

2/2010



CEREN is a centre for research within the field of ethnic relations and nationalism, based at the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki.

CEREN's main interest is in developing postgraduate activities on a national and international level, but it also co-ordinates various teaching and research activities.

RECENT EVENTS

17 June 2010

FIRST ERI GRADUATION



Kristiina Mauriala is the first graduate from the Master Degree Programme in Ethnic Relations, Cultural Diversity and Integration (ERI). Kristiina has been awarded a Master in Social Sciences, from the major Political Science and the Politics subprogramme. Her thesis is titled "The impact of EU membership conditionality on minority protection in Estonia". Kristiina has now been employed at the Ministry of the Interior as Senior Advisor in the International Affairs Unit.

The next group of ERI students begin their studies in September. They are nine altogether and come from Finland, Sweden, France, Romania, USA, Nigeria and the Philippines.

Kristiina Mauriala

PhD Training

Nordic Migration Research Training Course 2010

In late May and early June, the Swedish School of Social Science and CEREN hosted a one week Nordic Migration Research training course for PhD candidates. Coordinated by University Lecturer Östen Wahlbeck, the theme of the course was Immigrant Integration and Social Theory in the Nordic context, covering research about the integration of immigrants and their various experiences in the Nordic countries as well as how the societal processes related to immigration can be understood with the help of theories of integration and assimilation.

The course was organised by the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki (SSKH), the Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN), the Swedish Imerförbundet, the association Nordic Migration Research (NMR) and was funded by NordForsk.

The course took place from May 28th to June 2nd at the Swedish School of Social Science, with 21 PhD students taking part and originating from universities in Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. There were also visiting lecturers from the Nordic countries and the United States, including Professor Peter Kivisto, Dr. Marko Valenta, Professor Mikko Lagerspetz, Dr. Garbi Schmidt, Dr. Hassan Hosseini-Kaladjahi, Dr. Tuomas Martikainen, as well as Dr. Kathleen Valtonen, Professor Peter A. Kraus and Dr. Östen Wahlbeck from the University of Helsinki.

The course programme consisted of morning lectures followed by afternoon paper presentations by the students who received comments from both a fellow student and one of the lecturers. The presentations included a lecture by Garbi Schmidt on grounded politics and manifesting Islam as a political factor in Copenhagen. Marko



PhD candidates and lecturers at the NMR training course.

Valenta spoke about the assisted integration of refugees in Sweden and Norway, which was complemented by Mikko Lagerspetz's lecture on the Estonian case of ethnic consolidation and on the following day by Hassan Hosseini-Kaladjahi's presentation on Swedish immigrant integration. Meanwhile, the lecture by Peter Kivisto on American assimilation theory offered a comparative perspective to the Nordic cases.

The students each presented a paper, research plan or article, ranging from, for example, the onward migration of Iranians from Sweden to other countries (Melissa Kelly) to the representation of immigrants in the Icelandic media (Helga Ólafsson). Other examples include the presentations by Mari Toivanen on narratives of belonging among Iraqi Muslim youth of Kurdish origin in Finland, and Kaisu Koskela's research on identity renegotiations among the 'migrant elite' and the experiences of skilled migrants in Finland. Among the new projects that were presented we can mention Xin Liu's research on the process of learning Finnish experienced by Chinese adult migrant women and Ebot Mathias Ebot's analysis of Finland as a new destination for sub-Saharan Africans and specifically Cameroonians, to name only a few of the many interesting presentations.

The course was well received by many of the participants who made a special mention that there should be more courses for PhD students available, not only in Finland but all the Nordic countries. Zeinab Karimi, a PhD student from the University of Helsinki, pointed out that the NMR course was "necessary due to the small number of English courses at the University of Helsinki". However, since networking also plays an important role for doctoral students, Zeinab noted that "PhD students need to make links with academic scholars outside of their small communication-spheres, so intensive courses would be good option to make these connections especially when taking place in English."

The evening and weekend social and cultural programme included both a trip to the Suomenlinna Historic Naval Island and UNESCO World Heritage Site with a sauna experience and dinner, as well as a Helsinki sightseeing trip by boat, touring the eastern archipelago of Helsinki. The social and cultural programme that was made possible due to the NordForsk funding and organised by Research Assistant Daniel Moran, complimented the long academic days well, while the relaxed atmosphere of the social programme and nightly meals provided for excellent networking opportunities with the visiting scholars.



