

# CEREN

Etnisten suhteiden ja nationalismin  
tutkimuskeskus

Centret för forskning om etniska  
relationer och nationalism

## NEWSLETTER

2/2004

Swedish School of Social Science, University of Helsinki

**About CEREN:** CEREN is a centre for research and documentation 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 the various teaching and research activities of the School within the field. In addition to its own research projects it offers research links and information services about research activities on ethnic relations and nationalism.

*Director: Matti Similä. Administrative Officer: Simon Huldén. Administrative Assistant: Anna Storgårds*

### Pool Professor in Ethnic Studies

In February 2004 CEREN – being a part of the Swedish School of Social Science - applied for an interdisciplinary pool professor in Ethnic relations from the University of Helsinki. CEREN's was one of the four approved applications out of 23. The professor will be appointed for five years from the date of installation and will bring substantial new strength to CEREN's organisation and its activities, as well as to the Swedish School of Social Science, where a master programme in Ethnicity will be developed from the current BA programme and where a university lecturer with special responsibility for Ethnic studies has been created. The pool professor will not only be a resource to CEREN and the Swedish School of Social Science, but for the Helsinki University as a whole. It is estimated that the appointment will be announced open for application in January 2005.

### Marie Curie Fellowships

CEREN is participating in the "Marie Curie Training Site" network. The aim of the Network of Excellence is that the participating universities receive 2-3 students from other universities and can send their own Ph.D. students for six months to one of the other participating universities. The Ph.D. students participating in the programme are granted an EU-scholarship. Marie Curie grants cover the cost of travel and living in another country during a period of six months (with a possibility to be extended by six months). The IP-programme is connected to the Marie Curie programme and mainly the same universities participate in both of the programmes. The Network is split in two, one on "Conflict" and one on "Migration". The multipartner Training Sites dealing with Migration is composed of the following institutions: Universität Bamberg in Germany, University of Bradford in the U.K., Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, University of Helsinki, CEREN / SSKH in Finland,

Universite' de Liège in Belgium, Università di Padova, Italy and Université de Poitiers, MIGRINTER, in France.

Two Ph.D. students from CEREN stayed abroad for half a year on a Marie Curie Fellowship. Mika Helander stayed in Poitiers at MIGRINTER in France from October 2003 and extended his fellowship till October 2004. Sanna Saksela stayed in Liege from November 2003 til April 2004. Two other Finnish doctoral students have been sent as Marie Curie Fellows. Petri Hautaniemi was sent by CEREN to Bamberg and Lia Markelin by Bradford to Bochum.



*Katri Vallaste and Natalia Kovaleva*

At the moment CEREN is hosting two Marie Curie Fellows. Katri Vallaste is from the Estonian Institute of Humanities (Estonia). She will stay at CEREN during 1.9.2004 – 28.2.2005. The title of Vallaste's Ph.D. project is *Comparative study of Euroscepticism in Estonia and Finland*. Natalia Kovaleva from Migrinter, University of Poitiers (France) is staying at CEREN during 15.10.2004 – 15.4.2004. The title of Kovaleva's Ph.D. project is *Post-Soviet migrations: Analysis of migratory networks and migratory circulation: French and Finnish cases*.

## Doctoral Dissertations

Mika Helander defended his doctoral thesis *Fenomenologisk globalisering. Vardaglig nationalism bland transnationellt aktiva svenska och finländska företagsledare som globala epokens ofullbord* (Phenomenological Globalisation. Banal nationalism among transnationally active Swedish and Finnish corporate leaders as an unfulfilment of the global age) at Helsinki University on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

The dissertation is a part of the project *Finland and Sweden - Asymmetry and Affinity*, which is a contribution to the programme *Interaction between Finland and Sweden* - a cooperation between research foundations and research teams in Finland and Sweden. Director Matti Similä and Professor Emeritus Tom Sandlund also participated in the programme.

