

# NATIONALISM IN THE NORDIC NATIONAL SCIENCES

**Workshop 2-3 September 2019**  
University of Helsinki

Reimagining Norden in an Evolving World  
An Excellence Hub in Research, Education and Public Outreach (Re-NEW)

This two-day workshop investigates the historical processes underlying how the academic disciplines of the humanities as well as cultural heritage archives in the Nordic countries long served as a means of promoting the representative characteristics of the national (majority) and thus were as active mediators of the nation-state projects. On the global level, Nordic countries pioneered the study of folk culture as an academic discipline in the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries. Scholarly focus was on the culture of uneducated peasants and on the assumed homogeneity of the population in each of the Nordic countries. The endeavors to document rural folk culture resulted in large collections of material and led to the establishment of the national cultural heritage archives. Finnish Literature Society was established in 1831; The Institute for Language and Folklore in Sweden in 1870s; The Swedish Literature Society in Finland in 1885; The Danish Folklore Archives in 1904; the Norwegian Folklore Archives in 1914 and the Árni Magnússon-institute in Reykjavík in 1927. As the result of the longtime folklore collecting practices and the academic scholarship history, researchers became satisfied in examining their assumed one-culture societies and thus refused to see the gaps and silences that existed in their sources and interpretations. Questions of heterogeneous cultural identities, such as *the resandefolket* or the Sámi or even the gender boundaries, were long overlooked. This workshop explores and re-evaluates the hidden histories of national narratives in the humanities of the Nordic countries. For more information: [eija.stark@helsinki.fi](mailto:eija.stark@helsinki.fi)

# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

## Monday, 2 September 2019 (Univ. of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 38)

### 10:15 Opening session (Unioninkatu 38 D 113)

Welcoming words by Peter Stadius (ReNew consortium & Univ. of Helsinki)

Opening speech by Eija Stark (Univ. of Helsinki & Finnish Literature Society)

### 10:30 Lecture

Dani Schrire (Univ. of Jerusalem): A sail through International waters of Nordic “National Sciences”

Comment speech

Hanne Pico Larsen (Copenhagen Business School)

### 12:00 Lunch (with own cost)

### 13:15 Presentations (Unioninkatu 38 A 109)

- Åmund Norum Resløykken (Univ. Of Oslo): Setting the stage for folk identities. Objects of tradition and representatives of the folk in early 20th century folklore questionnaires
- Júlíana Þóra Magnúsdóttir (Univ. of Iceland): “On the Knees of Women”: Giving New Voice to Female Storytellers of the Past
- Mícheál Briody (Univ. of Helsinki): Nordic Influence on Irish Folklore Collection and Research: A Mixed Legacy

### 15:00 Coffee

### 16:00 Visit to the Finnish Literature Society (Hallituskatu 1)

### 17:30 Dinner, Kolme Kruunua (Liisankatu 5)

## Tuesday, 3 September 2019 (Univ. of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 38)

### 10:15 Presentations (Unioninkatu 38 B 114)

- Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch (ÅA Univ.): Folklore collection, the Archive and the performance of a Swedish-speaking “Nation” in Finland
- Fredrik Skott (The Institute for Language and Folklore, Göteborg): Folklore and Nationalism: Perspectives on folklore collecting in Sweden during the interwar period

### 11:30 A Tour at the Swedish Literature Society in Finland (Ritarikatu/Riddaregatan 5)

### 12:00 Lunch (with own cost)

### 13:00 Lecture (Unioninkatu 38 B 114)

Line Esborg (Univ. of Oslo): Early 20th century Folklore collectors in the Norwegian Folklore Archives

Comment speech

Raluca Bianca Roman (Univ. of St Andrews)

### 14:00 Coffee

### 14:30 Presentations (Unioninkatu 38 B 114)

- Sandra Waller (ÅA Univ.): Archives and questionnaires: shaping a nationalist framework in Finland
- Eeva-Kristiina Harlin & Suvi Pilvi King (The Sámi Archives, Inari): From the object of a study into a troublemaker - Archive materials on the Sámi then and now
- Eva Þórdís Ebenezersdóttir (Univ. of Iceland): Screaming existence (of diversity) under a silenced surface (of homogeneity)

### 16:00 Final discussion



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