

CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND HEALTH



Centre for Culture and Health: Report 2025

The Centre for Culture and Health explores the connections between culture, health, and illness from a multidisciplinary perspective. The Centre also provides education, and it participates in initiatives related to the University's third mission, societal interaction.

Health and illness are experienced in everyday life. Although healthcare, and in particular the treatment of diseases, is to a growing extent in the hands of increasingly specialised healthcare professionals, illness is experienced by people with lives that continue beyond institutions and facilities. One of the starting points of cultural health research is to see the person as a whole and to place the (experiencing) person alongside and in the centre of biomedical perspectives on health and disease.

The second premise is that the manners of both experiencing and explaining illness, disease, and wellbeing are all tied to times and places, i.e. cultural practices. In the fields of art and culture, health and disease can be examined, for example, by exploring the ways in which diseases are presented in the media, visual arts, or literature. They also invite critical analysis of the spaces and environments of illness and disease. Art and architecture, for example, furnish our material and built environments both practically and aesthetically, and can influence how individuals and communities experience illness and wellness, as well as pain relief and treatment. It has become increasingly important to explore how the arts support inclusion and promote functional capacity. Climate change and the digitalisation of culture, in turn, raise new questions about the human–non–human relationship and its implications for health and wellbeing.

We welcome new research ideas and partners in all areas of cultural health and wellbeing.

[The new web pages](#) of the Centre (designed by Matilda Kirvelä) were launched in May 2025.

The unit provides bespoke teaching in the [Asklepios education unit](#), which combines medical themes with humanities and social sciences.

The courses included in the Asklepios Study Programme of Culture and Health Research (17-25 ECTS) enable students to identify and understand various cultural aspects that influence human health and wellbeing, as well as their significance in the organisation of social and healthcare services from the perspective of sustainable development. The study module is suitable for all students interested in issues related to culture, health, and wellbeing. It is particularly beneficial for those working on a research thesis in these areas. The programme also offers opportunities to develop diverse writing styles and expressive skills, along with the ability to engage in critical, interdisciplinary thinking and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

We are involved in the development and implementation of interdisciplinary research and training in social and health services at the Centre for Education and Research on Social and Health Services of the University of Turku.

Contact information

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Director

Viola Parente-Čapková, viocap@utu.fi



Oletko kiinnostunut terveyden, sairauden ja hyvinvoinnin kulttuurisista merkityksistä?

TULE OPISKELEMAAN MONITIETEISIÄ ASKLEPIOS-OPINTOJA!

Asklepios on Kulttuurin ja terveyden tutkimusyksikön tarjoama opintokokonaisuus, josta voi suorittaa 17-25 op sivuaineen tai yksittäisiä kursseja.

Seuraava haku aika sivuainekokonaisuuteen on elokuussa 2025!

Lue opinnoista lisää täältä:

 **TURUN YLIOPISTO**
Kulttuurin ja terveyden tutkimusyksikkö



Professor, Literary Studies and Creative Writing

Board Members

Kaisa Aho, Doctoral Researcher

Riitta Jytälä, Docent, Faculty of Humanities

Elina Lammervo, Doctoral Researcher

Anu Laukkanen, Planning Officer

Hanna Maijala, University Lecturer

Minna Opas, University Lecturer

Jenny Paananen, Postdoctoral Researcher

Ranjana Saha, MSCA COFUND TIES Fellow

Katariina Seittenranta, Clinical Lecturer, Public Health

Kirsi Tuohela, Coordinator, Research Career Services

Avril Tynan, Research Council of Finland Fellow

Research Assistants

Carita Roivas, Doctoral Researcher

Matilda Kirvelä, Doctoral Researcher

The Board meets twice a year to discuss developments in the Centre and to plan activities and collaborations.

Collaboration

The Centre is open to a wide range of collaboration opportunities, including research projects, joint courses, training, and all sorts of educational and cultural events.

As part of Sote Academy, the Centre for Culture and Health brings together interdisciplinary researchers with healthcare, social welfare, and care and education authorities to promote and produce interdisciplinary higher education, research, and societal interaction.

