



American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki May 2015, Issue 5

American Resource Center Scholarship 2014 Awarded

American Resource Center Grant 2014 awardees were celebrated on May 7 at the Helsinki University Kaisa Library. Scholarships were presented to Ms. Anna Wennäkoski and Mr. Joonas Tuhkuri. Anna Wennäkoski prepares her thesis to Hanken School of Economics and the title of her thesis is *Examining the Undisclosed - A Comparative Analysis of the Protection of Trade Secrets in the European Union and in the United States*. Joonas Tuhkuri is finalizing his studies at the Department of Political and Economic Studies at the University of Helsinki and the title of his thesis is *Big Data: Do Google Searches Predict Unemployment?*

A total of 14 applications were submitted for the ARC Grant 2014. The competition was nationwide - students from six universities across Finland submitted their applications, and it attracted interest from a wide variety of academic programs. The applications covered a wide variety of subject matters including political science, cultural history, the English language, and social science.

The winners for the ARC Grant 2014 were chosen by Jeff Reneau, Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs, and Jeanie Duwan, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy, and Ms. Terhi Mölsä, Executive Director, Fulbright Center.



Chargé d'Affaires Susan Elbow (middle) presented ARC Grant 2014 certificates to Anna Wennäkoski and Joonas Tuhkuri.

The ARC Grant program has awarded students working with their Masters since 2006, and the next application period will start in September 2015. For more information, please visit http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc_grant.html



"Ilman Yhdysvalloissa viettämäni aikaa tämä kirja ei olisi syntynyt."

**Finlandia-palkittu kirjailija
Jussi Valtonen kertoo
He eivät tiedä mitä tekevät
-romaaninsa syntyprosessista**

Kaisa-kirjaston auditorio
(Fabianinkatu 30, 7. krs)
torstaina 4.6. klo 17:00-18:00

Tervetuloa!

the **Fulbright**Center

 AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

 SUOMI-AMERIKA YHDISTYSTEN LIITTO

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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American Life

American Religion: Complicated, Not Dead by Emma Green. The Atlantic, May 2015.

A new survey suggests that more people of all ages are choosing their own beliefs.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/05/american-religion-complicated-not-dead/392891/>

The Celebrity Illusion: Why Does America Invest So Much in the Idea of Fame? by Timothy Caulfield. The Chronicle Review, April 17, 2015

How social immobility fuels our obsession with celebrities.

<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Celebrity-Illusion/229197/>

The Embattled 1st Amendment by Lincoln Caplan. The American Scholar, Spring 2015.

The Supreme Court is interpreting free speech in new ways that threaten our democracy.

<https://theamericanscholar.org/the-embattled-first-amendment/#.VVxiqobW-OY>

How Farms Became the New Hot Suburb by Franz Lidz. Smithsonian, May 2015.

A new real estate trend has developments planted around working farms. But are these communities sustainable?

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/how-farms-became-new-hot-suburb-180954956/>

The Upwardly Mobile Barista by Amanda Ripley. The Atlantic, May 2015.

Starbucks and Arizona State University are collaborating to help cafe workers get college degrees. Is this a model for helping more Americans reach the middle class?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/05/the-upwardly-mobile-barista/389513/>

Economy & Politics

America's Gay Corporate Warrior Wants to Bring Full Equality to Red States by Joshua Green. Bloomberg BusinessWeek, April 24, 2015.

Even if the Supreme Court legalizes gay marriage, Quark founder Tim Gill believes there's still work to be done.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/features/2015-04-24/america-s-gay-corporate-warrior-wants-to-bring-full-equality-to-red-america>

The Bot Bubble: How Click Farms Have Inflated Social Media Currency by Doug Bock Clark. The New Republic, April 20, 2015.

Social media is the engine of the Internet, but that engine is running on some pretty suspect fuel.

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/121551/bot-bubble-click-farms-have-inflated-social-media-currency>

What It Really Means to Call Hillary Clinton 'Polarizing' by Mark Leibovich. The New York Times Magazine, April 12, 2015.

If there is one thing that unites American voters, it's our love of charging politicians with being 'polarizing'.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/12/magazine/what-it-really-means-to-call-hillary-clinton-polarizing.html>

Piety and Politics in America by Susan Jacoby. The American Prospects, May 15, 2015.

The tension between religiosity and secular government goes back to the nation's founding.

