sharma, Speech Based and Pervasive Interaction Group, TAUCHI – Tampere Unit for Computer-Human Interaction, University of Tampere and School of Communication, Media and Theatre, University of Tampere  
[markku.turunen@sis.tampere.fi](mailto:markku.turunen@sis.tampere.fi)*

### **TICKLE: Technical and Socio-cultural Perspectives for Digitalization of Learning (2016 - 2018)**

Digitalization of learning is – despite its positive overtone – seen as a complex issue that requires multidisciplinary attention. While technology is important and serves as a primary enabler, it alone does not make a difference in learning. Globally, there is a widespread notion of the importance of media and information literacy for socio-cultural change (MIL4C), in developing digital learning at schools and in higher education, especially in teacher training and education for media and ICT professionals. Moreover, when crossing cultural boundaries, the setting becomes even more challenging. Using technology for learning purpose in the field of education and health is a very useful tool which requires proper assessment of the digital learning tools and services that can be applied in different cultural contexts and the impact of this process in various settings analyzed from the managerial perspective. In the TICKLE Project, through a series of workshops, seminars, summer and monsoon schools, and common online courses will take place both in India and in the Nordic countries in 2016 and 2017. The project includes a built-in goal for sustainable development, which eventually results a world class common offering in the area.

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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 techniques 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 UnderServed Indian Children. In Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Com-

puter 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, Department of World Cultures, 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.

*Mikko-Pekka Väänänen, Doctoral Candidate, University of Jyväskylä, Philosophy*

### **Philosophical Encounters Between India and the West in the 1960's**

I am at the early stage of my doctoral thesis on the dialogue between Indian and Western thought. My purpose is to take a look on three different cases of dialogue happening in the 60's. Basing on gadamerian hermeneutics I study meetings of two cultural horizons and their mergings through the concept of 'experience'. I study how Indian ideas around this them are passed on and understood in the dialogue happening in the decade commonly known as 'the sixties'. The thesis will consist of three different articles. The first one will discuss the case of Gandhism in the West. The second one will elaborate on the how Krishnamurti was understood in the West and the third one will study take a look on the dialogue between Indian poets and Allen Ginsberg. A fourth article will be written later to analyse and elaborate on the outcomings of my research. I am expecting to finish my PhD program by 2015. This autumn I am conducting a field work in India. I will spend some time in Benares Hindu University in Varanasi and make a visit to a Gandhian research insitute. My supervisor is PhD Olli-Pekka Moisio from Department of Philosophy at the University of Jyväskylä.

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

### **Video Gaming and Culture and Religion In India and the Indian Diaspora**

Ongoing research including several sub-projects and activities in international teams to shift the attention to games and gaming in Asia, particularly India.

Project 1)

Co-founding and co-editing of the international, multidisciplinary academic online journal on gaming, culture, society and religion gameenvironments, <http://www.gameenvironments.uni-bremen.de/>

Project 2)

Founding of IASGAR (International Academy for the Study of Gaming and Religion, <http://iasgar.uni-bremen.de/>) at the University of Helsinki, ongoing meetings and project plannings

Project 3)

Indian Video Game Developers: Themes in India Produced Games and the Role of Heritage

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/lfv091.

- 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: Gameenvironments 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: Gameenvironments 1, pp. 1-36.

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

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

<http://www.hf.uio.no/ikos/english/research/projects/navaratr/>

Ongoing research with meetings, presentations and forthcoming publications.

Individual project 1:

Xenia Zeiler. Mediatized Durgāpūjās: Transformed Organization Structures, Identity Negotiations and Authority Patterns of Durgāpūjā Committees

Individual Project 2:

Xenia Zeiler. Ethno-Indological Project on Durgāpūjā's Small Sister: The Spring Navarātri in Benares

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

### **Mediatized Religion in Asia.**

Joint forthcoming edited publication 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 media-tized 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.