Our research networks include:

- Sote Academy
- SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory
- KULTVA: Cultural Interaction Researcher Network. Contact person: Elina Lammervo.
- Centre for the Study of Language and Wellbeing (LaWe)
- UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Finnish Unit
- Words for Care: Literature, Healthcare and Democracy (SoTeTe)
- Institute for Medical Humanities in Durham
- Narrative Medicine (The Division of Narrative Medicine, Columbia University)

We also collaborate with researchers, educators, and networks in the fields of arts, culture, and wellbeing:

- Nordic Arts & Health Research Network
- Taikusydän: Arts & Health Coordination Centre in Finland
- Taikusydän researcher network. Contact person: Kirsi Tuohela.
- Turku AMK research group Arts, Health and Wellbeing
- UniArts Helsinki Educational Research in the Arts (cERAda)

We are also a part of the [Competence Centre of Culture and Wellbeing \(Kulttuurin ja hyvinvoinnin osaamiskeskus\)](#)

Other partners include:

- Danielle Spencer, Senior Lecturer in Narrative Medicine, Columbia SPS
- Touko Vaahtera, Academy Research Fellow, University of Eastern Finland

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Centre for Culture and Health is the site of many ambitious and groundbreaking inter- and multidisciplinary research projects that bring together wellbeing, health, and illness with perspectives and practices from culture, language, history, and society.

Research Projects

Reading Recovery: Narratives of Recovery in Culture, Medicine, and Society

This interdisciplinary project studies the representation, meaning, and value of recovery from illness in culture, medicine, and society. It explores the relationship between recovery and narrative from a critical perspective that interrogates narrative's claim to cure. It argues that recovery functions as an organisational tool of medical and social management that has the power to grant or restrict access to biomedical and economic resources and services, and to systems of care, relationships, and freedoms. The data includes fiction and non-fiction literature, film, mass media, and social media written in English, French, and Finnish languages.

Project funder and duration: Research Council of Finland, 2023-2027 (decision no. 356103)
Contact person: Avril Tynan

Words for Care: Literature, Healthcare and Democracy

Words for Care: Literature, Healthcare and Democracy investigates the meanings of literature and shared reading in the context of multilingual healthcare. The project brings together narrative medicine and cultural language learning for the first time. We are developing multilingual narrative medicine practices and studying the potential of reading groups to enhance narrative,

cultural and linguistic competence, as well as the social inclusion of social and healthcare professionals who speak Finnish as a first or as a foreign language.

Project funder and duration: Kone Foundation, 2024-2026

Contact person: Viola Parente-Čapková

#ENDOs

The #ENDOs project is a European initiative that educates and supports adults dealing with chronic diseases, with a specific focus on endometriosis. With a potential reach of 14 million women across Europe – who often refer to themselves as “endos” – this project aspires to empower these individuals to take a more active role in their healthcare journey. The project’s innovative approach incorporates the world of art and culture as skill developers, creating user-centric learning tools that aim to build an engaged community of endos and their caregivers. Through performing and visual arts, storytelling, narrative medicine, and digital tools, healthcare experts and endos will facilitate their understanding and communication with one another.

Project funder and duration: Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Education and Training Programme 2023-2026.

Contact person: Avril Tynan

Mothers, Mothercraft & Materialities: Urban India and Transnational Histories of ‘Scientific’ Motherhood in the Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Centuries

By primarily using gender as an anchor, this research project seeks to bring to light the making of the systematicity and material culture of ‘scientific’ motherhood, with an emphasis on medicine as a cultural practice, in the capital cities of Calcutta and Delhi. In doing this, it situates them within the larger networks of the transnational infant welfare movement. It draws on various textual and visual sources (in English, Bengali and sometimes Hindi) as well as historical and multidisciplinary approaches and transnational comparisons to explore the material culture of ‘scientific’ motherhood from advice manuals and periodical essays, modern clocks and baby foods to national and international maternal and child welfare conferences and exhibitions to comprehend the intersections of ‘race’, medicine, modernity, nation and empire between the porous boundaries of the private and the public.

Project Funder and duration: Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND TIES Fellowship, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS), University of Turku; 2023-26

Contact Person: Ranjana Saha

Meaningful Margins: Christianity and Alternative Spiritual Meditation and Healing Practices at the Interface between Margins and Mainstreams

The research project investigates how perceptions of Christianity and Christian practices are renewed and transformed through interactions between the “mainstream” and the “margins” of Christian traditions in Finland. The study focuses particularly on how Christianity emerges and takes shape in relation to alternative spiritual and healing practices—such as yoga, mindfulness, reiki, and natural therapies. By examining these intersections, the project offers new insights into how Christianity and alternative spiritualities influence and intermingle with one another. It aims to understand how the meanings of Christianity are lived, interpreted, and reshaped in people's everyday lives, language, and practices within these alternative contexts—and how Christianity, in turn, leaves its mark on the field of alternative spirituality. Methodologically, the project combines discourse analysis with ethnographic research to explore these dynamics both in language and in lived experience.

Project funder and duration: Research Council of Finland, 2025-2029

Contact person: Minna Opas

Completed Projects

More information about all completed projects can be found on the webpages of the Centre for Culture and Health.

Pyhiinvaellus liikkeessä: pyhiin vaeltamisen motiivit ja merkitykset Turussa keskiajalla ja nykyään

Project funder and duration: Turku Urban Research Programme, 2023-2024

Contact person: Minna Opas

Broken Minds: The Mentally Ill Individual and the History of Finnish Welfare

Project funder and duration: Kone Foundation, 2020-2022

Contact person: Kirsi Tuohela

Instrumental Narratives: The Limits of Storytelling and New Story-Critical Narrative Theory

Project funder and duration: Research Council of Finland, 2018-2022 (Tampere University)

Arts as Public Service: Strategic Steps towards Equality (ArtsEqual)

Project funder and duration: Research Council of Finland, 2015-2021 (Consortium project, UniArts Helsinki)

The Mind and the Other

Project funder and duration: Research Council of Finland, 2013-2016

Evaluation of the Impact and Effects of the EVIVA action programme

Project funder and duration: Turun kaupungin tutkimusyksikkö, 2015-2016

Vulnerable Lives

Project funder and duration: Research Council of Finland, 2013-2017 (University of Helsinki)

Culture, Health and Wellbeing

Project funder and duration: Turku2011 Foundation, 2012-2023

Multicultural Interaction in Healthcare

Project funder and duration: Turun kaupungin tutkimusyksikkö and others, 2019

Contact person: Jenny Paananen

ACTIVITIES

The Centre for Culture and Health explores the connections between culture, health, and illness from a multidisciplinary perspective. We are interested in all aspects of research and education relating to health and culture from pedagogical, narrative, artistic, philosophical, and biosocial perspectives (and many more!).

Research Seminars

Since 2019, the Centre has organised Research Seminars aimed at early- and mid-career researchers, as well as doctoral researchers and established scholars and practitioners in the fields of arts, culture, and health. Since 2024, the Centre has sought to broaden the reach of the seminars and has attracted speakers from across Finland, Europe, the UK and Canada. Thanks to hybrid seminars, sessions have been attended by audiences as far away as India, the USA and Canada.

In 2025, the Centre for Culture and Health saw increasing interest from scholars based in Europe and the UK, as well as growing demand for onsite events and interactions. Onsite sessions have been attended by 15-25 people, and online events by around 20. Funding for the seminars, including catering and travel within Finland, has been generously and exceptionally provided in 2025 by the Research Council of Finland (NarRec, decision no. 356103).

Promotion of the seminars via online forums and word of mouth has driven interest and demand. The seminar programme for spring-summer 2026 is already full (provisional programme TBC), with over 10 speakers confirmed.

We are seeking funding support from the University of Turku to contribute to travel costs within Finland, promoting collaboration between Finnish universities, and to catering costs, creating a more inviting atmosphere at seminars and encouraging researchers to remain onsite and to network after the close of the programme.

Research Seminars in 2025

CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND HEALTH



AUTUMN RESEARCH SEMINARS 2025
14:15-16:00 Finnish Time (CET+1/GMT+2)

September 9

MEET THE TEAM (FI/EN)

Find out about the research, teaching and expertise in the Centre for Culture and Health at the University of Turku.
Event followed by nibbles and bubbles.

October 7

TESTIMONY & TRAUMA

Oleksandra Nenko, University of Turku "Processing the Trauma of Displacement in Wartime Arts"
Anna Derksen, Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities "Literature as Testimony: Forced Sterilisation and Medical Transgression in Kjell Sundstedt's *Till Gertrud* (2009)"

November 4

KIELI & KULTTUURI

Jani Tanskanen, Jyväskylän yliopisto "Kirjallisuudentutkimuksen näkökulmia kulttuurin diagnostisointiin"
Iida Rätty, Turun yliopisto "Vertaiskerronnan vernakulaari hoiva ja tuki"

December 9

ARTS & HUMANITIES IN THE CLINIC

Carrie Foulkes, University of Glasgow "Flux and Fragility: Language, Embodiment and Mortality in the work of Deborah Hay"
Kerry Marshall, University of British Columbia "Use of Collage to Explore Discourses Related to Contraceptive Care in British Columbia, Canada"

Find out more: <https://sites.utu.fi/kulttuurin-ja-terveyden-tutkimusyksikko/en/>



September 9, Centre for Culture and Health: Meet the Team

Members of the Centre for Culture and Health presented the ongoing work of the Centre, as well as their individual research and teaching agendas. Speakers included:

Viola Parente-Čapková

Ranjana Saha

Riitta Jytilä

Avril Tynan

Carita Roivas

Elina Lammervo

Päivi Lappalainen

Laura Fors

The event attracted over 20 people onsite.

Catering was exceptionally funded by the Research Council of Finland (NarRec, decision no. 356103) and provided by Mimesis ry.



October 7, Trauma & Testimony

Online only, 17 people attended.

Oleksandra Nenko, University of Turku, “Processing the Trauma of Displacement in Wartime Arts”

Anna Derksen, Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities, “Literature as Testimony: Forced Sterilisation and Medical Transgression in Kjell Sundstedt’s *Till Gertrud* (2009)”

November 4, Kieli & Kulttuuri

Onsite only, 15 people attended. This event was held in Finnish.

Jani Tanskanen, Jyväskylä University, “Kirjallisuudentutkimuksen näkökulmia kulttuurin diagnostisoitumiseen”

Iida Rätty, University of Turku, “Vertaiskerronnan vernakulari hoiva ja tuki”

Catering and travel from Jyväskylä was funded by the Research Council of Finland (NarRec, decision no. 356103).

December 9, Arts & Humanities in the Clinic

Hybrid event, 10-20 people expected onsite and online.

Carrie Foulkes, University of Glasgow, “Flux and Fragility: Language, Embodiment and Mortality in the work of Deborah Hay”

Kerry Marshall, University of British Columbia, “Use of Collage to Explore Discourses Related to Contraceptive Care in British Columbia, Canada”

Travel from the UK was funded by the University of Glasgow.



Current Intersections of Culture, Language and Wellbeing Online Seminar Series

The seminar series is a multidisciplinary online seminar organised by three networks from the University of Turku: The Cultural Interaction Researcher Network (KULTVA), The Centre of Language and Wellbeing (LaWe), and the Centre for Culture and Health. The aim of the seminars is to foster international networking and research collaboration between social sciences, humanities, and linguistics, focusing on topics related to health and wellbeing.

In 2025, the Centre for Culture and Health led two of the three sessions, and there is a demonstrable international interest in the work and research developing in the seminars. Following the final seminar of 2025 (“Conversations on: Forests and Wellbeing”), the organisers are preparing for an additional seminar in 2026 with colleagues in Scotland.

Current Intersections seminars are always hosted online, with minimal costs. However, secure funding for a research assistant will ensure that international advertising is consistent and help promote the seminars to a global audience.

Current Intersections Seminars in 2025

Mental Health, Culture and Communication

5.2.2025

Annastiina Mäkilä, University of Turku, “Wandering concepts: How depression was understood in the late 20th century”

Tuula Nygård, University of Oulu, “YouTubers supporting young people’s mental health”

Shambhavi Singh, University of Helsinki, “Building bridges: Communicating research through Non-fiction graphic narratives”



**CURRENT INTERSECTIONS
OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE
AND WELLBEING**

**Mental Health,
Culture and
Communication**

Annastiina Mäkilä:
Wandering concepts:
How depression was
understood in the late 20th
century

Tuula Nygård:
YouTubers supporting
young people's mental
health

Shambhavi Singh:
Building bridges:
Communicating research
through non-fiction graphic
narratives

Online seminar
5th February, 2025
14:00–16:00
Finnish time UTC+2
Join in Zoom: 

The seminar series is a multidisciplinary online seminar organized by three networks from the University of Turku: the Cultural Interaction Researcher Network KULTVA, the Centre of Language and Wellbeing (LaWe), and the Research Center for Culture and Health.

 UNIVERSITY OF TURKU
Research Center for Culture and Health

**CURRENT INTERSECTIONS
OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE
AND WELLBEING**

**Autism in
representations and
social interaction**

Viktoriya Kuzina
Not only unruly white boys:
what does autism look like?

