Département d'histoire contemporaine

Finnish Week
7-11 November 2022

Neutrality and Non-Governmental Networks after the Helsinki Accords 1975-1991

Public lectures, roundtable, film, workshop



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Monday 7th November - 10:15-12:00
Bâtiment Miséricorde - Salle MIS03 3117

Conference: Neutralité de la Finlande

Louis Clerc (University of Turku)

Tuesday 8th November - 17:15-19:00
Salle Jäggi (MIS04 4112)

Presentation of the research project Mission Finland

Louis Clerc, Pia Koivunen and Maija Koskinen

Wednesday 9th November - 17:30-20:30
Cinema Rex - Boulevard de Pérolles 5

Public screening of Compartment No. 6 (Juho Kuosmanen, Finland, 2021 - Grand Prix at the Cannes Festival 2021)

Followed by a discussion with Louis Clerc, Pia Koivunen and Maija Koskinen
Séance gratuite, offerte par le Département d'histoire contemporaine

Thursday 10th November - 17:15-19:00
Bâtiment Pérolles - Salle PER21 A120 and on line

Public roundtable on Neutral States and non-governmental networks during the Helsinki process (1970'-1990)

Speakers: Pia Koivunen, Thomas Fischer and Aryo Makko

Friday 11th November - 9:00-17:15
Espace Güggi (MIS08 0101)

Workshop: Neutral States and non-state Actors and Geopolitics. New research perspectives in view of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act

9:15-9:45	Introduction
10:00-11:30	The Catholic Church and the challenge of peace
11:45-12:45	Monitoring and networking within the Helsinki Process
14:15-15:15	Christian groups East and West of the Iron Curtain
15:45-16:45	Geopolitical challenges in Sweden and Finland

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"Finnish week" 7-11 November 2022

Neutrality and non-governmental Networks after the Helsinki Accords 1975-1991

Monday, November 7, 10:15 – 12:00
Miséricorde building, Room MIS03 3117 (Avenue de l'Europe 20, 1700 Fribourg)
Conférence publique de Louis Clerc (University of Turku) : La Finlande dans la Guerre froide

Public lecture (in French). A specialist in the history of Finland's international relations, Professor Louis Clerc will explain the main diplomatic and strategic stakes for Finland after the Helsinki Conference (1975) until the end of the Cold War. Mainly addressed to students, the aim is to show how Finland's international position allows not only the government and diplomatic actors, but also other actors (NGO, cities,…), to influence exchanges with the communist bloc.

Tuesday, November 8, 17:15 - 19:15, Miséricorde building, Room Jäggi (MIS04 4112)
Avenue de l'Europe 20, 1700 Fribourg
Presentation of the Mission Finland Project: Pia Koivunen and Maija Koskinen.
With two discussants from the Department of Contemporary History, University of Fribourg.

The Mission Finland project, directed by Pia Koivunen, is funded by the Academy of Finland and focuses on foreign cultural diplomacy in Finland. It was developed among other institutions in collaboration with the University of Fribourg (Prof. Matthieu Gillabert) which has a specialisation in this field. This cooperation enters a new phase with the two-month stay of researcher Maija Koskinen at the University of Fribourg. This "Finnish week" is also an opportunity to present in Switzerland the objectives of this project and the results already obtained. The originality of this approach is to understand the history of cultural diplomacy and exchanges not from a country of origin, but to analyse the impact of foreign soft power in Finland and the reception of their actions. This presentation will be discussed by two Swiss doctoral students who are working on international and cultural issues of the Cold War.

Wednesday, November 9, 17:30 – 20:30, Cinema Rex
Boulevard de Pérolles 5, 1700 Fribourg
Public screening of Compartment No. 6 *(Juho Kuosmanen, 107 min., 2021), followed by a discussion with Louis Clerc (Univ. Turku), Maija Koskinen (Univ. Helsinki), Pia Koivunen (Univ. Turku)*

Since the 1980s, Finnish cinema has extensively addressed the contradictory ties between Finland and Russia (e.g. films by Aki Kaurismäki). The recent film *Compartment No. 6* also deals with this story in a train where a young Finnish woman and a young Russian man are travelling. The conference will provide an opportunity to place this film in cultural history with Maija Koskinen, former director of the Helsinki Kunsthalle, and to discuss this context with two historians specialising in Finland's international relations and cultural exchange during the Cold War.