<http://prospect.org/article/piety-and-politics-america>

The Political Roots of Widening Inequality by Robert Reich. The American Prospect, Spring 2015.

The key to understanding the rise in inequality isn't technology or globalization. It's the power of the moneyed interests to shape the underlying rules of the market.

<http://prospect.org/article/political-roots-widening-inequality>

The Problem With Asking Republicans, 'Would You Have Invaded Iraq?' by Peter Beinart. The Atlantic, May 18, 2015.

Here's the better question: Is war the best response to dictators with WMD?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/05/question-iraq-war-rubio-bush/393551/>

The Virtual Candidate: Elizabeth Warren Isn't Running, but She's Hillary Clinton's Biggest Democratic Threat by Ryan Lizza. New Yorker, May 4, 2015.

Between 1995 and 2005, Warren, a professor who had established herself as one of the country's foremost experts on bankruptcy law, managed to turn an arcane issue of financial regulation into a major political issue.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/05/04/the-virtual-candidate>

Global Challenges

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

Arctic Issue: **U.S. Takes Lead in Bid to Cope with Arctic Meltdown** by Benjamin Hulac. Scientific American, April 20, 2015.
Secretary of State John Kerry heads to Canada to take on challenges of a changing Arctic.
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/u-s-takes-lead-in-bid-to-cope-with-arctic-meltdown1/>

Bee Die-Offs Are Worst Where Pesticide Use Is Heaviest by Tom Philpott. Mother Jones, May 14, 2015.
The nation's honeybee crisis has deepened, with colony die-offs rising sharply over last year's levels, the latest survey from the US Department of Agriculture-funded Bee Informed Partnership shows.
<http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2015/05/40-percent-us-honeybees-died-over-past-year>

Even in a Drought, California Farms Have a Future—But They'll Need Local Control to Succeed by Keith Harrington. Yes! Magazine, May 12, 2015.
Some California farmers have discovered ways to farm that use very little water, yet thirstier methods still dominate. What gives?
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/drought-california-farms-future-local-control-via-campesina>

How Green Could New York Be? by Maria Konnikova. The New Yorker, April 15, 2015.
The architect Michael Sorkin imagines an environmentally self-sufficient N.Y.C.
<http://www.newyorker.com/science/maria-konnikova/how-green-could-new-york-be>

Arctic Issue: **Why Shell Won't be Producing in the Arctic Anytime Soon** by Keith Johnson. Foreign Policy, May 13, 2015.
Obama's decision to open Alaskan waters to oil drilling infuriated environmental groups, but low prices and high costs could push back operations for years.
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/05/13/why-shell-wont-be-producing-in-the-arctic-anytime-soon-oil-chukchi/>

International Relations

The Deep Roots of the Ukraine Crisis by Richard Sakwa. The Nation, April 15, 2015.
To forge a lasting peace in Europe, we must rethink the post-Cold War security order.
<http://www.thenation.com/article/204449/deep-roots-ukraine-crisis>

The Global Conflict Tracker is an interactive guide to U.S. conflict prevention priorities in 2015. It is based on the most recent Preventive Priorities Survey (PPS), which asked government officials, foreign policy experts, and academics to assess ongoing and potential conflicts based on their likelihood to occur in 2015 and their potential impact on U.S. interests.
http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137?cid=ppc-FA_com-GCT_300x600#!/

