

CEREN

Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism

Swedish School of Social Science
University of Helsinki

Activity Report

2007

Background of the Centre

Immigration, integration, discrimination, racism and xenophobia have become central topics in different member countries of the EU. In Finland, too, we have seen public concern about these topics. Different Ministries, as well as regional and communal bodies, have taken an active part in the discussion, trying to improve their management of ethnic diversity.

A Working Group in the Ministry of Education suggested as early as 1991 the establishment of a Centre on Ethnic Research, but this did not materialise. In 1997 an overview of the research activities in this field was carried out at the Swedish School of Social Science, supported by a grant from the Finnish Academy of Science.

The Ministry of Education decided to financially support the establishment of the Centre for a two-year period (1999-2000) and the Rector of the University of Helsinki gave financial support for the development of the Centre during the same period. It was decided in the consultations with the Ministry that from 2001 onwards a permanent support for the administration of the Centre should be allocated to the budget of the School. This agreement has been fulfilled securing the future development of the Centre as a central institution for research and monitoring of Ethnic Relations in Finland.

In 1998 the Social Science Research Council of the Academy arranged a working seminar concerning the Academy's role in support of research in this field. In 1999 the activities in this field led to the a Research Programme on *Equality, Marginalization and Ethnic Relation, Syreeni*, 2000-2003 which engaged more than 50 researchers and doctoral students in the field. This again led to the founding of an association for the studies of Ethnic Relations (ETMU) in Finland. CEREN has played an active part in all these activities.

In February 2004 the Swedish School for Social Science applied for an interdisciplinary pool professor in Ethnic relations from the University of Helsinki. The pool professor was appointed to CEREN in 2006. The establishment of The Master's Degree Programme in Ethnic Relations, Cultural Diversity and Integration (ERI) at the University of Helsinki has been one of the main tasks of the professor.

Activities of CEREN in 2007

Research Projects

The globalization strategies of the Finnish labour unions

Focus: The aim of the project is to analyze how the Finnish labour unions perceive the globalization of the economy and the labour market. The research project maps the transnational ties between the Finnish labour unions and international labour union, political actors as well as civil society organisations. One of the part studies has specifically focused on how Palvelualojen ammattiliitto (PAM) has dealt with immigration and ethnicity and how PAM has considered the increasing ethnic diversity in the Finnish labour market. In another part study the focus was directed towards how a collective transnational identity is created among transnational labour union representatives and how cultural and linguistic differences are perceived. The research also tries to direct attention towards the tension between “global justice” and the national interest of the labour union members. An anthology titled “Going global – ay-liikkeen menestysresepti globaalissa ajassa” was published in 2008.

Time frame: 2006 – 2008

Research leader: Mika Helander

Project researchers: Rolle Alho, Riikka Lehtonen, Maria Svanström

Financing: The Finnish Work Environment Fund

The position of immigrants in the Finnish labour market – the path towards equality

Focus: The aging of the Finnish labour force has resulted in a discussion about the need of foreign labour in Finland. It has also been proven that immigrants already living in Finland often are in an unstable labour market position or work with something that does not correspond to their qualifications. The project seeks to explore how the labour market carriers of immigrants evolve. Immigrants working in construction and in health care as well as the central actors in these branches (public authorities, labour unions and employers) form the target groups of the research project. The goal of the project is to portray 1) the position of different immigrant groups in the construction and health care sector 2) carrier developments 3) existing ethnic hierarchies and 4) the role of the central institutional actors regulating the labour market positions of immigrants.

