



American Resource Center Newsletter
U.S. Embassy Helsinki
November/December 2014, Issue 10

PANEELIKESKUSTELU

Kirjallisuuden intiaanit ja intiaanien kirjallisuus

Tervetuloa keskustelutilaisuuteen Pohjois-Amerikan intiaaneja käsittelevästä kirjallisuudesta ja intiaanien omasta nykykirjallisuudesta! Paneelissa ovat keskustelemassa **FL Tiina Wikström**, **FM Anna-Leena Korpijärvi**, **dosentti Juha Hiltunen** ja **FM Simo Hankaniemi**. Puheenjohtajana toimii **dosentti Riku Hämäläinen**.

Keskiviikkona **3.12.2014 klo 18:00**
Helsingin yliopiston Kaisa-kirjaston auditoriossa
Fabianinkatu 30, 7. krs

Welcome!

Lisätietoja: http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/intiaanikirjallisuuspaneeli_dec2014.pdf

Great Minds, Great Decisions



Group's last session was held at the U.S. Embassy Finland's Innovation Center.

We had the pleasure of hosting a first-ever Great Decisions discussion group on U.S. foreign policy in Finland this fall. The group members discussed issues such as U.S. trade policy, China's foreign policy, energy independence, and Turkey's challenges. The Great Decisions is a program developed by the Foreign Policy Association, and the local Finnish group was moderated by Mr. James Gardiner.

More information on the Great Decisions program is available at http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/.

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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American Life

Could This Be the Answer to the Tech World's Diversity Problem? by Debra Rosenberg. Smithsonian Magazine, November, 2014. Kimberly Bryant hopes to crack the code with her organization that teaches young girls of color how to program.
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/answer-tech-worlds-diversity-problem-180953046/>

A Field Trip to America's Public Libraries by Deborah Fallows. The Atlantic, November 19, 2014. How they serve the needs of their communities.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2014/11/field-trips-to-americas-public-libraries/382914/>

The Making of Ferguson by Richard Rothstein. The American Prospect, October 15, 2014. Long before the shooting of Michael Brown, official racial-isolation policies primed Ferguson for this summer's events.
<http://prospect.org/article/making-ferguson-how-decades-hostile-policy-created-powder-keg>

Shaping the Class. The Chronicle of Higher Education Report. October 2014. How are colleges preparing for the demographic shift in higher ed?
<http://www.maguireassoc.com/wp-content/uploads/Chronicle-Shaping-the-Class.pdf>

Stephen King: The Rolling Stone Interview by Andy Greene. The Rolling Stone, November 6, 2014. The horror master looks back on his four-decade career.
<http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/stephen-king-the-rolling-stone-interview-20141031>

Where the Tea Party Rules by Janet Reitman. Rolling Stone, October 14, 2014. Lima, Ohio, has been struggling for decades – and the GOP's radical policies are making it even worse.
<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/where-the-tea-party-rules-20141014>

With Big Data Comes Big Responsibility by Harvard Business Review Staff. Harvard Business Review, November 2014. Big data and the "internet of things"—in which everyday objects can send and receive data—promise revolutionary change to management and society. But their success rests on an assumption: that all the data being generated by internet companies and devices scattered across the planet belongs to the organizations collecting it. What if it doesn't? <https://hbr.org/2014/11/with-big-data-comes-big-responsibility>

Economy & Politics

The GOP's Road to Victory by Mitchell B. Reiss. The National Interest, October 23, 2014. Wherever one looks these days, crises, conflicts and chaos seem to rule. "Looking back over my more than half a century in intelligence," the director of national intelligence, James Clapper, testified earlier this year, "I have not experienced a time when we've been beset by more crises and threats around the globe. My list is long." How ironic, then, that national-security issues should dominate the headlines during President Obama's second term, given how little time was devoted to a serious or sustained discussion of these subjects during the 2012 presidential race.
<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-gop%E2%80%99s-road-victory-11514>

Red State, Blue State: Polarization and the American Situation by Paul Starr. The American Prospect, November 3, 2014. The country is stuck but it is not stationary. Some things are changing—just not at the federal level.
<http://prospect.org/article/red-state-blue-state-polarization-and-american-situation>

Sex, Lies and iPhones by Steven Bertoni. Forbes, November 4, 2014. In creating Tinder, the world's hottest dating app, Sean Rad has changed how people mate and how Wall Street views Barry Diller. Too bad it wasn't enough to save his job.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevenbertoni/2014/11/04/exclusive-sean-rad-out-as-tinder-ceo-inside-the-crazy-saga/>

Warren's Challenge to Clinton by Robert Kuttner. The American Prospect, October 24, 2014. A more insurgent campaign, like the one Elizabeth Warren waged for the Senate, could make Hillary Clinton a stronger candidate.
<http://prospect.org/article/will-elizabeth-warren-run-her-new-challenge-hillary-clinton>

Women Angels for Women-Led Startups by Karen E. Klein. Bloomberg Businessweek, October 23, 2014. In the U.S. the ranks of female angel investors—distinct from venture capitalists because they invest their own money—swelled from fewer than 20,000 in 2005 to almost 58,000 by last year, according to the University of New Hampshire's Center for Venture Research. In what may be a related trend, women made up 23 percent of U.S. entrepreneurs seeking angel capital in 2013, up from 9 percent in 2005.
<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-10-23/women-angels-for-women-led-startups>

Voter Suppression: How Bad? (Pretty Bad) by Wendy R. Weiser. The American Prospect, Fall 2014.

For the first time in decades, voters in nearly half the country will find it harder to cast a ballot in the upcoming elections. Voters in 22 states will face tougher rules than in the last midterms. In 15 states, 2014 is slated to be the first major election with new voting restrictions in place.
<http://prospect.org/article/22-states-wave-new-voting-restrictions-threatens-shift-outcomes-tight-races>

Global Challenges

Are Megacities Friend or Foe in the Fight Against Climate Change? by Sarah Zielinski. Smithsonian, November 21, 2014.

Like the people who call them home, cities have the potential for good and bad when it comes to adapting to a warming world.
<http://ow.ly/EYpUT>

Assessing the U.S.-China Climate Deal. Transcript, Council on Foreign Relations, November 14, 2014.

Speakers: Michael A. Levi, David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment and Director of the Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Goeconomic Studies; Moderator: Robert McMahon, Editor, CFR.org.
<http://www.cfr.org/climate-change/assessing-us-china-climate-deal/p33795>

How America's Favorite Baby-Goat Club Is Helping Big Ag Take Over Farming in Africa by Kiera Butler. Mother Jones, November/December 2014. 4-H claims its Africa program benefits village kids. Critics say it's actually just benefiting US companies.

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/11/4h-africa-farming-dupont-hybrid-seeds>

Is China Really Going Green? by John Cassidy. The New Yorker, November 15, 2014.

To most people, myself included, this week's agreement between the United States and China on tackling climate change came as a big surprise. For more than a decade, the Chinese government has resisted international calls for it to place a cap on carbon emissions, arguing, with some justification, that its first priority was industrializing its economy, expanding its G.D.P., and raising living standards.
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/john-cassidy/can-china-really-go-green>

The ISIS Challenge Online: When Twitter Becomes Anti-Social Media by Ahmed Charai. National Interest, November 14, 2014.

ISIS has won hundreds of thousands of followers and fans on Twitter and Facebook. Its seventh-century views are promoted through a deft social-media campaign: Jihadists from all over the world now holed up in ISIS territory transmit Tweets calling for new recruits in their respective native tongues. How can a free society counter such a cyber campaign?

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-isis-challenge-online-when-twitter-becomes-anti-social-11681>

Tracking Fishy Behavior, From Space by Christopher Pala. The Atlantic, November 16, 2014.

