

Transnational Aspects of Finnish Literature

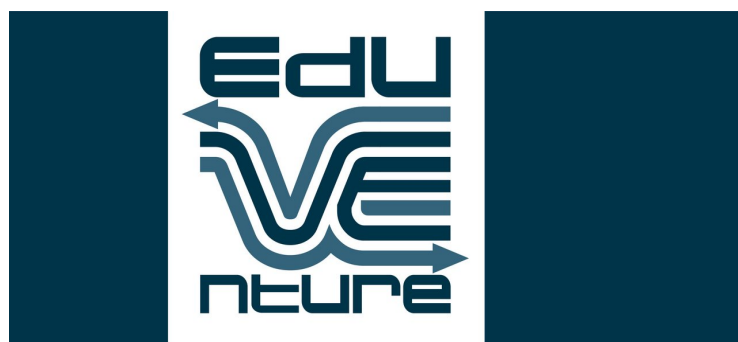
a course by j o l n e s –

Joint Learning in Northern European Studies

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An interview with **Dominique Wagener** (University of Cologne – Student at the Department of Scandinavian and Finnish Studies)



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Transcript

Dominique Wagener

I am Dominique Wagener. I study at the University of Cologne. I study Finnish Studies and I am in the second master semester.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

I chose this course mainly because of the possibility to work with students from other universities and get to know their ways of thinking and discussing. This is also valid for the teaching, too. I hope to experience a different approach to the subject than to what I'm used to.

DOES THIS COURSE COMPLEMENT YOUR STUDIES WELL OR IS IT AN EXTRA COURSE?

Actually, I had one module left where I could freely choose to which subject I wanted to dedicate it to, so the course luckily does complement my studies. I really like the flexibility also, to adapt the course requirements to my own needs.

WHAT WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND HAVE THEY BEEN MET?

I would say my only expectation to any course whatsoever is to learn something new and to widen my horizon and this has definitely been met. It was a very nice studying environment and we had a very good atmosphere during the course.

WHAT WERE YOUR IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE COURSE?

The course was very informative, but was also encouraging us to reflect on the different topics and we always had to come up with our own questions and also our own experiences. Everything that we already knew was always welcome. We could always tell what our own experiences in the field were like. And although the course was very intensive, I was always looking forward to each lesson and I could easily participate in the discussion.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF WORKING WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER CITIES AND COUNTRIES?

The advantages of working with students from other places are that you get confronted with a broader range of different opinions on one subject. Everyone has different previous knowledge. Whereas, when you're in a course with people from your own university, you most probably have similar knowledge, because you usually attend the same courses. So, the spectrum is a bit wider.

ARE SUCH COURSES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS ABROAD?

I would say such courses are a good starting point to get in touch with students and teachers across Europe. But as probably by now every student knows, it is very difficult to really get to know people through a virtual classroom and establish lasting contacts.

HOW DID AN USUSAL LESSON LOOK LIKE?

Usually, for each lesson we had several texts to read and also some examples of the literature that has to be discussed. In the beginning of the lesson we had a quick discussion about the text, what was new in the texts, what did we already know. And that always gave us selves and also the teacher an impression on where our knowledge is based and what is new to us and what our background already is. And then we had somehow a classic lecture, so the teacher was showing their slides and mostly talking a bit about the history for example from the new minorities in Finland and everything about them, where they come from and all the different aspects of that. And then usually we had a discussion about what we've learned actually.

WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING COURSE AGAIN?

Yes, I would definitely participate again. It was a very, very enriching experience and I really learned a lot. I'm really happy that I tried it and that I got to know the other students and the teacher and that I made this experience. So all in all, I'm very happy about it.

Credits

The interview was conducted on May 31 2021 via Zoom.

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