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

### **Digital Hinduism**

Ongoing research and forthcoming edited and individual publications

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

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*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, Doctoral Student, 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.

Keywords: disaster preparedness education, radio, resilience, community.

*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, Doctoral 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, Doctoral 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

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*Rie Fuse, PhD Candidate, University of Tampere, School of Communication, Media and Theatre  
rie.fuse@uta.fi*

## **Finland as Japan's Ideal Other: The Construction of Otherness in Reviews of Aki Kaurismäki's Films in Japan**

The dissertation examines the complexities of the construction of otherness in Japanese media. It focuses on reviews of the Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's films in Japan, and "Finrando būmu (Finland boom)," a media trend in which Finnish people, society and culture are represented as Japan's role model, produced by Japanese media. The study demonstrates the ways in which an imaginary 'Finland' as the Other is created for the construction of Japaneseness as a collective identity.

Publication:

-Rie Fuse (2015) 'Effective ways to access Japanese newspapers and magazines in Finland' ASIANET.fi by Finnish University Network for Asian Studies. Available from: [http://www.asianet.fi/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/RieFuse\\_Methods.pdf](http://www.asianet.fi/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/RieFuse_Methods.pdf)

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

## **The West and Japan: globalization and transcultural information**

Publications:

2013

10. Perplexing Emperorship. The status of the emperor of Japan in the United States planning bodies in 1943–1944. *Ex Oriente Lumina. Historiae variae multiethnicae. Festschrift tillägnad Juha Janhunen på hans 61. födelsedag 12.2.2013.* Edited by Tiina Hyytiäinen, Lotta Jalava, Janne Saarikivi & Erika Sandman. Finnish Oriental Society. Helsinki 2013, 13–19.

11. Western Newspapers as a Globalization Network in the 1860s Japan. Abstract. 1st EAJS Japan Conference, Kyoto University 28–29.9.2013. [https://www.eajs.eu/fileadmin/office/EAJS\\_Japan\\_Conferences/Faelt\\_Olavi\\_Abstract\\_230745446.pdf](https://www.eajs.eu/fileadmin/office/EAJS_Japan_Conferences/Faelt_Olavi_Abstract_230745446.pdf)

12. Hävinneet voittajien maailmassa: Japani-kuva Suomessa syksyllä 1945. *Faravid. Historian ja arkeologian tutkimuksen aikakauskirja 37/2013.* Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2013, 93–106.

2014

13. 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.

14. Keskus ja periferia muuttuvassa maailmassa. Toim. Kari Alenius & Olavi K. Fält. *Studia Historica Septentrionalia 70.* Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2014.

15. Globalisoitua ja verkostoitua tiede – Yokohama länsimaisen tieteen näyttämönä 1870-luvun alun maailmassa. Aatteiden ja oppien teillä. Juha Mannisen juhla- ja oppikirja. Niina

Timosaari (toim.). *Studia Historica Septentrionalia* 73. Pohjois-Suomen Historiallinen Yhdistys: Rovaniemi 2014, 9–24.

16. 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

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

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

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

*Laura Ipatti, Doctoral Candidate, University of Turku, Department of Political Science and Contemporary History  
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**

**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 Mikhito Tanaka, Waseda University

*Lasse Lehtonen, PhD Researcher, University of Helsinki, Doctoral programme for philosophy, arts and society, lasse.a.lehtonen@helsinki.fi*

**"From age of imitation to the age of creation": On the Japanese qualities in the work and thought of Shinkō sakkyokuka renmei 1930–1940**

My current research discusses the Japanese composer group Shinkō sakkyokuka renmei (Federation of composers interested in the new). The main focus of my research is finding out how the founding composers of the federation adopted influences from traditional Japanese culture both in their thought and their musical works to extend the possibilities of expression in Western music. The research includes both musical and cultural viewpoints, and is based on both writings as well as musical works by the composers. For more on my research and publications, see: <https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/person/lajlehto>

publications:

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 jigyo 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 kohtaamisia Japanin suosituimmassa oopperassa." *Synkooppi* 38(1): 20–25.