In the dissertation a zeitdiagnosis is conducted, where sociological concepts as globalisation, nationalism and phenomenology are elaborated. In the thesis the theoretical claim that we have entered a global age is analysed by drawing on the phenomenological paradigm developed by Hegel, Husserl, Schutz, Bourdieu, Habermas, Berger & Luckmann and Billig. The general phenomenological approach implies that when intersubjective lifeworlds and self-understandings have been globalised into globalism and cosmopolitanism, and nationalism has been replaced, the epoch has become global. An indicative professional category of corporate leaders in transnational Swedish-Finnish corporations has been analysed empirically.

The conclusion of the dissertation is that as these individuals still clearly on numerous indicators show a nationalistic characterisation of their world, despite their intensive transnational activities, it is premature to define the age as global.

## Seminars

### The first ETMU- days

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.

The first ETMU-days were arranged at the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki on 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> of October 2004. The organizers were ETMU, The Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration, and CEREN.

The conference was opened by Chair Tuomas Martikainen, followed by an opening speech given by Rector Henrik Häglund from the Swedish School of Social Science.

Among the keynote speakers at the conference on Friday there was Professor Vesa Puuronen (Sociology, University of Lapland), who spoke about ethnic relations in Finland, the state of research and future prospects.

Director Mervi Virtanen talked about the Government Immigration Programme and at what stage the plans are. The theme of Ph.D. Laura Huttunen's (Sociology, University of Tampere) presentation was *Immigrants and cross-border life: The challenges of a transnational viewpoint for immigration research*. Professor Karmela Liebkind (Social Psychology, University of Helsinki) gave a presentation about multicultural Finland. On Saturday Professor Lauri Harvilahti (Director of the Finnish Literature Society's Folklore Archives) talked about national myths in a global context.

In addition, Professor Emeritus Erik Allardt was awarded the ETMU recognition award for his pioneering research in ethnicity in Finland. Allardt is one of the most renowned researchers both nationally and internationally. Among other topics, he has conducted research on the Swedish-speaking Finns, the social networks of minorities and social organization and identity.

There were workgroups in the afternoon of both days. Each workgroup consisted of four to five short presentations followed by a discussion. The themes regarded ethnic minority cultures, multi-ethnic work, multi-ethnic upbringing and education, nationalism and transnationalism and racism in Finland as well as ethnicity and communication.

### Municipal election debate, Vanha Ylioppilastalo 12.10.2004

In the municipal election debate 12.10.2004 arranged by The Finnish Refugee Advice Centre (Pakolaisneuvontary) and CEREN, the candidates agreed that more resources are needed for language education for immigrant children. This is regarding education in both the children's mother tongue and the Finnish language. The unemployment rate among immigrants is three times higher compared to the original population.

The candidates demanded a change in the attitudes to improve the employment among immigrants. Finland should make better use of the knowhow and skills that the immigrants possess.

The debate also considered discussion about the latest EU-directives on the transposition of the long-term residents and family reunions. This raised a question on the harmonization of the immigration policies and its effects on the local level. The national legislation defines the principles of e.g. reuniting families on a higher level than the minimum standards in the directive, but as some members of the parliament have emphasized, minimum standard policies harm efforts to liberalize immigration, particularly asylum and refugee policies.

### PLURALISM & EQUALITY HELSINKI 18.5- .5.2005

The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, together with the Erik Castrén Institute for International Law and Human Rights and CEREN invite you to participate in an interdisciplinary conference on pluralism and equality.

The idea of the conference is to provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of both the history and the present of the pluralistic world we inhabit: of the normative concepts and distinctions central to dealing with difference on the one hand, like toleration and equality, and of the processes, techniques, and concepts involved in the creation of an optics of difference, of separation into "us" and "them" defined by class, gender, ethnicity, language, and religious creed, on the other. Pluralism and the need for equal treatment are central issues not only for the sociologist or the political theorist – it is an issue for the linguist, the historian, the economist, the pedagogue and the theologian, and constitutes a central issue for cultural studies, ethnic studies, women's studies and legal studies. The conference provided a setting within which these and other academic disciplines are encouraged to meet, merge, diverge and enter into dialogue on one of the most fundamental and pervasive themes of our day.

