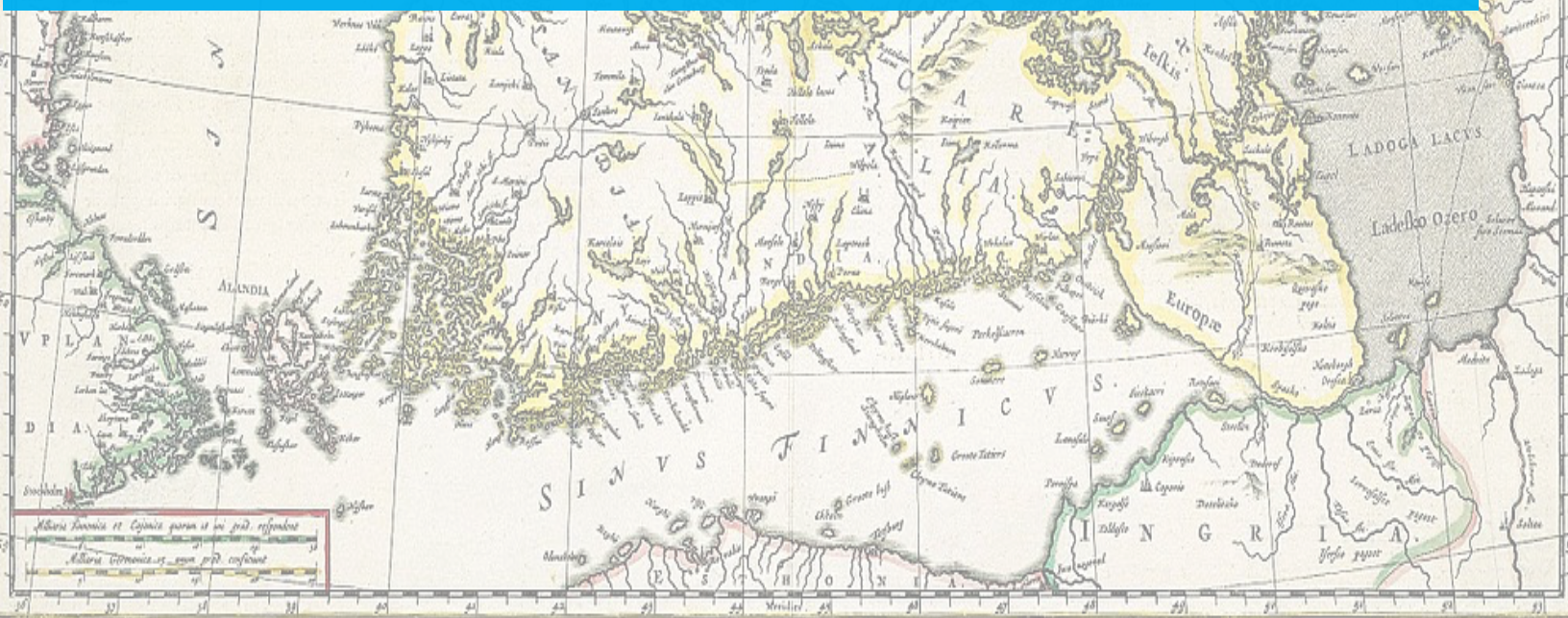




Symposium on Recent Research on Finnish History

4 November 2024

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
History



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Economics



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Lakehead University respectfully acknowledges its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples. Lakehead Thunder Bay is located on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. Lakehead Orillia is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. Lakehead University acknowledges the history that many nations hold in the areas around our campuses, and is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.



ABOUT THE CHAIR IN FINNISH STUDIES

Established in 1996, the Chair in Finnish Studies at Lakehead University is an endowed appointment at the Thunder Bay campus for one or two terms during the regular academic year. Open to scholars with a PhD in any discipline that can be accommodated at the university, the Chair is expected to be an established scholar with a solid publication record, teaching experience and an ongoing program of research. The Finnish Chair was created and continues to benefit from the generous support of the Finnish community of Thunder Bay and its organizations. Primary support today still comes from the Canadian Suomi Foundation which began fundraising for the establishment of the Chair in 1988.

Inquires can be emailed to finnish.studies@lakeheadu.ca



Chair in Finnish Studies

finnishstudies.lakeheadu.ca

Supported by the Canadian Suomi Foundation



PROGRAM

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN ENGINEERING AND SCIENCES (CASES),
ROOM FB2023 (IN-PERSON)**

OR

ZOOM (REGISTRATION REQUIRED SEE BELOW)

1300	Welcome and Introduction
1310-1335	How “Nordic” was the Finnish Development Path? Prof. Sakari Saaritsa, University of Helsinki
1335-1400	Poverty and unemployment as mirrors of social development in Finland 1860-2020 Dr. Jarmo Peltola, Lakehead University
1400-1425	Educational Inequality in Early 20th century Finland Heidi Hirvonen, University of Helsinki
1425-1440	Break
1440-1505	Construction of National Defense in Finland before World War II Dr. Ilari Taskinen, Tampere University
1505-1530	A Canadian Case of Finnish Espionage Dr. Michel S. Beaulieu and Dr. David Ratz, Lakehead University
1530-1600	Questions Discussion
1600	Conclusion

To Register: https://lakeheadu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vlcR25KZTe-Kq8-3uityHQ



PARTICIPANTS

Michel S. Beaulieu is a Professor of History and the Associate Vice-Provost (Academic) at Lakehead University. He is also a Docent of Social Science History at the University of Helsinki, a Docent of Modern North American History at the University of Oulu, and an Associate at the Wilson Institute for Canadian History, McMaster University. His presentation with David K. Ratz is part of a project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant. Michel is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and serves as the Honorary Colonel of the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment.

