

The Future of Refugee Protection and Community Relations in Finland

Place: University of Tampere, Pinni B1100

Time: 12-17 o'clock, 1st December 2017

Since 2015 refugee protection, asylum policy, the situation of the undocumented, forced returns and social polarisation have emerged as recurrent topics in the Finnish public and political debates. Societal developments and discourses affect people's lives and their feelings of security and belonging in many ways. This became blatantly clear after the Turku attack, 18th August 2017. The status and rights of asylum seekers, both those in the process and those with a final negative decision, have become topics of heated debate. Besides newcomers in the society, these debates are reflected also on people who have received a refugee status, or who might have formal citizenship.

The seminar responds to a need to create a space to discuss what is happening in the field of refugee protection and how these developments affect not only individual lives, but also community relations. To explore the connections between these spheres, the seminar brings migrants, asylum seekers and refugees together with decision-makers, professionals and experts on integration and human rights. The talks and commentaries offer insight into how asylum seekers, refugees and migrants claim their place in society. The final session of the seminar addresses the human rights effects of current developments and sheds light on Finnish asylum policy from a human rights perspective.

Seminar program

12.00-12.15 Opening words

Professor **Liisa Häikiö**

12.15-13.30 *Tampere kaikille?* – films and photos by young asylum seekers on their lives in Tampere

Panelists: **Rajkumar Sabanadesan** (coach), **Juhana Suoniemi** (member of the Tampere city council), **Ahmed Ramzi** (Mun Kaupunki -project), **Selene Gama** (Mun Kaupunki -project)

Chairs: Henna Luoma-Halkola (University of Tampere) and Jarkko Salminen (University of Tampere)

13.30-14.30 Session 1: Refugees and asylum seekers as a part of the Finnish society

Psychiatrist **Tapio Halla** (Psychiatric policlinic for immigrants, City of Tampere)

"Traumatised refugees and daily functioning"

Project Coordinator **Mia Luhtasaari** (TRUST Project, Ministry of Justice)

"The official safety discourse's effects on good relations and attitudes towards immigration"

Chair: **Anna-Kaisa Kuusisto** (University of Tampere)

Commentator: **Ali Amer Hasan** (Mun Kaupunki -project)

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-16.00 Session 2: Human rights, asylum policy and refugee protection

Senior Officer **Heidi Lempiö** (The Office of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman)
“Human Rights approach to Refugee Protection and Asylum Policy”

Expert in refugee issues **Kaisa Väkiparta** (Amnesty International)
“Asylum seekers’ human rights: do they exist in Finland?”

Chair: **Eeva Puumala** (University of Tampere)
Commentator: **Imran Adan** (Mun Kaupunki -project)

16.00-16.45 Discussion: towards sustainable policies and good societal relations?

Chair: **Liisa Häikiö** (University of Tampere)

16:45-17:00 Closing words

The seminar is free of charge. However, *due to the limited number of seats and the coffee service, we ask you to register for the seminar by 28th November*. Registration is done by filling in the following form: <https://elomake3.uta.fi/lomakkeet/20236/lomake.html>

Welcome!

The seminar is organized by *Dwellers in Agile Cities*, a research project funded by the Academy of Finland Strategic Research Council.

For questions or additional information, please contact Eeva Puumala, eeva.puumala@staff.uta.fi



**UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPERE**