

MARCH, ISSUE 3 - 2012

AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

ARC AT THE THINK CORNER IN APRIL

Science at the street level

The University of Helsinki will bring top-level research to the public at the Think Corner in the heart of Helsinki for the duration of the WDC 2012 year, inviting a free and lively debate.

The Think Corner welcomes everyone to stop by, ask questions, to listen, watch and experience for themselves what the research and teaching at the University of Helsinki is all about. The programme is built around scientific themes that change every couple of weeks.

The Think Corner steps in to world of libraries when the new main library of the Helsinki University presents itself during the *Oasis of Science* weeks (26.3.-13.4.). The library opens in the fall of 2012 and its service design project is part of the Helsinki World Design Capital year. In the Think Corner expect to learn more about the new Kaisa-building, coming library innovations, intelligent design, philosophy and learning.

Welcome!



KOE TIEDE ELÄMYKSIÄ TIEDEKULMASSA

Helsingin yliopiston uuden oppimisympäristön avauksen kunniaksi ajatellaan monipuolista yhteiskuntaa. Tuemme tietopyrkivien ja monipuolisen tutkimuksen tekijien koulutustarpeita. Tule Tiedekulmassa tutustumaan Helsingin yliopiston uuteen oppimisympäristöön ja opettajaan ja nähdä Helsingin yliopiston uuden oppimisympäristön. Koko Tiedekulmassa esitelmät ja keskustelut on nähtävillä www.helsinki.fi/tiedekulma.

TIEDOKULMA, AJATUKSIA TIEDEKULMASSA 27.3.-13.4.2012, KLO 12-17, LA 12-14

American Resource Center (ARC) esittäytyy Tiedekulmassa

Tiistai 3.4.2012 klo 12-14

- ARC:n palvelut ja aineistot
- Kindle-lukulaitteen esittelyä
- eLibrary USA -aineistot
- ARC verkossa ja sosiaalisessa mediassa

Torstai 12.4.2012 klo 12-17

12:00 - 13:00

- ARC:n palvelut ja aineistot
- ARC:n uuden visuaalisen ilmeen julkistaminen / graafikko Jaska Poikonen, Juicy Graphics

13:00 - 14:00

Yhdysvaltoihin opiskelemaan

- Fulbright Centerin stipendiohjelmat ja palvelut / Ohjelmapäällikkö **Karoliina Kokko**
- ASLA-Fulbright alumnit kertovat kokemuksistaan
- USAn suurlähetystön vaihto-ohjelmat / Exchange Assistant **Mirka McIntire**

14:00 - 15:00

Monique Truong, Vietnamese American author and editor, interviewed by U.S. Embassy Press Attaché **David McGuire**

15:00 - 16:00

Georgia O'Keeffe – kolmen maailman tulkki

Yhdysvaltain tutkimuksen McDonnell-Douglas -professori **Markku Henriksson**, Helsingin yliopisto

16:00 - 17:00

Vaalit 2012: Taistelu Yhdysvaltojen sielusta

Tutkija **Charly Saloniemi-Pasternak**, Ulkopoliittinen instituutti
Kommenttipuheenvuorot:

- **Tuomas Koskenniemi**, ARC-stipendiaatti 2009
- **Paula Siltanen**, ARC-stipendiaatti 2011

For more information about Think Corner and full program visit:

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/wdc-2012/tiedekulma/>



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

Big Philanthropy's Role in Higher Education by Stanley N. Katz. The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 25, 2012. Megafoundations used to be quiet giants. Now they're noisy activists, shaping policy and politics.
http://chronicle.com/article/Big-Philanthropys-Role-in/131275/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Edward Curtis' Epic Project to Photograph Native Americans. Smithsonian Magazine, March 2012. His 20-volume masterwork was hailed as "the most ambitious enterprise in publishing since the production of the King James Bible"—and he paid dearly for his ambition.
<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/history/2012/03/edward-curtis-epic-project-to-photograph-native-americans/>

F. Scott Fitzgerald's Essays From the Edge by Patricia Hampl. The American Scholar, Spring 2012. The Jazz Age novelist's chronicle of his mental collapse, much derided by his critics, anticipated the rise of autobiographical writing in America.
<http://theamericanscholar.org/f-scott-fitzgeralds-essays-from-the-edge/>

Inside the Supreme Court: Why Obamacare Supporters Are Getting So Nervous by Kate Pickert. Time, March 28, 2012. For supporters of the two-year-old health reform law, Tuesday's Supreme Court hearing was supposed to be the day that the grownups took over. After the Affordable Care Act had been demonized and misconstrued and called a threat to the very soul of America, it was going to be the moment when all that crazy rhetoric fell away, leaving only measured legal reasoning. This reasoning would surely say that the Constitution gives Congress the power to force individuals to buy health insurance, a major tenet of the health care law. Those rogue, ideological district court judges who found the law's individual mandate an unprecedented case of federal overreach were going to eat their words.
<http://swampland.time.com/2012/03/28/inside-the-supreme-court-why-obamacare-supporters-are-getting-so-nervous/>