Docent Sirpa Wrede and Dr. Camilla Nordberg organised the seminar.

Seminar

Strangers in Work: the Ethnification of Inequality in Finnish Working Life

An afternoon seminar "Strangers in Work: The Ethnification of Inequality in Finnish Working Life" was held on the 16th of June 2010 to celebrate the publishing of the book "Vieraita työssä. Työelämän etnistyvä eriarvoisuus" (Gaudeamus 2010). The seminar and the book report the results of the CEREN project "The position of immigrants in Finnish working life" (2006-2008) that was funded by the Finnish Work Environment Fund. This project was originally led by the former CEREN researcher, Docent Annika Forsander. After her move to the position of Director of Immigration Affairs for the City of Helsinki, the project was completed by

Docent Sirpa Wrede. Also, Rolle Alho, Suvi Linnanmäki and Jeannette Laurén have worked within the project. The programme of the June seminar included presentations by Östen Wahlbeck, Akhlaq Ahmad, Rolle Alho, Olga Silfver, and Camilla Haavisto. Joint presentations were given by Markus Himanen and Jukka Könönen and Susanna Bairoh and Marja-Liisa Trux, respectively. The lively seminar attracted more than 40 participants and was organised and chaired by Sirpa Wrede and Camilla Nordberg. More information about the book "Vieraita työssä" can be found under the subheading Recent publications.

RESEARCH

New research project

Transnational and Local: The Social Integration of Immigrant Communities

This project, funded by the Academy of Finland in 2010-2013, provides new information about how local processes of integration relate to the transnational relations of immigrant communities. The four-year project is led by Docent Östen Wahlbeck. The project is motivated by the fact that in Finland there is a lack

of information about the growing role of transnationalism among immigrant communities. The project studies the social integration of immigrant communities from a longitudinal perspective and also studies the growing role of new European-wide policies in immigrant integration projects. As a point of departure, the researchers

contend that many contemporary processes of immigrant integration can be better understood if we study the processes of integration at the local level. This project is therefore interested in how contemporary immigrant integration processes are simultaneously both transnational and local, rather than strictly bounded by a national Finnish context.

The project consists of a number of related and overlapping empirical studies. Docent Kathleen Valtonen studies Vietnamese immigrants in the towns of Helsinki and Turku, as well as local communities in Vietnam. By studying transnational processes both in the places of settlement and in the places of origin,

this project provides fresh insight into the wider processes of social integration. Vanja La Vecchia's on-going PhD project is focused on refugees from Iraq in two different European cities, Helsinki and Rome. The study carried out by Docent Tuomas Martikainen is based on a study of the Muslim immigrant associations in Turku. The research is focused on the governance and securitization of Islam within the new transnational politics of religion in the European Union. The post-doctoral study of Researcher Salla Tuori is a continuation of her PhD thesis in Sociology and Women's Studies, continuing her interest in the "localities of multiculturalism" and projects as a form of welfare politics.

New research programme

Responding to Complex Diversity in Europe and Canada, RECODE

The Research Networking Programme Responding to Complex Diversity in Europe and Canada (RECODE) was launched in Strasbourg in May 2010. The interdisciplinary comparative programme is funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF). Peter A. Kraus is the Chair of the Programme, which involves 13 European countries and Canada.

RECODE is intended to explore to what extent the processes of transnationalisation, migration, religious mobilisation and cultural differentiation entail a new configuration of social conflict in post-industrial societies. Such a possible new constellation is labeled complex diversity. The leading idea is that complex diversity is developing at a global level, but particularly in European-style societies, where social entitlements, supranational policies and cultural diversity enjoy a considerable,



Professor Peter A. Kraus is the Chair of RECODE.

but often contradictory degree of legitimacy. In this perspective, Canada offers some interesting similarities and contrasts with Europe.

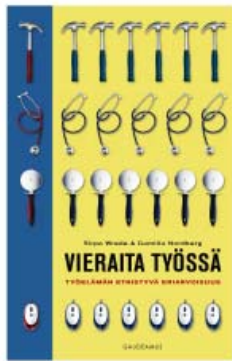
The programme tries therefore to identify the cleavages and normative issues that this new constellation raises on both sides of the Atlantic, and to develop expertise in the institutions, public policies and cultural resources that can respond to them. The thematic focus of the programme covers the areas of linguistic diversity and political communication, religious pluralism, transnationalism and, finally, multiculturalism and welfare state policies.

