

## 9 Humanities

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## 9.0 Introduction

### 9.0.1 Departments in Panel 9

**Panel name:** Humanities

**Time of evaluation:** Week 46, 12.-16. November 2007

**Units in panel:**

- 9.1 Department of English (*Englannin kielen laitos*)
- 9.2 Department of German, French and Scandinavian Languages (*Saksan, ranskan ja pohjoismaisten kielten laitos*)
- 9.3 Department of Finnish, Information Studies and Logopedics (*Suomen kielen, informaatiotutkimuksen ja logopedian laitos*)
- 9.4 Department of History (*Historian laitos*)
- 9.5 Department of Art Studies and Anthropology (*Taideaineiden ja antropologian laitos*)
- 9.6 Giellagas Institute (*Giellagas-instituutti*)

### 9.0.2 Panellists

**Chair**           **Hietala, Marjatta** – Academy Professor, Ph.D., M.Pol.Sc.  
The Academy of Finland Professor of General History, Department of History, University of Tampere, **Finland**

**Vice-Chair**   **Klein, Barbro** – Professor, Permanent Fellow, Deputy Principal  
Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala, **Sweden**

**Caie, Graham** – Professor, PhD, FRSA, FRSE, FEA  
University of Glasgow, Scotland, **UK**

**Campbell, Lyle** – Professor  
Department of Linguistics, University of Utah, **USA**  
(did not participate in the evaluation of Giellagas Institute 9.6)

**Dubois, Thomas A.** – Professor  
Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, **USA**

**Holland, Audrey L.** – Professor Emerita  
University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, **USA**



From Left : T. Dubois, B. Klein, L. Campbell, M. Hietala (Chair), A. Holland, G. Caie

### 9.0.3 Executive Summaries

#### General Comments for the Faculty of Humanities

This panel would like to stress that the Faculty of Humanities is vibrant, strong and its members are eager to play, and do play, a central role in the University's research strategy.

It behoves the central authorities of the University to acknowledge more openly the significant contribution which research in the Humanities makes to the University's strategies and reputation. At present there is a widespread belief among staff at all ranks that Humanities is undervalued, and this has a negative and demoralizing effect.

Although publishing in English (or other international languages) is important for the international reputation of the University, and researchers must be there is a strong case for publication in Finnish, and in appropriate instances also Swedish, to reach the wider, national community.

Given that the University is aware of its obligations to disseminate the results of its research to serve its country and fulfil the knowledge transfer agenda, publication in Finnish and Swedish, as well as international languages, should be encouraged and given full credit in the RAE process.

The importance and relevance of monograph publishing in the humanities needs to be recognized and accorded proper value in the RAE exercise.

A monograph is often essential in the Humanities to build an argument, and, in some disciplines, Finnish might be the most appropriate language of dissemination.

The Panel recommends that the Faculty of Humanities increase its courses in postgraduate training. General courses in methodologies and theory might be accompanied by what is commonly called 'survival skills'; that is, training in writing research applications, preparing conference papers, scholarly articles and the like.

There was widespread complaint amongst postgraduates and staff in general about the paucity of funding for conference travel and for the checking of language in international articles about to be submitted. Participation in conferences helps forge international links for future research networks, PhD students gain experience in conference presentations, and joint publications are instigated.

Finally, the members of this Panel would like to thank the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Dean and Vice-Dean and in particular the RAE team for their much-appreciated hospitality and assistance during the RAE visit.

**Department of English (9.1) – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

**Statement of the scientific quality of the research:** The majority of publications are at least at a good international level and virtually all others are at fair international level.

The department is at a stage at which major research developments and publications are imminent. From the submitted data and publications we would agree with the department's estimation in their self-assessment document that previous output has been limited, but we share their confidence and enthusiasm that a number of international projects of high quality are well underway. The research projects present clear evidence of international collaboration.

**Interaction between research and education:** There is evidence of research-led teaching in spite of heavy teaching commitments which are even greater in foreign language departments. Projects such as MAILL and LICHEN have a direct impact on language teaching, especially in the north.

**Recommendations for the future:** The panel was encouraged by the current synergistic strategies of the department which link communication, culture, literature, and linguistics; there are strong possibilities for knowledge transfer into the community.

