



# American Resource Center Newsletter

## U.S. Embassy Helsinki

February, Issue 2 - 2013

### GRAND OPENING OF THE INNOVATION CENTER



President Sauli Niinistö and Ambassador Bruce Oreck cutting the ribbon at the Innovation Center opening.

The U.S. Embassy in Helsinki is thrilled to finally unveil the Innovation Center. The Grand Opening was held on February 26, 2013. In attendance among others were President Sauli Niinistö, Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, Ambassador Mark Brzezinski, Ambassador Jeffrey Levine, and Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde.

Through the vision and drive of many people, including Ambassador Bruce J. Oreck, and the support of the Department of State and the tireless efforts of Overseas Building Operations, one of the most energy efficient embassy buildings in the world is now operational. More than a space to showcase the very latest in energy efficient technologies, the Innovation Center exemplifies 21st century diplomacy in all of its forms.

Embassy staff returned to the building

in mid-January. Anyone interested in touring the space should contact the U.S. Embassy Helsinki. We'll gladly arrange a visit.

#### **What is the Innovation Center?**

The Innovation Center houses the public offices of the U.S. Embassy in Finland and is one of the most energy efficient embassy buildings in the world. While the building utilizes leading technologies in energy innovation, the staff it houses works to advance the Department of State's Economic Statecraft Initiative and promotes an active and robust trade and investment agenda in Finland and the region. Beyond advancing the Mission's economic agenda, the Innovation Center provides a venue for all manner of public programming, information sharing and meetings with contacts to discuss the

myriad of opportunities and global challenges that we look to address through our partnership with Finland. It presents a new face in U.S. diplomacy - an open, inviting and welcoming venue in one of the city's most beautiful locations.

#### **Our vision**

The Innovation Center is a model for 21st century diplomacy. We envision a space to address progressive "economic statecraft" goals, by bringing trade, investment and commercial diplomacy to the forefront. This isn't limited to a "dollars and cents" vision, as the Embassy looks to partner to find creative approaches to important social issues. Work in this first-of-its-kind diplomatic structure will be aimed at further strengthening overall U.S.-Finnish relations, increasing our joint potential and opening regional opportunities.

# WEB PICKS

*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

**David Lynch Is Back ... as a Guru of Transcendental Meditation** by Claire Hoffman. The New York Times Magazine, February 22, 2013.

Through the work of the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace, Lynch, who has been practicing T.M. for 40 years, hopes to teach meditation to the world and, as a result, create world peace.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/24/magazine/david-lynch-transcendental-meditation.html?pagewanted=all>

**It's For Your Own Good!** by Cass R. Sunstein. The New York Review of Books, March 7, 2013.

Many Americans abhor paternalism. They think that people should be able to go their own way, even if they end up in a ditch. When they run risks, even foolish ones, it isn't anybody's business that they do.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/mar/07/its-your-own-good/>

**Obama's First Term: A Romantic Oral History** by Peter Baker. January 20, 2013.

Obama's first-term team learned a humbling lesson in Washington realpolitik, but they remember it more like a great episode of 'The West Wing.'

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/20/magazine/obamas-first-term-oral-history.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/20/magazine/obamas-first-term-oral-history.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

**Torture, Compromise, Revenge** by Frank Rich. The New York Magazine, February 11, 2013.

Oscars for the Obama age: Me, I'd vote Django.

<http://nymag.com/news/frank-rich/django-unchained-oscar-race-2013-2/>

**University Presidents—Speak Out!** by Scott Sherman. The Nation, March 11-18, 2013.

Think about it: When was the last time a college or university president produced an edgy piece of commentary, or took a daring stand on a contentious matter?

<http://www.thenation.com/article/173015/university-presidents-speak-out?page=full#sthash.bJeGL3e3.dpuf>

**Why Mass Incarceration Defines Us As a Society** by Chris Hedges, Smithsonian, December 2012.

Bryan Stevenson, the winner of the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award in social justice, has taken his fight all the way to the Supreme Court. The legal crusader has given thousands of young people in America's prisons the most valuable gift – a second chance.

<http://goo.gl/ZdzUN>

## Economy and Politics

**Against Swedenization: The Entitlement State Imbalances Budgets and Enervates Citizens** by William Voegeli. National Review, January 28, 2013.

