

# **CEREN**

**Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism  
Swedish School of Social Science  
University of Helsinki**

## **Activity Report**

**2006**

### ***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 and 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 as early as 1991 suggested 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 has 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.

### ***Activities of CEREN in 2006***

#### **Professor in Ethnic relations appointed at CEREN**

In February 2004 the Swedish School for Social Science - applied for an interdisciplinary pool professor in Ethnic relations from the University of Helsinki, which was approved in August 2004. Peter A. Kraus, who has been working as an associate professor (Privatdozent) of political science at Humboldt University in Berlin was appointed Professor in Ethnic Relations from the 1st of May 2006.

## **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 linguistically 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 consisting of seven articles will be published in 2007.

**Time frame: 2006-2007**

**Project researchers: Mika Helander, Rolle Alho, Riikka Lehtonen, Maria Svanström**

**Financing: Arbetarskyddsfonden**

### **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 braches (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 4) and the role of the central institutional actors regulating the labour market positions of immigrants.

**Project researchers: Annika Forsander, Rolle Alho**

**Financing: Arbetarskyddsfonden**

## **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 reported in Finnish media. The Ministry of Education allocated some funds for this purpose in 1999, when the monitoring was set up. The study has been carried out during 1999-2005 with yearly or biyearly reports. The University of Tampere collects material from the Finnish mass media while CEREN mainly collects material from the Swedish language mass media in Finland. During 2006 an anthology focusing on different aspects of the media monitoring has been prepared. It will be published in spring 2007.

**Time frame:** 1999-

**Research leaders:** Ullamaija Kivikuru, Matti Similä

**Project researchers:** Camilla Haavisto, Heidi af Heurlin

**Financing:** Ministry of Education

## **Active Civic Participation of Immigrants**

**Focus:** Lic.Pol. Silvain Sagne and Msc. Sanna Saksela and M.Pol.Sc. Niklas Wilhelmsson from CEREN took part in the EU-financed research project: 'Active Civic Participation of Immigrants from Outside the EU' coordinated by University of Oldenburg. The objectives of the study were to describe the main conditions for immigrants' participation in the civil society and political participation, as well as chart out the main studies done in the field. The project seeks to improve our understanding of different factors that promote or inhibit active civic participation of immigrants. The project ended in 2006. A country chapter of Finland will be published in an edited volume called European Immigration. A source book edited by Anna Triandafyllos and Dita Vogel. The edited volume will be published by Sage publications in 2007.

**Time frame:** 2005-2006

**Project researchers:** Silvain Sagne, Sanna Saksela, Niklas Wilhelmsson

**Financing:** EU

## **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 Center Berlin.

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

**Funding:** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

**Duration:** 2005-2008

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

**Focus:** Msc. Stephen Kin has been working on a report on how the Finnish society supports immigrants in their challenge to adapt to a new environment. The project is funded by Atlas Säätiö, which is a foundation set to operate inter alia in migration and human rights. A report will be delivered at the end of 2007.

**Project researcher:** Stephen Kin

**Financing:** Atlas Säätiö

## **Research on Bilingualism and National minorities**

**Focus:** Research on bilingualism and national minorities, education and recruitment to higher education in Finland. The programme involves several part projects: 1) an evaluation of the choice of education among Swedish speaking students 2) a study of Swedish speaking students living on the Åland Islands 3) a study which focuses on relationship between language, collective identities, culture and ethnicity among Swedish speaking Finns. Special focus is directed towards Swedish language organizations in Finland. (Maria Kreander)

**Project researchers:** Catharina Lojander-Visapää, Maria Kreander

## **Education and courses**

### **Master's Degree Programme in Ethnic Relations at the Faculty of Social Science**

The Senate of the University of Helsinki granted the Swedish School of Social Science / CEREN a pool professorship in Ethnic Relations in 2004. In the application for the professorship it was mentioned that a Master's Degree Programme in Ethnic Relations

will be developed if the professorship is granted. Accordingly, SSKH / CEREN began planning the multidisciplinary English MA Degree Programme in 2005. During 2006 the co-operation partners were decided upon and a board was established with representatives from the currently participating departments, including Sociology, Political Science and Social Psychology. The Rector of the University of Helsinki has granted the programme financial support for the period 2007-2009. Anna Storgårds who has been engaged in the planning activities since autumn 2005 will continue working on the programme. With reference to the thematic focus of the programme, Finland offers the possibility of studying a wide range of ethnic phenomena (e.g. the indigenous population, the Swedish speakers, and immigration). The programme can be considered rather unique in this respect. There is the Baltic dimension as well as the European dimension, including such issues as identity politics and demography as well as Finland being a bridge between the East and the West. The 2- year Master's Degree Programme in Ethnic Relations is scheduled to start no later than in autumn 2008. Application will be open to national and international students.