**Department of German, French and Scandinavian Languages (9.2) – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

**Statement of the scientific quality of the research:** For the unit as a whole, the majority of publications are at least at a fair international level. The Scandinavian subdivision was stronger in its quality of research, particularly in terms of its approach to research activities.

**Interaction between research and education:** Staff members evinced strong commitment to teaching, particularly to teacher preparation. Only in a few instances, however, does this commitment appear to dovetail directly with staff members' research. Staff members often described the two areas as separate and even competing entities.

**Recommendations for the future:** We urge the staff to be proactive in defining fertile areas for research cooperation, both nationally and internationally, and to seek funding from a variety of sources to foster these new linkages. These linkages could come from many different disciplines. The unit's subject area, particularly Scandinavian, combined with its location in Oulu makes it of great potential interest to international scholars.

**Department of Finnish, Information Studies and Logopedics (9.3) – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5  6 7**

**Statement of the scientific quality of the research:** At least one third of the publications are at a high international level and many others are at a good international level, these together comprising a clear majority.

**Interaction between research and education:** Nearly all teachers are also involved in research and bring their research results into instruction. The graduate students benefit significantly from the number of funded research projects. Integration of research and education is at a high level in the units of this department.

**Recommendations for the future:** Instruction in statistics need to be made available. Stronger training in core areas of linguistics needs to be available. Support should be increased for upgrading computers, for students and staff to travel to conferences, for library acquisition, and for checking English in papers for publication. Time for research needs to be increased.

**Department of History (9.4) – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5  6 7**

**Statement of the scientific quality of the research:** The Department of History has well-qualified professors, lectures and researchers and the panel was impressed with the submitted publications. The quality of publications by the staff and researchers is very high. At least one third of the publications are at a high international level and many others are at a good international level, these together comprising a clear majority.

**Interaction between research and education:** The department was chosen as the national quality unit in teaching for 2001-2003. Staff manage very well to combine research and teaching, and this is clearly evident when considering the numbers of MAs and PhDs.

The main function of the Department of History is to undertake high quality research and provide research-based teaching. It considers it important for society to provide quality teacher education and to disseminate relevant historical knowledge to society.

**Recommendations for the future:** The panel encourages the Department to continue to publish in major, refereed international journals and in other languages than in Finnish. At the same time we would emphasize the value of monographs in Finnish.

**Department of Art Studies and Anthropology (9.5) – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7**

**Statement of the scientific quality of the research:** Overall, the majority of the publications are at least at a good international level and virtually all others at a fair international level (5). Archaeology would have scored higher on its own (6). In the other two subdivisions, the panel found some works of high quality but others of significantly lower quality.

**Interaction between research and education:** In the archaeology subdivision, graduate education and professional training are effectively integrated with experience in the numerous research projects of the subdivision. Students participate in multiple graduate schools.

The cultural anthropology subdivision noted relatively little linkage between research and education, apart from a strong commitment to providing research methodology and research experience to students at an early level of their undergraduate studies.

The literature subdivision makes active use of its teaching as a platform for developing research premises.

**Recommendations for the future:** In archaeology, we suggest that the subdivision would have an even stronger impact internationally if their efforts were less dispersed.

In cultural anthropology, we recommend a careful weighing of the relation of teaching and research when planning future projects and instruction with a strong emphasis on linkage between teaching and research and a commitment to methodological and theoretical rigor.

In literature, we recommend undertaking a joint research project aimed at increasing international visibility and exchange of ideas.

**Giellagas Institute (9.6) – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7**

**Statement of the scientific quality of the research:** The majority of publications are at a good international level and virtually all others are at a fair international level.

**Interaction between research and education:** The staff has found effective ways of closely linking their research and teaching responsibilities, to the benefit of both. The published research is of great scholarly interest and has appeared in a variety of languages, each targeting a different intended readership. Central to the unit's work is its preparation of materials for three distinct audiences: the scholarly audience in Saami and indigenous studies, the broader Saami community, and government policy makers in the Nordic countries.

**Recommendations for the future:** As staff members noted, the unit's strong tradition of independent research may be profitably supplemented through joint research projects, which will help attract and mentor department students, bring in new research connections and opportunities, and enhance the visibility of the unit internationally. Especially valuable would be collaborative projects with strong comparative dimensions.

