

HELSINKI COLLEGIUM FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN ISSUE 2018



FREEDOM TO THINK

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Curiosity-driven science has been a constitutive part of the idea of institutes for advanced studies. For a long time, this was taken for granted more broadly in academic life, but “blue skies research” has come under pressure as societies demand usefulness and societal impact. This has happened at the same time as the volume of research has grown. The more tax payers’ and other investors’ money has been granted to universities and other institutions of higher education, the more they need be able to demonstrate the practical results of their research.

There is a certain paradox here, since science would not have become so essential for modern societies, if it had not been useful in a general sense. There are countless examples of the usefulness of knowledge that has derived from curiosity rather than instrumental needs. The bottom line is that without academic freedom and research driven by curiosity itself, scientific progress is less likely to take place. One good example of this was the development of nuclear weapons – one of the key interfaces between science and politics during the Cold War. Even in the Soviet Union where freedom otherwise was limited, the precondition for inventing the atomic bomb was that the nuclear scientists were able to work in their own little bubble with sufficient resources and without constant political supervision.

The fundamental premise of science is that only one’s peers can assess its quality. In this, science differs from the logic of the market, where customer evaluation can be seen as the best indicator of quality.

Against this background, it is somewhat surprising how deep the trend towards the instrumentalisation of science in most Western societies has been during the past decades. The perception that too much academic research is esoteric and speaks only to academic community is widespread. Perhaps some perceived threats to academic freedom have been exaggerated, but the trend in any case is palpable and has changed many academic funding and reporting practices. In Finland, societal impact is not yet an indicator that directs all basic funding, but more public research schemes are based on that premise, and reporting on societal impact is typically included in research assessments.

Be this as it may, there is a need to strike some sort of balance between more instrumental “strategic research” and curiosity-driven basic research. In my opinion, separate research schemes are a better way of doing that than indicators of

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

TUOMAS FORSBERG



Photo: Veikko Somerpuro

performance that expect all research to fulfill the same functions. Moreover, the distinction between instrumental and curiosity-driven research is difficult to draw: being useful in some general sense has always been part of the academic ethos. At the same time, the perceived problem of instrumentalism often is that the goals of research may be defined in a parochial or trivial manner.

Institutes for advanced studies also face demands to demonstrate societal impact. Before setting exactly the same demands for all academic entities, it is important that there are still places that operate on the basis of curiosity-driven research. If academic freedom does not result in greater productivity and higher quality research, we should be concerned.

It is wise that universities have three tasks: while we should not see research, teaching and societal interaction as separate fields, some kind of division of labour between academic institutes is quite natural. I would even say that the division of labour should be more natural at the level of institutes than at the level of individuals. Academic careers should be a combination of research, teaching and societal interaction. HCAS offers one place where researchers are able to focus on their research. This should also provide them with better abilities in teaching and societal interaction. After all, HCAS is a place where people spend only a short time of their whole academic career.



Photo: Mikko Helenius

HISTORY & MISSION

The **Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (HCAS)** is an independent institute of advanced study within the University of Helsinki. The mission of the HCAS is to conduct high-grade research in the humanities and social sciences, to advance interdisciplinary cooperation, to develop and maintain international relations in the fields it represents, and to promote the international visibility of Finnish research. The HCAS provides a top-class, international research environment for scholars in the humanities, the social sciences, theology, law, and the behavioral sciences.

The HCAS, a brainchild of former Rector **Kari Raivio**, former Vice-Rector **Ilkka Niiniluoto**, and Doctor **Antti Arjava**, was officially established on January 1, 2001. It was the first institute of its kind in Finland. Twelve fellows started their Collegium projects in August of the same year, and the HCAS moved into the current facilities at the heart of the City Centre Campus in 2004. The HCAS quickly expanded into a truly international institute of advanced study, which today houses between 40 and 50 research fellows from all over the world.

The Core Research Fellowships in the humanities and social sciences are filled annually in a

highly competitive call. The positions are open to everyone, irrespective of home university. In addition, the HCAS runs specialised programmes, three of which are funded by the **Kone Foundation** (the Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Arts, the Erik Allardt Fellowship for scholars from Sweden, and the Visiting Scholar Programme for Baltic, Belorussian, Ukrainian, and Russian scholars). The HCAS hosts a Visiting Professorship in Studies on Contemporary Society, supported by a permanent endowment from the **Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation**. The HCAS is an active member of several international networks, including **NetIAS** (the European network of institutes of advanced study) and **UBIAS** (a world-wide network of university-based institutes for advanced study).

Today, the HCAS serves the local and global academic community by offering scholars opportunities to focus on their individual projects while sharing ideas and experiences with colleagues of varying backgrounds. The HCAS remains firmly dedicated to its core mission of supporting autonomous inquiry and the promotion of excellence in personal and collaborative research pursuits.



Photo: Anna Suutarla | In September 2018, the fruitful conversations sparked by the introductory presentations were concluded on the sunny terraces of Löyly, an urban sauna complex built on a former industrial area of Hernesaari and nominated in TIME magazine's "The World's 100 Greatest Places" list in 2018.

LIFE AT THE COLLEGIUM

The academic year at HCAS begins in September with an orientation week, during which new Fellows are introduced to practices at the Collegium and to the University of Helsinki. New Fellows are also invited to give short presentations of their research projects to the HCAS community during their first days at the Collegium.

In addition to these initial presentations held in the orientation week, the Fellows present their current projects in **Fellows' Seminars**. These seminars, held weekly every Tuesday in the Common Room, form the core of academic activities at the Collegium. Each Fellow gives at least one presentation at the seminar during the academic year. The weekly seminars provide a valuable platform for interdisciplinary conversation on meth-

ods, concepts, and theoretical premises. They are the most important official forum for scholarly exchange at HCAS and are pivotal for the Collegium's mission.

As the Collegium aims to build a mutually enriching scholarly community, it is a requirement that HCAS Fellows are present in the premises 80% of their time of employment. In turn, the Collegium strives to offer and maintain a welcoming and stimulating working environment. All Fellows have offices in the Collegium building, where administrative and day-to-day operations are handled by the HCAS staff. One of the Collegium's core values is academic freedom, and in that spirit all Fellows are allowed to pursue their research free from administrative duties. Core Fellows who stay for several years have a 5% teaching requirement within the faculties of the University of Helsinki, but only from the second year onward. In addition to offering Fellows time for research, we invite them to develop different forms of cooperation outside the framework of weekly seminars and to use our premises for that purpose. Several new research networks and initiatives have had their start in life in reading groups or symposia organized at the Collegium.