Heidi Hirvonen is a PhD candidate in Economic and Social History at the University of Helsinki. Her PhD project examines the spread and impact of primary education in the late 19th and early 20th century Finland. Utilizing micro econometric methods, she works with a newly compiled municipal-level dataset over rural Finland, developed in the research group of Professor Sakari Saaritsa. Hirvonen holds a master's degree in Economic and Social History from the University of Helsinki (2013). Prior to pursuing her PhD, she worked as a Senior Program Adviser at the Finnish National Agency for Education, specializing in the internationalization of higher education. She has presented her work at conferences across Europe and North America and completed research visits to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Fulbright Finland grantee and to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, with a Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation grant. She also serves on the board of trustees of the Economic and Business History Society.

Dr. Jarmo Peltola is 12th Chair in Finnish Studies at the Lakehead University. He was a researcher at Tampere University from 1992 and Senior Research from 2008. He recently has worked as a Senior Researcher at the University of Helsinki, where he is also an Adjunct Professor. Dr. Peltola has also been a visiting researcher at Umeå University and Uppsala University in Sweden and at the International Institute of Social History in Netherlands. Dr. Peltola's publications include 18 monographs and 36 articles/book chapters exploring a wide range of Finnish economic, labour, and social history. Peltola's recent research topics have touched on the development of the industrial city of Tampere in a global perspective, the history of Finlayson's cotton factory 1820–1918, the effect of building a sanitation system on the reduction of mortality and infant mortality in Finnish cities (together with Sakari Saaritsa) and the 1915–1916 typhoid epidemic in Tampere (also with Saaritsa). Recently, Peltola has built a large database, which can be used to analyze the development of the industrial city and the changing everyday life of its inhabitants (the scarred people) in the years 1910-1950. Dr. Peltola arrived in Thunder Bay at the end of August and will stay until the end of April. During this time he will conduct research, develops partnerships, and provided lectures at the undergraduate level. he will deliver public lectures and otherwise contribute to the intellectual life of Lakehead University and the Finnish community in Thunder Bay and surroundings.

David K. Ratz is an Adjunct Professor with the Department of History at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, and an Army Reservist with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel employed as Directing Staff with the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. His publications include books and articles exploring aspects of Northwestern Ontario's military history and Finnish Canadian history.

Sakari Saaritsa is Professor of Social History at the Department of Economic and Social History, University of Helsinki, Finland. He is an economic and social historian working on topics related to



development, poverty, welfare, gender, and human capital. His research interests have included the quantitative history of human development (particularly health, education, and physiological capital), social inequality, intrahousehold resource allocation, historical indicators of well-being, relationships between economic and human development, dialogue between development policy, development economics, and development history, as well as relevant approaches and sources, such as micro econometrics, historical demography, anthropometrics, household budgets, social network analysis, and oral histories. His work has been published in journals including the *European Review of Economic History*, *Journal of Family History*, *Social Science History*, and *Cliometrica*.

Since fall 2023, he is the director of a four-year project funded by the Research Council of Finland called “A scarred people: The imprint of crises on population health and livelihoods in early 20th century Finland”, using individual-level data to study the long-run impact of economic and social crises on population health, livelihoods, and capabilities. Saaritsa received his PhD at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, in 2008. He has been on longer visits to the Economic History Department of the London School of Economics twice, as a doctoral student and as a Visiting Fellow in 2021. He is serving on the Editorial Boards of the *European Review of Economic History* and *Social Science History*, as well as on the Executive Committee and the Program Committee of the Social Science History Association. In addition to academic research, he has worked in development in India, Tanzania, Syria, and Mozambique in different capacities, as an NGO intern, a UN official, and a consultant. Although a permanent resident of Helsinki, he has been based in Africa and the Middle East for extended periods since 2005. From fall 2022, he has been spending parts of the academic year in Zambia.

Ilari Taskinen is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow working in Tampere Institute for Advanced Study and the Research Council of Finland's Centre of Excellence in the History of Experiences (HEX), both hosted in Tampere University, Finland. He is a social and cultural historian whose research centers on the history of private and collective war experiences through topics such as wartime letter writing and soldiers' life courses. His central research topics are wartime letter writing and intimate relationships, which he studied in his PhD dissertation "Social Lives in Letters: Finnish soldiers' epistolary relationships, intimate practices, and emotionality in World War II" (Tampere University, 2021). Taskinen currently leads project “Digital History and Handwritten Sourced (DIGIKÄKI)”, which focuses on the digitization of Finnish letters of World War II and their quantitative analysis. He is also a member of project “Unequal War: Vulnerability, Stress and Survival in the Finnish Army during World War II”, funded by the Research Council of Finland 2023–2027, that examines the socially uneven demographic consequences of World War II in Finland. Together with epigenetics researchers, the research group also investigates the transgenerational effects of Finnish soldiers' war stress in project “TREES – Transgenerational Epigenetic Effects of War Stress.”



LOCATION - MAP



THANK YOU / MERCI

Thank you to Patti McCluskey and to the members of the Chair in Finnish Studies Advisory Committee. Funding for this workshop has been provided by the Chair in Finnish Studies Endowment, with primary support still coming from the Canadian Suomi Foundation.



NOTES