## 9.1 Department of English

### 9.1.1 Scientific Quality of the Research – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7

#### 9.1.2 Supporting Comments

##### ◆ Publications

##### Introduction:

The Department is at a stage at which major research developments and publications are imminent. From the submitted data and publications in 2001-2006 we would agree with the department's estimation in their self-assessment document that output, especially international publication, was limited in that period, but we share their confidence and enthusiasm that a number of international projects of high quality are well underway. They have taken onboard the Faculty's research strategy and research priorities and are consciously and laudably developing projects which embrace these themes. The department's goal is 'to provide an environment...which encourages and produces active and high-quality research at international and national levels' and we are confident that with their current, robust research strategy they will cement their present strong research base and build on it.

##### Projects and Publications:

Amongst these major projects one might mention:

**STANCE** 'Interactional Practices and Linguistic Resources'. This project, which had its origins in discourse and conversational analysis, has generated publications of high quality and attracted funding from the Academy of Finland, the Emil Aaltonen Foundation and Langnet. The publications noted for this period are impressive and plans for an investigation into the extent to which stance acts are co-constructed by language, prosody and embodied practices are underway.

New directions for this project include the innovative '**Talk and Drive**' investigation, which aims at improving our knowledge of multimodal and embodied interaction in cars. This is a good example of a project which both responds to the University's Information Technology and Wireless Communication research priority and contributes to knowledge transfer to the community at large, as it has implications for road safety.

**Contact linguistics** has also produced strong research results in this period: this is innovative research on code switching, based on Finnish-American and Finnish-Australian corpora, and funded by the Academy of Sweden<sup>1</sup>. It involves language shifts and linguistic change amongst three generations of Finnish ethnic minorities in communities in the US and Australia

**Imagology and Literature**, a project which has increased the profile of literature in the Department, crosses boundaries within and outside the department. It is of international standing and includes cultural interaction and images of the North as well as the impact and interaction of Anglophone cultures on Finnish cultures and values.

**LICHEN** 'The Linguistic and Cultural Heritage Electronic Network', is now strongly established and has produced publications of high international quality; it also demonstrates commitment to the Faculty's priorities, and has wide multi-disciplinary and international links. There is collaboration with the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering in a project which investigates best practice in the collection, management and online display of linguistic and cultural data. Ongoing research involves the collection of data on minority languages in the circumpolar North.

**MAILL** 'Multimodal Action and Interaction in Networked Learning and Work' is an interdisciplinary project which examines the everyday usage of virtual environment and

<sup>1</sup> Editor's comment: should be 'Academy of Finland'

which has strong application to society in general. Work on web projects as resources for collaborative language study has been published in this period.

These projects present strong evidence of international collaboration and, if not already funded, have the potential of attracting funding; in the latter case members of the department are aware of funding opportunities. While relatively few monographs and refereed papers are published in the period under investigation, a number are forthcoming and the research trajectory shows strong promise.

A number of doctoral dissertations have emerged from the above-mentioned research projects, such as Stance taking, computational linguistics and language technology, and the functionality of language skills in occupational English. From a research training perspective they have benefited from being part of larger research projects.

#### ◆ *Methods and Topics*

The major research topics are largely outlined in '*Publications*'. The methods outlined by the various researchers are fitting and well conceived. They have consulted experts in their areas and are refining the respective methodologies. A good example is the LICHEN project in which methodologies in electrical and information engineering, and international corpora projects have helped shape an electronic framework for the collection and management of large corpora.

#### ◆ *Doctoral Training*

There have been 7 doctoral dissertations in this period. Most have been connected with ongoing research projects and so have received mentoring from the project leader. The department provides specific, tailor-made training, while the Faculty has a research training programme. The virtual 'Graduate Plaza' in the department and thesis workshops are considered by the postgraduates we met as being helpful. Those connected with the national Langnet programme have benefited greatly from the training it provides. It is clear, however, that more sustainable research funding is necessary for doctoral students, as it is vitally important for their career development that they attend, give papers and network at national and international conferences. It would appear that they are as disadvantaged by the lack of travel funds as the research staff. A relatively small amount of money at faculty level would enable such activity, which would have a major impact on the careers and job potential of doctoral students.