The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies is first and foremost a place for high-quality academic research, but it is also a community of people. The staff and Fellows meet regularly at informal coffee breaks, and we organize many other casual events and get-togethers such as sauna evenings, seasonal parties, and gatherings that are open for the family members. We have our very own Social Committee at the Collegium consisting of fellows and the project planner, and it is not uncommon that the Fellows themselves organize social events and outings. This autumn, Tuesday evenings gathered a sizable crowd of Fellows at a nearby bar, where the discussions begun at the Tuesday Fellows' seminar were continued.

WELCOME TO THE CAMPUS

The Helsinki Collegium building belongs to the **City Centre Campus** of the University of Helsinki, which is, as the name suggests, located in the heart of Helsinki. The largest campus of the University of Helsinki houses the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Educational Sciences, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Swedish School of Social Science, and the Faculty of Theology. The HCAS is centrally situated within the city campus and is close to all the essential services of the University.

HCAS Fellows have access to all the resources at the University of Helsinki library. The Collegium building is located right next to the **Main Library** of the University of Helsinki, which contains the collections of the City Centre Campus Faculties and the American Resource Center, co-managed by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy and the University of Helsinki. The **National Library of Finland**, the oldest and largest scholarly library in Finland, is also located close to the Collegium. The National Library also houses the Slavonic Library, which attracts to Helsinki many researchers interested in Russian and Eastern European sources. **The National Archives of Finland** is a short walk away as well.

Think Corner, a shared workspace and event venue, is the newest addition to the scenery of the city campus. Since Spring 2018, this atmospheric and architecturally innovative space has served as the location of Helsinki Collegium's public discussion series *Kollegium Talks*, which is designed and hosted by Collegium Fellows. The same building houses the facilities for the UniSport Kluuvi, which offers reduced prices for the

staff and students of the University of Helsinki. The Collegium offers weekly pilates session for free to all Fellows in these premises.

OUR CITY

Helsinki is a vibrant and agreeable city, and most of the key locations in the downtown area are within a short distance of the campus. The Collegium's central location makes it easy to explore the city after a day's work. The University's Empire style Main Building stands in the **Senate Square** next to the **Government Palace** and the grand **Helsinki Cathedral**. Together, the Senate Square and its surrounding buildings make up the oldest part of central Helsinki. **Aleksanterinkatu**, the city's historical main street and the busiest shopping street in Helsinki, runs straight next to the University's Main Building and Think Corner.

The nearby urban park along **Esplanadi** is a symbol of happy city life during the summer, and a serene sight during the Christmas time. Pohjoisesplanadi, one of the park's bordering streets, passes into the **Market Square**, the central square of Helsinki. The **Presidential Palace** and **Helsinki City Hall** are located right next to it, and a ferry link to the Unesco World Heritage site of the **Suomenlinna sea fortress** runs from the square year-around. The Market Square also boasts an institution much loved by our Fellows: the **Allas Sea Pool**, with saunas, outdoor swimming pools (heated and unheated) and a spectacular view of the City Hall and Presidential Palace.

Of course, there is also a lot of life outside the central area of Helsinki. The City Centre Campus has its own station on the Helsinki metro line, so it is always easy to just hop on and explore the other districts of Helsinki, each with their own unique neighborhoods and ambience.



Photo: Mikko Helenius

OUR FELLOWS

In Autumn 2018 the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies had 41 Fellows from various nationalities and disciplines in five different fellowship programs.



RANI-HENRIK ANDERSSON, Core Fellow

Social Network Analysis and Computer Modeling in the Study of the Human Past: Three Case Studies on New Research Methods

Rani-Henrik Andersson has a PhD in History from the University of Tampere. In addition of being appointed University of Helsinki's Senior University Lecturer in North American Studies, he is also the President of the Finnish American Studies Association, and an author of eight books.

JANE COWAN, Jane and Aatos Erkko Professor

Minority or Nation? Competing Justice Projects at the League of Nations

Jane Cowan is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Sussex in Brighton, United Kingdom, where she has taught since 1991. American born and educated, she received her BA from Macalester College and her MA and PhD from Indiana University, Bloomington. You can read more about Professor Cowan and her research on pages 17-19.



DARIUS DAUKŠAS, Kone Foundation Fellow

Transnationalism, Deterritorialization and Citizenship: The Case of Central and Northern Europe

Darius Daukšas is a researcher based at the Lithuanian Institute of History, currently working on the project funded by the Academy of Finland. He undertook his PhD at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, and specialises in the current migration processes, interethnic, minority-majority relations and post-Soviet citizenship practices in Lithuania.



MATTHIAS DE GROOF, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Arts

Audiovisual Work and an Art Book on The Iconography of Patrice Lumumba in the Arts

Matthias De Groof is a visual artist and researcher. He holds a PhD in Cinema Studies and Visual Culture and was trained as a philosopher. He teaches World Cinema, Aesthetics and Curating, and Exhibiting at the Antwerp University. He is also a filmmaker at CobraFilms.





PATRICIA GARCIA, EURIAS Fellow

The European City and Fantastic Literature during Modernity (19th century narratives)

Patricia García is an Associate Professor in Hispanic and Comparative Literature at the University of Nottingham, the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies. Her research focuses on narrative spaces and their intersection with other fields such as the fantastic, feminisms, and the short story. She is a member of the Spanish research group "Grupo de Estudios de lo Fantástico", and of the editorial board of the academic journal *BRUMAL: Research Journal on the Fantastic*.

MIIA HALME-TUOMISAARI, Core Fellow

Movement in the right direction: an ethnography of a human rights report

Miia Halme-Tuomisaari is a legal anthropologist specialised in the analysis of the contemporary human rights phenomenon with a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Helsinki. She is also a specialist of the history of human rights, particularly the intersection of the inter-war US civil liberties movement and the European human rights movement.



ELINA HARTIKAINEN, Core Fellow

"Women of Peace": Violence, Gender, and African Diasporic Religion in Salvador, Brazil

Elina I. Hartikainen is a socio-cultural and linguist anthropologist with a PhD from the University of Chicago, who studies the intersection of religion, politics, and race in Brazil. In her past and current research, she has examined Afro-Brazilian religious activists' engagements with Brazilian state projects of participatory democracy, multiculturalism, and violence prevention.



ELISABETH HOLMQVIST-SIPILÄ, Core Fellow

No (Viking) Man's Land? Materialising East-West Mobility on the Finnish Baltic Coast ca. 800-1000 CE

Elisabeth Holmqvist-Sipilä has a PhD in archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Her research focuses on ancient craft technologies, and mobility of goods and people. Prior to HCAS, she worked at the University of Helsinki as a senior lecturer and Academy of Finland postdoctoral fellow.




PETER HOLQUIST, Core Fellow

By Right of War: The Role of Imperial Russia in the Codification and Practice of International Law of War, 1868–1917

Peter Holquist, Professor of Russian and European History at the University of Pennsylvania, received his PhD with distinction from the Columbia University. He was founder and editor for ten years of the journal *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, and is presently on the editorial board of *The Journal of Modern History*.

DAVID ASHLEY KERR, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Arts

I'll be your Mirror: Performativity and the gaze in contemporary photomedia art

David Ashley Kerr is an Australian born visual artist, academic and curator. Kerr is interested in staging relationships between victim and aggressor, body and landscape, voyeur and performer. Using melancholy as a metaphorical device, and the darker elements of the human condition are what drives his art and curatorial practice as a whole. In 2013 Kerr co-founded curator-led gallery *Strange Neighbour*, and has taught photomedia at several universities in Australia.


OLESYA KHANINA, EURIAS Fellow

Multilingualism in Siberia

Olesya Khanina received her PhD for a thesis in typology from the Moscow State University. Her main research area at the moment is language contact and patterns of indigenous multilingualism in the north of Siberia. She specializes in Uralic languages, languages of Siberia, language documentation, and corpus-based approach to typology.

VISA KURKI, Core Fellow

Companies, Accomplices and Institutions – Group Agents in Law

Visa Kurki is a Finnish legal philosopher. He completed his PhD in 2017 at the Law Faculty of the University of Cambridge, where he was supervised by Matthew Kramer. After receiving his PhD, he was a visiting fellow at Uppsala University for six months, and worked as fixed-term University Lecturer in Public Law at the University of Tampere.





MICHAEL LANGLOIS, Core Fellow

The Alphabet: History and Development in the First Millennium BCE Levant

Prof. Dr. habil. Michael Langlois holds a PhD and Habilitation in Historical and Philological Sciences from EPHE Sorbonne. He teaches as tenured Associate Professor at the University of Strasbourg and is a member of the University Institute of France. He is also an associate researcher with the CNRS / Collège de France, as well as an Auxiliary of the Academy of Inscriptions and Fine Letters.

ÄLI LEIJEN, Kone Foundation Fellow

Interventions for supporting teachers' professional development

Äli Leijen is a Professor of Teacher Education at the Institute of Education of the University of Tartu. Her main research themes are student teachers' professional development, supporting students metacognitive processes in different contexts, development of professional identity, ICT for supporting pedagogy, and characteristics influencing doctoral education. She is an active member of several research organizations, and a founding member of the Estonian Young Academy of Sciences.



SUSANNA LINDBERG, Core Fellow

Technological Humanity

Susanna Lindberg is a philosopher with a PhD from the University of Strasbourg. She has worked as lecturer and professor at the Universities of Helsinki and Tampere, and as associate researcher at the Université Paris Nanterre. She has published many articles on German idealism, phenomenology, and contemporary French philosophy, as well as translations of French philosophy into Finnish, including Derrida, Nancy, and Blanchot.



ILKKA LINDSTEDT, Core Fellow

Early Islamic rock inscriptions as historical sources

Ilkka Lindstedt holds a PhD and title of Docent in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Helsinki. He has published studies on early Islam, Arabic historiography, and Arabic epigraphy. His current research project at the HCAS looks at Arabic epigraphical material through theories of identity formation and group behavior.



**EMILIA MATAIX FERRÁNDIZ, Core Fellow**

Materialising and Tracing Roman Sea Trade Law (2nd cent BC–3rd cent. AD)

Emilia Mataix Ferrándiz has two PhDs, one in Roman law from the University of Alicante and Facolta di giurisprudenza Palermo, and other one in archaeology from the Universities of Southampton and Lyon 2 la lumiere. Her research interest lie on Roman law, especially on its commercial and maritime focus.

ALEXANDRE NIKOLAEV, Core Fellow

Morphological Language Impairment in Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Alexandre Nikolaev has substantial experience conducting research in the area of morphology of language. His aim is to conduct research on the relationship between humans' mental grammar and mental lexicon in patients with Alzheimer's disease or Mild Cognitive Impairment.

**SILVA NURMIO, Core Fellow**

The typology of singulatives: Definition, distribution and diachrony

Silva Nurmio received her PhD from the University of Cambridge, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic in 2015. Before arriving at the HCAS she was a postdoctoral scholar at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies working on her book titled *Grammatical number in Welsh: Diachrony and typology*.

**RITVA PALMÉN, Core Fellow**

The Salutary Power of Negative Emotions in the Middle Ages and Renaissance

Ritva Palmén has a PhD in Theology on theory of imagination from the University of Helsinki. Her research interests include philosophy of mind, philosophical psychology and contemporary recognition theory. On her current research project, Dr. Palmén explores the accounts of the so-called negative emotions in medieval and renaissance sources.

**ANSSI PERÄKYLÄ, Core Fellow**

Self and diagnosis: a sociological study

Anssi Peräkylä is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Helsinki with a PhD from the University of London. His research interests include social interaction in counselling, psychotherapy and medical consultations, emotion in interaction, and the intersection between physiological responses and interactional practices in conversation.





FLORENCIA QUESADA AVENDAÑO, Core Fellow

Minervas, modernization, and the transformation of Guatemala City (1870–1930)

Florencia Quesada Avendaño has been trained as a historian in Costa Rica, the United States, France and Finland. Her interests are related to urban issues in Latin America from a historical and more contemporary perspectives and they include the study of urban cultural history, sustainable tourism, urban segregation, inequalities, urban violence and environmental risks.

JANI RAERINNE, Core Fellow

Virtual Ecology, Artificial Data

Jani Raerinne has a PhD in Theoretical Philosophy from the Faculty of Arts, University of Helsinki. His research topics focus on the issues of philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, scientific modelling, and scientific explanation.



MAŁGORZATA RAJTAR, EURIAS Fellow

Food, Biomedical Technologies, and Care. The Case of Rare Metabolic Disorders

Małgorzata Rajtar, PhD, carries out medical anthropology research with a special focus on biomedicine; medicine and religion; rare diseases; bioidentity, and ethics. She is the PI of two research grants on rare disorders in the Baltic Sea region funded by the National Science Center in Poland and one of the main researchers in a grant on Turner Syndrome.



