

Symposium Programme

Wednesday 26 November

Guided visit to the archives of the Finnish Literature Society for registered participants. Meet us at 16.00, 1st floor, Hallituskatu 1, Finnish Literature Society.

Thursday 27 November

Great Hall, 2nd floor, Hallituskatu 1, Finnish Literature Society

9.15–10.15 Registration

10.15–10.30 Opening words

Ulla-Maija Peltonen (Finnish Literature Society) & **Anne Heimo** (University of Turku)

10.30–11.45 Keynote lecture **Baiba Bela** (University of Latvia)

Complexities of Memory Travel: Latvian Case

Chair: Anne Heimo

11.45–13.15 Lunch

13.15–15.15 Parallel sessions (Kirkkokatu 6, House of Sciences)

1. Intergenerational Memories: Continuities and Ruptures I

Lecture Room 313, Chair: Anna-Kaisa Kuusisto-Arponen & Kristiina Korjonen-Kuusipuro

Pihla Siim (University of Tartu)

Crossing the Border between Estonia and Finland: Children Narrating Mobility

Anni Reuter (Rehabilitation Foundation / University of Helsinki)

Travelling Memories of Deported Ingrian Finns: The Lives and the Meaning of Exile in Transition

Maija Krumina (University of Latvia)

*“My parents had this one feeling when leaving Latvia, and I had another”:
Cross-generational Narratives of the Latvian Refugees*

2. Memory’s Interface: Personal, Political and Social Discourse I

Lecture Room 401, Chair: Ulla-Maija Peltonen & Niina Naarminen

Marina Hakkarainen (European University at St. Petersburg)

*From Miracle to Individual Responsibility: the Generational
Shift in Migration Narratives among Russian-speaking Newcomers in Finland*

Ulf Palmenfelt (Uppsala University Campus Gotland)

Memories’ Migrations in a Mindscape

3. Sights & Sites of Memory I

Lecture Room 404, Chair: Ulla Savolainen & Katri Kivilaakso

Melanie Dejnega (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Historical Social Science)

*Narrating “Heimat” – Home and Homeland as an Autobiographical Theme in Life Stories of
German Refugees and Expellees in Austria*

Laura Prospero (University of Adelaide)

*Seeking Food Paradises: The Role of Hunger in Travelling Memories (Europe, 14th-21th
centuries)*

Aynur DeRouen (Binghamton University)

Voice of the Kurds: Kurdish Diaspora in the United States

4. Finnish-Australian Cultural Heritage: Memories of Belonging and Unbelonging; Video screening (30 min): “(Be)longing: Finns in Queensland” by Sari T. M. Kivinen

Lecture Room 405, Chair: Outi Fingerroos

Anne Heimo (University of Turku)

Finnish Roots in Australian soil – Integrating Our Story into Your History

Anne Rosenius (University of Helsinki)

Language Identity of Australian Finns

Sari T.M. Kivinen

Video screening (30 min): *“(Be)longing: Finns in Queensland”*

15.15–15.45 Tea & coffee (Kirkkokatu 6, House of Sciences)

15.45–17.45 Parallel sessions (Kirkkokatu 6, House of Sciences)

5. Intergenerational Memories: Continuities and Ruptures II

Lecture Room 313, Chair: Outi Fingerroos & Tiiu Jaago

Maruta Pranka (University of Latvia)

Migration as Biographical Disruption

Kaisa Vehkalahti (University of Oulu)

Youth Lost and Found. Remembering and (Re)writing the Finnish youth of 1930s–1950s.

Ilze & Anna Trapenciere (University of Latvia, University of Liepaja)

Latvian women travelling – family narratives

6. Memory's Interface: Personal, Political and Social Discourse II

Lecture Room 401, Chair: Kirsti Salmi-Niklander & Niina Naarminen

Edmunds Supulis (University of Latvia).

'Bonding' and 'Bridging' Historical Representations in Memory Culture of Latvia

Malin Thor Tureby (Linköping university)

Inclusion and Exclusion in the Creation of Cultural Heritage. Collections of Memories and Narratives from and about Immigrants at the Nordic Museum in Sweden 1940–2014

Loretto Linusson (Uppsala University)

Memories of Political Repression and Exile among Second-Generation Chilean Exiles

Kirsti Jõesalu (University of Tartu)

Commemorating "New" Veterans: Transition of Memories across Time and Mediums

7. Sights & Sites of Memory II

Lecture Room 404, Chair: Ulla Savolainen & Maija Krumina

Hanna Jansson (University of Stockholm)

Stories from the Horizon. A Methodological Approach to Long-distance Sailors' Online Storytelling.