The confrontation of pluralism and the demand for equal treatment raises a host of questions. Is true respect for pluralism in the end incompatible with universalist egalitarian language? Does a sincere concern for equal treatment demand that pluralism will be bracketed and denied. Or is a serious dedication to equality actually impossible without a committed interest in and respect for difference and pluralism?

That interdisciplinary conference welcomed presentations by up to 80 scholars and invited a number of internationally acclaimed key-note speakers, including Dominique Schnapper (Paris: École des hautes études en sciences sociales), Boaventura de Sousa-Santos (University of Coimbra and University of Wisconsin-Madison).

More information can be found at:  
<http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/blogs/eci/index.htm>

## Summer School

### **Intensive Programme (IP) in Migration, Diversity and Territory, Helsinki 22.8 – 31.8.2004**

In connection to the Marie Curie Programme, CEREN is participating in an IP-programme on Migration, Diversity and Territory that offers Summer Schools for doctoral students within the field. From the 22nd till the 31st of August 2004 eighteen Ph.D. students from all over Europe with migration-related topics took part in an intensive course organized by CEREN. During the ten day course lectures were held by experts in the field and the students presented their Ph.D. research plans. Valuable transnational contacts between young researchers were created throughout the course. The intensive programme (IP) is a two step course including an "IP 1" for first timers, and an "IP 2" for students participating for the second time. In Helsinki there was only an IP 2 arranged, aimed primarily at students who participated in the IP 1-course in Bamberg last year. The lectures given by experts dealt with methodology, multi-disciplinarity as well as with the challenges of doing comparative research. Some of the lectures were also open to other students.

The IP-course was arranged in the facilities of the University of Helsinki and accommodation for the students was provided at Domus Academica. The IP-programme has been highly successful. The first IP-course was held in Bilbao (Spain) in 2001, the second course was held in Bradford (England) in 2002 and the third course was held in Bamberg (Germany) in 2003. So far well over a hundred Ph.D. students have taken part in the course.

## Research

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

During the year 2004 newspaper material has been gathered covering a period of three months (Feb, March, April 2004). Krister Sandlund has coded the material using SPSS. MA Camilla Haavisto is about to finish a report presenting these results. She is also writing an article in English where statistics from the years 1999-2004 are gathered and presented in a summarizing form. The results are compared with results from the Finnish project conducted at the University of Tampere. CEREN has, together with the University of Tampere, in December 2004 applied for financial means from the Ministry of Education for a one year extension for the project.

Camilla Haavisto has also during year 2004 been collecting material and conducting preliminary analyses for her Ph.D. research related to the media project at CEREN. Her research focuses on how ethnic minority members are presented in popular media. The perspective is comparative, with focus on popular media, specifically the evening press,

### **The Culminatum Project**

The Swedish School of Business coordinates a project on strategies of innovation in the Helsinki metropolitan area. The aim of the strategy is to attract foreign researchers and students to the university and institutes of advanced studies. Ph.D. Annika Forsander and Ph.D. Outi Lepola of CEREN have investigated different companies' interest in employing foreign students.

The results of Forsander's and Lepola's research have been published in the report *Helsingin seutu kansainvälisenä opiskelu- ja tutkimusympäristönä. Selvitys liittyen Culminatumin koordinoimaan Helsingin seudun innovaatio-strategiatyöhön.* (Helsinki region as an international environment for studying and conducting research.)

### **Hermes - European Researchers for Migration and Ethnic Studies**

MA Sanna Saksela of CEREN is involved in the activities of Hermes. Hermes is an international non-profit association bringing together European researchers working in the fields of migration, ethnic relations and minority studies. It is the result of some successful summer schools in International Migration, that have been developed by the group Migration, Multiculturalism and Ethnic Conflict within the Thematic Network Humanitarian Development Studies, HumanitarianNet.