Greater stress in training courses at departmental or faculty level on practical issues such as writing grant applications, preparing research articles and knowing where to place them, presenting papers at conferences, etc. is necessary. The doctoral students we met were largely content with the training they received.

#### ◆ *Research Activity*

In 2006 there were 12 active research staff, including 4 senior staff (two professorial), one docent, one postdoctoral researcher, and 7 doctoral students. Some of the teaching staff (c. 50%) are also research active and encouraged to contribute to departmental research projects. The department is planning to hold a number of international research seminars and conferences in the near future. This will increase their international status. Although the results of research in international refereed journals were somewhat slight in 2001-6, the panel was made aware of many strong publications in the pipeline and planned for the future.

One of the major problems involves the paucity of research leave possibilities. It is vitally important that research staff be given the opportunity to complete articles and monographs and the surest way to increase such output is by research leave. The Department and the Faculty should investigate as a priority methods of making more time for research.

### **9.1.3 Interaction between research and education**

This department believes in researched-led teaching. As a language department, there must naturally be a high degree of language instruction, but some of the research has pedagogical outcomes which benefit the students. Exposure to ongoing research at an early stage of the undergraduate curriculum will inevitably boost the desire to continue to postgraduate level. The MAILL project has direct impact on northern Finnish language teaching and many other projects promote interaction between the department, business and education.

### **9.1.4 Overall evaluation**

The panel is aware that this unit is on a steep upward trajectory which will yield impressive results in the near future. We consider the future strategic plans for research in this unit to be both realistic and beneficial.

#### **◆ Strengths and weaknesses – Opportunities and threats**

The self-evaluation is honest and self-critical; they have assessed their strengths and weakness and devised a research policy which should enable them to increase both quality and quantity and to augment their research income.

Strengths include the clear research strategy, the willingness to aspire to the University's research objectives and major themes. The department is flexible and open to new ideas and, as it functions well as a unit, there is a general consensus amongst staff as to future direction. The interdisciplinary and interfaculty research links are innovative and work is afoot to strengthen research funding and international links. The Department is aware of the need to increase its publication record and plans are in preparation on this front. Although they lament the fact that 'many researchers spend much of their time applying for stipends rather than working on the topic in hands', we would encourage them to continue applying for outside funding; they should brace themselves for the growing need to apply constantly to research councils in spite of low success rates.

### **9.1.5 Recommendations for the future**

The panel made a number of suggestions to the department which might increase their research funding and international profile. These suggestions included networking with international scholars, an activity which might lead to joint projects funded by the research councils of other countries; e.g., the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK encourages and supports international networking.

The panel applauded the current synergistic strategies of the department which link communication, culture, literature, and linguistics; there are strong possibilities for knowledge transfer into community, e.g., car safety in the Talk and Drive project.

We agree with members of the department who consider that the monograph has important benefits as a means of disseminating knowledge in the humanities; this is particularly true for literary studies.

The Department could increase its international links by organising more international colloquia, seminars and conferences. This would firmly place English studies at Oulu on the international research map.

The departmental suggestion of having one of the four periods in the teaching year free for research is sensible, but even so resources must be found internally or externally to make research leave of longer periods possible.

#### **◆ Development of research environment and infrastructure**

Better training of all research staff, postdocs, early career and not-so-early career staff on funding opportunities and the preparation of research applications.

◆ *The role of doctoral/post-doctoral training in research*

It might be beneficial if doctoral and post-doctoral staff engaged in more teaching than at present. This would give more time to research staff to research and also give these early career researchers more experience in teaching; it would benefit the students by being introduced to the various research projects.

### **9.1.6 Other issues**

The panel was impressed by the obvious signs of research planning and by the clear presentation of future strategy given by the head of department. It would appear that every researcher in this small department feels that s/he has ownership of the strategy plans for the future and actively intends to play a part in them.

From the self-evaluation document it would appear that the Department had few or no visiting scholars (3 in six years) in this period; this is far from the truth, as there have been many research visits of under two weeks. Similarly, the number of Oulu staff who visited other universities or research institutions in this period far exceeds the 9 listed in the documentation. The department has strong international research links and these are growing. We are confident that there is potential here to create an impressive international unit.

