

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday 22 September 2026

8:15 **Registration opens**

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening**

Music: Matti Mäkelä

Opening address: Elize S Van Eeden, Chair, ISRH, international Scientific Board, North-West University, South Africa

Welcome address: Sulevi Riukulehto, Convener, Chair of the organizing committee and the advisory board in Finland, University of Helsinki, Finland

9:30 – 10:15 **Keynote 1**

Professor Mark Bassin,
Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden

Break

10:30 – 12:00 **Presentations 1**

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:45 **Presentations 2**

14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:45 **Presentations 3**

Break

19:00 – 21:00 **Reception in Seinäjoki City Hall** (by City of Seinäjoki)

Welcome address: Representative of the City of Seinäjoki

Music: Kyösti Järvelä & Lauri Kotamäki

Wednesday 23 September

9:30 – 11:00 **Presentations 4**

Break

11:15 – 12:00 **Keynote 2**

Doctor James Hlongwana, Great Zimbabwe University,
Zimbabwe

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:45 **Presentations 5**

14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:45 **Presentations 6**

Break

19:00 – 22:00 **Gala Dinner in Alma restaurant** (subject to charge)

Music: Maija Pokela

Thursday 24 September

9:30 – 11:00 **Presentations 7**

Break

11:15 – 12:00 **Keynote 3**

Doctor Alina Kuusisto, Karelian Institute,
University of Eastern Finland

12:15 – 13:00 **Closing**

Report of the conference:

Sulevi Riukulehto, University of Helsinki, Finland

Valedictory words:

Elize S Van Eeden, North-West University, South Africa

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 **Cultural program** (subject to charge):
guided visit to Aalto Centre in Seinäjoki
(UNESCO World Heritage Site)

TIMETABLE OF SESSIONS

Tuesday 22 September 2026

10:30 – 12:00

PRESENTATIONS 1-1 (90 MIN)

Chair: **Saijaleena Rantanen**, University of Arts Helsinki, Finland

1. **Hrvoje Kekez**, Catholic University of Croatia
Crossing the Border in Panic: The Experience of Refugees from the Rural Areas of the Historical Croatian Lands during the Ottoman Invasion in the Sixteenth Century
2. **Veronika Lešková**, Czech Academy of Sciences; University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně, Czechia
Crossing the Borders. Spatial Mobility of the Rural Populations in Early Modern North Bohemia, 17th to 18th Centuries. A Case Study Using Nodegoat Software
3. **Dr. Jonathan Dolley**, Mosim and Salim Research Institute, Seoul, South Korea
From Rochdale to Wonju: a history of cooperation in South Korea from the perspective of the Hansalim Life Movement

PRESENTATIONS 1-2 (90 min)

Chair: **Markku Mattila**, Migration Institute of Finland

1. **Kacper Dziok**, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland
From a Prussian Region to a French Satellite State: Marshal Davout and the Legal and Economic Transformation of the Duchy of Warsaw in 1807-1808
2. **Bronwynn van Tonder**, North-West University, South Africa
Governing Evolution: Social Darwinism and the Logic of Indirect Rule in South Africa
3. **Marja Jalava**, Tampere University, Finland
Nation-building as Region-Building: The Conceptions of Norden, Balticum, Fennoscandia, Greater Finland, and Europe's "precarious zone" in Finland, c. 1809-1939

Tuesday 22 September 2026
13:00 – 14:45

PRESENTATIONS 2-1 (105 min)

Chair: **Emile Coetzee**, North-West University, South Africa

1. **Eetu Riskumäki**, University of Oulu, Finland
Forming the Mindset of a Stateless Nation: Nationalist Ideas in the North-western Russian Borderland, 1880–1908
2. **Signa Daum Shanks**, University of Ottawa, Canada
The (not really straight) Straight Line in Western Canada: Using Historic Subnational Boundaries to Predict Present and Future Socio-Economic Tensions
3. **Rostyslav Kasyanenko**, Ukrainian Free University, Munich, Germany
Scandinavian Assimilation of Slavic Aristocracy: What Survived of Arkona's Heritage 500 Years after Christianisation
4. **Jayendra Narain**, Manish Karmwar, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, India and Kundan Kumar, Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, India
Colonial Disruptions and Postcolonial Continuities: Indigenous Knowledge Systems in India and East Africa

PRESENTATIONS 2-2 (105 min)

Chair: **Sulevi Riukulehto**, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland

1. **Annadine Smit & Elize S. Van Eeden**, North-West University, South Africa
Taung: A border region shaped by indigenous politics and competing colonial powers, 1760–1994
2. **Ilpo Kempas**, Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, Finland
On the Lexemes Denoting Border/Frontier/Boundary in Latin and the Romance Languages in the Historical Perspective and in the Toponymy of Spain
3. **Anu Muhonen**, University of Helsinki, Finland & Jaana Kolu, University of Eastern Finland
Discourses on visible and invisible geographical, linguistic, and identity borders and border crossing in the Torne River Valley in Northern Sweden

Tuesday 22 September 2026
15:00 – 16:45

PRESENTATIONS 3-1 (105 min)

Chair: **Marja Jalava**, Tampere University, Finland

1. **Kongko Louis Makau**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Smuggling Revolution: The Gendered Approach to Southern African Regional Women and the South African Struggle for liberation
2. **Dariusz Nikiel**, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Slavic Studies, Poland
Mapping the Landscape of Smuggling: The Polish–Slovak Borderlands (1919–1949) and the Archive, Ethnography, and Oral History Nexus
3. **Ismo Björn**, University of Eastern Finland
Hunters Border Crossings on the Finnish Russian Border

PRESENTATIONS 3-2 (105 min)