Time frame: 2006 – 2008

Research leader: Sirpa Wrede

Project researchers: Rolle Alho, Jeannette Laurén, Miika Saukkonen
Financing: The Finnish Work Environment Fund

Monitoring racism and xenophobia in the mass media in Finland

Focus: Since 1999, CEREN and the Journalism Research and Development Centre at the University of Tampere have been monitoring how ethnicity and ethnic relations are treated in Finnish media. The study has been carried out since 1999 with yearly or biannual reports. The researchers at the University of Tampere have focused on Finnish language news media while the researchers at CEREN have devoted their attention to the Swedish language mass media in Finland. CEREN received further financing from the Ministry of Education and the project continued in 2007. A quantitative mapping of Islam in the media of the Swedish-speaking Finns was carried out. The mapping was made through a historical perspective focusing on material from 1987, 1997 and 2007. The research focused on how Islam is presented in the newspapers, what kind of role(s) the Muslims are given in the newspapers and if and how Islam is being linked to terrorism and political violence. As a part of the project an analysis of Islam on the television channel of the Swedish-speaking Finns was carried out. The material has been coded so that a comparison between the Finnish and Swedish media can be made. The material gathered through the project was utilized for an anthology titled “Variera mera, inkludera flera”, edited by Ullamaija Kivikuru and Camilla Haavisto. The anthology was published in 2007.

Time frame: 1999 -

Research leaders: Ullamaija Kivikuru, Matti Similä

Project researchers: Karin Creutz-Kämppi, Camilla Haavisto, Jouni Sipiläinen

Financing: Ministry of Education

EUROSPHERE - Diversity and the European Public Sphere. Towards a Citizens'

Europe

CEREN is part of a research consortium that was granted funding for the research project EUROSPHERE - Diversity and The European Public Sphere. Towards a Citizens' Europe within EU:s sixth framework programme. The project is co-ordinated by the research unit Unifob Global at the University of Bergen in Norway and it includes 17 partner universities. The project will run from 2007 until 2011. The objectives of EUROSPHERE are to identify the features of existing sub-European spaces which facilitate or obstruct the formation of a common European public sphere, to define areas of contestation and conflict in various attempts to develop a diverse European public sphere, to assess the feasibility of different models of public sphere in Europe and to assess the feasibility of five supranational strategies for articulating diverse European public spheres. The project also aims to provide research-based perspectives for comp-

reensively addressing the prospects for a common European public sphere. The specific focus is on the features of the sub-European communicative public spaces and their openness and inclusiveness towards the idea of a European public sphere. The research plan comprises synchronized data collection and analysis activities in 16 countries as well as creation of a EUROSPHERE Knowledgebase. In addition to regular research and academic dissemination activities, EUROSPHERE organizes several large-scale conferences, European Forums, researcher training and PhD courses.

Time frame: 2007-2012

Research leader: Peter A. Kraus

Project researchers: Marjukka Weide, Karin Creutz-Kämpfi

Financing: EU

Challenging Power: Equality, Diversity and the Integration of Ethnic and National Minorities in Finland

The research project seeks new ways to understand power around ethnic relations and to reflect on how the commitment to equality could be realized in the Finnish context. The issue will be explored on three interdependent levels:

The first level consists of an empirical assessment of the possibilities of ethnic and national minorities to exercise power within both formal and informal institutions.

The second level focuses on perspectives inside marginalized groups using more ethno-methodological approaches. At this level the symbolic and cultural forms of power exercised by immigrant and minority groups are analyzed in order to grasp the contexts in which minority members become activated to participate.

The third level involves a comparative approach with the goal of generating knowledge on why certain groups or parts of certain groups remain outside of the reach of societal empowerment or why they do not seek to participate.

In general terms, the research project will take a critical look at concepts that are commonly used today such as power, empowerment, integration and participation.

Time frame: 2007 - 2010

Research leader: Peter A. Kraus

Project researchers: Matti Similä, Reetta Toivanen, Camilla Nordberg, Sanna Saksela, Niko Pyrhönen (in 2007 also Outi Lepola and Niklas Wilhelmsson)

Financing: Academy of Finland

Integration als Herausforderung. Kulturelle Heterogenität, Europäisierung und demokratische Politik in den Metropolen Brüssel, Berlin und Barcelona

Focus: The project focuses on the challenges of integration, which result from the overlap of different layers of heterogeneity in European cities. It compares how the dynamics of heterogenization and Europeanization interact with urban politics in Brussels, Berlin and Barcelona. The research project has been prepared and carried out under the auspices of the Social Science Research Centre Berlin.