It is important that the University acknowledges the significance of the research undertaken by departments in the humanities; there is a feeling amongst most researchers in this Faculty of being undervalued by central authorities and that the core activities of the University do not embrace humanities research. From the above-mentioned research projects, many of which cross faculties as well as departments within the Faculty of Arts, it should be clear that this department is playing its part in fulfilling the University Research Strategy and serving the community.

## 9.2 Department of German, French and Scandinavian Languages

### 9.2.1 Scientific Quality of the Research – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

#### 9.2.2 Supporting Comments

##### ◆ Publications

Because of the diversity of research approaches in the unit, we have found it useful in many cases below to address comments to each of the unit's three research areas separately.

**Scandinavian:** The evaluation report identifies three focal areas for Nordic Philology and discusses a number of collaborative research projects, a number of which relate directly to the university's identified foci, particularly those related to the northern cultural area and service to the wider community. We noted a variance in the quality of research, ranging from fairly sophisticated scholarship well informed by current international discussions to other works that were less analytical but nonetheless interesting empirically. We found much of the submitted material creative in overall conceptualization, albeit sometimes underdeveloped theoretically.

**German:** Publications are varied, mostly focused on literary topics. Code 2 publications tended to be brief reviews or encyclopedia entries rather than analytical pieces. The bulk of the publications (including the monograph) appeared in Code 13 and 14 publications, produced by University of Oulu entities. The German research staff could be encouraged to develop a wider range of publication outlets of international status. We noted a stated resistance to international publication as required by this exercise.

**French:** To date the research staff have produced few publications, and those that have appeared have tended to do so in local Finnish venues. The works do not represent advanced theory and methodology. The lecturers stressed the difficulty of balancing teaching and research and the difficulty of obtaining relief time. The fact that French is only a minor means that lecturers must be drawn from elsewhere; they do not figure in the university's calculations of doctoral production. The staff expressed strong frustration about the feeling of being pulled in different directions by, on the one hand, a strong commitment to teaching students, and on the other, the need to produce quality research.

##### ◆ Methods and Topics

**Scandinavian:** The submitted research was empirically well grounded. It also connects well with the university's identified foci, especially the focus related to the North as a cultural and economic region. In the areas of translation studies and foreign language pedagogy, the staff makes valuable contributions. As a whole it fills an important role as a center for Swedish studies and learning in Northern Finland.

**German and French:** The submitted materials are diverse both in terms of topic and methodology. The research quality would not be ranked high in international evaluations.

##### ◆ Doctoral Training

The unit's production of completed PhDs meets the expected quota, although the doctorates are not distributed equally across the two subunits.

Staff members stressed that students have found employment easily in teaching and the private sector, leading to difficulty in recruiting doctoral students who will complete their dissertations. Staff members reported that in the opinion or experience of their stu-

dents, a doctoral degree does not enhance employability. This economic factor leads to fewer degree completions.

Staff members mentioned well established seminars, organized both within the unit and in conjunction with related humanities units. They described lively interdisciplinary discussions as well as attention to research ethics as components of these seminars. The fact that many students relocate to other parts of northern Finland to pursue employment, however, limit their ability to take advantage of these resources, and leads to delays in completion of degrees. Another problem is that the German staff lines have been unfilled or filled with researchers with year-to-year appointments, diminishing to some extent their ability to adequately supervise PhD candidates.

#### ◆ *Research Activity*

During the study period 2001-06 the report shows research active staff at 14 for the unit as a whole. We were able to examine the research of only 9 staff members, however. Staff members noted the lack of research terms or sabbaticals and underscored the difficulty in obtaining funding from outside sources. These factors were cited as major hindrances to research productivity. All staff members further noted a lack of funding for conference attendance as an important factor hindering their research activities and visibility. We sensed that the unit as currently configured does not enjoy a lively intellectual climate.

Staff members across the board cited the difficulties of reconciling teaching, research and family life. The unit's research assessment document (p. 36) cites "too high teaching load for the professors." The same document notes the existence of "few comprehensive research projects (with doctoral students involved)" as a major weakness of the unit currently.

Perhaps as a consequence of these issues, the unit has produced very internationally<sup>2</sup> refereed publications of substantial length, diminishing the visibility of the staff outside of established Nordic research venues.