GEOFFREY ROBERTS, EURIAS Fellow

Stalin's Peacemakers: a Transnational History of the World Peace Council, 1948–1968

With his work been translated into 16 languages, Professor Geoffrey Roberts is a recognised world authority on Stalin, the Second World War, and the history of Soviet military and foreign policy. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a member of the Royal Irish Academy, Professor Roberts has been awarded fellowships by Harvard, Princeton, the Nobel Peace Institute, the Kennan Institute for Advanced Studies University, and Institute for Advanced Studies at the Central European University in Budapest.





HANNA-RIIKKA ROINE, Core Fellow

Convergent Worlds in the Digital Age. New Forms of Participation and Sharing in Transmedial Environments

Hanna-Riikka Roine is a researcher interested in all things speculative in art and entertainment. With a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Tampere, her expertise lies in the thorough understanding of contemporary narrative theory, game and digital media studies, and research on modern fan cultures.

ELO-HANNA SELJAMAA, Kone Foundation Fellow

Everyday practices of dealing with ethnic and linguistic differences in contemporary Estonia

Elo-Hanna Seljamaa is a senior researcher at the University of Tartu, Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore and PI of the research grant *Performative negotiations of belonging in contemporary Estonia* funded by Estonian Research Council. She uses ethnographic methods to explore ethnic interactions as well as gaps between official policies and vernacular practices of belonging.



KAROLIINA SNELL, Core Fellow

Moral (de)contextualisation of health data use

Karoliina Snell's research areas is sociology of science and technology. During the last decade she has done research on social aspects on biobanks, genomic knowledge and health data use. Her interests lies in how new technologies and data analysis transform health care and the relationship between the state and its citizens.

EILA STEPANOVA, Core Fellow

The Creation of Continuing Bonds by Karelian Immigrants and Their Descendants in Finland

Eila Stepanova is a Finnish folklorist specializing on Karelian lament poetry and on North Finnic lament poetry more generally. She received her doctoral degree at the University of Helsinki in 2014. Stepanova's key theoretical interests are in Oral-Formulaic Theory and Register Theory. She is recognized as the foremost active expert on Karelian laments and as an expert in Karelian culture more generally.





ILYA SVERDLOV, Core Fellow

The Birth of Poetic Language. Syntax & Meter through the Ages and between Cultures in Medieval Scandinavia and England: a New Digital Humanities Research Tool

Dr Sverdlov studies the survival of a key corpus of Old Norse texts, skaldic poetry, flourishing in Medieval North ca.900–1400, from linguistic, social, and poetic points of view. His research is in the contrast of speech registers and syntaxes between skaldic poetry and saga prose.

JOUNI TILLI, Core Fellow

The Rhetorical Politics of Lutheran Pastoral Power, the case of Finland 1945–2014

Jouni Tilli is a political scientist with a PhD from the University of Jyväskylä. His research interests include the rhetorical aspects of field such as economy and immigration, the relationship between religion and nationalism in Protestant context, and political uses of the past. Tilli's monograph on the role of Finnish priests during the Continuation War won the Finnish Christian Book of the Year Award in 2014.



KIRSI TIRRI, Core Fellow

Changing Mindsets about Learning: Connecting Psychological, Educational and Neuroscientific Evidence (CoPERNicus)

Dr. Kirsi Tirri is a Full Professor of Education and a Research Director at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies and the Department of Education at the University of Helsinki. Her research interests include school pedagogy, moral and religious education, talent development and gifted education, teacher education and cross-cultural studies. You can read more on her research on page 22.



HENNING TRÜPER, Core Fellow

Saving Lives from Shipwreck on the Shores of Modern Europe

Henning Trüper has a PhD in History and Civilization from the European University Institute, Florence. His research interests lie primarily in 19th and 20th-century European cultural and intellectual history, history of the humanities, historical theory, and the history of lifesaving and humanitarianism.




ALEXANDRA URAKOVA, Core Fellow

Gifts, Gift Economies, and Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Anthropological Perspective

Alexandra Urakova holds a PhD in American Literature from the Moscow State University. She is a Senior Researcher at the A.M. Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Urakova is also an author of a monograph, editor/co-editor of four collections, and the author of numerous essays in American literature.

ANNA USACHEVA, Core Fellow

Physiology of the Human Cognition in the Scientific, Theological and Monastic Contexts of Late Antiquity

Anna Usacheva has a PhD in Classical Philology from the Moscow State University. Her works focus on classical and Hellenic philosophy, and Christian literature of the third and fourth centuries AD. After teaching courses in Patristics and ancient languages at Moscow Universities, Usacheva has joined a team of scholars in the Aarhus University as a Marie Curie Fellow, and worked on the manuscripts of the commentators of Gregory Nazianzen in the Vatican Library with the scholarship of Queen Ingrid of Denmark.


ELISA UUSIMÄKI, Core Fellow

Ancestral Virtue in Early Jewish Literature

Dr. Elisa Uusimäki is a scholar of ancient Jewish literature and holds the title of Docent at the University of Helsinki, currently serving as the PI of the research project "Conceptions of Virtue in Early Judaism" (2018-2020). She has published on wisdom and torah, ancient scriptural interpretation, the figure of the sage, and exemplarity.

LARI VAINIO, Core Fellow

Grounding of prosody on motor processes

Lari Vainio obtained his PhD at the University of Plymouth (UK) in 2005. After working as a postdoctoral researcher in Plymouth for three years, he returned to Finland in 2008 for a postdoctoral position at University of Helsinki. From 2010 to 2018 he has worked as a lecturer at the University of Helsinki. Next two years he continues his research in HCAS. His research has mostly focused on sensory and motor processes related to hand movements and speech.





VERONICA WALKER VADILLO, Core Fellow

Human-environment interactions: nomadic fishing communities and state development in the Lower Mekong Basin

Veronica Walker Vadillo is a maritime archaeologist with a PhD in Maritime Archaeology from the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology. She is interested in the development of maritime cultures in inland waters, and her current research is focused on human-environment interactions in fluvial settings. She has also written articles and books for *National Geographic*.

MARI WIKLUND, Core Fellow

Interaction of Preadolescents with Autism – Focus on Speech Prosody, Gaze Behavior and Misunderstanding Situations

Mari Wiklund (née Lehtinen) works as a university researcher at the HCAS since 2015. She received her PhD in French Philology from the University of Helsinki in 2009, and the title of Docent in 2015. She holds the position of a university lecturer of French Philology in the University of Helsinki since 2018.



HANNA YLÖSTALO, Core Fellow

Missing "Plan F" – A Battle between Knowledge, Economy and Equality in the Changing Welfare State

Hanna Ylöstalo obtained her PhD in Gender Studies at the University of Tampere. With an interest in neoliberalization of the Nordic welfare state and changing economy-society relations, her research is concerned with gender equality policy, gender equality and diversity in work organizations, gender and economy, and post-Fordist labour.