Helena Jerman (University of Helsinki)

"Memory Moves": How Objects Cross Boundaries and Stand in for Belonging in a Diasporic Community.

Angela Maddock (University of Wales)

Soft Stuff: Knitted Garments as Unique Object Ciphers

Anna-Kaisa Kuusisto-Arponen (University of Tampere)

Travels of the Finnish Winter War Iconography

18.00 Reception hosted by Ulla-Maija Peltonen (Director of Literary Archives, Finnish Literature Society) for the registered participants

Friday 28 November

Great Hall, 2nd floor, Hallituskatu 1, Finnish Literature Society

9.30–10.45 Keynote lecture Graham Smith (University of London)
Rootless and Homeless: Transactive Memories and Narrative Confabulation Revisited

10.45–12.00 Keynote lecture Outi Fingerroos (University of Jyväskylä)
Reuniting Families: Oral Narratives of Somali Immigrants and Finnish Officials

Chair: Anne Heimo

12.00–13.30 Lunch

13.30–15.30 Parallel sessions (Kirkkokatu 6, House of Sciences)

9. Lived Experience and the Creation of Memory in Displacement

Lecture Room 313, Chair: Karina Lukin & Ulla Savolainen

John MacDonald (Nunavut Research Centre)
So Near, So Far: Memory and Oral History in a Canadian Inuit Community

Maija Runcis (Stockholm University)
Latvian and Estonian Diaspora in Sweden

Eszter Spät (Central European University)
Creating Books and Creating New Memories in Northern Iraq

Lukas Allemann (University of Lapland)
Memories of Yesterday, Discourses of Today: The Struggle of Russian Sámi People to Construct a Meaningful Past

10. Turning Points in Migration: Those Who Stay, Those Who Leave

Lecture Room 401, Chair: Helena Jerman & Ulla-Maija Peltonen

Annie Woube (University of Uppsala)
Storytelling of lifestyle migration memories

Kate Moore (University of Tampere)
U.S. Immigration Profiling in the Early Twentieth Century: Were the English and Scottish Favored?

James Karmel (Harford Community College)
“Casino Memory: Oral History, Travel and Migration in a Gambling Culture”

11. Imagining Contested Memory

Lecture Room 404, Chair: Ulf Palmenfelt & Niina Naarminen

Dagmāra Beitnere-LeGalla (University of Latvia)

Memory: Both Museum and Archeological Site?

Minna-Liisa Salonsaari (University of Turku)

"In Finland, I am a Russian. In Russia, I am a Finn."

Ingrian Finn Returnees and Transitional Lives and Memories

Annikki Kaivola-Bregenhøj (University of Turku)

Unforgettable Travelling

12. Memory Images in the Virtual World

Lecture Room 405, Chair: Malin Thor Tureby & Edmund Supulis

Karina Horsti (University of Jyväskylä)

Mnemonic Media Scapes: Travelling Memory in the New Media Ecology

Sari Tuuva-Hongisto

Memories of the Marketplace

Tiiu Jaago (University of Tartu)

Old Stories – New Presentations: The Role of Media in the Development of Family History

15.30–15.45 Tea & coffee

15.45–17.00 Final discussion

Lecture Room 505. Chair: Anne Heimo (University of Turku)

Commentator: Ene Kõresaar (University of Tartu)

Keynote Lectures

Complexities of memory travel: Latvian case

Baiba Bela (University of Latvia)

This paper will highlight the complexities of memory travel. In her seminal article „Traveling memory” (2011) which inspired the thematic focus of this symposium, Astrid Erll touched many important aspects of present and future of memory research. She wrote on transcultural travels of memory, and also about the principal logic of memory, emphasizing its genesis and existence through movement. However, she left aside discussion on complexities and difficulties of the memory travel across physical borders, and across medial, social, political, or semantic boundaries. Research on memory in Latvia during last 20 years shows that not only researchers adhere to so called ‘methodological nationalism’, but so do also social groups that experience difficulties during encounters with other versions of the past, diverse commemoration practices and often struggle to keep memory still. The crossing of physical borders is sometimes easier than crossing of mental boundaries. Different cultural memories may co-exist but it is difficult, or even impossible, for them to meet and to create dialogue.