2015: "Miksi vieraiden kulttuurien tutkimuksessa ei kannata valehdella: Muutama viihainen sana japanilaisen musiikin tutkijalta." *Musiikin suunta* 37(1): 39–41.

2014: "Tuonpuoleisen, lohdullisuuden ja japanilaisuuden kohtaamisia Kazuo Fukushima 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.

### **Impact of the lay jury (saiban'in) system on the processes of social reality construction in criminal court in Japan**

Partners: Leiden University, University of Helsinki/Länsisalmi

### **Workshop seminar series: Translating modern Japanese fiction and non-fiction into Finnish**

Partners: The Finnish Institute in Japan, University of Helsinki/Länsisalmi  
Workshop & seminar series: Translating modern Japanese fiction and non-fiction into Finnish and Finnish fiction and non-fiction into Japanese, 2015 onwards, with the support of the Finnish Institute in Japan, a number of translations and publications, e.g. Länsisalmi, Riikka, 2016. *Tunne kissasi: ideofonit suomenkielisissä manga-sarjakuvan käännöksissä*, *Mémoires de la Société néophilologique de Helsinki* XCVIII: 207-241

### **Japanese language pedagogy (national curricula, teacher education)**

Partners: National Board of Education, Ippo Project, 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-valtamereilla-aasian-kielten-osaaminen-avartaa-maailmaa/>

**Helsinki Area & Language Studies (HALS)**, 2013-2016, post-grad. & post.doc. etc. (incl. field trips), a number of publications, e.g. Länsisalmi, Riikka, 2016. *Northern Voices: Examining language attitudes in recent surveys on Ainu and Saami*, *Studia Orientalia* 117: 249-267; Gruzdeva, Ekaterina & Riikka Länsisalmi, 2014. *Language revitalization on Sakhalin and Hokkaido as seen by (native) speakers, administrators and researchers*, *FEL XVIII Okinawa/Indigenous Languages: Value to the Community: Proceedings of the 18th FEL Conference*, Patrick Heinrich & Nicholas Ostler (eds), Bath: 63-70.

**Research Community CoCoLaC: Comparing and Contrasting Languages and Cultures**, (2011/2013-2016, a large number of publications & theses, e.g. Lenk, Hartmut E. H. & Elina Suomela-Härmä (eds), *Sprache I'm Comic/Il Linguaggio dei Fumetti/La Lingua de los Cómic*, *Mémoires de la Société néophilologique de Helsinki* XCVIII

*Jarmo Nikander, Doctoral 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, PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Department of World Cultures  
eija.niskanen@helsinki.fi*

## **Moomin brand in Japan; title "Moomin's Adventures in the Land of the Rising Sun – Adaptation and originality in global content industry"**

Doctoral dissertation (on-going)

## **Research on Asian and Asian-themed film festivals**

(articles, conference papers; on-going)

Articles:

- McGregor, Laura, Niskanen, Eija. Osio Yamagatan dokumenttielokuvafestivaalista laajempaan artikkeliin "Japanese film festivals". Gakushuin University, Tokyo, 2013.
- "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.
- "Cinephilia and documentaries - Yamagata International Film Festival". *Film Festival Yearbook*, Documentary film festivals. ed. Aida Vallejo (2015). St. Andrews University Press, UK

Industrial studies:

- (On-going): Finnish animation producers' strategies for Japanese market and co-production, *Finnanimation* 2015-16

For general audience:

- Niskanen, Eija (editor, one article) *Ihmisoikeudet Aasiassa*. Into Kustannus/Aasia – Eurooppa kansalaisfoorumi, 2014.

*Pilvi Posio, Doctoral 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. The research is to be completed in 2017.

