

**University of Turku –
Department of Finnish Literature
Network partner of j o l n e s –
Joint Learning in Northern European Studies**



An interview with **Viola Parente-Čapková** (University of Turku - Kotimainen kirjallisuus - Department of Finnish Literature).

Transcript

Viola Parente-Čapková

Yes, our department indeed has been involved in cooperation with the University of Cologne for quite some time, also in the capacity of a network partner. In 2013, I designed and carried out, together with my colleagues from Turku, a course named *Aspects of Finnish Literature: Texts and Contexts*. In that course, we wanted to introduce Finnish literature to international students by discussing various aspects and themes, united by the contextual approach to studying literature, which is an approach shared by all colleagues in our department. We discussed various genres from novels to essays and presented various methods and theories, from queer theories to ecocriticism. I found the course very rewarding: it was open not only to students of Finnish or Scandinavian studies, but also to those of comparative literature at various European universities. In this way, students could learn from each other: those from Nordic countries brought in insights from the Nordic context and Nordic Studies and the knowledge of Finnish and Nordic literatures obviously and those from comparative literature were able to compare the works we discussed with texts from elsewhere. The course has been taught twice and for me, both times were very interesting and instructive.

IN 2021 YOU TAUGHT THE COURSE 'TRANSNATIONAL ASPECTS OF FINNISH LITERATURE'. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?

Compared to the *Aspects of Finnish literature* that I mentioned previously, this year's course is much more compact, since it orbits around one theme, though a rather vast one: it deals with transnational aspects of Finnish literature. In fact, there will be various trans-aspects there, since we will address the issue on transnational, transcultural, multilingual and transborder aspects of Finnish literature. The course will, for example question the strategy of methodological nationalism, embedded in the discipline of literary theory. Through various case studies, I want to show the plurality of writing that has been associated with Finland throughout history. We will discuss texts from folk poetry to contemporary comics. The aim of the course is to introduce students to topical methodological issues in literary history, as well as get them acquainted with a wide range of literary phenomena.

Credits

The interview was conducted on April 06 2021 via Zoom.

Interviewed by:	Anja Ute Blode, Anne-Katrin Heinen, Paula Ordejón
Cinematography and Editing:	Anja Ute Blode, Anne-Katrin Heinen, Paula Ordejón
Transcript by:	Anja Ute Blode, Anne-Katrin Heinen, Paula Ordejón, Viola Parente-Čapková
j o l n e s – Design:	Heide Matz
Produced by:	University of Cologne, Department for Scandinavian and Finnish Studies for EduVenture Cologne (IVAC)