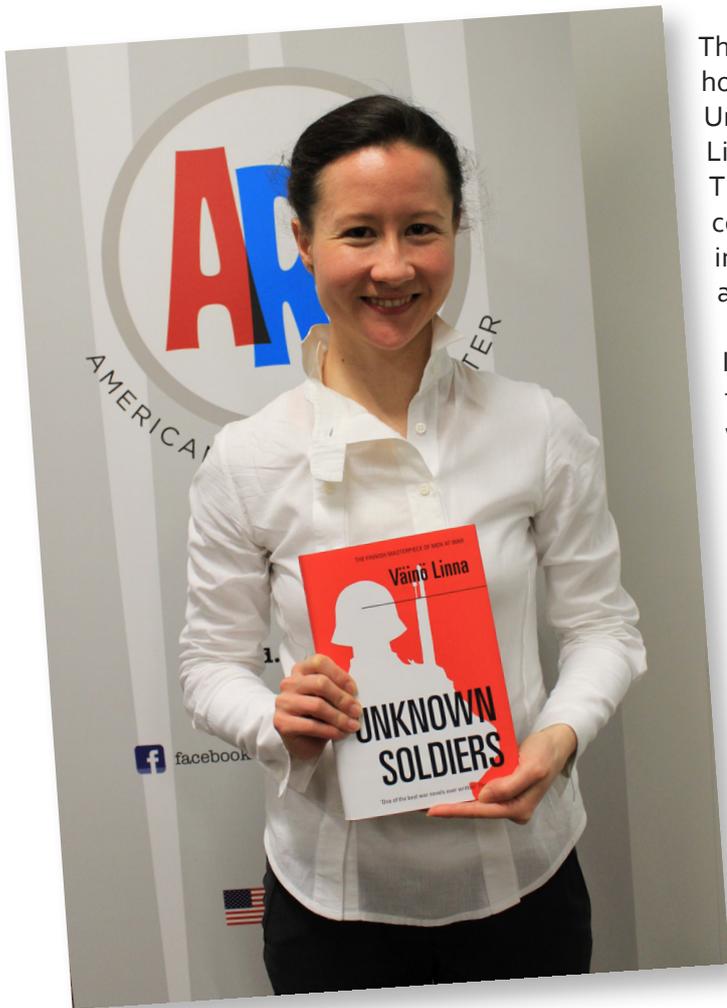
ISIS Is a Danger on U.S. Soil by Michael Morell. Time Magazine, May 14, 2015.
Michael Morell is the former deputy director of the CIA and has twice served as acting director. He is the author of *The Great War of Our Time: The CIA's Fight Against Terrorism — From al Qa'ida to ISIS*.
<http://time.com/3858354/isis-is-a-danger-on-u-s-soil/>

Test of Wills: Can China Overtake America in Asia Peacefully? by Lyle J. Goldstein. The National Interest, May 19, 2015.
Chinese scholars look to a crisis in America's own backyard for important insights into Beijing's relationship with Washington.
<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/test-wills-can-china-overtake-america-asia-peacefully-12914>

Arctic Issue: **U.S. Assumes Arctic Council Leadership Amid Increasing Tension in the Far-North** by Reid Standish. Foreign Policy, April 24, 2015.
Climate change is part of the reason why the Arctic has become a renewed front for international competition. Climate is disrupting ecosystems there and also opening new ice-free channels for shipping, commercial fishing, and oil and gas exploration. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that 13 percent of the earth's remaining oil, 30 percent of its natural gas, and 20 percent of its liquefied natural gas are stored within the Arctic seabed.
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/24/u-s-assumes-arctic-council-leadership-amid-increasing-tension-in-the-far-north/>



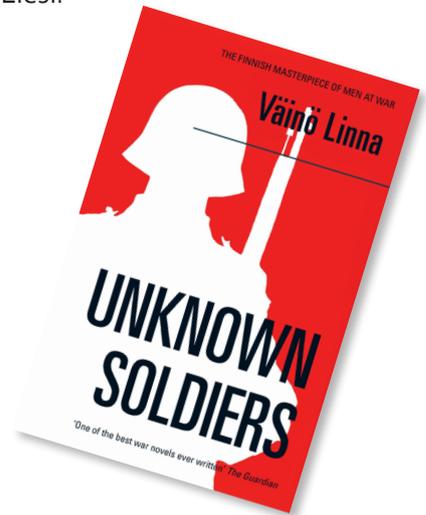
How “Tuntematon sotilas” Became “Unknown Soldiers”



The American Resource Center had the pleasure of hosting a lecture by translator Liesl Yamaguchi at Helsinki University Library on April 28. Liesl's translation of Väinö Linna's "Tuntematon sotilas" was published on April 30th. The translation process was long and laborious, requiring countless hours of background research and expert interviews with military representatives both in Finland and the United States.

In her public lecture, Liesl Yamaguchi shared her translation process and explained some of the creative ways she solved translation-related issues.

Thank you and congratulations on this significant accomplishment, Liesl!



May 25th is Memorial Day



Did You Know?

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the men and women who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is observed every year on the last Monday of May, was formerly known as Decoration Day and originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the war. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end. (Source: Wikipedia)

The U.S. Embassy Finland is closed on Memorial Day but the ARC remains open.



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