

Abstracts

Ville Yliaska

Mental Recession and the 1990s Economic Crisis as a Nationalist Experience

This article explores the 1990s economic crisis in Finland as a national experience, emphasizing the influence of historical context and future expectations on political and public narratives. The article examines this on two levels: in political discourse and in letters sent to politicians. Political debates framed the recession as a national and spiritual crisis, invoking the spirit of the Winter War. Letters revealed that citizens used history in diverse ways to interpret the events. The study highlights the interplay between economic conditions, political discourse, and cultural narratives in shaping responses to the crisis.

Aapo Roselius

The End of the Cold War and the Dead Body Politics between Finland and Russia

The article examines how the repatriation of missing soldiers became an important component of a new Finnish neo-patriotic memory regime that emerged after the Cold War. As borders opened and the Soviet Union adopted the policy of glasnost, Finnish non-governmental organizations – including war-veteran and Karelian heritage associations – turned their attention to ceded Karelia (in Russia) to commemorate fallen soldiers who had been forgotten or left behind. Finnish efforts at both the NGO and state levels were positively received by the Russian side, fostering transnational cooperation between Finland and the newly formed Russian state after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Hasan Akintug

Åland, Norden, and Europe in the early Post Cold War Era 1989–1995

The relationship between the EU and the Nordic countries has sometimes been complicated. This includes the autonomous Åland Islands. During the Cold War, when Finland's relationship with European integration remained strictly limited, the Nordic Council served as a singularly important policy platform for Åland. Following the end of the Cold War, there was a geopolitical realignment, with both Finland and Sweden joining the European Union. This caused substantial anxiety for Åland, which feared that the Nordic countries would be absorbed into an increasingly integrated Europe. This article analyses the speeches of Ålandic representatives in Nordic Council sessions between 1989 and 1994 from a constructivist perspective to show how Åland viewed itself in Europe and Norden during a period of realignment.

Kati Katajisto & Matti La Mela

EU Membership Debates in the Finnish Parliament: The Mobilisation of Emotions, Shifting Emotional Regimes, and Historical Experiences

This study utilises William Reddy's concept of 'emotional regimes' to analyse emotional mobilisation in Finland's 1994 parliamentary debates on EU membership. It argues that the debates reflected a struggle to transition from an emotional regime shaped by historical ties to the Soviet Union (Russia), characterised by secrecy and emotional control, towards a foreign policy emphasising transparency and pluralism. The analysis identifies four themes associated with negative emotions: independence, economy, welfare state, and democracy. The findings indicate that political emotions were closely connected to the nation's historical experiences, influencing perceptions of the EU. Ultimately, the study shows that emotions, when intertwined with historical experiences, can serve as rational guides in navigating uncertain futures,

challenging traditional Western views that prioritise rationality over emotions.

article provided insight into the role of residents as creators of desired modernity.

Topi Juga

**The Many Faces of Representation:
Finnish MPs' Recollections of the Concept
of Representation during the Debate on
Finland's Accession to the EU**

This article analyzes how Finnish MPs perceived representation in oral history interviews (1991–1995) about the EU accession decision. Using an empirically grounded historical approach, it examines the presence of Sudulich, Trumm, and Bridgewater's representation archetypes in MPs' narratives. The study finds that these retrospective accounts are personal and overlapping, with archetypes appearing when MPs faced tensions between personal views, party positions, and constituents' opinions. Party discipline, electoral pressures, and regional divides – highlighted by the EU referendum – shaped MPs' recollections and underscored the role of representational perceptions.

Hannele Kuitunen

**Urban Renewal in Finland, 1950s–1970s: A
Case Study**

The article discusses the post-war redevelopment of Amuri, a wooden workers' district in Tampere, identifying those involved in the redevelopment, and the forces driving this process. Amuri is special due to the area's close connection to the Finlayson textile factory. Urban renewal provided a platform for collaboration between various stakeholders, enabling the implementation of local governance. The renewal was driven forward by city officials and planners, landowners such as Finlayson, and organisations such as Amuri Oy. Finlayson's role was particularly significant in terms of housing policy. While the renovation was characterised as technocratic and lacked a cultural and social dimension, the interview material used in this