ALEXEI ZADOROZHNY, Core Fellow

The Uses of Antiquity in Imperial Russia, 1801–1837

Alexei Zadorojnyi studied Classics at Moscow Lomonosov University. Having graduated in 1996, he proceeded to doctoral research at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom. His PhD was about Plutarch's use of poetic material. Since 1999 Alexei has been teaching Classics at the University of Liverpool.





Professor Cowan at the Jane and Aatos Erkko Visiting Professorship residence | Photo: Anna Suutarla

POLITICS OF IDENTITY, TOGETHERNESS, AND DIFFERENCE

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGIST JANE COWAN ON THE ORIGINS OF
OUR TAKEN-FOR-GRANTED CONCEPT OF 'MINORITY'

TEXT: PEKKA RAUTIO

Jane Cowan, the Jane and Aatos Erkko Visiting Professor in Studies on Contemporary Society at HCAS for the academic year 2018–2019, is currently investigating historical junctures concerning international human rights, the rights of minorities and minority citizenship. Cowan is particularly familiar with the situation in the region of Macedonia.

Jane Cowan, the Jane and Aatos Erkko Visiting Professor in Studies on Contemporary Society at HCAS for the academic year 2018–2019, is currently investigating historical junctures concerning international human rights, the rights of minorities and minority citizenship. Cowan is particularly familiar with the situation in the region of Macedonia.

Jane Cowan has been researching minority citizenship in the context of the League of Nations as part of the pre-history of the current human rights system.

The League of Nations was an international organisation established after the First World War whose aims included disarmament, international dispute settlement and the improvement of living standards. After the Second World War, the League of Nations was succeeded by the United Nations.

Diplomats and League of Nations international civil servants cooperated with European states with the aim of maintaining regional stability and guaranteeing a permanent peace.

From 1920 to 1935, the League supervised what were known as “minority states”, mainly located on the eastern borders of Europe. After the First World War, these states were compelled to accept treaties concerning the rights and protections of those citizens who differed from the majority by virtue of their language, religion or ethnicity. This moment thus saw the introduction of the term ‘minority’ as a political-legal category.

Why was the minority supervision mechanism of the League of Nations set up?

“The supervision mechanism and indeed, the League of Nations itself, was set up at a moment of fundamental transformation in Europe from empires to nation-states. The Hapsburg, Ottoman,

Hohenzollern and Romanov empires, all of them multi-religious and multilingual, were under stress from nationalist movements,” says Cowan, professor of social anthropology.

The goal for supporters of nationalism was for people who were ‘similar’ to live as a ‘nation’, a distinct political entity with territory of its own.

“Finland was one such nation, achieving independence in 1917,” Cowan points out.

Following the First World War, the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 consolidated the political development of a Europe of nation-states.

“Faced with having to determine and confirm new state borders, the diplomats realised that this ideal of a pure nation-state was impossible, whether defined by criteria of language, religion or ethnicity,” says Cowan.

This observation resulted in the idea that certain nations should sign a treaty to affirm full political and civil rights to the ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities living in their territory, and also to give them some special rights related to the use of their own language.

“By 1924, fifteen states had accepted minority treaty obligations: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Turkey, the Serbo-Croat-Slovene Kingdom and Germany,” Cowan lists.

Selective supervision

The League of Nations were responsible to ensure that the signatories complied with the treaties. The objective of the supervision mechanism was to prevent inter-state conflicts.

League supervision was nonetheless very selective. Only certain states were required to sign the legal treaties promising fair treatment of minorities. These obligations did not apply to other countries, such as Great Britain, wrestling at the same time with its Irish question.

According to Cowan, some revolutionary groups also used the supervision mechanisms for their own purposes: rather than accepting being described as a minority, they used it to continue their ongoing struggle for self-determination.

“Until recently, the dominant narrative dismissed the League of Nations as a ‘failure’ and described human rights, and the United Nations’ human rights system, as if they were created ex nihilo. Yet it is easy to see that many of the League’s institutional structures and procedures were adapted



Photo: Mika Federley

from the League to the United Nations,” Cowan explains.

Minority rights or human rights?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, signified the reformulation of minority rights.

“It was felt that minority rights as such were no longer needed, because the new set of human rights covered everything,” Cowan says.

In practice, equality for minorities on the national level has proven challenging, so minority rights remain an issue for the UN.

“Even today, there is not a fully agreed definition of the term ‘minority’ at the UN,” she points out.

The case of Macedonia – background for the naming dispute

In her research on the minority supervision mechanism of the League of Nations, Cowan has paid particular attention to the complex situation of Macedonia. The book *Macedonia: The politics of identity and difference* (Pluto 2000), edited by Cowan, is one of the fruits of her labour.

“The territorial extent of Macedonia as a region has long been disputed. There have been several elements to the contestation over what Macedonia is and to whom it belongs,” Cowan explains.

During antiquity, the region was not un-

derstood in terms of the kinds of distinct borders now in use. When nationalist movements were on the rise in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the region was under the control of the Ottoman Empire.

“In that time, supporters of the Bulgarian, Greek and Serbian movements, and also a ‘Macedonia for Macedonians’ movement, all claimed that Macedonia should be ‘theirs,’” Cowan adds.

The different nationalist groups based their justifications on language, religion, ethnic origin, national consciousness or history, selecting the criterion that best supported their claim.

According to Cowan, the current controversy over who has the right to use the word ‘Macedonia’ is related to unresolved issues in the interwar period, though also to later events such as the Greek Civil War. The right to use the name is linked with territorial claims, which have escalated at various points of time into violent armed conflicts. Most recently, the territorial borders changed in connection with the break-up of the Yugoslav Federation.

“Finally, the name issue is also about identity and history. Many Greeks feel that Macedonia is historically Greek because of Greeks being there before the Slavs. As long-time inhabitants of the territory, citizens of the Republic of Macedonia believe, equally strongly, that they have, at long last, the right to be recognised as an independent state by the international community. Although many in both countries support the currently negotiated compromise name of ‘Republic of North Macedonia’, nationalists on both sides are outraged,” says Cowan.

Historical archives through the eyes of an anthropologist

Jane Cowan gave her inaugural lecture, *An anthropologist in the archives: Reading letters to the League of Nations on minorities and Macedonia*, on 27 November at the University of Helsinki. The lecture explored the struggles around minorities and minority citizenship in the Balkans, especially in Macedonia, as seen through letters to the League of Nations and the encounters they generated.

“In my lecture, I explained how letters and petitions addressed to the League of Nations were processed at the time by a small team of bureaucrats, how the term ‘minority’ was defined, asserted and resisted by the various parties, and the effects this had on subject-making processes.

