



American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki January 2015, Issue 1

University of Helsinki 375 Years - the ARC Congratulates!



This year, the University community and Helsinki at large celebrate the University of Helsinki's 375th anniversary year. Events will be held all year round. (<https://university.helsinki.fi/en/375>)

The University of Helsinki was founded during the reign of Queen Christina of Sweden as the Royal Academy of Turku on 26 March 1640. As stated in its charter, the Academy was a place for teaching and pursuing general studies in fields such as the Holy Book, law and medicine, and other written skills. In 1828 the Academy and its members moved to Helsinki, where the institution's name was changed to the Imperial Alexander University of Finland.

Read more at <https://university.helsinki.fi/en/university-of-helsinki-building-the-society>

Luentosarja "Siirtolaisuuden ja vähemmistöjen näkyvyys Yhdysvaltain kulttuurissa"

American Resource Center ja Pohjois-Amerikan tutkimus (Alue- ja kulttuuritutkimus, Helsingin yliopisto) järjestävät luentosarjan "Siirtolaisuuden ja vähemmistöjen näkyvyys Yhdysvaltain kulttuurissa" Kaisa-talossa tiistaisin 13.1.-24.2. klo 17. Luentosarjan ohjelma löytyy uutiskirjeen viimeiseltä sivulta.

Tervetuloa!



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
Maailman kulttuurien laitos

Get Ready: President Obama's 2015 State of the Union Address

On Tuesday, January 20 at 9 pm ET / Wednesday, January 21 at 4 am Finnish time, President Obama will deliver his sixth State of the Union Address.

This year there will be more ways than ever to take part in the State of the Union, including new ways to take in the remarks, to share exclusive content with your social networks, and to share your experiences. There will also be opportunities to discuss President Obama's remarks with White House officials immediately following the address. For more information, please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/01/11/get-ready-president-obamas-2015-state-union-address>

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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American Life

Finnish Schools Are on the Move—and America's Need to Catch Up by Tim Walker. The Atlantic, January 9, 2015.

A new initiative in Finland reveals that physical activity should be an everyday classroom routine.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/01/finnish-schools-are-on-the-moveand-americas-need-to-catch-up/384358/>

The Henry Ford of Books by Todd S. Purdum. Vanity Fair, January 2015.

The planet's best-selling author since 2001, James Patterson has more than 300 million copies of his books in print, an army of co-writers, several TV deals in the works, and an estimated income of \$90 million last year alone. But where's the respect?

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2015/01/james-patterson-best-selling-author>

How One Lawyer's Crusade Could Change Football Forever by Michael Sokolove. The New York Times Magazine, November 6, 2014.

The N.F.L. is more popular - and more profitable - than ever. But its coming settlement over brain injuries could lay the groundwork for a legal and regulatory nightmare. How the crusade of one lawyer might wind up turning football into the next tobacco.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/09/magazine/how-one-lawyers-crusade-could-change-football-forever.html?_r=0

Rethink What You "Know" About High-Achieving Women by Robin Ely, Pamela Stone and Colleen Ammerman. Harvard Business Review, Dec 2014.

A survey of Harvard Business School graduates sheds new light on what happens to women – and men – after business school.

<https://hbr.org/2014/12/rethink-what-you-know-about-high-achieving-women>

Slavery and Capitalism by Sven Beckett. The Chronicle Review, December 19, 2014.

Historians long depicted slavery as an aberration from, or a precursor to, capitalism. That's changing.

<http://chronicle.com/article/SlaveryCapitalism/150787/>

Video: Steven Holl Talks History, Philosophy, and the Poetry of Architecture by Zachary Edelson. Metropolis Magazine, January 7, 2015.

<http://www.metropolismag.com/Point-of-View/January-2015/Steven-Holl-Talks-History-Philosophy-the-Poetry-of-Architecture/>

Why Is American Teaching So Bad? by Jonathan Zimmerman. New York Review of Books, December 4, 2014.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2014/dec/04/why-american-teaching-so-bad/>

Economy & Politics

Bridging Trade Finance Gaps: State-Led Innovations to Bolster Exporting by Small and Medium-Sized Firms by Kati Suominen and Jessica

A. Lee. Brookings Report, January 8, 2015.

Fostering increased levels of exports continues to be an important component of states' economic development strategies. Exports helped bring the United States out of the Great Recession, with particularly rapid growth in certain states and metropolitan areas.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2015/01/08-trade-finance-exports-suominen-lee>

Building the Entrepreneurial State: A New Framework for Envisioning and Evaluating a Mission-Oriented Public Sector by Mariana

Mazzucato. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, January 2015.

