



American Resource Center Newsletter
 U.S. Embassy Helsinki
 May 2016, Issue 5

American Resource Center 70 Years

The American Resource Center celebrated its 70th Anniversary on Thursday, May 19. Our guest speakers at the ARC 70th Anniversary Seminar included Professor Emeritus Markku Henriksson from Helsinki University, International Affairs Journalist Teri Schultz from Brussels, and PhD Candidate Janniina Vlasov from Tampere University.

To learn more about the ARC's past, please see a video produced by Library Channel:
<http://www.kirjastokaista.fi/en/american-resource-center-en/>.

Brief history of the American Resource Center:
http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/brief_history_of_ARC.pdf



Stars and stripes.



Seven ARC Grantees joined our celebrations (see the last page of the newsletter to learn more about ARC Grant 2015 winners.)



ARC history poster show on display at the Kaisa Library main entrance in May.



Left to right: Professor Rani-Henrik Andersson; ARC Director Taina Iduozee; Ambassador Adams; and ARChettes Anne Ukkola and Päivi Hakulinen.

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.

American Life

25 Geniuses Who Are Creating the Future of Business. Wired, May 2016.

The future won't build itself; actual people will make it happen. Meet the 25 geniuses who are bringing tomorrow to you today. <http://www.wired.com/2016/04/wired-nextlist-2016/>

How Do You Change Voters' Minds? Have a Conversation by Benoit Denizet-Lewis. The New York Times Magazine, April 10, 2016. Going door to door, a Los Angeles-based activist group tries to reduce prejudice against transgender people. A new study finds that it works.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/10/magazine/how-do-you-change-voters-minds-have-a-conversation.html?_r=0

James Baldwin & the Fear of a Nation by Nathaniel Rich. The New York Review of Books, May 12, 2016.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/05/12/james-baldwin-fear-of-a-nation/>

An Oral History of "Star Trek". Interviews by Edward Gross and Mark A. Altman. The Smithsonian, May 2016.

Kirk's ego! Spock's salute! Lucille Ball's regrets! A new oral history reveals the clashes behind pop culture's final frontier. The trail-blazing sci-fi series debuted 50 years ago and has taken countless fans where none had gone before.

http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/oral-history-star-trek-180958779/#vMgjEuivK8bAFZdt_gg

The Secret Shame of Middle-Class Americans by Neal Gabler. The Atlantic, May 2015.

Nearly half of Americans would have trouble finding \$400 to pay for an emergency. I'm one of them. <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/05/my-secret-shame/476415/>

Economy & Politics

American Capitalism's Great Crisis by Rana Foroohar. Time, May 12, 2016.

Over the past four decades, the rules that govern the United States free-market system have been warped. That, Rana Foroohar argues in her new book, *Makers and Takers*, seriously imperils every American's economic future. How we got here and how to fix it. <http://time.com/4327419/american-capitalisms-great-crisis/>

The Aspiring Novelist Who Became Obama's Foreign-Policy Guru: How Ben Rhodes Rewrote the Rules of Diplomacy for the Digital Age by David Samuels. The New York Times Magazine, May 5, 2016.

As the deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, Rhodes writes the president's speeches, plans his trips abroad and runs communications strategy across the White House, tasks that, taken individually, give little sense of the importance of his role. He is, according to the consensus of the two dozen current and former White House insiders I talked to, the single most influential voice shaping American foreign policy aside from Potus himself.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/08/magazine/the-aspiring-novelist-who-became-obamas-foreign-policy-guru.html?_r=0

The Dark History of Defending the 'Homeland' by James Traub. The New York Times Magazine, April 5, 2016.

In 2010, the screenwriter and producer Alex Gansa finished the script for a political thriller involving a deeply troubled C.I.A. agent and a soldier who had been turned by the Taliban, and began thinking about a title. He recalls that he wanted a word or phrase to conjure an atmosphere of "creepy subversion" — something sinister, xenophobic, un-American. "Shadowland"? No, not quite. "Homeland"? Perfect. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/10/magazine/the-dark-history-of-defending-the-homeland.html>

How to Pull the World Economy Out of Its Rut by Peter Coy. Bloomberg Businessweek, May 12, 2016.

Larry Summers warns of "secular stagnation," a term from the Great Depression. Crazy things are happening in the world economy. In Europe and Japan, interest rates have turned negative, something long thought impossible. In the U.S., workers' productivity is improving at the feeblest five-year rate since 1982. China is a confusing welter of slumping growth and asset bubbles. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-05-12/how-to-pull-the-world-economy-out-of-its-rut>

The Long March of Bernie's Army by Harold Meyerson. The American Prospect, March 23, 2016.

Though Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign likely mobilized more volunteers and donors than any that came before, the organization through which it sought to keep its activists active once Obama became president—Obama for America lacked

all autonomy or organizational life; it failed even to exert any pressure on Democratic members of Congress who were cool to Obama's agenda. Leaders of unions, community-organizing groups, minority organizations and student groups, prominent environmentalists and Sanders activists, precinct walkers and online campaigners—some longtime allies, some total strangers to one another—are “all in one large, shifting conversation,” in the words of one such leader, to figure out how to build the Revolution once the Sanders campaign is done. <http://prospect.org/article/long-march-bernie%E2%80%99s-army>

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.