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Thursday, November 10, 17:15 – 19:15 (hybrid event)
Pérolles building, Room PER21 A120
Boulevard de Pérolles 90, 1700 Fribourg
Public roundtable on Neutral States and non-governmental Networks during the Helsinki process (1970'-1990), Pia Koivunen, Thomas Fischer, Aryo Makko
The event will be held in hybrid format per MS Teams

This roundtable compares the different trajectories of neutral countries during the last phase of the Cold War, marked by a resurgence of conflict and the collapse of the socialist bloc. Experts on the politics of neutrality, the speakers will focus on the interactions between diplomatic actors and non-governmental organisations. In particular, they will discuss the evolution of the relationship between neutral countries and the Eastern bloc until the end of the Cold War, and the impact of this period on the war in Ukraine.

Friday, November 11, 9:00 – 17:15
Room: Espace Güggi (building MIS08 0101) (hybrid event)
Rue de Rome 6, 1700 Fribourg

Workshop: Neutral States and Non-State actors and Geopolitics. New research perspectives in view of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (1975–2025)

The event will be held in hybrid format per MS Teams

The Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) born of the Helsinki Agreements (1973-75) is often described as one of the main diplomatic achievements of the détente era, and a crucial milestone towards ending the Cold War. Yet not only diplomats played a part in the process. Non-state actors and NGOs also did their share by lobbying CSCE staff and conference attendees for human Rights and Religious Freedom violations behind the Iron Curtain or they started political discussion processes in the public sphere of their respective countries. Drawing on the most recent research on this topic (Badalassi and Snyder, *The CSCE and the End of the Cold War: Diplomacy, Societies and Human Rights*, 2019), this workshop aims at further exploring human rights activists involved in the Helsinki process, at the interface between the Dissent and the Western public, and between state and other private networks. The focus of this workshop is on the religion, on religious networks and actors who advocate religious freedom and human rights in the CSCE process.
A first workshop on this topic was held online in October 2021, and a first network of researchers was formed. A report on this has been published by Marie Snedker on HSozuKult[1].
In preparation for a larger research project and an international final conference in Helsinki in 2025, this second workshop is held in presence and partly hybrid. It focuses on the following topics: History and Networks of the Helsinki Committees and Helsinki Groups since the 1970s (in the USSR, in Central- and Eastern Europe), religious negotiation processes and controversies around Human Rights in the Helsinki, process contributions from the Neutral States and their NGOs and Religious Actors (Switzerland, Finland, Austria, Sweden, the Vatican), concepts of European Security Policy discussed by Churches, Ecumenical Organisations and other Religious Actors, "Division of Labour" between Ecumenical

[1] Marie SNEDKER, Conference Report: Advocating Religious Freedom in the Helsinki Process, 14.10.2021 – 15.10.2021 digital, in: https://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/fdkn-127802 , 10.01.2022.

Organizations, Churches and other Organisations, as well as first-hand witnesses and journalists, who reported around the Helsinki- process at the time.

9:00 – Welcome
9:15 – Introduction by Katharina Kunter (Univ. Helsinki), Farewell to the Idea of Neutrality: Historical perspectives on churches and the new geopolitical challenges in Europe

Please note:
Within each 1h30 panel, speakers should not exceed a 20-minute talk, in order to allow some time for the discussion. The chairs will briefly present the speakers of their panel based on the CVs handed on to them by the organisers ahead of the event.

