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Older Russian-speaking migrants and the transnational use of health services

In this article, we examine the transnational use of health services and the reasons given for their use by older Russian-speaking migrants living in Finland. We analyse the CHARM survey data collected in 2019, and elaborate the results with thematic analysis of the interview data. Almost 30 per cent of Russian-speakers over the age of 50 living in Finland had seen a doctor outside Finland in the year before the survey. Visiting a doctor abroad was more common among women, the unemployed, the highly educated and respondents with a net household income of more than 2,500 euros per month. Having citizenship in a country other than Finland increased the likelihood of use and having a longer period of residence in Finland reduced it. People living with a chronic illness and those who had an unmet need for care used more health services abroad. In the survey data, the main reasons for the cross-border use of services were cheaper prices, faster access to treatment and the delivery of services in one's own language. These same reasons appeared in the interview material, but the interviewees also mentioned perceived disappointments with Finnish health care. The results show that older Russian-speakers face a variety of barriers to accessing and navigating care in Finland. Experiences of misunderstanding and of being ignored can lead to seeking help from outside Finland. The quality and accessibility of health services should be developed to meet the needs of a diversifying ageing population.

Sigrid Kaasik-Krogerus

“Internationality is an attitude in everyday life”

Over the past decades, internationalisation has become one of the key issues in higher education. Respectively, the topic has gained prominence as a subject of academic research. According to various studies, the internationalisation of higher education is a multifaceted and controversial process. In this article, internationalisation is approached from student perspective. The empirical data were gathered among the students of Expertise in Russian and Eastern European Studies (ExpREES). The data were gathered by an e-survey made up of open questions. Close reading was used to analyse the data. According to the results, students frame both languages and academic mobility as core issues of internationalisation and challenge their special role by emphasising that internationalisation concerns all curricula as well as all academic staff and students. Hereby, internationalisation is dealt with as an inherent part of everyday academic life, whilst the various actors behind the policy of internationalisation and their impact on the internationalisation process become blurred.

Riitta Jytilä

Transborder trauma cultures and Sofi Oksanen's *Purge*

In this article, I will study the work of the Finnish-Estonian writer Sofi Oksanen by concentrating on her internationally acclaimed novel, *Purge* (2008). In Finland, the novel raises the question of the burden of remembering in post-Soviet and Eastern Europe trauma histories in the spirit of new global memory studies, where memories are considered to transfer different social constellations and political contexts. In the article, I study Oksanen's novel and its reception by bringing together the most recent discussions of trauma theory, transborder studies and postcolonial studies. First, I chart the field of transborder trauma cultures by using Timothy Snyder's concept of the Bloodlands – by which he refers to the area of Eastern Europe whose populations were subjected to Soviet, Nazi and then again Soviet genocidal practices. Secondly, I discuss Oksanen as a cultural agent, who has dedicated much of her versatile cultural agency to mediating the memory of the 20th-century Soviet terror in Estonia to the Finnish and international public – as a writer, publisher and editor. The analysis of the novel and its reception in both Finland and Estonia enables us to look at Oksanen's ways of engaging in the debates concerning memory and historical knowledge from a transcultural perspective.

Ira Jänis-Isokangas

Transnational relations between the Suojärvi region and the Soviet Union in the 1930s

This article analyses transnational relations between illegal immigrants from Suojärvi and their relatives and friends in Finland in the 1930s. The article analyses the impact of these relations in their lives in the Soviet Union and in the Gulag system. The article is based on a study of letters which the people from Suojärvi sent from the Soviet Union. The letters, which are part of the archival collection of the Finnish state police, are analysed through three different aspects: information, aid and citizenship. The study of these letters reveals that the content of information as well as the direction of transnational and financial assistance changed in the Gulag system. It also reveals different survival strategies that the people from Suojärvi adopted and the meaning of citizenship in maintaining transnational relations.