Chair: **Rumi Umino**, Independent researcher, Japan

1. **Pinyu Chen**, Soochow University, China
Beyond the Regional Activism: Reunderstanding the Identity and Resistance in Deinstitutionalization of Huizhou Regions, China
2. **Marijn Molema**, University of Groningen, dept. of Economic and Social History, Netherlands
Innovation Policies across European Borders
3. **Timo Suutari**, University of Helsinki, Finland
Beyond Administrative Borders? Mapping Experiential Home in Rural Finland

Wednesday 23 September
9:30 – 11:00

PRESENTATIONS 4-1 (90 min)

Chair: **Marijn Molema**, University of Groningen, dept. of Economic and Social History, Netherlands

1. **Giuseppe Motta**, La Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Balcania? The Vision of a Balkan Space and the Balkan Union in Interwar Romania
2. **Miloš Řezník**, Chemnitz University, Institute of European Studies and Historical Sciences, Germany
Cross-Border Regionality and Its Musealization: A Central European Perspective
3. **Sulevi Riukulehto**, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland
Does It Really Pay to Have a Border Change? Institutional Orientation Analysis for Ähtäri, a Finnish Municipality, 1935–2015

PRESENTATIONS 4-2 (90 min)

Chair: **Ismo Björn**, University of Eastern Finland

1. **Svitlana Hey**, Independent researcher, Greece and Ukraine
The 1946 Population Exchange between the Ukrainian SSR and Poland: Policies, Practices and Lived Experience
2. **Markku Mattila & Toni Ahvenainen**, Migration Institute of Finland
Ukrainians in a Refugee-Accepting Region? Experience, Cultural Memory and Receptivity in South Ostrobothnia
3. **Barbara Riman**, Institute for Ethnic Studies, Slovenia
What Newspapers Cannot Remember: Collective Memory and the Making of the Slovenian–Croatian Border

Wednesday 23 September
13:00 – 14:45

PRESENTATIONS 5-1 (105 min)

Chair: **Pinyu Chen**, Soochow University, China

1. **Natalia Hapek**, Plock Scientific Society, Poland
Kirkuk and the Making of Invisible Borders – History, Agricultural Lands and Lawfare in Contemporary Iraq
2. **Aapo Jumppanen & Jaakko Mäntylä**, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, Finland
The Borders of Peripheral Peat Production in South Ostrobothnia, Finland
3. **Matthias Kokorsch**, University Centre of the Westfjords, Iceland
When Fish Create Borders: From Herring Migrations to the Cod Wars in Iceland

PRESENTATIONS 5-2 (105 min)

Chair: **Elize S van Eeden**, North-West University, South Africa

1. **Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh & Declan Ó Brian**, Archives of Rural History, Bern, Switzerland and Social Sciences Research Centre, University of Galway, Ireland
Irish Counties, 1900s-1970s: Their Ruralities, Micro-spatiality and an Intangible Cultural Heritage Opportunity
2. **Emile Coetzee**, North-West University, South Africa
Heritage with Borders? A New Perspective on South African Heritage through Regional Importance. Case study: South African Presidential Heritage
3. **Matti Mäkelä**, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland
The Shared Vernacular Heritage of Bothnian Region

Wednesday 23 September
15:00 – 16:45

PRESENTATIONS 6-1 (105 min)

Chair: **Tiina Kinnunen**, University of Oulu, Finland

1. **Heikki Kokko**, Tampere University, Finland
Border-Crossing Texts: The Role of Readers' Letters in Shaping Finnish Communities, Participation, and Power
2. **Cobus Rademeyer**, Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley, South Africa
The Malay Camp in Kimberley as an Internal Borderland: Displacement, identity, and the Erasure of a Cosmopolitan Frontier
3. **John Bessai**, independent scholar, Canada
Virtual Borders and Cross-Border Regions: Settler Order, Public Memory and the Digital State in Canada

PRESENTATIONS 6-2 (105 min)

Chair: **Aapo Jumppanen**, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland

1. **Regan Krešimir**, Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, Croatia
Fluid Borders – The Transmission of the Name “Croatia” in the 15th and 16th Centuries
2. **James Drummond**, North-West University, South Africa
South Africa – Botswana Borderlands of the North-West Province: A Barrier or Conduit for Development?
3. **Seija Jalagin**, University of Oulu, Finland
Regional Identity in Diaspora: East Karelian Refugee Families' Search for a Place in History

Thursday 24 September
9:30 – 11:00

PRESENTATIONS 7-1 (90 min)

Chair: **Timo Suutari**, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland

1. **Liesel Grobler and Elize S van Eeden**, North-West University, South Africa
Debating Border Formations between Communities in the Outeniqua and Tsitsikamma Forests: A Micro-view of the Knysna Bush People in 18th to 20th Century Colonial South Africa
2. **Jerkko Holmi**, University of Turku, Finland
Many Borders of the Finnish Missionaries in the Northern Namibia during the Cold War
3. **Umesh Ashok Kadam**, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
Resituating Cross-border Cultural Legacies of South Asia in the milieus of Medieval Seascapes

PRESENTATIONS 7-2 (90 min)

Chair: **Katja Rinne-Koski**, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland

1. **Ayush Singh**, University of Hyderabad, India
Business History of Colonial Benares: Reading Business, Entrepreneurship, Community and Economy in Various Dimensions
2. **Samuli Korkalainen and Saijaleena Rantanen**, University of Arts Helsinki, Finland
Singing across Linguistic Borders: Religious Songs, Americanization, and Finnish-American Identity
3. **Rumi Umino**, Independent researcher, Japan
Memories on Everyday Life in Manchuria:
What and How She Told Them to Her Granddaughter