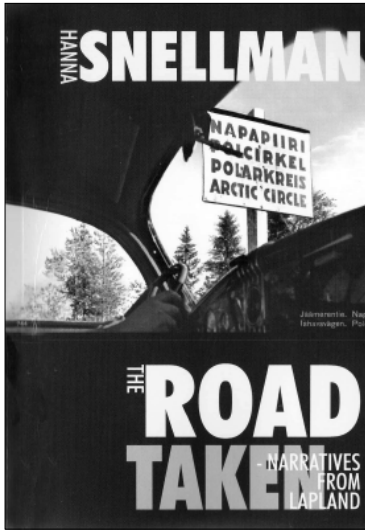


**Hanna Snellman: *The Road Taken – Narratives from Lapland*. Gummerus, Jyväskylä 2005. 161 pages + notes, sources and bibliography.**



The title of the book *Road Taken – Narratives from Lapland* is, like the author Hanna Snellman describes, a metaphor for two aspects of the author's life: on the one hand it refers to her ongoing journey as a scholar of Ethnology; the exploration of the research practices terrain and the search for the recognisable voice of an author. On the other the metaphor describes the physical lives, destinies and life histories of the subjects of her research: labour immigrants. Following the *Road Taken*-metaphor, as a path one chooses and follows she embarks the journey with lumberjacks in the Finnish Lapland, the focus group of the author's early research and her dissertation. Snellman follows the paths of moving labour force in the footsteps of Finnish labour immigrants around the early decades of the 19<sup>th</sup>

century from the North of Finland to urban environments of Swedish cities of the present.

*Road Taken* draws a picture of the developments of Ethnological research methodology in the Scandinavian context in the past two decades by discussing empirical data and theory in an integrated and fruitful manner. The book consists of 10 talks the author has presented at international conferences between 1987 and 2004 around the world. Some of the articles have been published earlier in different journals for Ethnography and Oral History.

The first article "*Reality and Romance as Historical Portrayals*" is as an excellent reflecting surface for the realistic approach, typical for Finnish ethnology practices in the 1980s. The very first article already indicates the author's preference to the study of narratives and life stories as presented by the subjects themselves. Snellman's focus is on the process and products of stereotyping, and she remarks that if any ordinary Finn would be asked to describe how lumberjacks were about 100 years ago, the description would most probably be a mythic story of roaming, drinking and wild lumberjacks attracting women and being boisterous. The itinerant lifestyle was, of course, much more hard labour and harsh reality than romance and roaming. She develops the stereotyping theme in the second and the third articles "*Symbols of Power and Nostalgia*" and "*The Surprise and Similarities*" and continues by drawing a more detailed picture of the lumberjack's lives, this time in the form of the "foreign" impact on the tra-

ditional surrounding architecture in Finnish Lapland. The aspect of immigration enters the picture in the third article giving the lumberjack theme an interesting, and welcome, addition. The Lumberjacks were labour immigrants of the North: the forest industry as it was bound to seasons and many of the workers spent their lives travelling after the work according to the seasons. Snellman makes the interesting comparison between the mythic stories and stereotypes about lumberjacks across the globe: the stories are virtually the same in North America and Northern Europe. She suggests, along the lines of the first article, that popular stereotypes, be it that they often conflicting with the authentic experiences can be explored by utilizing the recollections in the historical actualities being studies.

Although the lumberjacks related research is very male dominant Snellman discusses the role of women in one article in which she scrutinizes and criticises the "beautiful making of the world" by Scandinavian Ethnologists. Her article "*Sad Stories*" is describing women's harsh reality in prostitution, and other informal economy connected to the lumberjacks', such as selling home-made alcohol, washing and repairing clothes. *Sad Stories* is in a very blatant and talks in a very non-Scandinavian manner about desperation and abuse. It can, of course, be asked whether the material could have included also empowering aspects of women as part of labour immigration, or is the victimized role the only part the women can play in this context.

*Road Taken* is certainly interesting for any scholar of post war European labour migration and it gives a thorough picture of the expanding world before we even spoke about globalisation or transnational identities. The book can be highly recommended as course literature for research methodology in qualitative research as well.

The pictures on Snellman's book are of fabulous, thanks to Matjas Jumisko. Black and white photographs have been worked at times to blurry, grainy images showing merely outlines of a person. At other times the pictures feature sharp, clear-cut edges revealing facial expressions, small details of the peoples' surround-

ing. This plurality of images reflects the metaphor of *Road Taken* in a wonderful artistic manner; the transformation from a realistic, ultimate truth seeking approach to a subject listening way of exploring multitude of voices and giving the subjects the power to tell their stories, Snellman's book presents oral history at its best.

*Lotta Weckström*

## VII Muuttoliikesymposiumin raportti ilmestynyt!

### Sisältöä:

Alueelliset kehitysnäkymät ja muuttoliike

(*Hannes Manninen*)

Suuren paluumuuton aamu?

(*Matti Mäkelä*)

Maassamuuton uudet kuviot

(*Mauri Nieminen*)

Väestön ikääntymisen haasteet kunnille

(*Timo Sinisalo*)

Miten paluu- ja muuttoliikeprosessit onnistuvat maaseudulle?

(*Aini Pehkonen*)

Koti Hankasalmen Kymppi Kyliin

(*Timo Itäpuisto*)

Onni muuttaa maalle

(*Kaija Roiha*)

Muuttoliike ja työmarkkinoiden dynamiikka

(*Elli Heikkilä*)

Suurten ikäluokkien eläkeläisten maallemuuttopotentiaali

(*Pekka Hunnako*)

Uraputki Helsingissä vai rauhallinen maalaisasuminen?

(*Raija Volk*)

Kasvaako työvoiman tarve? Vastaako maahanmuuttopolitiikka?

(*Arno Tanner*)

Siirtolaisuusinstituutin järjestämässä Muuttoliikesymposiumissa 23-24.11.2005 Sigyn-salissa pohtivat tutkijat ja kuntien edustajat yhdessä maallemuuton uusia mahdollisuuksia varsinkin seniorimuuttajia ajatellen.

Esitelmät on koottu Elli Heikkilän toimittamaan yli 200-sivuseen raporttiin, joka sisältää mielenkiintoisia kokemuksia ja ideoita siitä, miten kunnat voisivat parhaiten vastata tarvittavien palvelujen luomisesta ja edesauttaa uusien kuntalaisten viihtymistä.

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