Katja Dindar
Interaction takes two:
rethinking social interaction
in autism

20 May 2025
14:00–16:00
Finnish time UTC+3

Online only
Scan QR code
to register

The seminar series is a multidisciplinary
online seminar organized by three networks
from the University of Turku: the Cultural
Interaction Researcher Network KULTVA,
the Centre of Language and Wellbeing
(LaWe), and the Research Center for Culture
and Health.






Autism in Representations and Social Interaction 20.5.2025

Viktoriya Kuzina, University of Turku, “Not only unruly white boys: what does Autism look like?”

Katja Dindar, University of Tampere, “Interaction takes two – rethinking social interaction in autism”

40 people attended online, from across Finland and Europe.

Conversations on: Forests and Wellbeing

19.11.2025

A guided conversation with three invited panelists: Olga Cielemecka, University of Eastern Finland, Lena Gottelier, University of Turku, and Attila Krizsan, University of Turku.

More than 40 people attended online, from across Finland and Europe.

**CURRENT INTERSECTIONS
OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE
AND WELLBEING**

**Conversations on:
Forests and Wellbeing**

Olga Cielemecka
University of Eastern Finland

Lena Gottelier
University of Turku

Attila Krizsan
University of Turku

19 November 2025
14:00–16:00
Finnish time UTC+3

Online only
Scan QR code
to join

The seminar series is a multidisciplinary
online seminar organized by three networks
from the University of Turku: the Cultural
Interaction Researcher Network KULTVA,
the Centre of Language and Wellbeing
(LaWe), and the Research Center for Culture
and Health.






OTHER EVENTS IN 2025

Visual Arts, Narrative, and Social Class Conference

24-25.4.2025

Over 20 speakers from across the world gathered online and in Turku for this two-day conference hosted at the University of Turku and Life on a Leaf, Hirvensalo.

Funded by the Research Council of Finland (NarRec, decision no. 356103) and the Helander Foundation.



Danielle Spencer presents Narrative Medicine and Metagnosis

Edu2, Educarium, Assistentinkatu 5, 20500, Turku
9.5.2025 12.00 – 14.00

Organised and funded by the Centre for Culture and Health and the Words for Care: Literature, Healthcare and Democracy project (Kone Foundation).

Narrative Medicine is a form of clinical care conducted with attentiveness to narrative. It is also an interdisciplinary field of inquiry joining healthcare and the humanities. Spencer described fundamental principles and practices of the field, as well as its applications in clinical practice. As an example of its applications, she discussed her work on metagnosis, referring to the diagnosis of a longstanding undetected condition. This can occur when the

condition simply was not detected—as was the case for her own long-standing visual field “defect”—and can also occur when the diagnostic definitions have shifted, as with ADHD and autism spectrum disorders. Spencer proposed that a narrative medicine approach to such revelations illuminates different understandings of normalcy, disease, disability, and identity. These experiences also invite different “readings” and open towards multiple possible narrative outcomes. Ultimately such narrative awareness promises greater empowerment in healthcare and beyond.

Hybrid event, 20 people attended onsite and over 20 people attended online.

After the lecture, Danielle Spencer participated in an intimate seminar organised by the Centre, getting acquainted with its research and teaching and planning future collaboration.

Research and Art Exhibition: ‘Modern’ Mothering, Childhood & Child Healthcare: Gendered & Scientised Ideas, Material Cultures & Experiences, Tampere University Main Building, Tampere; 1-15 December 2025; Turku City Library, Turku, 3.-29.6.2025.

This travelling exhibition is currently on display at the Tampere University Main Building in collaboration with the Research Centre for the History of Experience, Tampere University. Earlier in 2025, the Inaugural Event and Workshop was held on the 2nd June, 17.00 – 19.00 followed by the one month exhibition (3-29 June) at the Turku City Library.



This is an exhibition of our diverse historical research and art which presented a unique opportunity to create new connections and interdisciplinary networks.

The Research Exhibition was funded and organised under the aegis of the Finnish Cultural Foundation, Turku Institute of Advanced Studies (TIAS) and Centre for Culture and Health, University of Turku; Research Centre for the History of Experience, Tampere University, and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND Fellowship.

Organiser: Dr Ranjana Saha

[Exhibition Brochure](#)





Centre for Culture and Health and SELMA presents: Flash Research Presentations.

10.12.2025 13:00-14:00 A270.

Onsite, 15 people expected.

Bringing together researchers across the two research centres, plus others, to discuss their research related to culture, health, the arts, and wellbeing.

Funded by the Research Council of Finland (NarRec, decision no. 356103).

PUBLICATIONS

Laakkonen, Riku & Jenny Paananen (accepted, forthcoming 2025/2026): Draamatyöpaja mahdollisuutena harjoitella kehollista kohtaamista. Ajankohtaista. *Gerontologia*.

Opas, Minna & Tuija Hovi 2025: Pyhiinvaellus Suomessa 2020-luvulla: Perinteen elvytystä ja notkeaa määrittelyä. *Uskonnotutkija – Religionsforskaren* 14(1).

<https://doi.org/10.24291/uskonnotutkija.164145>

Opas, Minna, Anni Hella, Tuija Hovi, & Reima Välimäki 2025: Pyhiinvaellusperinne antaa eväitä kulttuurisen, henkisen ja fyysisen hyvinvoinnin kehittämiseen kaupungissa.

Tutkimuskatsauksia 7/2025. Turku: Turun kaupunkitutkimusohjelma.
<https://www.turku.fi/tietoa-turusta/kaupunkitutkimusohjelman-julkaisut>

Ovaska, Anna, Sonja Sulkava, Viola Parente-Čapková, & Riitta Jytilä 2025: Toward Multilingual Narrative Medicine. *The Polyphony: Conversations across the Medical Humanities*, 29.5.2025. <https://thepolyphony.org/2025/05/29/multilingual-narrative-medicine/>

Paananen, Jenny & Marco Pino 2025: Turning towards the inevitable: How nursing home staff manage relatives' expectations of dementia progression. *Research on Language & Social Interaction* 58(2), 165–187. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08351813.2025.2484994>

Paananen, Jenny & Aija Logren 2025: Communicating palliative hope in late-stage dementia: Thematic analysis of hope work in care plan meetings with families of nursing home residents. *Journals of Gerontology series B: psychological sciences and social sciences* 80:9, gbaf107. *Special issue: Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Aging*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaf107>

Paananen Jenny, Linda Sirkiä, & Mari Kangasniemi 2025: Hoidon kohteesta tiedostavaksi asiakkaaksi: Tyytymättömyyden ilmaisen kielelliset keinot potilasasiavastaavalle osoitetuissa muistutuksissa. In Outi Veivo, Teppo Jakonen, Päivi Laine, & Saija Merke (toim.), *Kieli avaimena muuttuvaan maailmaan. AFinLAn vuosikirja 2025*, 158–179. Suomen soveltavan kielitieteen yhdistyksen julkaisuja 82. <https://doi.org/10.30661/afinlavk.157237>

Paananen, Jenny & Riku Laakkonen 2025: Kivat housut ja muita keinoja vaikeisiin kohtaamistilanteisiin muistisairaanhoidossa. Mielen päällä. *Gerontologia* 39(3), 273–275. <https://doi.org/10.23989/gerontologia.163891>

Paananen, Jenny 2025: Monikulttuurinen vuorovaikutus haltuun: viisi askelta kieli- ja kulttuuritietoiseen potilastyöhön. *Vastalääke.fi*, Puheenvuorot-osasto, 18.2.2025. https://www.vastalaake.fi/vl_puheenvuorot/monikulttuurinen-vuorovaikutus-haltuun-viisi-askelta-kieli-ja-kulttuuritietoiseen-potilastyohon/?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAabBpuLXuhA2atjQVi20MYm1jInVIUZRAWwwYmS0i1BtuFXKbobMWCWj67s_aem_k-sG6GNbEQ1NxUX9uhLjPg

Paananen, Jenny & Riku Laakkonen 2025: Muistisairaana hoivakotiasukkaan kohtaaminen vaatii tilannetajua. *Blog of the Gerontology Research Center Gerec*, 17.6.2025. <https://www.gerec.fi/muistisairaana-hoivakotiasukkaan-kohtaaminen-vaatii-tilannetajua/>

Saha, Ranjana (forthcoming 2025): Mothercraft, “Clean” Midwifery, and Child Care: “Scientific” Motherhood Advice at Health Exhibitions in Colonial Bengal, *Canadian Journal of Health History* 42 (2).

