Alina Kuusisto is a researcher at the Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland, and a Docent of Finnish History. The key themes of her historical research focus on the relationship between regions and communities and their engagement with social and societal change in the Eastern Finland during the 19th and 20th centuries. Kuusisto has examined, among other topics, the regional role of education in North Karelia, region as political space in the 19th century, the Northern Dimension of the European Union, and the oral history of cross-border cooperation between Finland and Russia. She has also contributed as an author to several urban and local history projects. Her current multidisciplinary research project explores the oral history of small rural schools in Finland and their connection to place and the surrounding community. Since the outset of her academic career, oral history has held a central role in her research. The methodological foundation for this approach was further solidified through her doctoral dissertation, The Red Ghost of the University: The Debate on the Politicization of the University of Joensuu in 1970s Newspaper Articles and Recollection Narratives (2017). Kuusisto serves as editor-in-chief of Kasvatus & Aika, a Finnish-language, multidisciplinary, socially and historically oriented peer-reviewed journal in the field of education.