A new program aims to allow anybody to watch for poachers using satellite imagery and ship positioning systems. But whether it will actually send illegal fishing crews to court is an open question.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/11/tracking-fishy-behavior-from-space/382797/>

International Relations

Danger Signals by Gershom Gorenberg. The American Prospect, Fall 2014.

(This article is from the Fall 2014 issue of The American Prospect magazine. It was published before the November 18 terrorist attack on worshippers at the Kehilat Bnei Torah synagogue in Jerusalem.)

The arrival of ISIL makes an Israeli-Palestinian settlement even more urgent. But Hamas is not ISIL, and ISIL is not Hamas.

<http://prospect.org/article/isil-hamas-and-future-israel>

How the United States Can Counter the Ambitions of Russia and China by Ely Ratner and Thomas Wright. Washington Post, November 21, 2014.

The unraveling of the Middle East under the weight of the Sunni-Shiite rivalry and the rise of the Islamic State is enough of a national security challenge to keep the United States busy for a decade or more. But with more and more American advisers on the ground in Iraq — and a steady stream of videotaped atrocities on the Internet — there is a risk that Washington will once again revert to a foreign policy focused disproportionately on that region.

<http://ow.ly/EYpp5>

Iran Nuclear Negotiations to Extend Again by Adam Chandler. The Atlantic, November 24, 2014.

Unable to reach a deal on Iran's nuclear program, negotiators have pushed the deadline for the talks back another seven months.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/11/iran-nuclear-negotiations-to-extend-again/383101/>

The Legacy of Chuck Hagel by Mackenzie Eaglen. National Interest, November 24, 2014.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's departure is not good news for a military already struggling to absorb ever more budget cuts on top of ever rising demands and a Pentagon bureaucracy unsure about itself while about to have its fourth change in command in six years. While he was not a noisy regular on all the Sunday talk shows, Secretary Hagel was competently managing the largest federal agency's drawdown at a time of great global unrest.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-legacy-chuck-hagel-11728>

Six Lessons for Obama on How to Improve Relations With Cuba by William LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh. The Nation, October 20, 2014.

For six years, Pres Barack Obama has been saying that U.S. policy toward Cuba needs to change, but for six years he's been unwilling to take the political risk of sitting down at the negotiating table with the Cuban government to make it happen. Despite rampant rumors in Washington that administration officials at the "highest levels" want to break the stalemate in relations, no major breakthroughs have occurred. If Obama really wants to revamp fifty years of failed policy, he'd better act soon, because time is running out. To his credit, Obama's policy of expanding connections between U.S. and Cuban societies has been hugely successful. Here, LeoGrande and Kornbluh narrate on how Obama can learn from the past to improve international relations now.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/181808/six-lessons-obama-how-improve-relations-cuba>

Election Expert Analyzed the 2014 U.S. Midterm Elections

Fulbright Bicentennial Distinguished Chair Mark C. Miller gave an excellent analysis of the results and outcome of the 2014 U.S. Midterm Elections at the public lecture organized by the American Resource Center on November 10, 2014. Dr. Miller's discussion included voter turnout, the importance of state elections and campaign finance. Comments by Acting McDonnell-Douglas Professor Rani-Henrik Andersson from University of Helsinki and Deputy Chief of the Political-Economic Section Gottlieb Duwan from the U.S. Embassy opened a lively discussion with the audience.

Thank you to all of our speakers & the audience!



Education Expo Showcased Opportunities to the U.S.



The ARC arranged Education Expo - an afternoon filled with information about studying in the United States on November 13. Thank you to all our presenters at Fulbright Center, League of Finnish-American Friendship Society, U.S. Consulate, and U.S. Embassy!

And in case you didn't know yet - these and many dozens other study guides are available for home loan at the American Resource Center.

Happy Holidays!

In the United States the holiday season is generally considered to begin the day after Thanksgiving and end in early January. The season consists of several celebrations including Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

Whatever you will be celebrating, we wish you a happy holiday season! This is the last ARC newsletter this year - see you again in 2015!



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