“Over forty years of field work experience in the Balkans has affected my reading of archival records. I am aware that although the letters I am studying portray the boundaries between groups as clear and absolute, people in the region do not necessarily think this way. The ways they describe themselves may change depending on context and audience, and also may change over time,” says Cowan.

ABOUT THE JANE AND AATOS ERKKO VISITING PROFESSORSHIP:

The aim of the Jane and Aatos Erkkö Visiting Professorship in Studies on Contemporary Society is to focus on cultural and social research themes with a topical significance for contemporary society and social justice. The professorship was established in 2008 as the result of a 2.92 million Euros donation from the Jane and Aatos Erkkö Foundation. The donation, under the discretion of the University of Helsinki Funds, will maintain the professorship and a residence for the holder of the post.



COOPERATING WITH OTHER IAS'S ACROSS FINLAND AND EUROPE

On November 8, 2018, three Finnish Institutes of Advanced Study – the **Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies** (HCAS), the **Turku Institute for Advanced Studies** (TIAS) and the **Institute for Advanced Social Research** at University of Tampere (IASR) – gathered their fellows for a joint meeting in the premises of the HCAS. This was the first meeting of its kind in the history of Finnish Institutes of Advanced Study, and its purpose was to give to the fellows of the three institutes a chance to learn about each other's research and to discuss the role of IAS's in contemporary academia.

After the welcoming words by the directors of the institutes, **Tuomas Forsberg** (HCAS), **Risto Heiskala** (IASR) and **Martin Cloonan** (TIAS), the academic program of the day was divided into two panels. The first was a discussion session, opened by HCAS Core Fellow **Miia Halme-Tuomisaari's** excellent introduction to university rankings. The fellows then divided into groups and had a lively debate on whether we should get rid of rankings altogether (some universities have stated that they will not participate in them) or whether we should

rather use better-designed rankings – by academics rather than by businesses. The discussion touched upon the potential of rankings to make emerging universities in non-Western countries better known globally, but the majority of the contributions expressed concern that rankings only make academia worse.

The second panel focused on the UBIAS (**University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study**) network topic of the year 2018, *Aging – Life, Culture, Civilizations*. The panel included one researcher from each Finnish IAS and was moderated by the director of IASR, Risto Heiskala. **Tuula Juvonen** from TIAS talked about lesbian and gay aging, **Karoliina Snell** from HCAS about aging as a constructed problem, from the point of view of science and technology studies, and **Hanna Ojala** from IASR about gender and increasing control over ageing bodies.

The day showed that institutes of advanced study offer an excellent setting for scholarly debate that concerns both scientific content and the conditions for doing academic research. The lively social interaction during the breaks and the reception

demonstrated how important face-to-face meetings are for researchers. Since the three Finnish institutes of advanced study are located only a two-hour train ride from each other, further interaction between the institutes and between the fellows will certainly follow. At the end of the fruitful day, it was agreed that the Finnish IAS meeting should become an annual event.

NetIAS Meeting in Madrid

Later in November, Director Tuomas Forsberg, Deputy Director **Mats Bergman**, and Project Planner **Kaisa Kaakinen** traveled to Madrid to attend a meeting of NetIAS, the **Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study**. The meeting was organised on November 22 in the beautiful setting of Casa de Velázquez, the home of the **Madrid Institute for Advanced Study**. The meeting gave our new director Tuomas Forsberg a chance to introduce himself to his European colleagues, and for our whole team to engage in fruitful exchanges on good IAS practices.

An important topic discussed at the meeting was the future of the **EURIAS** fellowship program, which will be terminated in its current form in summer 2019. This program has allowed outstanding scholars in humanities and social sciences to spend ten months in one of the 19 European Institutes of Advanced Study participating in the program. Possibilities for new collaborative programs will be explored in 2019.

In addition to matters related to the EURIAS program and NetIAS administration, the NetIAS delegates discussed the situation of the Institute of Advanced Study at Central European University, which is likely to move from Budapest to Vienna in 2019 because of pressure from the Hungarian government. This has raised serious concerns about the state of academic freedom in Hungary and in other parts of Europe, and the meeting reflected on how the other institutes of advanced study could be of assistance to IAS CEU.

On a brighter note, the NetIAS meeting demonstrated the vitality and diversity of the European IAS field as well as the enduring commitment of the network to the defense and promotion of core academic values. The following meeting will take place in Aarhus in April 2019.



Director of FRIAS, Professor Bernd Kortmann (on the left), and Deputy Director Mats Bergman, Director Tuomas Forsberg, and Project Planner Kaisa Kaakinen from the HCAS at the NetIAS meeting in Madrid



Research assistant Anna Suutarla (on the left) and doctoral student Ita Puusepp happy after getting a new batch of answers | Photo: Anna Suutarla

NURTURING GROWTH MINDSETS IN SCHOOLS

Fieldwork is an important part of investigating the beliefs schoolchildren have about their most basic qualities and abilities

According to Professor **Kirsi Tirri**, having a “growth mindset in learning is a key factor in talent development and creative thinking”.

However, what exactly constitutes a growth mindset? Mindsets are beliefs that people have about their most basic qualities and abilities. Someone with a growth mindset believes that their basic qualities and abilities can evolve, whereas people with fixed mindsets believe that these qualities and abilities are static.

The research project Prof. Tirri is working on as part of her HCAS fellowship is titled “Changing Mindsets about Learning: Connecting Psychological, Educational and Neuroscientific Evidence”, *CoPErNicus* for short. In this project the aim of Tirri and her team is to collect psychological, educational, and neuro-scientific evidence on the impact a certain mindset has on learning. The ultimate goal is to synthesize and construct a research-based pedagogical mindset program that could be used to create growth-oriented learning environments in schools.

This past autumn, doctoral student **Ita Puusepp** and Collegium research assistant **Anna Suutarla** have visited primary schools to collect answers for a questionnaire assessing the mindsets of schoolchildren as part of Prof. Tirri’s research project.

Being involved with fieldwork has been a highlight for both. Suutarla describes her experience:

“I’ve met most of the schoolkids from grade one to grade three at one particular school. This has

given me a unique snapshot of the everyday life at a school, and better yet, the current mindsets of future generations.”

Puusepp has been working on the project since February.

“We have been taking great care that students thoroughly understand the statements in the questionnaire and helping students select the answer that reflects their thinking”, she explains.

Finding out what kind of mindsets students possess is only the beginning. The next stage of the project is to carry out an educational intervention for students with fixed mindsets. One of the goals of the research project is to introduce ways to educate and support growth mindsets in learning.