*Anna Rantasila, University of Tampere, School of Communication, Media and Theatre  
anna.rantasila@uta.fi*

## **Touching News, Sticky News: Affect in Journalistic Content and its Circulation in Media Ecosystems**

By focusing on Finnish news about the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that shook Japan in March 11th, 2011, this post-graduate research project explores the

ways news content is shared and circulated in social media networks and seeks to make sense of what exactly makes certain pieces of news more likely to be shared than others. The project looks at disaster news, images and videos from the point of view of affect theory. From that perspective, the project also tries to evaluate what kind of consequences circulating and sharing of news in social media might have for journalism, publicity and the traditional media ecosystems.

The project began in September 2014.

*Project Coordinator: Ulla Saari, Rajamäki Secondary School  
ulla.saari@nurmijarvi.fi*

### **Ippo - Japanese Language Education in Finnish Secondary Schools**

Ippo - Japanese Language Education in Finnish Secondary Schools is a project initiated in 2012 and funded by the Finnish National Board of Education and the municipality of Nurmijärvi. The project is coordinated by Rajamäki Upper Secondary School. At present there are 16 schools belonging to the Ippo Network.

Japanese has been taught in Finnish lower and upper secondary schools all over the country for two decades. Since the year 2015, students of the Japanese language at Helsinki University have been able to qualify as Japanese teachers for comprehensive and secondary schools in Finland. Starting from year 2016, Japanese will be a part of the national upper secondary school curriculum. The aim of the project is to develop and unify Japanese language education in Finnish comprehensive schools and upper secondary schools to meet the standards set by the national curriculum.

The aims of Ippo Project

- Contacting Finnish comprehensive and upper secondary schools providing Japanese language education
- Forming a network of Finnish schools and teachers providing Japanese language education
- Unifying Japanese language education in Finnish comprehensive and upper secondary schools
- Developing Japanese teaching material and resources suitable for Finnish comprehensive and upper secondary schools
- Motivating and encouraging students studying Japanese

Homepage: <http://www.rajamaenlukio.fi/ippo-hanke/>

Blog: <https://ippohanke.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ippohanke>

*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.**

Recent publications:

- 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.). *Trans-cultural 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, Academy of Finland 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**

(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.

## Laos

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*Project Director: Jyrki Luukkanen, Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku.  
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### **INES: Interlinkages between Energy and Livelihoods – Data, Training and Scenarios for Sustainable Energy Planning in Laos (2010-2012)**

The project called 'Interlinkages between Energy and Livelihoods – Data, Training and Scenarios for Sustainable Energy Planning in Laos (INES)' deals with energy data collection and energy planning in Lao PDR. The purpose of INES project is to (i) collect data on household energy consumption patterns and their impact on livelihood, (ii) collect data on energy use in industry, agriculture and transportation (iii) develop energy planning models in cooperation with different Ministries of Government of Lao PDR (GoL), (iv) carry out training and capacity building in energy model development and their use in energy planning and (v) create scenarios for planning purposes together with different Ministries and disseminate the information. The household energy data is collected through 14 Focus Group Discussions and a household and village leader survey. The survey covers 2000 households and the leaders of the sample villages in different geographical and ecological areas of Laos, both in rural and urban areas. The results of the group discussions and the survey provide information on energy consumption, livelihood strategies and food security situation of Lao households. In addition to the household survey, data is collected on energy use in industry, agriculture and transportation by using both existing databases and a survey. The data collection is carried out to get a clear view of the amounts of different energy sources that are used in Laos. The collected data is used as an input for existing energy modelling tools (such as LaoLinda and LEAP) and the models are further developed in close cooperation and for the needs of the Government of Laos. The project training is organized for national and provincial government representatives on the construction and development of energy modelling tools, as well as creating and utilizing energy scenarios. The project produces reliable nationwide data on energy consumption and livelihoods in Laos, as well as energy modelling tools developed to suit the Laotian circumstances, needs and energy scenarios for the planning of future energy development and energy policies in Laos. The overall aim is to improve the access to renewable energy in Laos.