Tynan, Avril 2025: Speaking of M/Others: Dementia, Care and the Maternal Voice. In Emily Jeremiah and Shirley Jordan (eds), *Women's Narratives of Ageing and Care*. Berlin: De Gruyter. *Cultures of Ageing and Care*, 137–157.

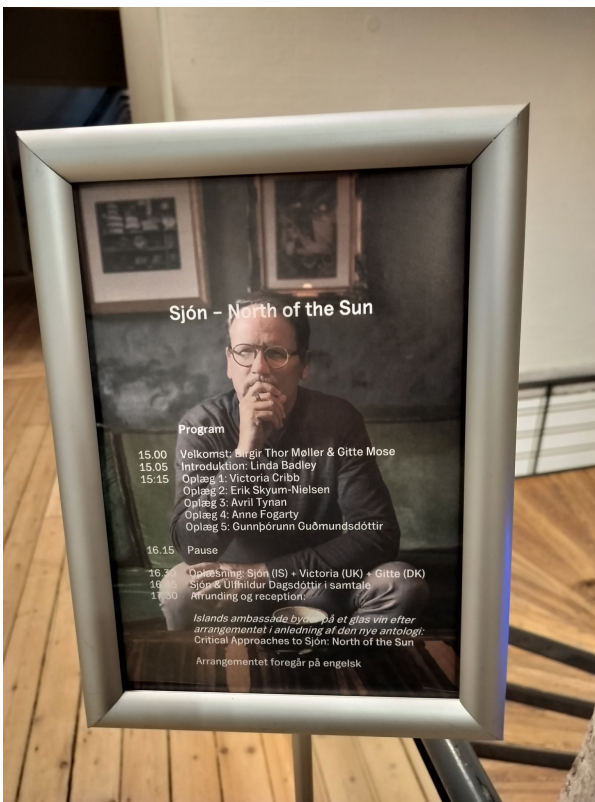
Tynan, Avril (forthcoming 2025/2026): Tekoälyn vaikutus naisten terveyteen, *Soihtu*.

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND MOBILITIES

January

Saha, Ranjana: Co-organised the *Sexual Values Workshop* with colleagues Aymeric Pantet and Joona Räsänen at the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS). University of Turku, Turku, 17 January.

Tynan, Avril: Invited speaker. *North of the Sun – An Afternoon About and With Sjón*. Copenhagen, Denmark, 18 January.



Tynan, Avril: #ENDOs project Transnational Partner Meeting. Maynooth University, Ireland, 27-29 January.

March

Saha, Ranjana: Exhibiting 'Scientific' Midwifery and 'Ideal' Mothering in Colonial India: Historicising Baby Week Exhibitions, Communities and Experiences. Organised panel on Reproductive Health Histories of Experiences: Case Studies from Britain and British India. *The Seventh Annual HEX Conference: Historicizing Experiences*, Research Council of Finland's Centre of Excellence in the History of Experiences (HEX). Tampere University, Tampere, Finland, 11 March.

April

Tynan, Avril: Organised the 2-day *Visual Arts, Narrative and Social Class* Conference. University of Turku and Life on a Leaf, Turku, 24-25 April.

Saha, Ranjana: 'Ideal' Mothers and 'Best' Babies: 'Scientific' Mothering and Child Healthcare Advice in Colonial India. *Visual Arts, Narrative and Social Class*. 24-25 April 2025 (presented on 24 April).

Saha, Ranjana: Infant Mortality, 'Scientific' Motherhood Advice and Baby Week Exhibitions: Historicising Medical Challenges and Interventions in Colonial India. *Nordic Medical History Congress*. Kulturen, Lund, 25 April.

May

Paananen, Jenny & Aija Logren: Ammatillisen kuuntelun jäljillä. Kuinka lääkärit osoittavat kuuntelevansa potilasta. *Kielitieteen päivät*. Helsinki, 13 May.

Jytilä, Riitta, Alexandra Salmela, & Viola Parente-Čapková: Enhancing social and cultural belonging in narrative medicine groups for L2 speakers. *Narrative Matters. Disparate Narrative Worlds: Crisis, Conflict, and the Possibility of Hope*. The American University of Paris and Université Paris Cité, 15 May.

June

Saha, Ranjana: Open Science for Citizens: Organised Historical Research and Art Exhibition (inaugural workshop and entire exhibition for/with public engagement) at Turku City Library on "Modern" Mothering, Childhood and Child Healthcare: Gendered & Scientised Ideas, Material Cultures & Experiences (27 contributors: historians and artists, including Avril Tynan, Riitta Jytilä, Viola Parente-Čapková), fully funded by the Finnish Cultural Foundation (€5000), 2-29 June.

