

**Abstract: Joyous, cruel death – Ideals of death and suffering in evangelical martyr cultures of the 16<sup>th</sup> century**

The article explores gendered ideals of death and suffering in martyr stories, mainly in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Germany. Two case studies illustrate common and distinguishing features within the heterogeneous “evangelical” movement, which only later developed into Protestant confessions. The first case focuses on the martyrology of the Lutheran theologian Ludwig Rabus. The second one analyses Anabaptist martyr songs in the *Ausbund* hymnal. In both cases, the deaths of martyrs, although violent, are depicted as “good deaths”. Generally, martyr stories were intended to strengthen the faith, identity and mutual bonding in one’s own religious group, and to draw lines between themselves and other groups whose martyrs were labelled as heretics. Based on contemporary notions of women as the “weaker vessel”, female martyrs were considered to be higher proof of God’s power than male martyrs, who were seen as more resistant to pain. Therefore, evangelical martyr stories both idealised female martyrdom and reinforced traditional gender stereotypes.

Keywords: martyrdom, suffering, ideals of death, gender, early modern religiosity, violent death

Antti Harmainen

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**Abstract: “I can handle everything, I can live, if I know that I will meet him again” – Spiritualism and theosophy as tools for mourning within Finnish intelligentsia in the late 1880s**

The article examines the relation between modern occult conceptions and mourning in the context of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Finnish intelligentsia. The viewpoint used in the article is based on the death of Elias Erkkö (1863–1888), a Finnish author, who succumbed to tuberculosis at the age of 25. The article illustrates how Elias Erkkö’s relatives adapted ideas generated by contemporary occult and esoteric movements, such as spiritualism and theosophy, and used them in the process of mourning. It suggests that the occultism of the time provided a variety of religious and intellectual options, which resonated with the religious criticism of the time. Concepts such as mediumism and

the principle of karma were used to re-evaluate and reform the doctrines of the state Lutheran church and to create a religious stance that could react to the requirements of modern, scientifically oriented reason.

Keywords: history of ideas, religion, modern occultism, modern spiritualism, dietetics

Ilona Pajari

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**Abstract: Death in the countryside and cities – Changing Finnish way of death from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present**

The urban present and agrarian past are often counterposed in discussions of the Finnish way of death. In this article, I take a look at traditional urban Finnish death rituals, and how both city life and rural reality have changed them between the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the present. Dying in hospitals, the spatial circumstances of death rituals, and funerals and funeral directors are the key aspects of the text. The medicalisation, secularisation, professionalisation and privatisation of death have also been important factors in the making of the modern way of death in Finland.

Keywords: history of death, funerals, medicalisation, secularisation, professionalisation, privatisation, funeral directors

Mikko Myllykangas

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**Abstract: Politicised suicide – an example of Finnish anti-psychiatry? – The criticism of suicide research in Finland, 1968–1970**

The political radicalism and political debates of the late 1960s did not leave the Finnish scientific discourses untouched. Amplified by the social reformation movement, the Finnish psychiatry and mental health-care system was increasingly criticised for its abusive practices by the late 1960s. In the psychiatric discourse suicide research and the established suicide prevention practices were attacked by young medical professionals, who found support for their arguments in the rising discipline of sociology. However, the criticism was not solely based on scientific arguments. Neo-Marxist and leftist ideology in general functioned as a key source of criticism. Mikko Myllykangas’s ar-

ticle describes the rise of critical suicide discourse during the late 1960s. Along with the critical political discourse, the international, so-called anti-psychiatric movement was also a point of reference in the critical psychiatry and suicide discussion. The article also discusses whether or not it is justified to label the criticism of suicide research as an example of the anti-psychiatric debate in late-1960s Finland. It is suggested that it would be historically more accurate to use the terms “radical criticism of suicide research” and “reformatory criticism of suicide research” rather than place all of the critical viewpoints under the umbrella term of anti-psychiatry.

Keywords: alienation, anti-psychiatry, Finland, history of suicide, medicalisation, Marraskuun liike, psychiatrisation, student movement, suicide research, 60s radicalism

Heta Lähdesmäki

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**Abstract: Killing to restore order – Stopping wolf expansion in Finland at the turn of the 1960s.**

In my article, I study the death of non-human animals. I focus on the killing of immigrant wolves in Finland during the late 1950s and early 1960s. During that time, a large number of wolves crossed the Finland’s eastern border from the Soviet Union. By using legislation, newspaper and magazine writings as well as material related to game management I explore the death of these animals. I ask why they were killed. How did people feel about the deaths of these wolves? What were Finns trying to accomplish by killing them? I interpret the killing of these wolves as a reaction to their inappropriate location and unwanted predation. By coming to Finland and killing domestic animals, these wolves created mental and spatial disorder. I argue that by killing these wolves, Finns restored their mental and spatial order.

Keywords: human-wolf relationship, animal death, hunting, killing, disorder, order

Tarja-Liisa Luukkanen

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**Abstract: Posthumously popular – Antti Härjäsilmä and his bestselling postilla**

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, only a few books had been published in Finnish. A collection of sermons, the 500 pages of *Uskon harjoitus autuuteen*, was the only book published in Finnish by a Finn in 1801. Its author was a country chaplain, Anders Björkqvist (born as Antti “Bullseye” Härjäsilmä). The publication went rather unnoticed until in 1841, some 30 years after the death of the author, its rise into popularity begun. Altogether there were nine printings in 1841–1896. Furthermore, the network of municipal libraries multiplied the reception of published books and broke the bond between buying a book and reading it. Libraries provided the possibility to borrow and read books for free or for a small fee. A single copy of Björkqvist’s book was borrowed from a library in the rural municipality of Karstula 39 times between 1884 and 1893.

Keywords: book history, modernisation, Finnish literature, literacy, postillas