**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 is on intercultural education and tolerance in education. The course is funded by the Finnish National Board of Education and co-ordinated by Silvain Sagne and Karin Creutz 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. Twenty teachers from around the greater Helsinki area have participated in the course that has consisted of lectures by experts in the field. In September there was a Family Day at the culture centre Caisa, where a debate took place between teachers, parents and officials from the Ministry of Education. If further funding will be granted, a new course will begin in early 2007.

**Co-ordinators:** Silvain Sagne, Karin Creutz

## **Seminars and Conferences**

### **Balancing multiculturalism – Challenges of Integration**

CEREN, in association with the embassies of the USA and Britain jointly organised a seminar on 2nd February 2006 at the British embassy regarding issues of integration and multiculturalism. The event consisted of presentations and discussion panels regarding three themes, of which the first one questioned current integration policies. Presentations were given by MP Anni Sinnemäki, Syeeda Warsi from the British Conservative Party, Rainer Hiltunen who is the Ombudsman for Minorities and Leena-Kaisa Åberg, Head of Refugee Team from the Finnish Red Cross.

### **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 Autumn 2006 the programme included ten presentations.

The guest lectures of Steven Vertovec from Oxford University and Philip van Parijs from Harvard University formed the highlights of the Programme. The Research Colloquiums will continue during Spring 2007 with special focus directed towards questions of power relations.

**Co-ordinator:** Peter A. Kraus

## **National cooperation**

### **The Finnish Journal of Ethnicity and Migration**

The Finnish Journal of Ethnicity and Migration (FJEM) is a scholarly and professional journal, published by the Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration (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 and the Assistant Editor-in-Chief is Krister Björklund (Institute of Migration). Other members of the board are Elli Heikkilä (Institute of Migration), Mikko Lagerspetz (Åbo Akademi), Yngve Lithman (University of Bergen), Tuomas Martikainen (Åbo Akademi), Sari Pietikäinen (University of Jyväskylä), Vesa Puuronen (University of Kuopio), Teppo Sintonen (University of Jyväskylä), Ismo Söderling (Population Research Institute/Väestöliitto), Marja Tiilikainen (University of Helsinki) and Charles Westin (CEIFO/University of Stockholm).

## **International cooperation**

### **Intensive Programme (IP1) in Migration, Diversity and Identities**

CEREN has continued participating in the European IP- programme on Migration, Diversity and Identities that offers summer schools for doctoral students within the field. The courses are co-ordinated by the University of Poitiers. The 2006 course was held in Liege.

### **New Delegation appointed**

CEREN has a delegation which task is to develop and increase the co-operation in the research field within the University of Helsinki as well as with other Universities and research units in Finland. The mandate of the first CEREN delegation ended in October 2006 and a new Delegation was appointed in November 2006. The mandate period for the delegation runs for three years.

The new delegation includes the following persons:

Professor Risto Alapuro, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Helena Blomberg-Kroll, Social work and social policy, Swedish School of Social Science

Professor Lauri Hannikainen, Faculty of Law, University of Turku

Professor Tapani Harviainen, Institute of Asian and African studies, Faculty of Arts

Professor Klaus Helkama, Department of Social Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Gunilla Holm, Department of Education, University of Helsinki

Professor Ullamaija Kivikuru, Department of Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Juhani Koponen, Institute of Development Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Peter Kraus, Swedish School of Social Science

Professor Karmela Liebkind, Department of Social Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences

Director Asta Manninen, City of Helsinki Urban Facts, Urban studies

Professor Emeritus Tom Sandlund, Swedish School of Social Science (chair)

Professor Jan Sundberg, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences  
Professor John Westerholm, Department of Geography, Faculty of Science

## **Research staff at CEREN**

### **Researchers**

Annika Forsander  
Mika Helander  
Peter A. Kraus  
Stephen Kin  
Outi Lepola  
Catharina Lojander-Visapää

### **Ph.D. Candidates**

Rolle Alho  
Camilla Haavisto  
Maria Kreander  
Markus Mervola  
Silvain Sagne  
Sanna Saksela  
Perttu Salmenhaara  
Niklas Wilhelmsson

### **Research assistants**

Karin Creutz  
Heidi af Heurlin

### **Administration**

Matti Similä, Niklas Wilhelmsson, Anna Storgårds

## **Publications in 2006**

Helander, M. Den andra rikshalvan i nutid. I: Junila, M & Westin, C, Mellan majoriteter och minoriteter. Om migration, makt och mening, Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland, sid 212-228.

Junila, M., Sandlund, S. & C. Westin (2006) Epilog. I: Junila, M & Westin, C, Mellan majoriteter och minoriteter. Om migration, makt och mening, Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland, sid 471-488.