Today, countries around the world are seeking "smart" innovation-led growth, and hoping that this growth is also more "inclusive" and "sustainable" than in the past. The paper argues that such a feat requires rethinking the role of government and public policy in the economy—not only funding the "rate" of innovation, but also envisioning its "direction."

http://www.levyinstitute.org/pubs/wp_824.pdf

Falling Oil Prices and US Economic Activity: Implications for the Future by Stephen P.A. Brown. Resources for the Future, December 2014.

In short, recent changes to world oil prices will help consumers by giving them more disposable income. In contrast, lower oil prices will hurt U.S. energy producers and the states that rely heavily on the energy industry. Although the effects of the oil price declines are uneven across the United States, the increase in disposable income will be a mild stimulus to U.S. economic activity, according to the report.

<http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-IB-14-o6.pdf>

Is the Most Powerful Conservative in America Losing His Edge? by Molly Ball. The Atlantic, January/February, 2015.

Erick Erickson built his career on stoking populist rage. But now the man who steers the Tea Party says conservative anger has grown toxic and self-defeating.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/12/is-the-most-powerful-conservative-in-america-losing-his-edge/383503/>

Jeb vs. Mitt: Good for the GOP by John Zogby. The Forbes, January 11, 2015.

Finally, the Republican Party has two bona fide credible candidates for the Presidency in 2016 and that is good news for both the party and country. The announcements of interest in the post by two party icons – former governors Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney — means a number of good things straight out of the chute for the GOP.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnzogby/2015/01/11/jeb-vs-mitt-good-for-the-gop/>

Global Challenges

The U.S. will be the Chair of the Arctic Council from May 2015 through May 2017. We will be highlighting Arctic issues in the Global Challenges section of the WebPicks.

Are We Missing the Big Picture on Climate Change? by Rebecca Solnit. International New York Times, December 2, 2014.

To grasp climate change, you have to think in terms of species and their future. To know how things have already changed, you have to remember how they used to be, and so you may not notice birds disappearing from the skies, or hotter weather or more extreme storms and forest fires.

<http://ow.ly/HhQl9>

Arctic Issue: The Cold Rush by Samuel Medina. Metropolis Magazine, November 2014.

As the Arctic melts, pioneering architects and planners design for the ultimate extreme climate.

<http://www.metropolismag.com/November-2014/The-Cold-Rush/>

Is Natural Gas Green? by Kayla Matthews. Mother Earth News, January 13, 2015.

In an effort to live a greener, more eco-friendly lifestyle, you may be questioning the way you're heating your home. This is especially true for those living in houses which are fitted with natural gas furnaces. While the word natural is contained within the description of this fuel source, there's great debate about how truly renewable and organic it may be.

<http://www.motheearthnews.com/nature-and-environment/is-natural-gas-green-zbcz1501.aspx#ixzz3Om3nl7mG>

The Koch Brothers' Next Frontier by Clare Foran. The National Journal, November 21, 2014.

Republicans at the state and local levels are greener than the national party, but perhaps not for long. It was spring 2014 in Kansas, and conservatives were running riot. Republicans had one of their own in the governor's office and supermajorities in both chambers of the state Legislature. After enacting massive tax cuts and putting some of the nation's strongest abortion restrictions on the books, the GOP turned to energy policy. The target: a law demanding that power companies begin buying more energy from wind farms, solar plants, and other renewable-power sources.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/the-koch-brothers-next-frontier-20141121>

Mapping the World's Problems by Kate Galbraith. International New York Times, January 8, 2015.

Nearly a decade ago, an environmental group in Brazil grew concerned that government data and maps about Amazon deforestation were out of date and hard to view. The group, Imazon, decided to create its own monitoring tools, using information from satellites. Imazon's efforts caught the attention of Google, the search engine giant. Now, monthly reports on the Brazilian Amazon are produced through Google Earth Engine, a technology platform within the company.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/09/business/international/mapping-the-worlds-problems.html?ref=earth&_r=0

"They're driven by love. And they're fierce." Naomi Klein on the Climate Heroes Who Inspire Her by Sarah van Gelder. Yes! Magazine, Jan 7, 2015.