During the four year period eight workshops and one summer school for PhD students are going to be organized. The inaugural conference and workshop are scheduled to take place at the University of Helsinki in May 2011.

www.esf.org/recode

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Wrede, Sirpa & Nordberg, Camilla (eds), *Vieraita työssä. Työelämän etnistyvää eriarvoisuus [Strangers in Work: the Ethnification of Inequality in Finnish Working Life]*. Helsinki: Gaudeamus 2010.



Substantial structural change is challenging an increasingly globalising Finnish working life. One of its key concerns is the role of migrant workers. Is Finland striving for solely high skilled and educated people from abroad? Are migrants resorting to exploitative low-paid and seasonal work with limited occupational mobility? Ethnicity is threatening to form a new permanent divide of inequality in Finnish working life.

Vieraita työssä draws on interview data and ethnographic case studies from everyday life. The collected volume takes a focus on issues which make it difficult for immigrants to be included and integrated into Finnish society and working life. It looks at the ways in which 'ethnic strangers' are constructed merely through immigrant dialogue. Different categories of immigrants get their voices heard in the book, for

example kebab entrepreneurs, construction workers, restaurant workers, cleaners, nurses and IT professionals.

The study points to the vulnerability of immigrant status per se – regardless of whether we look at asylum-seekers or highly skilled researchers. A weak negotiating position is often linked to the status of residency, involving payment issues, overtime work, vacations and breaks. A major aim of the volume has been to provide substantive examples through which the ideally egalitarian welfare state could be more accessible to migrant workers. It would be important to strengthen the work place introduction for new employees, since immigrants would benefit from learning the norms and rules 'of the game', including the more subtle cultural codes of Finnish working life. Coaching is also fundamental when one is aspiring to move on with one's career.

Previous research has predominantly focused on either migrants or the larger society. An important aim of the book was to bring the actual organisations or work places to the forefront.

NEW PERSONNEL AND AFFILIATES

Pasi Saukkonen



Pasi Saukkonen is a Docent at the Universities of Helsinki and Jyväskylä, and a researcher at Ceren. His areas of specialization include migration and integration issues, cultural policy and politics and society in Finland,

Belgium and the Netherlands. He has published e.g. on the concept of national identity (1999), nationalism (2005), politics in a multicultural society (2007) and cultural policy and cultural diversity (2010). His current project deals with minority and integration policies in Finland, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Lena Näre



Lena Näre is doing her postdoctoral research on the glocalisation and privatisation of elderly care in Finland. She has a DPhil in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex and she is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at

the Sussex Centre for Migration Research. Her doctoral thesis was an ethnographic study of the moral economies of migrant care labour in Naples, Italy. Her current research interests include globalisation of care labour, ethnographic methods and intersectional analysis.

Jarmila Rajas



Jarmila Rajas has a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Tampere. Since 2007 she has been a PhD research student at Loughborough University (UK), in the Department of Politics, History and International Relations that has also funded her full-time research. Currently she is at CEREN as a visiting

researcher. Her research focuses on the Finnish immigration discourses between 1999 and 2010 from a Foucaultian point of view. In particular, she looks into how the governmental and non-governmental texts utilize nationalist, multiculturalist and liberal discourses as forms of power/knowledge. Besides Foucault, discourse analysis and immigration, her academic interests also touch upon feminism and methodology.

Ruta Kazlauskaite



Ruta Kazlauskaite is a Master's student in the ERI programme, majoring in Political Science, at the Faculty of Social Sciences. During autumn she will work

as a research assistant at CEREN. She is currently writing her Master's Thesis on the subjective historical narratives of the Polish minority members in Lithuania and their relation to the official historical memory of the shared past in Poland and Lithuania.

Daniel Moran



Daniel Moran has been hired as the coordinator for the RECODE programme and as a research assistant for CEREN. He has previously worked for CEREN from

2009-2010 as a research assistant and for an internship. Daniel is currently writing his Master's thesis, which analyses the indigenous rights of the Sámi people in relation to their claims to land and resources in northern Finland.

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