“Parents and teachers play a key-role in providing children with learning environments that are growth mindset oriented. As part of the Copernicus project, we develop growth mindset pedagogy that can be implemented in homes, in teacher education and in classrooms in Finland and abroad,” Tirri explains.

Research shows that mindsets play a vital role in students’ reaction to mistakes, learning outcomes and overall success in life.

“Our society is changing and the new global challenges we face should be addressed in rational and ethical ways. Educating for growth mindset provides room for mistakes and creativity in learning for all kinds of learners”, Tirri says.

A LOOK BACK

EVENTS IN AUTUMN

2018

The academic year at HCAS is filled with various kinds of events. These events stem from Fellows' own ideas, and they emphasize multidisciplinary cooperation between Collegium Fellows, who also invite researchers based at other institutions to participate as co-organizers and speakers. Most Collegium events are free and open to the public, and they attract a sizable audience. Here are some of the highlights of autumn 2018.



The Core Fellow Ritva Palmén (on the left) and the panelists Docent Maijastina Kahlos, author Johanna Sinisalo, and Professor Teemu Tallberg at Kollegium Talks panel discussion on citizenship and civic duties. | Photo: Mikko Helenius

The Collegium organizes four official **HCAS Symposia** every academic year: two in the autumn, and two in the spring. The symposia are interdisciplinary and international in nature, and they provide valuable opportunities for the Fellows to create a space for a multidisciplinary conversation that may eventually develop into a publication or a longer-term research initiative. The official HCAS symposia are chosen in a competition open to all current Fellows. The selected symposium projects receive funding and organizational help from the Collegium.

This autumn's first HCAS symposium was held on October 18-19. Titled *Politics of Participation: Anthropological Reflections on Power and Interaction*, the symposium examined the concept of participation, as articulated in contemporary political, economic, and organizational forms, from

a language-oriented perspective. Challenging a widespread tendency to trumpet participation as a panacea to the hierarchies that once divided the governing and the governed, the symposium examined how participation, while heralding new forms of openness and involvement, also implies forms of social ordering and regulation. The two-day event included four panel discussions and keynote lectures by **Asif Agha**, from University of Pennsylvania, and **Celia Lury**, from University of Warwick, Center for Interdisciplinary Methodologies. The event was organized by our Core Fellow, anthropologist **Elina Hartikainen**, together with **Andrew Graan**, **Irina Piippo**, **Timo Kaartinen** and **Johanna Sumiala**. (Symposium website: <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/politicsofparticipation/>)

Our second symposium of this autumn, *Creativity in Art and Science: Genius, Collaborative Processes and Networks* held on December 10-11, focused on the relationship between creativity and different kinds of institutional, societal, and individual factors that either enhance or obstruct creativity. The event brought together national and international experts in various disciplines, such as sociology, social psychology, and dance pedagogy. The organizational team consisted of our former Erik Allardt Fellow **Ugo Corte**, professor of sociology at the University of Stavanger since August 2018, and our current Fellows philosopher **Susanna Lindberg** and professor of education **Kirsi Tirri** as well as **Matthias de Groof**, who holds the Kone Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship in the Arts at HCAS in 2018.



In addition to our official symposia, the Collegium hosted a third symposium this autumn, titled *Bridging Cultural Concepts of Nature: A Transnational Symposium on Indigenous Places and Protected Spaces of Nature* on September 19-21. While the event was not an official HCAS symposium, we encouraged our Core Fellow **Rani-Henrik Andersson** to organize it at our premises. The symposium investigated examples of successful collaborations between indigenous peoples and non-native stakeholders of protected spaces of nature across the world. The goal of the symposium was to act as a bridge by bringing together scholars and members of indigenous communities from around the world to discuss the timely issues of sustainability and Indigenous agency.



Since 2008, the HCAS has hosted the Jane and Aatos Erkko Professorship in Studies on Contemporary Society, with a generous funding from the Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation. This year the professorship is held by **Jane Cowan**, Professor of Social Anthropology at University of Sussex, UK. Jane gave her Inaugural Lecture as Erkko Professor on November 27 at the University of Helsinki Main Building's Small Festive Hall. The lecture *An Anthropologist in the Archives: Reading letters to the League of Nations on minorities and Macedonia* gathered a large crowd that heard a fascinating account of Jane's research at the archives of the League of Nations on the consolidation of "minority" as a legal and political category since the interwar years. After the lecture we raised a glass to Jane at a reception, at which the University of Helsinki community had a chance to continue the discussion with her in person.



Since spring 2018, the HCAS has organized public outreach events at the University of Helsinki's new event space Think Corner under the name **Kollegium Talks**. In this series designed and chaired by current HCAS Fellows, experts from various fields hold panel discussions on a given topic. This autumn's series of Kollegium Talks was conducted in Finnish and tackled the overarching theme of *CITIZENSHIP*, a timely topic in view of Finland heading toward parliamentary elections in April 2019. The concept of citizenship was viewed from various angles, such as global citizenship, migration, equal representation, civic duties and climate change. The events were also live streamed and recorded and can be viewed via the Collegium's website (<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-collegium-for-advanced-studies/kollegium-talks-hei-kansalainen>).

Besides the official HCAS events, our daily routines at the Collegium have been enriched by a number of additional events this autumn.

On October 8, the Collegium hosted a guest lecture by **Professor Marco Caracciolo** (University of Ghent) entitled *Facing the Nonhuman through Form and Narrative*. The lecture focused on **Richard Powers's** novel *The Overstory* (2018) and showed how the analysis of the novel's narrative form illuminates contemporary discussions on human-nonhuman interrelation in literature. The lecture and the subsequent panel discussion served also as a launch for the work of the Helsinki team of the *Academy of Finland Consortium Instrumental Narratives*, a collaborative research project between the Universities of Tampere, Turku, and Helsinki. One of our alumni, **Merja Polvinen**, leads the Helsinki team of the consortium, to which also our current fellow **Hanna-Riikka Roine** belongs.

Just a few days later, on October 11, the Collegium organized a book launch event for *Russian Discourses on International Law: Sociological and Philosophical Phenomenon*, edited by Professor **P. Sean Harris**, who teaches international economic law at the University of Helsinki. The book examines Russia's contemporary interpretations of international law in the light of recent events, and the list of contributors includes our Director, **Tuomas Forsberg**. In addition to the opening words from Forsberg and presentation of the book by Professor Morris, the event featured talks on themes of the book by **Tero Lundstedt**, contributor of the book, Professor **Jan Klabbers**, and HCAS Core Fellow **Miia Halme-Tuomisaari**.