Complexities of the memory travel will be discussed through three cases – research on diaspora (by Latvian National Oral History Archives); research on social memory of the World War II (by Social Memory Research Center), and ongoing project on the Baltic Way 25 (by UNESCO in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia). All three cases have one common point – the memory complexities of people going through transition. The first case – research on WW II refugee Latvians in Sweden, shows how crossing physical borders (1) may mean encapsulation of memories (memories have to be kept still) and transformation of personal memories into national history during the first years of exile, and (2) may illuminate the role of memories during return migration or visits to Latvia after 1991 (more precisely, the lack of common memories and mutual difficulties to understand the experience of other part). The second case – the research on differences of WW II commemoration practices and semantic meanings of war memories between Latvians and Russians, shows strong resistance to any transcultural memory movement. The third case – project on collection of stories about Baltic Way (1989) memories, illuminates ongoing process of history creation (seemingly bottom up). Collection of such experience stories by students of Master’s Studies programme in Political Science showed (1) the potential and risks of such project, as well as (2) surprisingly huge intergenerational memory gap and, hence, different interpretation of recent history by young people born during 1990s and by those who personally experienced the Baltic Singing Revolution of 1989-1991 as adults.

Baiba Bela is Senior Researcher at the Advanced Political and Social Research Institute, and Associate Professor in Social Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Latvia. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Latvia in 2004. Her research and publications focus on oral history and identity, and recently also on migration, human development and regional development in Latvia. She is the author of more than 40 articles and has co-authored and edited several publications, among them the book “We didn’t go to Sweden to become Swedes” (Bela et. al., 2010, in Latvian) and “Latvia. Human Development Report. Sustainable Nation” (English edition forthcoming).

Rootless and Homeless: Transactive memories and narrative confabulation revisited.
Graham Smith (University of London)

In the 1990s, a group of homeless men, most of whom had travelled widely, asked to be interviewed for a charity that was hoping to provide them with a home in their final years. The men's rootlessness was paradoxically matched by their institutionalisation. The men were not only victims of homelessness, but also of charities that had explicitly aimed to punish vagrancy as much as offer assistance. The men were also brutalised, including by those who had said would care for them. These were hard lives in constant transition and memories, especially of travel, and were storied to make sense of who the men wanted to be. Most constructed alternative biographies, inventing fictive pasts, while one sought to be the honest historian of the group. Their stories offer important insights into how we make sense of ourselves through remembering.

Graham Smith is chair of the Oral History Society. His PhD thesis was an oral history of female headed households in his home town of Dundee. He had worked previously on Paul Thompson's 100 Families project and had interviewed men who had fought in boxing booths of the 1930s. Since then he has conducted oral histories with the Ukrainian diaspora in England, general practitioners in Glasgow, and undertaken a number of projects on memories of food throughout Britain. He is currently a co-investigator (with Shelley Trower) on Memories of fiction: an oral history or reading. He has published across a range of disciplines including medicine and health, sociology, public history and history. Graham is a senior lecturer at Royal Holloway, teaching oral history, public history and the history of medicine.

Reuniting Families: Oral narratives of Somali Immigrants and Finnish officials Outi Fingerroos (University of Jyväskylä)

The subject of the presentation is the family reunification process of Somalis who come to Finland via Ethiopia and Kenya. This process clearly involves two different sides of human activity: the life stories of Somalis and the experiences and narratives of the officials. The aim of my research is to better understand the kind of process that the immigration of Somalis is, particularly in the light of cultural encounters and oral narratives.

I concentrate on the narratives of Finnish officials working in the Embassy of Finland in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Finnish Migration Office (Migri). In addition, I have interviewed employees of the Finnish Red Cross and of two Finnish non-governmental organizations: the Finnish Refugee Advice Centre and the Finnish Refugee Council. My discussions with the Finnish officials working in the Embassy, the Migri office, the Finnish Red Cross and in the NGO organizations has provided concrete evidence of the fact that not enough is known about the substance of the work they do. Moreover, the existing research information is far removed from the problems associated with practical immigration work. Thus from the point of view of the authorities and NGOs, family reunification is a complex process involving a lot of personally experienced tacit knowledge, which is then revealed in oral narratives and autobiographical accounts. Therefore, my presentation will describe in concrete terms what the authorities and NGOs have to tell about family reunification. I also focus on the narrative of one Somali immigrant who arrived in Finland in the early 1990s. The case shows how this individual has coped in Finland, and which kind of questions his narrative reveals.

Outi Fingerroos is a professor in Ethnology at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Currently she acts as an Academy Research Fellow in a project entitled 'Reuniting the family. A study of the experiences of immigrants and officials' funded by the Academy of Finland (2012–2017). She received her PhD in Comparative Religion in 2004. Her research and publications focus on memory, oral history, Karelian identity and war memories, as well as ethnography, fieldwork and recently on Somali migration in Finland. She is the author of more than 40 articles and has written, co-authored and edited several publications. Currently she is a board member of the International Oral History Association (IOHA).



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