## Malaysia

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*Karen Heikkilä, Doctoral 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

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*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).

# Nepal

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*Aleksi Ilpala, PhD Student, 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.

# North Korea

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

## **North Korean religious music**

Publications:

- <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 of World Politics, University of Helsinki, Department of Political and Economic Studies  
juhvu@utu.fi*

### **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**

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*Charisse Reyes, Researcher/ Doctoral Candidate, School of Management, Higher Education Group, University of Tampere  
charisse.reyes@uta.fi*

Publications:

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.

*Eila Romo-Murphy, Research Associate, Health Communications Resources  
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### **Follow-up study on Peacebuilding via participatory radio program called Radio Gandingan in the Philippines**

Planning to be published in a scientific peer-reviewed journal, co-authored by Dr. Ross James.

Peacebuilding is seen by researchers as communication between the parties in conflict (Caringal, 2012), or creating confidence (Brisset-Foucault, 2011), or improving livelihoods (Vellema et al. 2011). This present article is a secondary data analysis of mixed methods data sets gathered in the years 2004 to 2009 to investigate the peacebuilding participatory radio project in Mindanao from the angles of communication, social development and community participation.

The analysis of the project, which was based in the Mindanao province of Maguindanao, has found that community peacebuilding can be facilitated by a community radio pro-

gram. Villagers are empowered when their voice is heard. The present study has found, however, that two critical factors strengthened the impact of the Maguindanaon project. One critical factor was the presence of local facilitators, in this case the CRVs, who were trained in radio programming and who used their community networks to conceptualise, design and produce content for the program segments specific to their community. A second critical factor was that participatory radio works best when integrated with community-based activities of local organisations. Similar results were found in a study of a community radio station in Mongolia (Romo-Murphy, 2010).

This secondary analysis found evidence that Radio Gandingan had contributed to peacebuilding in conflict-ravaged Maguindanaon communities by providing a platform and a process for unifying families and communities, learning how to dialogue to resolve issues, improving the quality of life—which had been disrupted by conflict, and by supporting communities to encourage their leadership to be more responsive to community needs. This project showed that leaders were more effective after being included into the participatory radio program strategy.

## Russia (Eastern regions)

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*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

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*Charisse Reyes, Researcher/ Doctoral Candidate, School of Management, Higher Education Group, University of Tampere  
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### **Frames in the Institutionalization of the Entrepreneurial University Model: The Case of the National University of Singapore. Dissertation (in progress)**

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

The aim of this study is to explore issues and situations affecting the entrepreneurial university via frame analysis in order to determine how institutional members frame the National University of Singapore (NUS) as an entrepreneurial university and provide key insights on how it has been manifested in reality. Interviews of eighteen institutional members from the NUS will be the focus of this paper. Categories of frames were adopted from environmental conflict research. Official documents were also analysed to

support the frames found in this study. Based on the NUS case, the entrepreneurial university was perceived in a seemingly ambiguous setup. Interviewees' framing features the reality affecting the entrepreneurial university in relation to disciplinary identities, institutional configuration, power of important actors and risk perceptions attached to entrepreneurial activities. Issues presented by the case are considered intractable because institutional members have interpretative differences in motivations and interests in pursuing entrepreneurial activities. Future research can draw upon the factors that contribute to the institutionalisation of the entrepreneurial university model. The results may assist universities in refining certain approaches in carrying out entrepreneurial activities. Aside from issue definition, utilising methods such as frame analysis can enable identifying appropriate solutions to an issue. This is the first paper that investigates the entrepreneurial university model by applying frame analysis, which is still considered exploratory in the field of higher education.