This network is coordinated by the University of Deusto in Bilbao, funded by the ERASMUS programme (DG Education & Culture). The official registration is currently taking place in Belgium, within the Department of Justice.

Hermes aims at promoting their relevance within European social science. The association aims at promoting competence in international comparative research and at facilitating international cooperation among European researchers. The international nature of the association is fundamental in providing research resources concerning statistics, legal system and educational structure in the various countries of the EU.

Saksela took part in a conference on 'Ethnic Minorities in Science and Higher Education', in Dubrovnik in October. Saksela was invited to represent the association as well as to join in an international research project on Ethnic Minorities Entering Careers in Science (EMECS) within the 6th COM framework.

### **The choice of language in higher education**

This project is conducted at CEREN by Ph.D. Catharina Lojander-Visapää. It will be finished by the end of the year 2004. The project focuses on the Swedish speaking and the bilingual students and their choice of higher education according to language. The sample consisted of 1633 persons born in 1981 studying at higher educational institutions, i.e. universities and polytechnics. The study also focused on how the higher educational institutions build up their marketing to recruit students.

In their marketing concepts the universities use such topics as: top research university, old traditions as well as modern techniques and new programmes. The polytechnics again use concepts such as great job and carrier opportunities, international possibilities and jobs of expertise in the future.

The study shows, as expected, that the school language correlates strongly with the language chosen for higher education. The effects of the school language for the choice is so significant that it rules out the effects of variables such as socioeconomic background, gender and home region.

The study shows that the students are generally very content with their institution. The ones studying at universities are more content and happy with their institutions than those studying at polytechnics, and again those studying at Swedish polytechnics are more content than those studying at Finnish polytechnics.

The study focused on the language and its implication in the choice of institution. When ranking the main reasons for wanting to study at a certain institution language only reaches fourth place. Language is important, but more important is: the students' interest in the subject, carrier opportunities and the reputation of the university.

### **Active Civic Participation of Imigrants**

Lic.Pol. Silvain Sagné and MAs Sanna Saksela and 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 within the POLITIS research team. 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 main findings of the study are that the Finnish state has recently taken some legislative measures to lower the threshold for participation and to incorporate immigrants in the decision making process both at the national and the local level, by for example creating advisory councils for immigrants. The Integration act also requires the municipalities to give societal education and guidance in order to make societal participation easier.

Immigrant organisations in Finland are generally small and have inadequate resources. The number of immigrant organisations is still fairly low and there are no powerful umbrella organisations with real powers representing the immigrant population. Political parties have only recently started to incorporate immigrants in the political process and the number of immigrant candidates is thus increasing. The electoral participation of the immigrant population is still low, which indicates both a lack of involvement and integration in the Finnish society. The weak organisation and the low participation rates of the immigrant population seem to be at least partly caused by the short immigration history of the country, the marginal position of the immigrants in the labour market and the fact that the immigrant groups in Finland are small and heterogeneous.

#### **New Project**

The Finnish Work Environment Fund has granted the means for a two year long research project *Invandrarnas ställning på den finländska arbetsmarknaden – medel för att uppnå jämlikhet* (The position of immigrants on the Finnish labour market - ways to achieve equality). Ph.D. Annika Forsander is responsible for the project. The aim is to map out the development of the position and competence of different immigrant groups and their possibilities to be promoted within the Finnish working community.

#### **Administration**

MA Simon Huldén is substituting for Niklas Wilhelmsson as an administrative officer at CEREN during the time 8.10.2004 – 28.2.2005.

Anna Storgårds will continue as an administrative assistant at CEREN until July 2005.

The Web site of CEREN will be renewed. In the near future comprehensive information regarding the research conducted at CEREN will be available through the Web site. Each researcher will be introduced and publications in pdf-format will be linked.

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