How Climate Change Could Make Office Work Even Unhealthier by Joshua Rapp Learn. Smithsonian.com, May 2, 2016. “Sick building syndrome” and other indoor concerns could be exacerbated by climate change. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-climate-change-could-make-office-work-even-unhealthier-180958815/#uLCpBrwq8fVTDDMI.99>

Arctic Issue: When the Arctic Gets Warmer, It Also Affects a Tropical Ecosystem Thousands of Miles Away by Sarah Zielinski. Smithsonian.com, May 12, 2016. As spring arrives earlier in far northern Russia, red knots get smaller—and have trouble in their African winter homes. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/when-arctic-gets-warmer-it-also-affects-tropical-ecosystem-thousands-miles-away-180959090/#oBPafV3cqayMgM3O.99>

World Bank: The Way Climate Change Is Really Going to Hurt Us Is Through Water by Chris Mooney. The Washington Post, May 3, 2016. As India, the world's second-most populous country, reels from an intense drought, the World Bank has released a new report finding that perhaps the most severe impact of a changing climate could be the effect on water supplies. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/05/03/world-bank-the-way-climate-change-is-really-going-to-hurt-us-is-through-water/>

International Relations

The Citizen-Soldier: Moral Risk and the Modern Military by Phil Clay. Brookings Essay, May 24, 2016. “No civilian can assume the moral burdens felt at a gut level by participants in war, but all can show an equal commitment to their country, an equal assumption of the obligations inherent in citizenship, and an equal bias for action. Ideals are one thing—the messy business of putting them into practice is another. That means giving up on any claim to moral purity. That means getting your hands dirty”. <http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2016/the-citizen-soldier>

East vs. West in the Arctic Circle by Jochen Bittner. The New York Times, April 28, 2016. Confidence-building measures — treaties, regular dialogue, joint commissions on global challenges — helped defuse one Cold War. We need new measures, now. The world can't expect Mr. Putin to take the first steps, so it's up to America to show sobriety and to avoid giving Russia any pretext for military action. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/28/opinion/east-vs-west-in-the-arctic-circle.html>

Is There a Hillary Doctrine? by Jeffrey Goldberg. The Atlantic, May 15, 2016. A conversation with Mark Landler about the foreign-policy differences between Obama and his former secretary of state. <http://www.defenseone.com/politics/2016/05/there-hillary-doctrine/128317/?oref=d-channeltop>

Russian Foreign Policy in the Putin Era: A Conference Report by Alexandra Wiktorek Sarlo. FPRI E-notes, May 2016. Hosted by International House Philadelphia, the conference brought together an impressive array of leading scholars on Russian foreign policy to discuss Putin's grand strategy and objectives, Russo-European relations, Russia's oil and gas politics, and ways in which the West can work to counter Russia's aggressive policies in its near abroad and beyond. <http://www.fpri.org/article/2016/05/russian-foreign-policy-putin-era/>

U.S. Missile Defenses in Europe: Move the Ball, Not the Goal Posts by Greg Thielmann. Arms Control Today, May 18, 2016. Within the last decade, the United States has made several important adjustments to its plans for deploying missile defenses in Europe. In light of the ongoing implementation of the Iran nuclear deal and an objective assessment of Iran's missile program, it is high time to make another one—suspending the deployment of more advanced Aegis missile defense interceptors to Poland. <https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/ArmsControlNow/2016-05-18/US-Missile-Defenses-in-Europe-Move-the-Ball-Not-the-Goal-Posts>

ARC Grant 10th Anniversary

This year also marks the 10th Anniversary of the ARC Grant program, which was established to celebrate the ARC's 60th anniversary in 2006. So far 15 Finnish students have received a scholarship from the ARC. We were proud to present certificates to the 2015 ARC Grant winners **Juuso Koskinen** and **Evelina Salo**. Mr. Koskinen studies at Turku University, and the working title of his Master's Thesis is "Anchor for Neutrality - United States Role in Finnish Foreign Policy 1980-1990." Ms. Salo studies at Åbo Akademi University and the working title of her Master's Thesis is "I am in Here: David Foster Wallace's Investigation of Mind and Self." Congratulations!

More information about the ARC Grant program is available at http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc_grant.html



Juuso Koskinen and Evelina Salo - winners of the ARC Grant 2015.



The winning theses on display.



Did You Know?

Naisten Kymppi is the biggest women's wellbeing and running event in Finland, and every year it brings together girls and women of all ages. The first ever Naisten Kymppi took place in 1984. The 10 k run goes around the beautiful scenery of Helsinki city centre, and this year it included also the ARChettes!

#ARC70 #sportsdiplomacy

<http://www.naistenkymppi.fi/in-english>



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