Spring 2019 at HCAS

In late January (23.-25.1.2019), over 40 University of Helsinki PhD students will gather at HCAS for the annual **HCAS Winter School for Doctoral Students**. They will delve into this year's focal topic *Writing and Publishing* together with HCAS Fellows. On March 6-8, the HCAS will be the site of a large international symposium *Moral Machines? The Ethics and Politics of the Digital World*, organized by HCAS Fellows **Susanna Lindberg** and **Hanna-Riikka Roine**. The keynotes of the symposium will be given by **Bernard Stiegler** and **N. Katherine Hayles**, and the academic panels will be complemented by an artistic program.

Further highlights of the spring include the **Jane and Aatos Erkko Conference on Petitions** (2-3.5.2019), organized by our Jane and Aatos Erkko Professor Jane Cowan, the **Annual Collegium Lecture** given by Professor **Daniel Boyarin** (Berkeley) on May 27 and the HCAS Symposium *Fringe Orientalisms: Europe's Other Others in Modern History* (6.-7.6.2019) organized by HCAS Fellows **Ilkka Lindstedt** and **Henning Trüper**. Read more about HCAS events on our website (<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-collegium-for-advanced-studies/events>).

A YEAR IN THE ARTS AT THE COLLEGIUM



David Ashley Kerr (on the left) and Matthias De Groof bidding farewell to Kerr's office at the Collegium | Photo: Mikko Helenius

In addition to its **Core**, **Eurias**, and **Erik Allardt Fellowships**, the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies offers a Kone Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Arts, which “aims to develop new forms of cooperation and dialogue between art and scholarship”. Over the past year, HCAS has hosted **Matthias De Groof** and **David Ashley Kerr** as its Arts Fellows.

We sat down with Matthias and Ash to talk about their work at the Collegium, their experiences in an interdisciplinary research environment, as well as their memories of Helsinki as they both prepare to leave the Collegium at the end of the year.

De Groof is a film-maker and researcher and has worked with postcolonial theory for over a decade. One of his primary projects has been to examine the decolonisation of the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium and the decolonisation of the self in Western societies. Postcolonialism “becomes a hammer for which everything is a nail”, De Groof says – but that it is also “a perspective which makes things comprehensive in a way you wouldn’t have expected before”.

Kerr, in turn, is an artist-curator and researcher in the field of contemporary visual culture and Photomedia, specifically the role of “Affect” in Digital Culture. His artworks have focused on the relationship between the human and the natural, voyeur and performer, and draw from melancholy and darkness as instruments. In his own words, he has “relished” in the melancholy that this Northern

capital has had to offer.

At the Collegium, De Groof and Kerr have collaborated on a project called *WORK WORK WORK WORK WORK*, an upcoming paperback publication and e-platform investigating the representation of forms of labour in contemporary art. Kerr wishes especially for the e-platform to “serve as an important database for art and discourse in this theme, open and accessible to all”.

WORK is the result of direct collaboration between the two artist-researchers as well as other Fellows at HCAS who are contributing articles to the text. Kerr describes the inception of the project as coming from reading an interview in an Australian arts journal with art theorist **Isabelle Graw** where she mentioned a lack of reflection on the plight of the worker in contemporary art. Kerr took up this idea and invited De Groof to collaborate as editor of the project, which Kerr himself is curating. Collaboration between Art Fellows and the other Fellows thus takes on a unique multi-disciplinary twist, and both De Groof and Kerr appreciated hearing from varied and fresh perspectives.

Looking onward from their year in Helsinki, Kerr aims to remain somewhere in the EU, while De Groof plans to return to Antwerp. When asked about his plans for the rest of the year and the future, De Groof said he intended to finish what he started, adding with a laugh, “this is an endless project, because I intend to keep starting new things.”

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S POSTSCRIPT

MATS BERGMAN



Photo: Mikko Helenius

In late June, I was offered a position as Associate Professor with tenure track at the University of Helsinki. The news was very welcome, of course. Still, my feelings were mixed – the joy dampened by the realisation that I would have to leave the job as Deputy Director before the end of my term. Although I have known a fair number of stimulating workplaces over the years, both in Finland and abroad, I can honestly say that the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies is unsurpassed so far.

It is difficult to avoid clichés when talking about a place like the Collegium. During my all-too-short stint as Deputy Director, my appreciation for the idea of the institute of advanced study has grown exponentially. The Collegium is still a haven for curiosity-driven research, where the pursuits of excellence and interdisciplinarity are not just empty slogans. And the name is truly apt. The spirit of collegiality that pervades the Collegium is exceptional – a much-needed reminder of what an academic community can be like.

When I arrived at the Collegium in February 2018, I did not really know what to expect. The position was new and the duties rather vaguely defined. The Deputy Director was charged with two tasks – identifying new sources of external funding and the renewal of the *COLLeGIUM* publication – which are still in process. But I hope that I have been able contribute to the development of the

institute in other ways as well. Severe cuts in university funding had impacted the Collegium quite badly and concerns about its future were still rife in the spring of 2018. The prolonged search for a new Director added to the uncertainty. But I believe that the crisis – if that is the right word – is now behind us. I think the Collegium has taken important steps toward restoring itself in 2018, of which this newsletter bears witness. Although the situation in academia continues to be worrying, I have found reasons for cautious optimism during this year.

So, I am leaving the Collegium with a somewhat heavy heart but with much gratitude for all that it has given me. Of course, credit for that must go to all the brilliant research fellows and dedicated members of staff – not forgetting the hard-working interns, who have proven themselves to be a great asset for an overextended administration as well as an invaluable resource for our researchers. As always, there are great challenges ahead, but I am convinced that the Collegium will go from strength to strength under the competent stewardship of **Tuomas, Kaisa**, the new Deputy Director **Hanne Appelqvist**, and the rest of the team.

of the composition of food, a "My Food" is still
an indication of scientific study.

[illegible]

The singularity of perspective is ultimately based on the difficulty of knowing life as an action.

[illegible]

In this sense, the monograph has not only a scholarly but an existential function. It shows its readers how the world – in non-specific respect – appears to someone with a deep concern to understand it.

Today, authors are increasingly discouraged to publish the results of their research in high-impact journals. Leading journals in all sciences advise authors that articles that significantly advance human knowledge will not be accepted. The leading journals may also be said to accept more "strategic" journals. It may be difficult to predict essentially novel scientific or technical ideas in each publishing forum.

For anyone interested in publishing neurographs, it is important to have local guidelines

It is part of academic freedom - which also covers value at any university, independent and interdisciplinary contacts - to require members of different institutions to

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