Tynan, Avril: The Liminal Body in Convalescence. *Convalescence in 19th- and 20th-Century Anglophone Literature*. Nantes, France, 26 June.

July

Tynan, Avril: On Not Filling Gaps: The Ethics of Narrative Absence. *Exploring Narrative Gaps in Literature: Identity, Memory, and the Absent*. University of Greifswald, Germany, 10-11 July.

August

Paananen, Jenny: Tulkkaus terveydenhuollossa. *SKTL:n* (Suomen kääntäjien ja tulkkien liitto) *koulutuspäivä*. Turku, 18 August.

Saha, Ranjana: Educating Mothers about ‘Scientific’ Child Healthcare: Medicine, Mothercraft and Baby Week Exhibitions in British India and Beyond. *EAHMH European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Conference*. Humboldt University, Germany, 26-29 August.

September

Paananen, Jenny: Yhteistyösuhteen rakentaminen läheisten kanssa. KOHO-hankkeen (ESR+) webinaari Pirkanmaan hyvinvointialueen hoivakotien ammattilaisille. Online, 16 September.

Paananen, Jenny: Kohtaamisen merkitys terveydenhuollossa. TYKS Orto henkilöstökoulutus. Turku, 24 September.

Laakkonen, Riku & Jenny Paananen: Empathy in Action: Drama Workshop as a Safe Place to Practice Challenging Encounters in Nursing Home. *Culture and Health Forum*. Turku, 30 September.

October

Saha, Ranjana: ‘Healthiest’ Babies: Gender, Medical Expertise and Mothering Advice in British India and beyond. *28th European Conference on South Asian Studies*. Heidelberg, Germany, 1-4 October (online).

Jytilä, Riitta & Anna Ovaska: Narrative Medicine Meets Biblio/Poetry Therapy. *2nd European Biblio/Poetry Therapy Conference – Exploring New Dimensions of Biblio/Poetry Therapy*. University of Jyväskylä, Finland, 3 October.

Tynan, Avril: Recovery Narratives: Contesting Stories of Triumph and Closure. *OSL Research Day ‘Feelings and Flesh: Affect, Health, and the Textual Body’*. Utrecht University, Netherlands, 27 October.

Tynan, Avril: Critical Narratives of Recovery: Rejecting repair, Restoration and resolution. *Pulse Network Research Seminar*. University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, 30 October.

November

Tynan, Avril: #ENDOs project. *Women's Health Researcher Collision Event*. Turku, 17 November.

Saha, Ranjana: Visiting fellowship. Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University, Sweden, 17-28 November.

Saha, Ranjana: 'Unscientific' *dais* and 'ignorant' mothers: Midwifery, mothercraft, and the making of 'communities of experience' in colonial India. *Interdisciplinary Workshop on Motherhood/Parenthood*. Uppsala University, Sweden, 24 November.

Saha, Ranjana: Good Mothers & Best Babies? Decolonising Mothering and Childcare Advice at Public Health Exhibitions in British India and Beyond. *Centre for Gender Research*, Uppsala University, Sweden, 26 November.

December

Paananen, Jenny & Aija Logren: Conceptualizing professional listening in doctor's consultations. *Nordisco*, Trondheim, Norway, 4 December.

Logren, Aija & Jenny Paananen: Educating chronically ill cancer patients in pain management: the role of discussion about daily agenda. *Nordisco*, Trondheim, Norway, 4 December.

Parente-Čapková, Viola: Words for Care: Cultural language learning within the framework of narrative medicine. *Global Histories of Healing: Humanities Perspectives on Humility, Knowledge, and the Ethics of Care*. University of Oulu, 11-12 December.

Tynan, Avril: The Recovery Utopia? Critical Narratives of Recovery. *Global Histories of Healing: Humanities Perspectives on Humility, Knowledge, and the Ethics of Care*. University of Oulu, 11-12 December.

FUTURE RESEARCH

The Centre is currently working with researchers to develop funding applications for future projects. We welcome collaboration in all areas of health and culture research from scholars in Finland and beyond.

Forthcoming collaborator: Touko Vaahtera (Disability Studies / Crip Studies), Academy
Research Fellow, Department of Social Sciences, University of Eastern Finland