Time frame: 2005-2008

Researcher: Peter A. Kraus (external partner to project)

Financing: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

The support of immigrants in their challenge to adapt to a new environment

Focus: The project focused on how the Finnish society supports immigrants in their challenge to adapt to a new environment. The project was funded by Atlas Säätiö, which is a foundation set to operate inter alia in migration and human rights. A report titled “Employment prospects of selected skilled immigrant groups in the Greater Helsinki Area” was delivered at the end of 2007.

Project researcher: Stephen Kin

Financing: Atlas Säätiö

Higher education in Finland

Focus: In 2007 three different projects concerning higher education were finished. The first project dealt with the secondary level educational institutions. The main results were that students do not want to move from their own home-regions for higher education although they prefer to continue their studies in Swedish. The other significant outcome was that students from Swedish schools apply far less to subjects related to technical- or natural science than students from Finnish schools.

The second project analysed the students who apply to technical- and natural sciences at the University level. The main results show that the applications to these subjects are declining from year to year.

The third project was initiated by Samordningsdelegationen för den svenska högskoleutbildningen i Finland. The project dealt with the future preferences of higher education among students at the secondary level in the Åland Islands. The main outcome was that the most part of the students are going to continue their education at a university level in Sweden and only less than a third in Finland.

Project researcher: Catharina Lojander-Visapää

Financing: Swedish Cultural Foundation, National Board of Education, Swedish Technical Academy in Finland, Ministry of education, Government of the Åland Islands

Education and courses

The Master's Degree Programme in Ethnic Relations, Cultural Diversity and Integration (ERI)

The Swedish School of Social Science began planning the multidisciplinary English Master's Degree Programme in 2005. The Rector of the University of Helsinki granted the programme financial support for the period 2007-2009. The 2-year Programme will start in autumn 2008. Application was open to both national and international students. A total of 110 applications arrived within the time of application. 15 applicants were then accepted to begin their studies within the programme as of autumn 2008. The applicants will enrol as students at either the department of Sociology, Political Science or Social Psychology at the Faculty of Social Science at the University of Helsinki. MA students at the Faculty of Social Sciences were given the option to organise their studies under the new programme already from autumn 2007.

Regarding the programme's thematic focus, Finland offers a particularly rich setting for studying a wide range of ethnic phenomena, which stretch from the Sámi, the indigenous group in the North, to the Swedish speaking minority and the different immigrant groups concentrated in the Helsinki area. The programme can be considered rather unique in this respect. To this adds the context of the Baltic region, which is a laboratory for assessing the interplay of European integration, nationalism and minority politics, as well as the fact that Finland is both a Nordic state and a bridge between the East and the West. Upon successful completion of the programme, the student will be awarded a Master in Social Sciences with the specialisation in ethnic relations, cultural diversity and integration. There are also possibilities for continuing the studies on a post-graduate level.

A particular strength of the ERI programme is that it gives students of ethnic relations the opportunity to work under the close supervision of leading experts from the Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN) and to benefit from the Centre's facilities.

Project leader: Peter A. Kraus

Co-ordinator: Anna Storgårds

School, growth and integration - promoting equality in everyday school life

Koulu, kasvu ja kotoutuminen – yhdenvertaisuuden edistäminen koulun arjessa (School, growth and integration - promoting equality in everyday school life) is a further education course for teachers and other school staff. The focus of the 1-year course was on intercultural education and tolerance in education. The course was funded by the Finnish National Board of Education and co-ordinated by Silvain Sagne at CEREN. The aim of the course programme has been to improve the communication skills of the teachers and to develop co-operation between the school and the home, especially with reference to pupils and parents of immigrant background. Issues dealt with include intercultural communication on various levels, xenophobia, stereotyping, active citizenship and equality. A new course began in February and ended in December 2007. Further funding has been applied for in order to carry out a new course in 2008.