10:00 – 11:30 : **Panel I: The Catholic Church and the challenge of peace (1960's – today)**

Moderation: Irena Vaišvilaitė

Kim Christiaens (KU Leuven, per MS Teams), Catholic engagement in international campaigns for European Security and Cooperation: Perspectives from the Belgian Peace Movement during the 1960s and 1970s

Roland Cerny-Werner (PLUS University), Preservation of Creation or Power-political repositioning in the World? The Vatican as peacebroker in the CSCE-process

Massimo Faggioli (Villanova Univ.), "We need a new spirit of Helsinki": The Holy See and the war in Ukraine

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 12:45 : **Panel II: Monitoring and networking within the Helsinki Process**

Moderation: Thomas Fischer

Stéphanie Roulin (Fribourg Univ.), The Swiss Helsinki Committee: international ambitions of a monitoring group between State and private networks

Nina Hechenblaikner (Innsbruck Univ., per MS Teams), The Importance of networks. Human Rights at the third CSCE Follow-up meeting in Vienna (1986-1989)

12:45 – 14:00 : Lunch break
At the Mensa of Miséricorde (University restaurant), Av. de l'Europe 20, 1700 Fribourg.

14:15 – 15:15 : Panel III: Christian groups East and West of the Iron Curtain

Moderation: Katharina Kunter

Irena Vaišvilaitė (Vilnius Univ.): Catholics and other Christian groups in the Soviet Union versus Helsinki process

Erik Sidenvall (Lund Univ.), Swedish evangelical 'low level' politics and the Helsinki process: Engaging with Soviet Baptists in the 1970s and 1980s

15:15 – 15:45 : Break

15:45 – 16:45 : Panel IV : Geopolitical challenges in Sweden and Finland

Moderation: Matthieu Gillabert and Stéphanie Roulin

Aryo Makko (University of Stockholm, per MS Teams): Multilateralism and the Shaping of an 'Active Foreign Policy': Sweden during the preparatory phase of the CSCE

Markku Ruotsila (Univ. Helsinki/Tampere): Détente, Finlandization, and Resistance: Finnish Churches and the Helsinki Process in Transnational Perspective

16:45 – 17:15 : Concluding remarks

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Venue information

Fribourg is a small town, the Hotel du Faucon as well as all the events of the "Finnish week" are within walking distance of the train station.

Organisation : matthieu.gillabert@unifr.ch; stephanie.roulin@unifr.ch
Registration for distant audience (hybrid events of Thursday and Friday) : levi.morosi@unifr.ch

Hotel du Faucon
Rue de Lausanne 76, 1700 Fribourg
+41 (0)26 321 37 90
https://hotel-du-faucon.ch/
https://goo.gl/maps/ezyD6KZZVXRriERG8
7-minute walk from the train station
Bus stop "Place Georges Python"
4-minute bus ride (bus 3 and 5) + 1-minute walk

Monday 7.11.2022 and Tuesday 8.11.2022
University of Fribourg, Miséricorde building, Room MIS03 3117
Avenue de l'Europe 20, 1700 Fribourg
https://goo.gl/maps/AgvNc1QXBsiBMeWA8
Map of the Miséricorde building: https://www.unifr.ch/map/fr/plans/misericorde.html

- ⇨ Monday 10:15-12:00 : Room **MIS03 3117**
- ⇨ Tuesday 17:15-19:15 : Room **MIS04 4112 (Room "Jäggi")**

Wednesday 9.11.2022 17:30 – 20:30
Film: "Compartment No. 6" by Juho Kuosmanen, 107 min., 2021 (entrance free)
Cinéma Rex
Boulevard de Pérolles 5, 1700 Fribourg
https://goo.gl/maps/SwbDmCenuq7g5J3i6
From the train station, it's a 2-minute walk

Thursday 10.11.2022 (roundtable)
University of Fribourg, Pérolles building, Room PER21 A120
Boulevard de Pérolles 90, 1700 Fribourg
https://goo.gl/maps/mfJ78pgP77f1Kg8c9
Map of the Pérolles building https://www.unifr.ch/map/fr/plans/perolles.html
The Pérolles21 building is located on Boulevard de Pérolles 90
15-20-minute walk from the train station
Bus stop "Charmettes"
7-minutes bus ride from the train station
9-minute bus ride from Place Georges Python (nearest bus stop from the Hotel du Faucon)
12-minute bus ride from Université Miséricorde

Friday 11.11.2022 (workshop):
Room: Espace Güggi (MIS08 0101) (hybrid event)
Rue de Rome 6, 1700 Fribourg
https://goo.gl/maps/3tutbWkJ1XGed4Tz7
Map of the Miséricorde building https://www.unifr.ch/map/fr/plans/misericorde.html