Rebooting the Academy: 12 Big Ideas. The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 2, 2012. You may have heard the word "disruption" lately. College leaders are trying new approaches to teaching and research with digital tools, and some of those approaches could be transformative.
<http://chronicle.com/article/Tech-Innovators/130926>

What America Does for Work by Jacob Goldstein and Lam Thuy Vo. NPR.org, March 21, 2012. Let's step back for a minute from the day-to-day news about jobs and unemployment and ask few bigger, simpler questions: What do Americans do for a living? And how has the picture changed over the past several decades?
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2012/03/20/149015363/what-america-does-for-work>

Words from the Dictionary of American Regional English by Abigail Tucker. Smithsonian Magazine, March 2012. After half a century of studying jib-jabbing, linguists have just finished the nation's most ambitious dictionary of regional dialects
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/Snollygosters-Wampus-Toe-Socials-and-Other-Words-from-the-Dictionary-of-American-Regional-English.html#ixzz1qE10SOx9>

Economy and Politics

Managers Need to Up Their Game with Social Media by Anthony J. Bradley and Mark P. McDonald. Harvard Business Review, March 26, 2012. Using social media to accomplish a meaningful purpose involves more than providing new technology and praying for success. Successful mass collaboration places new requirements on an organization, particularly its managers.
http://blogs.hbr.org/cs/2012/03/managers_need_to_up_their_game.html

The Missing Middle in American Politics: How Moderate Republicans Became Extinct by Reihan Salam. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2012. Rule and Ruin: The Downfall of Moderation and the Destruction of the Republican Party, From Eisenhower to the Tea Party, by Geoffrey Kabaservice, and The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism, by Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson, are reviewed.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/137287/reihan-salam/the-missing-middle-in-american-politics?page=show>

The Unpersuaded: Who listens to a President? by Ezra Klein. The New Yorker, March 19, 2012. A good speech can help a candidate achieve his goals. For a President, it's different.
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2012/03/19/120319fa_fact_klein

Global Challenges

Foreign Affairs Live: The Future of History by Francis Fukuyama and Gideon Rose. Foreign Affairs, March 26, 2012. (Video) On March 22, Foreign Affairs Editor Gideon Rose led a conversation with renowned political scientist and author Francis Fukuyama on themes from his decades of research and writing, and the conclusions he drew in “The Future of History,” Fukuyama’s most recent contribution to the magazine.

Watch them discuss the history and future of the liberal democratic order, and the factors -- from technology and biomedicine to popular uprisings in the East and socioeconomic disparity -- that will determine the arc of history.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/discussions/audio-video/foreign-affairs-live-the-future-of-history>

Top Ten Most-Destructive Computer Viruses: Created by Amateur Hackers, Underground Crime Syndicates and Government Agencies, These Powerful Viruses Have Done Serious Damage to Computer Networks Worldwide by Sharon Weinberger. Smithsonian.com, March 20, 2012.

Computer viruses have come a long way from the early days of personal computers, when teenage hackers competed for bragging rights, creating malware designed for mischief or random mayhem. Now, the hackers have gone professional, and their ambitions have grown; rather than amateurs working out of their parents’ basement, malware creators are often part of an underworld criminal gang, or working directly for a foreign government or intelligence agency. As the stakes have grown, so too has the potential damage and destruction brought on by malware.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/Top-Ten-Most-Destructive-Computer-Viruses.html>

International Relations

Bowing to the Kremlin: Why Obama’s “Hot Mic” Diplomacy Is Endangering America by Mitt Romney, Foreign Policy Magazine, March 27, 2012.

Sometimes it’s the unguarded moments that are the most revealing of all. President Obama just had such a moment at the summit in South Korea. “This is my last election,” Obama told Russia’s president, Dmitry Medvedev, in an exchange that was inadvertently picked up by microphones. “After my election I have more flexibility.”

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/03/27/bowing_to_the_kremlin

NATO’s Victory in Libya: The Right Way to Run an Intervention by Ivo H. Daalder and James G. Stavridis. Foreign Affairs, March/April 2012.

NATO’s operation in Libya has rightly been hailed as a model intervention. The alliance responded rapidly to a deteriorating situation that threatened hundreds of thousands of civilians rebelling against an oppressive regime. It succeeded in protecting those civilians and, ultimately, in providing the time and space necessary for local forces to overthrow Muammar al-Qaddafi. And it did so by involving partners in the region and sharing the burden among the alliance’s members.