Co-ordinator: Silvain Sagne

Seminars, Conferences and Events

Global Perspectives on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

CEREN and Ius Gentium, the Finnish International Law Association, organized an event titled “Global Perspectives on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” on May 24th 2007. Questions concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, especially the Saami in Finland, were discussed. The event started with the showing of a video reportage for the UN, “Last yoik in Saami forests?”, which was commented by the director of the reportage, Hannu Hyvönen. This was followed by a panel discussion. The panel consisted of Reetta Toivanen, (Senior Researcher, CEREN), Ronald Niezen (Professor, Research Chair in the Comparative Study of Indigenous Rights and Identity, McGill University, Canada) and Michael Riessler (Researcher, Expert on the Saami movement in Russia, Humboldt University of Berlin). Comments were given by Janne Sajjets and Jouni Kitti, Finnish Saami activists.

CEREN Research Colloquium

CEREN started a Research Colloquium in autumn 2006. The aim of the Research Colloquium is to provide a forum where researchers have a possibility to present their research and discuss their topics with research colleagues. The Research Colloquium also provides a place to which international scholars can be invited to present their most recent research findings. In spring 2007 the programme included five presentations. The focus of the presentations was directed towards questions of power relations.

Co-ordinator: Peter A. Kraus

CEREN International Doctoral Workshop

An international doctoral workshop was arranged at CEREN on November 23, 2007. The workshop gathered Doctoral and Master's degree students from Germany, Wales and Finland. All participants presented papers after which discussion followed. The event was also open to external attendance. Professor Peter A. Kraus and Director Matti Similä acted as chairs.

Politics in a multicultural society

CEREN organized a discussion event titled "Politics in a multicultural society" on November 1, 2007. Pasi Saukkonen from the Foundation for Cultural Policy Research (CUPORE) acted as key note speaker, Professor Tom Moring from the Swedish School of Social Science acted as discussant and Professor Peter A. Kraus from CEREN as chairperson. The event addressed mainly the following questions: If a society is ethnically and culturally diverse, what are the consequences for politics and the political system? How have European integration policies worked in the past, what are the main challenges in the future? Can a multicultural society have a national identity?

Identity Politics vs. Politics of Citizenship

Associate Professor Vytis Ciubrinskas from the Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania, delivered on October 29, 2007 at CEREN a lecture titled "Identity Politics vs. Politics of Citizenship. The Case of Transmigrant Returnees to Post-Communist Lithuania".

New and Old Migrants in an Expanding European Union

John Eade, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Executive Director of CRONEM, Roehampton University / University of Surrey visited CEREN on December 12. He delivered a lecture titled "New and Old Migrants in an Expanding European Union: The Case of United Kingdom after May 2004".

National cooperation

ETMU - The Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration

The Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration (ETMU) is a multidisciplinary association of Finnish researchers, established to promote research in this field in Finland. To further this aim, the Society arranges conferences and edits scientific publications covering this sphere of interest. The Society was founded in June 2003. Membership in the Society is open to everyone interested in this field and wishing to promote the aim of the Society. CEREN is represented in the board of ETMU by Matti Similä and Reetta Toivanen.

The Finnish Journal of Ethnicity and Migration (FJEM) is a scholarly and professional journal, published by ETMU. It aims to promote and advance the circulation of the multidisciplinary study of ethnic relations and international migration that is conducted in Finland and its neighbourhood, especially the other Nordic countries. The Journal is trilingual (English, Finnish, Swedish) and published twice a year. ETMU edits the journal in collaboration with CEREN (Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki), Institute of Migration (Turku) and Population Research Institute/Väestöliitto (Helsinki). The journal is refereed in order to guarantee a high academic standard. The Editor-in-Chief is CEREN's Director Matti Similä.

International cooperation

EDMIDI - European Doctorate in Migration, Diversity and Identities

EDMIDI is a part of HumanitarianNet, a thematic network on humanitarian development studies. The mission of EDMIDI is to contribute to the co-operative creation, strengthening, and development of expertise and collaborative experience towards the consolidation of a European Area of Research in Migration, Diversity and Identities. CEREN has continuously participated in the Intensive Programmes organised by EDMIDI. These programmes offer summer schools for doctoral students within the field. No summer school was organised in 2007, but in 2008 a summer school titled "Issues in Culture, Identity and Diversity" is being organised. The summer school is hosted by the Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative at the Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin.