"Since the end of the Cold War, conservatives have warned against the "Swedenization" of America. These warnings are, most directly, about a policy regime wherein government spending accounts for more than half of gross domestic product and government regulation is the biggest factor affecting the generation of the rest."

<https://www.nationalreview.com/nrd/articles/337359/against-swedenization>

**Airbnb and the Unstoppable Rise of the Share Economy** by Tomio Geron. Forbes, January 23, 2013.

"The sharing economy is a real trend. I don't think this is some small blip," says Joe Kraus, a general partner at Google Ventures who has backed two car-sharing sites, RelayRides and Sidecar. "People really are looking at this for economic, environmental and lifestyle reasons. By making this access as convenient as ownership, companies are seeing a major shift."

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/tomiogeron/2013/01/23/airbnb-and-the-unstoppable-rise-of-the-share-economy/>

**Jeanne Gang and the Greening of Chicago** by Caroline Winter. Bloomberg BusinessWeek, January 24, 2013.

The architect wants to bring a "more wild version" of nature into cities. Her project for Chicago's Northerly Island is under way.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-01-24/jeanne-gang-and-the-greening-of-chicago#p1>

**NRA Targets Democratic Senators Up in 2014 With Local Newspaper Ads** by David M. Drucker. Roll Call, February 20, 2013.

The National Rifle Association will launch a print advertising campaign targeting mostly Democratic senators up for re-election in 2014, according to sources close to the group.

<http://atr.rollcall.com/nra-targets-democratic-senators-up-in-2014-with-local-newspaper-ads/?pos=epol>

**Second-Generation Americans: A Portrait of the Adult Children of Immigrants.** Pew Research, February 7, 2013. Second-generation Americans—the 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants—are substantially better off than immigrants themselves on key measures of socioeconomic attainment, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.  
<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/02/07/second-generation-americans/>

**Why the Democrats Are Golden in California** by Ronald Brownstein. National Journal, January 17, 2013. California illustrates both the opportunities and the challenges for Democrats as they respond to demographic change.  
[http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/why-the-democrats-are-golden-in-california-20130117?mrefid=site\\_search&page=1](http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/why-the-democrats-are-golden-in-california-20130117?mrefid=site_search&page=1)

## Global Challenges

**The Difficulty of Figuring Out Who Owns What in China** by Yueran Zhang. The Atlantic, February 25, 2012. How a seemingly-obscure clerical matter could sink the country's real estate market.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/02/the-difficulty-of-figuring-out-who-owns-what-in-china/273466/>

**For Transatlantic Trade, This Time Is Different: Why the Latest U.S.-EU Trade Talks Are Likely to Succeed** by Tyson Barker. Foreign Affairs, February 26, 2013. In the past, U.S. and European negotiators have tried and failed to create a unified transatlantic market. But the trade talks that President Obama announced this month have a much better chance of succeeding, thanks to a greater need for economic growth on both sides, the threat of China's illiberal economic behavior, and the desire to give U.S.-European relations a new purpose.  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139027/tyson-barker/for-transatlantic-trade-this-time-is-different>

**The United States Heads to the South China Sea: Why American Involvement Will Mean More Friction -- Not Less** by Michael T. Klare. Foreign Affairs, February 21, 2013. In official statements, the United States claims to be a neutral observer in disputes over islands in the South and East China Seas. In fact, major U.S. energy firms have already partnered with Malaysian, Vietnamese, and Philippine state-owned oil companies to develop promising reserves in maritime territories claimed by those countries as well as China -- and the United States appears intent on protecting those projects and other interests in the region with military might.  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139023/michael-t-klare/the-united-states-heads-to-the-south-china-sea>

**Why Does Privacy Matter? One Scholar's Answer** by Jathan Sadowski. The Atlantic, February 26, 2012. If we want to protect privacy, we should be more clear about why it is important. Our privacy is now at risk in unprecedented ways, but, sadly, the legal system is lagging behind the pace of innovation. Indeed, the last major privacy law, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, was passed in 1986! While an update to the law -- spurred on by the General Petraeus scandal -- is in the works, it only aims to add some more protection to electronic communication like emails.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/02/why-does-privacy-matter-one-scholars-answer/273521/>

## International Relations

**Back to the Drawing Board: The Need for Sound Science in U.S. Missile Defense** by Philip E. Coyle. Arms Control Today, January/February 2013. The technical core of the U.S. missile defense program is in tatters. Two heavyweight studies in the past 16 months have raised fundamental questions about the science underlying the program.  
[http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2013\\_01-02/Back-to-the-Drawing-Board-The-Need-for-Sound-Science-in-US-Missile-Defense](http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2013_01-02/Back-to-the-Drawing-Board-The-Need-for-Sound-Science-in-US-Missile-Defense)

**Drone Home** by Lev Grossman. Time, February 11, 2013. They fight and spy for America abroad, but what happens when drones return home?  
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2135132,00.html>

**How the 1980s Explains Vladimir Putin** by Fiona Hill and Clifford Gaddy. The Atlantic, February 4, 2013. As the Soviet system disintegrated, the Russian president was a young KGB agent serving in an isolated part of East Germany. Here's how the experience would shape him -- and his country.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/02/how-the-1980s-explains-vladimir-putin/273135/>

**The Next Step on Nuclear Arms Reduction** by Steven Pifer. Fletcher Forum, February 14, 2013. The United States and Russia have just begun the third year of implementing the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). When the treaty takes full effect in February 2018, each country will be limited to no more than 1,550 deployed strategic warheads on 700 deployed strategic missiles and bombers. That represents progress, but more can and should be done.  
<http://www.fletcherforum.org/2013/02/14/pifer/>

**When Terrorists Take to Social Media** by Deana Kjukan. The Atlantic, February 15, 2013. Increasingly, groups like Al Shabaab are using social-networking sites to reach a broader global audience. Yikes.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/02/when-terrorists-take-to-social-media/273321/>

# Helsingin Yliopisto Tutkii Yhdysvaltoja



## Luentosarja maanantaisin

11.3. - 22.4. 2013

klo 17:00 Kaisa-talossa

Moderaattorina professori Markku Henriksson.

## OHJELMA

### 11.3. FT Riku Hämäläinen

Intiaanien sauna: hikoilua pyhässä tilassa

### 18.3. FM Anna Koivusalo

Mies, joka aloitti Yhdysvaltain sisällissodan: James Chesnut ja etelävaltiolainen kunniakäsitys

### 25.3. FM Saara Kekki

Näkökulmia Yhdysvaltain monikulttuurisuuteen – esimerkkinä yhdysvaltainjapanilaiset ja intiaanit

### 8.4. FT, dosentti Markku Ruotsila

Uskonto ja politiikka Yhdysvalloissa

### 15.4. VTL, yliopistolehtori Erkki Berndtson

Yhdysvaltain politiikan suuret murrokset

### 22.4. FT, professori Mikko Saikku

Yhdysvaltalaisen ristiriitainen luontosuhde

Helsingin yliopiston kirjasto  
Kaisa-talo, 7. krs.  
Fabianinkatu 30  
**Vapaa pääsy - tervetuloa!**



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO

## ARC Scholarship 2012 to Turku

Ms. Suvi Karila of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Turku has been selected as the winner of the 2012 ARC Scholarship. The title of her Master's Thesis is "Atheism and Human Rights in the Philosophy of Ernestine L. Rose (1810-1892)."

A total of 16 applications were submitted for the 2012 ARC grant of 1000 Euros. The selection committee was captivated by the originality, diversity, and the academic quality of the topics and applications. The competition was nationwide – students from seven 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 history, the English language, law, political science, North American studies, literature, cultural history and church history.

After lengthy deliberations, the committee members – Mr. David McGuire, Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs (U.S. Embassy), Ms. Amy Hirsch, Assistant Public Affairs Officer (U.S. Embassy), and Ms. Terhi Mölsä, Executive Director, Fulbright Center, selected Suvi Karila as this year's winner.



Left to right: Petra Helenius, ARC Grant 2006 recipient, Saara Kekki, ARC Grant 2008 recipient, and Tuomas Koskenniemi, ARC Grant 2009 recipient.



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