

How to Learn to Understand Each Other: Joint Seminars, Summer Schools and Workshops as the Key to Future Cooperation

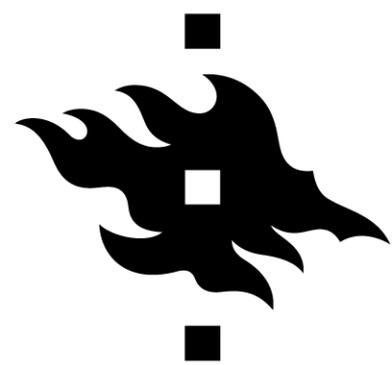
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Frameworks for University Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

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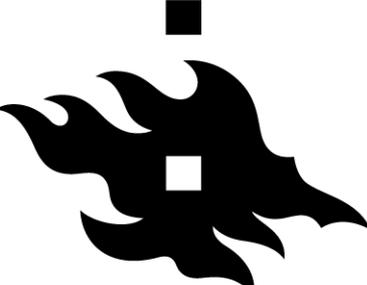
University of Turku, Turku School of Economics, OP-Pohjola hall

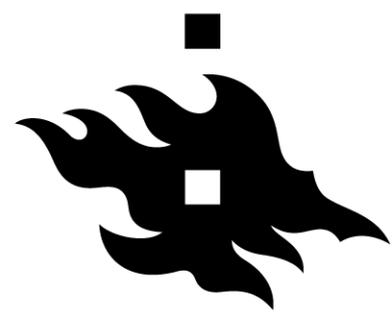


To Understand Each Other

- **“We can read Pushkin but it does not help us to move forward on a strategic level ”** – especially if we read it from our own perspective and not in interaction
- **“Asking the right questions is important”** – but if there is not mutual understanding of the situation, right questions might seem wrong from the other perspective
- Good example is the way the **concept of modernisation** is viewed in the EU and in Russia
- Besides the traditional physical and visible borders affecting cross border cooperation, there are also **differences in e.g. institutional set-ups** which can create “borders” and obstacles for cross border cooperation

JOINT SEMINARS

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- **Usually one event is jointly organised to see how joining forces works and what can be aimed at.**
 - **Introduction to work by others**
 - **Getting to know each other personally**
 - **Shared cost**
 - **Successful seminar can lead to deeper cooperation in the future**
 - **It is still not a guarantee for anything**
 - **Sometimes can also lead to less cooperation**
 - **Discussion forum at a more general level**
 - **Sometimes just a measure to show that something has been done**



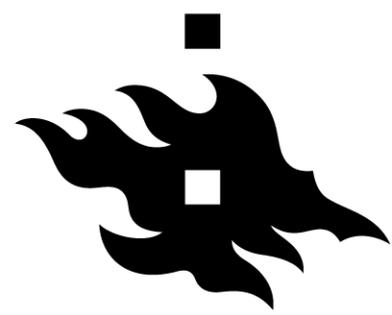
WORKSHOPS

- **Already a clearly defined common interest and possibly goals**
- **Born from a seminar, a project proposal or recommendation by a funder, the contacts are already personalised**
- **Both official (funding) and unofficial (case by case funding)**

Examples:

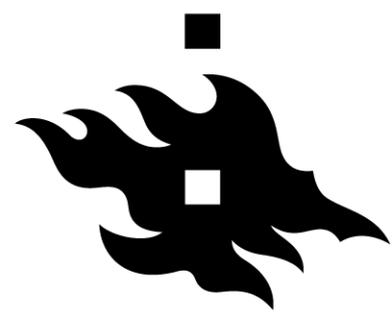
NBSSN (Nordic Baltic Security Studies Network) – unofficial – Security Studies works through personal contacts, important issues and national pride.

CERES – a Nordic network funded by Nordforsk for a period of three years (2010-2013). The CERES network introduced a Nordic perspective into studies on Russia and other European post-socialist states from the point of view of Choices, Resources and Encounters. Funded workshops but also summer schools and seminars.



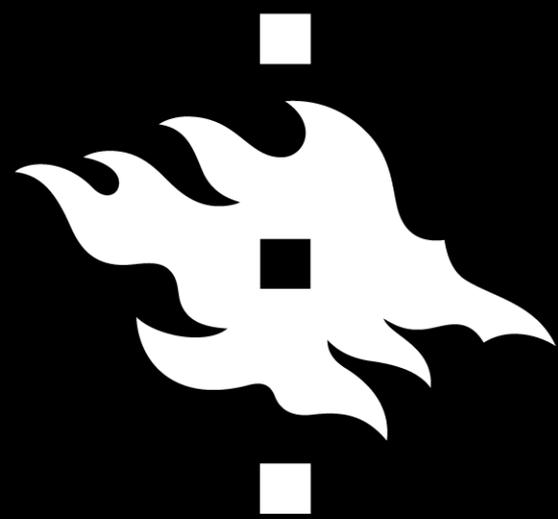
SUMMER SCHOOLS

- ■ **Helsinki Summer School** (international, Master's level) - The course on Post-socialist Society and Culture entails introductory lectures on the historical background and major methodological and conceptual approaches. The course is divided into three clusters that focus on cultural, political and social questions with a total of 34 hours of lectures, including in-class discussions
- **The Finnish Graduate School for Russian and East European Studies** (Nordic/Baltic, post-grad+post-doc. Level) has organised Nordic multi/interdisciplinary summer schools with topics ranging from identities and nationalism to media, civil society, and democracy since 2000 (different funders and cooperation partners).



SOME CONCLUSION

- **Joint seminars, workshops and summer schools are ways of communication**
- **This communication can help to create different levels of understanding**
- **Cross border institutional setting needs long-term patience: seminars, workshops and summer school can function in the meantime as a base to learn about each other**
- **Understanding is needed inside of the EU (EU's common policy towards the Eastern neighbours), among the Nordic countries (picture of Russia, assessment of threat perceptions) and in cooperation with Russia (worldview, future expectations)**
- **Education is the precondition for development, you don't need to agree but a similar base can help**



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**