Nina Sääskilahti, Homelessness, belonging and the post-war writings of Reino Rinne

In this article a mode of cultural production, literary discourse, is approached as a space where belonging can be imagined. A geocritical analysis of the texts produced by the Northern Finland born novelist, journalist and activist, Reino Rinne, in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War demonstrates how such spatial categories as home and landscape are explored as sites of longing and belonging as well as dislocation and non-belonging. Through focusing on Rinne’s first novel, Tunturit hymyilevät (1945), and the collection of short stories, Erämaan omia ihmisiä (1949), as well as Rinne’s other writings from this period, the article analyzes how war was a deep undercurrent in Rinne’s early writings.

Elina Arminen, Prison camps and Boss suits. Heidi Kängäs’ Dora Dora and the cultural poetics of the Lapland war

The article discusses the representations of encounters between Finns and Germans in Lapland during World War Two in the novel Dora, Dora (2012) by Heidi Kängäs. The work is approached as signifying release of war-derived decades-long traumas and reconstruction of cultural memory. The article applies Stephen Greenblatt’s notion of “Poetics of Culture”, in which history is understood as a narrative shaped by earlier interpretations but at the same time motivated by its own age. Our conceptions of individual historical events are constructed through constant recycling of cultural imagery. The article discusses the elements on which the construction of war-time Lapland in Dora, Dora is based and how those elements are anchored to the tradition of earlier representations of war and to our present understanding of history.

Mervi Löfgren, “The proud tempo of the new period”. The manifest by A. E. Järvinen in the culture magazine Kaltio

In this article the writer discusses the views and future visions of forester, writer and painter A. E. Järvinen. He was an influential man in his work as a leading forester, and by his newspaper articles. In Kaltio he commented on e.g. art life and the use of nature in the post-war period in Finnish Lapland.

Järvinen considered the reconstruction of the human mind as dynamic as building houses, roads, and other infrastructure. He spoke of the “new human” after surviving the hard times of war and destruction. He saw nature as a resource, but at the same time he had a very aesthetic view of nature – his views seem contradictory on the matter. Tension between nostalgia and modernisation is very strong in many of his writings in Kaltio; the new period runs the risk of overtaking boundaries of human existence.

Outi Autti, Missing signs of history: environmental changes and their influence on human wellbeing

The construction of hydroelectric power plants has substantially changed the cultural dynamics of local communities along the Ii and Kemi Rivers. Hydropower is often considered a pro-environmental form of energy. However, dams have fundamental impacts on rivers. Dams block a river’s flow, harm...
migratory and local fish, recreation and wildlife. A free river changes into a chain of basins, dams and dry beds. Damming changes the landscape and the activities of local communities.

The article focuses on interviews conducted with people living along two dammed rivers. They tell about their experiences of environmental change; places they have lost, or which have become dramatically altered. The results reveal a strong bond between experiences of wellbeing and a stable physical, cultural and social environment.