NATO’s involvement in Libya demonstrated that the alliance remains an essential source of stability. But to preserve that role, NATO must solidify the political cohesion and shared capabilities that made the operation in Libya possible -- particularly as its leaders prepare for the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago this May.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/137073/ivo-h-daalder-and-james-g-stavridis/natos-victory-in-libya>

Elections 2012 Special

The Inevitable Quadrennial Third-Party Shooting Star by Joshua Spivak. Atlantic Monthly, March 27, 2012.

It doesn’t matter how much people say they want another option, the system effectively precludes anyone but a Democrat or Republican from winning the presidency.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/03/the-inevitable-quadrennial-third-party-shooting-star/255107/>

Many Republicans Want Brokered Convention by CNN Poll. The CNN, March 27, 2012. (.PDF)

Many Republican voters are not opposed to a brokered convention; in fact, a strong percentage of them would prefer it. A new CNN poll out Tuesday finds that while 53 percent of GOP voters nationwide think the nominee for president should be chosen before the end of the primaries, 43 percent wouldn’t mind waiting until the Republican National Convention in August.

<http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnn/2012/images/03/27/rel3c.pdf>

Polls: Obama Stronger, Still Vulnerable in Swing States by Steven Shepard. The National Journal, March 28, 2012.

President Obama leads former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in three key swing states, according to new Quinnipiac University polls released Wednesday, but Obama remains vulnerable in all three battlegrounds.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/2012-presidential-campaign/polls-obama-stronger-still-vulnerable-in-swing-states-20120328?mrefid=election2012>

States vs. Plutocrats: A Novel Attack on Hidden Campaign Donations by Alec MacGillis. The New Republic, March 29, 2012

Thanks to Citizens United and other recent rulings, the nation’s ultra-wealthy have a lot more latitude than they did a few years ago when it comes to pouring money into the political system. And, according to the latest campaign filings, they aren’t skimping. During February, Ken Griffin, founder of the hedge fund Citadel, and Henry Kravis, co-founder of private equity giant KKR, each gave \$100,000 to the super PAC supporting Mitt Romney, while American Crossroads, the group co-founded by Karl Rove, received \$500,000 from the financial services firm S.W. Childs Management Corp.

<http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/magazine/102112/citizens-united-super-pac-campaign-finance>

CREATING CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE U.S.



Dr. Nancy Commins discusses a U.S. perspective on culturally and linguistically inclusive schools

Educators, administrators and representatives from cultural centers gathered at the American Resource Center to explore ways to celebrate diversity and enhance intercultural learning in schools with visiting Fulbright Scholar Dr. Nancy Commins.

Dr. Nancy Commins urged educators and administrators to provide instruction and time for students to practice equity and intercultural competence in schools. She also emphasized the importance of teacher training in providing teachers tools to meet the needs of second language learners in classrooms.

Background on Dr. Commins

Dr. Nancy Commins is a visiting professor from Colorado. She has been an educator in the US for more than 30 years. Her

roles have included classroom teacher, school district administrator, university professor and independent consultant around best practices for linguistically and culturally diverse student populations.

She was chosen as this year's University of Turku Fulbright Scholar. The title of her project is "Immigrant Integration: Preparing the Next Generation of Teachers." It is a unique collaboration among Turku International School/Norssi, the city of Turku and the University of Turku. Dr. Commins will return to the University of Colorado at Denver as a Clinical Professor in Teacher Education.

She is co-author of two books and has also published numerous chapters and articles based on her teaching and research.

ARC SCHOLARSHIP 2011 AWARDED

The ARC Grant 2011 was awarded to Ms. Paula Siltanen on March 8 in Tampere. Public Affairs Officer Marjut Robinson presented the certificate and congratulated the winner on her achievement. Paula Siltanen studies at the Department of Political Science of the University of Tampere, and the title of her winning Master's Thesis is "The concept of otherness / alterity in the foreign policy rhetorics of President Barack Obama."



ARC Grant winner Ms. Paula Siltanen (left) and Public Affairs Officer Marjut Robinson

The American Resource Center announced the competition in September 2011, and a total of 24 applications were submitted for the 2011 ARC grant of 1,000 Euros. The selection committee - Ms. Marjut Robinson, Mr. David McGuire, Press Attaché (U.S. Embassy), and Ms. Terhi Mölsä, Executive Director, Fulbright Center, praised the high quality of the submissions. The applications were received from the universities of Oulu, Vaasa, Jyväskylä, Tampere, Turku, Helsinki, Åbo Akademi and Eastern Finland. The applications covered many subject areas, e.g. journalism, comparative religion, social research, political science, history, the English language, education, North American studies, and international relations.

The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

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