## South Korea

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*Jeongim Hyun, Visiting Professor, University of Turku, Centre for East Asian Studies*

### **Popular culture Social movements**

Publications:

- "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)
- "Mon prince charmant parle coréen : les fans de K-Pop en France et Lituanie", *Sociétés*, décembre, 2013. (My prince charming speaks Korean : K-Pop fans in France and Lithuania)

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

### **Wrong woman? Conservative women's movement and right to represent women within strategies of collective memory from 1960s to 1980s in South Korea**

This doctoral dissertation aims to examine how the conservative women's movement engaged in South Korean politics during the years of Cold War, with focus on the era of President Park Chung-hee and military regime. As the history of conservative women's movement during Park era remains largely unwritten and even denied, this research seeks to answer how women's movement and militarism were related to each other. My main question is, how militarism in South Korea had impact on women's movement and how women's movement reacted to the circumstances given under authoritarian regime. I intend not to study the military system as such but militarism as an idea that has been produced and maintained through discourses. I am particularly interested to see how these discourses have been both gendered and gender-related. I will examine how the collective memory of authoritarian era produced those discourses and how they were changed during the democratization in 1980s.

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

### **Intercultural Communication concerning Politeness and Formality in Korean**

Among the Asian languages taught at European universities, the Korean language may be one of the most complicated in terms of politeness and formality, of which usage is very unique. The features of politeness must be explicitly expressed in the Korean language whereas both Finnish and Swedish lack those features. Also, the concept of formality in the Korean language shows difference to that of Finnish or Swedish. Politeness and formality in using the language are the key factors to build up a successful relationship in the Korean society. Therefore, the research aims to investigate the difficulties that Finnish- and Swedish-speaking learners of Korean may experience caused by lack of the features of politeness and by the different concept of formality.

Partner: Stockholm University

\*This project is supported by the rector's funding - purposed to develop co-operation between the University of Helsinki and Stockholm University - for the project titled "Languages and language contacts".

### **Second Language Acquisition: Phonology**

This chapter is contributed to The Handbook of Korean Linguistics published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2015. It is concerned with L2A (second language acquisition) of phonology as a part of Korean linguistics. Even though the communicative and functional aspects of language may be considered far more important than an authentic pronunciation in most circumstances of second language acquisition, it can never be neglected to look at the mental representation of L2 phonology as a grammatical component in mind. Hence, the chapter examines the issue of L2 Korean phonology with regard to the acquisition of phonemes, syllables and prosody in particular.

*Antti Leppänen, University Lecturer, 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

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*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, Doctoral candidate, University of Turku, Department of Political Science  
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### **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 it's expected to be finished by 2018-2019.

# Regional issues and comparisons within Asia

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*Research group: Professor Olavi K. Fält, Postdoctoral Researcher Riika-Leena Juntunen, Postdoctoral Researcher Tuula Okkonen, Doctoral Student Juha Sahi, Postdoctoral Researcher Juha Saunavaara, Doctoral Student 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](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 Mölkänen (doctoral student, anthropology), Maija Lassila (doctoral student, anthropology)

*Dr. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, Aalto University School of Business, Center for Markets in Transition (CEMAT)  
erja.kettunen-matilainen@aalto.fi*

### **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.

Publications:

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

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

### **Parliaments in the Asia-Europe Dialogue**

A doctoral dissertation to be completed by 2017.

Publication:

- Forthcoming (2016): *Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership*. Conference publication. Brill: International Comparative Social Studies.
- forthcoming (2016) ASEM and the People's involvement: a focus on the Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP). In Gaens, Bart and Khandekar Gauri (eds.) *Twenty Years of ASEM*. Palgrave Macmillan.

*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 (Tångeberg-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).

### **Asian Influences on Finnish Theatre and Dance**

Project has received funding from Ella & Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation. Thus far, Dr. Miettinen has done research (conference presentation and an article) on dancer Leena Rintala and Dr. Thuring on Japanese dancer Hanako's visits to Finland (conference papers and an article). Project continues.

Research group: Dr. Anna Thuring Dr. Jukka O. Miettinen, Dr. Stefan Kuzay

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

## **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 (2016) Exploring the business view on ASEAN integration. In: *Grän-söverskridande – 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.