### **9.2.3 Interaction between research and education**

In both Scandinavian and German, a number of students are involved in translation, leading to a correlation between translation studies research and this area of student activity. The lecturers in French are highly committed to developing students' language skills levels and consequently find their teaching to have little relation to their research.

### **9.2.4 Overall evaluation**

#### ◆ *Strengths and weaknesses – Opportunities and threats*

We have cited some of the unit's stated weaknesses above (question 'Research Activity'). In terms of strengths, the unit identifies its ability to meet its doctoral requirement despite staffing limitations and research collaboration within the unit, within the university and with colleagues elsewhere. Staff members note the presence of doctoral students from different European countries as a strength and a sign of the unit's intellectual merit.

An especially valuable opportunity in light of the university's identified goals is the unit's "collaboration with neighbouring areas on Northern Issues as well as networking with other universities...enterprises, schools and government organs."

The unit also stresses as a prime opportunity "A strong international orientation with attractive international projects and teacher and student exchange, resulting in an increase of international contacts."

As stated earlier in this report, the unit identifies as major threats a lack of research funding, lack of time for research, and difficulties in recruitment of new researchers.

<sup>2</sup> *Editor's comment:* should be 'very few internationally'

### 9.2.5 Recommendations for the future

#### ◆ *Research - both single disciplinary and interdisciplinary research*

The committee felt it was important that the unit's members become more proactive in their efforts to attract outside research funding from both national and international funding sources. They also need to become more proactive in developing partnerships with other researchers at other institutions, both nationally and internationally.

With regard to the Scandinavian languages area, we urge the unit to find new synergies and cooperation with other disciplines and scholars, particularly ones focusing on linguistic and ethnographic approaches to periphery situations and politically complicated situations of bilingualism. Oulu's unique historical, geographic and social environment makes it of great potential interest to scholars in a wide variety of related disciplines, and the unit's ability to attract and interact with research partners in related topics is significant and promising. Further, the relative decline in the position of Swedish in Finnish society over time presents exciting potentials for future research and numerous topics for comparative and policy-related investigations.

With regard to German studies, the research group appears to be in a period of transition. The group should take advantage of this moment to examine its research foci in order to hone its research agenda.

As French is not a doctoral program, we have no specific recommendations about programmatic objectives, but urge the staff to explore all means of financing and advancing their research and networks. Research topics in second language acquisition or pedagogy would seem natural for these staff members and would potentially combine well with their admirable commitment to student training.

#### ◆ *Development of research environment and infrastructure*

Please see above, 'Research - both single disciplinary and interdisciplinary research'

#### ◆ *Research active staff*

- - -

#### ◆ *The role of doctoral/post-doctoral training in research*

Acknowledging the difficulties in attracting master's and doctoral students in a region in which persons with strong Swedish, German and French skills can find ready employment in the school system and private sector, we nonetheless urge the staff to continue to explore ways of recruiting and fostering graduate students. Establishing further postdoctoral positions would be a valuable asset to the unit and to its further development as a research entity. The loss of multi-year assistantships for graduate studies is regrettable and further contributes to this difficult situation.

### 9.2.6 Other issues

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## 9.3 Department of Finnish, Information Studies and Logopedics

### 9.3.1 Scientific Quality of the Research - Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7

#### 9.3.2 Supporting Comments

##### ◆ Publications

With some exceptions, the department's publication output contains works at a high or good international level. The subdivisions within the department (Finnish, Information Studies, Logopedics, Estonian, and Phonetics) have strong research projects that contribute to the University's research priorities of orientation toward northern Finland and information technology. Moreover, these units have obtained considerable amounts of external research funding.

A great deal of the research is substantial in quantity and quality and is being published in high-ranking international journals, in several instances the best in their fields. For example, the *Journal of Phonetics*, in which three articles have appeared during the period being assessed, is of the highest quality for Phonetics. Within Logopedics, both the range and the rank of journals in which department members have published, are indicators of the department's successful research projects and profile. Among these the *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research* is considered at the very top, but also other publication outlets are excellent, e.g. *First Language* and the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. *Virittäjä* is the major international journal for Finnish linguistics.

Many of the department's collaborative projects during this period, such as STANCE, have resulted in a number of publications of high quality and it has attracted substantial funding.