Kraus, P. Intercultural Recognition and Linguistic Diversity in Europe, in: D. Castiglione and C. Longman (eds.): The Language Question in Europe and Diverse Societies, Oxford: Hart, 61-80

Kraus, P. A one-dimensional diversity? European integration and the challenge of language policy, in: X. Arzoz (ed.): Respecting linguistic diversity in the European Union, Amsterdam: John Benjamins

Kraus, P. (2006) Legitimation, Democracy and Diversity in the European Union, in: International Journal on Multicultural Societies, Vol. 8, No. 2

Kraus, P. (2006) Multiculturalism in Germany: Rhetoric, Scattered Experiments and Future Chances, in: K. Banting and W. Kymlicka (eds.): Multiculturalism and the Welfare State, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 202-221 (with K. Schönwälder)

Kreander, M. & T. Sandlund (2006) Finlandssvenskarnas situation. institutionernas situation – utmaningar och utveckling. I: Räcker det med svenskan. Svenska litteratursällskapet 684. Helsingfors.

Kreander, M. (2006) De svenska och tvåspråkiga föreningarna. En kartläggande underökning av kvantitativa utveckling efter år 1965. I: Räcker det med svenskan. Svenska litteratursällskapet 684. Helsingfors.

Lojander-Visapää, C. (2006) Studenternas val av svensk och tvåspråkig utbildning. I: Räcker det med svenskan. Svenska litteratursällskapet 684. Helsingfors.

Lojander-Visapää, C. (2006) Brinnande intresse eller ett säkert val? Valet av teknik och naturvetenskap bland studenter från svenska gymnasier. Tekniska vetenskapsakademien.

Lojander-Visapää, C. (2006) Från gymnasium till högskola? Utbildningsstyrelsen.

Lojander-Visapää, C. (2006) Åländska gymnasieelevers studiepreferenser. Landskapsregeringen.

Similä, M. (2006) ”Att glömma och att ’minnas’. Finskt och svenskt i finska och svenska historieböcker”, I: Junila, M & Westin, C, Mellan majoriteter och minoriteter. Om makt, migration och mening, Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland, 2006, sid 189-211

Sagne, S., Saksela, S. & N. Wilhelmsson (2006) Finland. In: Vogel, D. & A. Triandafyllos (2006) Building Europe With New Citizens? An Inquiry into the Civic Participation of Naturalised Citizens and Foreign Residents in 25 Countries. European Communities: Luxemburg.

Sagne, S., Saksela, S. & N. Wilhelmsson (forthcoming) Finland. In: Vogel, D. & A. Triandafyllos. European immigration. A source book. Sage publication.

## **New research projects in 2007**

### **Diversity and The European Public Sphere: Towards a Citizens’ Europe (EUROSPHERE)**

CEREN is part of a research consortium that was granted funding for the research project Diversity and The European Public Sphere: Towards a Citizens’ Europe within EUs seventh framework programme. The project is co-ordinated by the research unit Unifob Global at the University of Bergen in Norway and it includes 21 partner Universities. The

kick off conference for the project will be held in Bergen in February 2007. The project will run from 2007 until 2011. The overall objective of the project is to provide research-based perspectives for comprehensively 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.

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

CEREN applied for funding within the Power in Finland program from the Academy of Finland. CERENs application Challenging Power: Equality, Diversity and the Integration of Ethnic and National Minorities in Finland was successful and the project received funding for the period 2007-2010.

The research project seeks new ways to understand power around ethnic relations and to reflect on how the commitment to equality could be realised in the Finnish context. The research will be conducted by a research team including research director Professor Peter A. Kraus (research leader) together with the Director of Ceren, Matti Similä, two senior researchers, PhD Outi Lepola and PhD Reetta Toivanen and PhD candidates Sanna Saksela and Niklas Wilhelmsson. As the group of researchers involved in this project is interdisciplinary, different methods will be used, including fieldwork, interviews, debate analysis, examining administrative practices, survey material and statistical analysis. A combination of anthropological, sociological and political science theories and methods will be used.

### **Monitoring Racism and Xenophobia in the Mass Media in Finland**

CEREN has received further financing for 2007 from the Ministry of Education to continue with the media monitoring project (see page 3 of this report). In 2007 the focus will be extended to include also a historical dimension. During 2007 Swedish newspapers from the 1980s and 1990s will be monitored in order to see how the news reporting of ethnicity and ethnic relations has changed during the last decades. The comparative elements which enables a comparison between Finnish and Swedish language media in Finland has as well been extended. In 2007 special focus will be directed towards Islam and how Islam and Muslims are portrayed in the media.