Migra-Nord - Nordic Research Network for Media, Migration and Society

As from 2007, CEREN is acting as host institution for the Nordic Research Network for Media, Migration and Society, Migra-Nord. Karina Horsti is acting as co-ordinator. The network gathers some 40 junior and senior academics working in the interdisciplinary field of media, migration and ethnic relations in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Estonia. The network aims to promote collaboration among Nordic researchers by increasing publication opportunities, seminar exchanges, supervision of doctoral students and networking. In addition the aim is to promote Nordic research in European and international academic arenas. Researchers participating in the network examine migration, ethnic relations and the media from various perspectives. For instance, there is research on representations of immigrants and majorities in different types of media, ethnic minority media, multicultural policies, use of new technologies, media production and diversity in editorial rooms, reception studies among minority and majority audiences and theoretical development in the field. The network has received funding until 2010.

NORDIMER

NORDIMER is an organization in its start-up phase, and its creation is an expression of the need to create a better integration in the Nordic International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER) research field. Its aim is to facilitate collaboration between the Nordic countries with respect to IMER research. In this work, it will also liaise with national, Nordic and European research. NORDIMER will also serve to coordinate post-graduate education. NORDIMER will thus create a Nordic infrastructure between IMER researchers, and this initiative also involves the publication of a Nordic journal in the field. Matti Similä and Karina Horsti from CEREN have been actively involved in the activities of the organization.

Personnel at CEREN 2007 - 2008

Director

Matti Similä

Professor

Peter A. Kraus

Professor (em.)

Tom Sandlund

Researchers

Karin Creutz-Kämppi

Mika Helander

Heidi af Heurlin

Karina Horsti

Stephen Kin

Outi Lepola

Catharina Lojander-Visapää

Antton Lounasheimo

Camilla Nordberg

Mats Nylund

Maria Svanström

Reetta Toivanen

Sirpa Wrede

Marjukka Weide

Ph.D. Candidates

Rolle Alho

Camilla Haavisto

Maria Kreander

Markus Mervola

Silvain Sagne

Sanna Saksela

Niklas Wilhelmsson

Research assistants

Niko Pyrhönen

Jeannette Laurén

Miika Saukkonen

Trainees

Sebastian Mikander

Malin Fransberg

Administration

Mathias Björklund

Anna Storgårds

Publications in 2007

Haavisto, C. & Kivikuru, U. (eds.). (2007). *Variera mera, inkludera flera: Åtta essäer om medier, mångfald och migration*. SSKH Meddelanden: Helsingfors.

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Horsti, K. (2007). *Asylum seekers in the news: frames of illegality and control*. In OberCom 1/2007, 145-161: Lisbon, Portugal.

Horsti, K., Hyvönen, H., Kynsilehto, A., Vertovec, S. (2007) *Interview with Steven Vertovec*. In Finnish Journal of Ethnicity and Migration, 2/2007, 36-37: Helsinki.

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New research projects in 2008

Globalization strategies of the Finnish trade unions, part II: National strategies

This research project is a direct continuation of a previous study of Finnish trade unions transnational globalization strategies, which was carried out during 2005-2007. The study showed that a significant amount of the globalization work of the Finnish trade unions in fact is carried out within the frame of the national activity. In this study the focus lies on the political activity on the national level. According to project leader PD Mika Helander this activity can be categorized into four categories: Economic influence, juridical influence and influence on legislation, influence on the media and societal discourses and mobilisation of union members and organisational activity. Through these four categories a reference frame is created with which the project can examine the methods and functionality of the methodological nationalism in todays society. The project will also examine todays new corporativism, the position of the trade unions and their activity in the globalisation process.

The project started on 01.01.2008 and will continue until the end of 2010. The research results will be published in an anthology. The project is led by PD Mika Helander and Docent, PD Mats Nylund. Rolle Alho, Antton Lounasheimo and Maria Svanström are also working in the project.