From Native activists to urban youth, new leadership finds ways to deal with climate chaos.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/cities-are-now/naomi-klein-on-climate-heroes-who-inspire-her>

Under the Ice, Above the Clouds by Sandi Doughton. National Parks Magazine, Winter 2015.

A team of scientists explores the mysteries of Mount Rainier's Ice Caves.

<http://www.npsa.org/news/magazine/all-issues/2015/winter/under-the-ice-above-the.html>

International Relations

Arms Control in the Near Term: An Interview with Undersecretary of State Rose Gottemoeller by Daniel Horner and Daryl G. Kimball.

Arms Control Today, November 2014, pp. 8-15.

Rose Gottemoeller is undersecretary of state for arms control and international security. She previously was assistant secretary of state for arms control, verification, and compliance. While in that position, she served as the chief U.S. negotiator of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) with Russia. This interview focuses on U.S.-Russian nuclear relations and U.S. progress in meeting its commitments under the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

<http://ow.ly/HhQGH>

Edward Snowden: A 'Nation' Interview by Katrina vanden Heuvel and Stephen F. Cohen. The Nation, October 28, 2014.

In a wide-ranging conversation, he discusses the surveillance state, the American political system and the price he's paid for his understanding of patriotism.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/186129/snowden-exile-exclusive-interview>

The Great Draft Dodge by James Kitfield. National Journal, December 13, 2014.

Karl Eikenberry and what Americans lost when they stopped fighting.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/the-great-draft-dodge-20141212>

Novorossiya! by Leon Aron. Commentary, December 2014.

In April, in a four-hour call-in show televised across Russia, Vladimir Putin assigned the name New Russia—Novorossiya—to the lands in Southeastern Ukraine he claimed were and are historically part of Russia. --- Novorossiya is the perfect word to describe the messianic, autocratic, and increasingly dangerous regime Putin has been engineering over the past three years, following his return to the presidency of Russia after a four-year gap in which his aide Dmitry Medvedev warmed the chair.

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/novorossiya/>

Space Wars: Why Our Space Systems Need an Upgrade by Deganit Paikowsky and Gil Baram. Foreign Affairs, January 7, 2015.

Space systems—the backbone of most corporate, military, communication, and even agricultural services—are increasingly threatened by vulnerabilities in cyberspace. The time is now ripe for an upgrade.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/142690/deganit-paikowsky-and-gil-baram/space-wars>

Pohjois-Amerikan tutkimus (Alue- ja kulttuurintutkimus, Helsingin yliopisto)

ja American Resource Center järjestävät yhteistyössä luentosarjan

Siirtolaisuuden ja vähemmistöjen näkyvyys

YHDYSVALTAIN KULTTUURISSA

Kaisa-talossa tiistaisin 13.1.- 24.2.2015 klo 17:00

Kaisa-talo, 7. kerros, Fabianinkatu 30

13.1.2015

Powwowsta rappiin: Intiaanit kulttuuriensa elvyttäjinä

Professori Rani-Henrik Andersson

20.1.2015

Myytti Kultaisesta Vuoresta - Kiinalaiset siirtolaiset amerikkalaisessa populaarikirjallisuudessa

FM Anna-Leena Korpjärvi

27.1.2015

Eurooppalaisten vaikutus Yhdysvaltalaisen maiseman maalaamiseen

Professori Emeritus Markku Henriksson

3.2.2015

Ystävä vai vihollinen? Muslimien kuvaus televisiosarjoissa

Yliopistonlehtori Outi Hakola

10.2.2015

Yhdysvaltain mustat valkokankaalla

FM Jonathan Laquerquist

24.2.2015

Whose Voices Do U.S. Presidents Listen To on Immigration Policy?

Professor Mark Miller



Welcome!



Did You Know?

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (officially Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.) is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around the time of King's birthday, January 15. This year the holiday is observed on Monday, January 19. The U.S. Embassy is closed but the ARC remains open.

Read more about the MLK Day of Service: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/martin-luther-king-jr-day-service/about-dr-king-and-mlk-day>



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