

My Projects

1. History of Karelia

The aim in this project is to write a textbook about the history of Karelia in English. The planned book will be suitable for the foreign students as well as for tourists interested in the Karelian past. The book will cover the Karelian territory on both sides of the Finnish--Russian border. The project has got funding from the Finnish Association of Non-fiction Writers. The planned publication date of the book is in 2014.

2. The Borderland of Sweden and Russia in the 17th Century

The partners in this book project are Professor Kimmo Katajala (project leader), the University of Eastern Finland, Professor Irina Chernyakova, the Petrozavodsk State University, Russia, Professor Adrian Selin, the Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg Branch, Russia, and Docent Jukka Kokkonen, the University of Eastern Finland. The cooperative project will produce a common book in English about the politics and ordinary life in Karelian and in Ingria during the 17th century. The project has got funding from the VERA-Centre for Excellence in Karelian Institute. The manuscript of the book will be ready in 2015.

3. Popular Contention and Democracy in the Nordic Countries 1700--2010

The partners in this project are Flemming Mikkelsen (project leader) and René Karpantschov (Denmark), Mats Berglund, Roger Johansson, Stefan Nyzell, Abby Peterson, Matias Wahlström (Sweden), Hilde Sandvik, Knut Kjeldstadli, Idar Helle (Norway) and Ismo Björn, Kimmo Katajala (Finland). The aim of the project is to look how the popular protests and their handling in society have developed in the Nordic countries during the centuries. One of the main goals is to ponder if the popular protest movements have had influence on the development of the Nordic societies. The preliminary manuscript of the book is ready at the end of the year 2013.

4. Meanings of an Urban Space, Past and Present. Cross-cultural Studies of the Town of Vyborg from the 16th to the 21th Century

The aim of the research project is to look at the town of Vyborg as an urban space offering both historical processes and intentionally produced meanings. The two principal questions to be answered in the research project are: 1) What are the historical processes by which the present-day urban space of Vyborg has taken shape? and 2) What meanings have been given to the town and its buildings and spaces? The main theoretical framework of the research is the concept of trialectics developed by the French sociologist Henri Lefebvre (1991) and American geographer Edward Soja (1996). This approach analyses the social space of the town in three levels: as a concrete, imaginary and potential space. Therefore, it is not only the historically formed physical appearance of the town that is to be examined but also, and most especially, the meanings given to these buildings, squares and monuments. The crucial question is how these buildings and spaces are understood and what meanings they carry. The partners in this joint research project are the Department of Geographical and Historical Studies at the University of Eastern Finland (Finland) and the Department of History in the Saint Petersburg State University (Russia). The leaders will be Professor Kimmo Katajala in Finland and Professor Sergey G. Kashchenko in Russia.