Terhi Nikolainen, Art and circuses. On the coverage of the Finlandia Prize in Helsingin Sanomat in 1984–2005

Literature prizes can be seen as a nationally remarkable phenomenon, because compared to the country’s population, there are relatively many literature prizes. The biggest prizes especially are highly noticed and draw a lot of attention. The reading public is interested in the prizes’ competitive aspect: the nominees are ranked, a cultural dignitary selects the best one, and the county gets its new first class novel. The press, releasing news about the prize and sharing their evaluations, exerts an important influence in the entire literature prize show. The focus of this article is on the Finlandia literature prize and how it is published in the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat. Via the coverage of the Finlandia prizes, it is possible to examine the stabilization process of the literature prize at the end of the 1900th century as part of Finnish cultural life. In addition, the author analyzes the changing conventions of cultural journalism and the juggling between critical and entertaining reportage.

Outi Fingerroos, Paradoxes in the family reunification of Somalis in Finland

Every day in Addis Ababa one can see dozens of Somali families waiting in front of the Embassy of Finland to be interviewed. For the Somalis, the interview represents a means of entering Finland, since they presumably have a relative, a so-called family re-unifier, in the country. The aim of this article is to better understand the process involved in the immigration of Somalis, particularly from the perspective of family reunification. The subject of this paper is the family reunification process of Somalis who journey from Ethiopia to Finland. This process involves two different perspectives: the life stories of Somalis and the experiences of the officials.

Tapio Nykänen, Ethical aspects in the debates over the definition of Samis

The ratification of ILO convention no. 169 has been delayed for many years in Finland. Crucial questions concerning the rights to the lands and waters of Finnish Sami regions have not been solved. The non-Sami in the North have claimed that it would be discriminatory to give exclusive rights to the Samis, for many ethnic Finnish families also have a long history in the region and historical rights to the lands. In addition, many individuals and families have very close family relations to the Samis even if they are not accepted to the official Sami registry. In the discussion, even the status of the Samis as an indigenous people of Northern Finland has been questioned. On the other hand Samis have not been willing to expand the criteria of being Sami and to discuss about the possible rights that non-Sami people of the north could possess or achieve. The situation is difficult and the tensions between the groups have risen. It is thus necessary to sketch new kinds of tools to approach the problem, if we are to see a way forward. In the article the author asks, based on the theory of justice by John Rawls, what kinds of perspectives and moral dimensions should be taken into account.