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".
- Karhunen, P. & Kosonen, R. (2013) Strategic responses of foreign subsidiaries to host country corruption: The case of Finnish firms in Russia. *Critical Perspectives on International Business*, 9 (1/2), 88-105. Special Issue "Russia: As solid as a BRIC?".
- Kosonen, R., Kettunen, E., Kotilainen, J. (2013) Foreign Firms in the Emerging Markets of Russia, Estonia and China. In: Tainio, R., Meriläinen S, Mäkinen J. & Laihonon M. (eds.) *Limits to Globalization: National Borders Still Matter*. Copenhagen Business School Press.

*Pekka Korhonen, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Social Sciences and Philosophy  
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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 Coprosperity 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 Malaysia, 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
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*Mira Käkönen, Doctoral Student, University of Helsinki, Department of Political and Economic Studies  
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### **Actors and Forces Shaping the Energy, Environment and Development Nexus in the Mekong Region**

The dissertation "Actors and Forces Shaping the Energy, Environment and Development Nexus in the Mekong Region" looks at the expertise and power relations in the field of environment and development, especially in energy, water and climate governance. Currently, well over one hundred large dams are planned to the mainstream of the Mekong River and to its tributaries, making the Mekong Basin a scene for one of the most intensive hydropower developments globally. The objective of the research is to shed light to the heterogeneous assemblage of different actors, discourses, policies and practices at stake. The focus is on the international development actors such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Mekong River Commission. A central question is how these actors have contributed in rendering the Mekong Basin legible, governable and amenable to interventions, and with what kind of effects.

*Research Team: Jyrki Luukkanen, Mira Käkönen, Joni Karjalainen, Jarmo Vehmas, Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku. [www.mekong.fi](http://www.mekong.fi)  
jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi*

### **Access to sustainable energy for all**

The project will analyze and raise awareness on energy issues in developing countries and on related North-South policies. It explores the requirements for an effective and equitable practice of ensuring access to sustainable energy. The project will be implemented in nine EU countries by a consortium of seven European organizations cooperating closely with Southern partners. FFRC will contribute especially to the research and capacity building components of the project. One of the focus areas will be the Mekong Region's energy development. Mekong related activities will take place

in the end of 2011 and beginning of 2012. The project is funded by EuropeAid (2011-2013).

*Project team: Jyrki Luukkanen, Mira Käkönen, Visa Tuominen, Mika Korkeakoski, Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku. [www.mekong.fi](http://www.mekong.fi)  
[jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi](mailto:jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi)*

### **Green Economy Transitions in the Least Developed Countries: Multi-scale Analysis of Energy and Forest Use in Laos and Cambodia (GET-LDC)**

GET-LDC is a research project looking into the possibilities of green economy transitions in Laos and Cambodia. The concept of green economy, often defined as low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive, is predicted to replace sustainable development as the new driving force of environmental action. Although the concept has received various critics, 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. Both countries have already adopted some green growth targets. 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. FFRC brings in their expertise and research networks related to energy governance in the Mekong region, whereas 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.

The project has 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 (international, national and local) with multidisciplinary materials and methods. The interaction between the scales is also studied. The results of the analyses are utilized 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.

*Project Director: Jyrki Luukkanen, University of Turku, Finnish Futures Studies Centre at Turku School of Economics  
[jyrki.luukkanen@utu.fi](mailto: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., Keskiväli, 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 cobenefits 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

*Project Manager: Yrjö Majanne, Researcher, Tampere University of Technology, Department of Automation Science and Engineering  
yrjo.majanne@tut.fi*

### **Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument – Sustainable Climate Change and Energy Education Development (HEI-ICI-SUCCEED)**

The project is managed and coordinated by the Finland Futures Research Centre/University of Turku. The overall objective of the project is that the partner countries; Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, are able to train and educate national experts capable of advocating national and international climate change policy and renewable energy promotion from the perspective of the least developed countries, especially with regards to: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, climate finance, energy policy and renewable energy technology.

The purpose of the HEI ICI project is to enhance and promote climate change and renewable energy education, research, and development at partner universities through the training of trainers, curriculum development, development of research skills, project management and networking.

More information from <http://www.mekong.fi/index.php?page=hei-ici-succeed-project>

*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 (ENVGOV)**

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

Postdoctoral 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, PhD, University of Jyväskylä, Department of History and Ethnology  
henna-riikka.pennanen@jyu.fi*

Currently writing an article on **the perceived threat of China and Japan towards "the West" in the late 19th century – or the "yellow peril"**. The article will be published in 2016 in a book (tentatively) called *Länsimainen ihminen, ideologia ja maailmankuva: Kuinka käsite rakentaa maailmaa ja maailma käsitettä?*

Publications:

- *Material, mental, and moral progress: American conceptions of civilization in late 19th century studies on "things Chinese and Japanese"*. Jyväskylä: University of Jyväskylä, 2015. Available online: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-39-6032-2>
- "Chapter Four: 'A Mighty Change Must Pass Over': W. A. P. Martin's crusade in 19th century China." *The Chinese Chameleon Revisited: From the Jesuits to Zhang Yimou*. Edited by Yangwen Zheng. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013.
- "Building a career in and out of East Asia: 19th century American experts S. W. Williams and W. E. Griffis." *The Journal of American Studies Association of Korea*, vol. 45, no.1, 2013.

*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 CIRCFI  
mikko.j.ruohonen@uta.fi*

## **DD-SCALE Programme**

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](http://www.ddscale.fi))

### Background

Disruptive revolution through increasing use of digital platforms and new ways of sourcing software work processes have affected software-related industries in a great extent. Not only the products, services and the speed how these are created have changed in software development companies, but also the ways the work processes and division of labour in international outsourcing has moved towards a dynamic setting in which constant supervision and reallocation of resources and capabilities are actively executed. In Finland this has boosted major restructuring of the ICT software and services industry. University of Tampere, University of Helsinki and Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences and their respective research groups started Autumn 2014 a research, development and innovation (RDI) program DD-SCALE with four Finnish industrial software companies which are in many ways world-class forerunners with distributed software development (DSD) teams. They must scale up their operational excellence and innovation performance dynamically in new distributed settings for sustainable competitiveness. Research on emerging and dynamic way of designing, managing and controlling DSD is the starting point of this research.

### 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 comes 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 is 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.

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### **Mobile Technology, Gender and Development in Africa, India and Bangladesh**

Ongoing 2010-2013. Funded by Academy of Finland. Leader Prof. Laura Stark. Researchers: Prof. Sirpa Tenhunen (Univ. of Helsinki) focusing on Bangladesh, Dr. Perpetual Crentsil (Univ. of Helsinki) focusing on Ghana, MA Sanna Tawah (Univ. of Jyväskylä) focusing on Cameroon, Prof. Laura Stark (Univ. of Jyväskylä) focusing on Tanzania and Phd Jukka Jouhki (Univ. of Jyväskylä) focusing on India. For more information, see <http://mobile.hum.jyu.fi/index.html>

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### **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.

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### **East Asian Urban Art: self-expression through visual images in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul**

The three year postdoctoral project funded by the Academy of Finland investigated urban art in East Asia, which is an essential phenomenon of visual culture, with diverse socio-cultural, political and visual impacts. The interdisciplinary research was based on visual studies approach and focused on urban art images as creative action that leaves a visible imprint on public urban space. The main interest was on various formats of street art and contemporary graffiti, which can be legal or illegal, commissioned or voluntarily made. Usually urban art images are created outside of an official art institution, and therefore is regarded as unofficial but not necessarily anti-institutional art. The insights yielded by this project can be used for further studies in art history, visual studies, popular culture studies, urban studies, Asian studies and gender studies.

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