It is important to emphasize that for the research conducted in some subdivisions in this department, international publication and the locating of appropriate audiences do not always mean publishing in English. Researchers in Finnish, Logopedics, and in some cases also Phonetics, would be remiss if some of their work were not published in Finnish, and a similar point could be made for Estonian. The important contributions to Finnish-language publications need to be acknowledged. Also, it is important to recognize that Finnish is an international language for research on Finnish and on Finnic, and Uralic languages. Thus, for example *Virittäjä*, though in Finnish, is a highly professional, refereed journal with an excellent reputation.

Major research projects with significant financial support include:

*Northern Societies and Minority Languages*

*Nordic-Baltic-Russian Network of Finnic Minority and Regional Languages*

*Revitalization Processes for Northern Minority Languages and Cultures*

*Corpus Study on Language-Specific and Universal Features of Learner Language*

- Work on this language corpus will facilitate an understanding of how individuals acquire competence in the Finnish Language; it will also help to determine similarities and differences between Uralic and other languages in terms of acquisition.

*Variation and Change in Dialects of Northern Finland*

- This project will help to categorize and determine similarities, differences and changes over time in spoke dialects.

*Health Information Practice and its Impact: The Context of Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity*

- This project aims to provide information concerning a more effective communications of health issues to individuals afflicted with disease.

*Stages in the Phonological Development of Children Acquiring Finnish*

- Explores development in the acquisition of Finnish sounds.

*Cross-Linguistic Studies of Specific Language Impairment*

*Speech Perception and Speech and Language Development after Paediatric and/or Cochlear Implantation (Children and Adults)*

- Electronic implants into the auditory system of deaf individuals are useful in helping them to use oral speech. This study aims to determine what speech sounds like to individuals who have undergone implantation, and to study ways to capitalize on the implantation.

*Clinical Validation of Hearing Impairment Simulations – Correspondence of the Effects of Simulated and Real Presbycusis in Finnish, Swedish, and German*

- If hearing loss among the elderly can be simulated, it is possible to test different questions about the aging auditory system - questions that are difficult to study in individuals who age normally.

*Central Auditory Processing and Brain Plasticity*

- Using a variety of electrophysical measurement techniques this project investigates how individuals process incoming speech/language.

*Efficacy of Intensive Treatment of Neurogenic Communication Disorders*

- This project studies the utility of a specific treatment regimen, i.e. constraint-induced language training for individuals who, as a result of stroke, suffer from language impairment.

*Emotion in Dynamic Communicative Behavior: a Multimodal Analysis*

*Voice Onset Time in Fenno-Swedish Stop Consonants*

Additional applications for the funding of projects have been made; the outcome is pending.

◆ *Methods and Topics*

The research topics are largely outlined in 'Publications'. For the most part, the methods utilized by the researchers involved in these projects are appropriate to the research questions raised, and represent the best of the current practices in these fields. Particularly strong from methodological perspectives are works in Logopedics and Linguistics. Moreover, a number of these projects benefit from cross-disciplinary input and from participation of researchers representing more than one discipline. It is noteworthy that there is considerable variety in research topics and that researchers in the department have made significant contributions to several areas of scholarship. In Logopedics, for example, research covers most of the spectrum of speech, language and hearing disorders, across the age span. Many of the topics selected are particularly appropriate to the research foci of Oulu University; some of the projects contribute directly to the solution of societal problems.

◆ *Doctoral Training*

The department has produced 15 doctoral dissertations during the period evaluated in this exercise: 5 in Logopedics, 7 in Linguistics/Finnish, and 3 in Information Studies. Most of the dissertations have been connected to ongoing research projects and the doctoral students have benefited from mentoring by the project leaders. Both the department as a whole and the individual units seem well aware of the needs of graduate students and provide both general and personalized training, aimed at developing professional skills. This includes training in writing proposals and in composing articles for scientific journals.

In the past, The Finnish Graduate School, Toivo, has supported training seminars in which visiting scholars have commented on the work of students. Some of the department's students belong to the national LANGNET Graduate School which offers summer courses and seminar programs. Several students also enjoy financial support from LANGNET. Nevertheless, more research funding is necessary for doctoral students.

◆ *Research Activity*

For 2006, the department lists 28 active members of the research staff, including 24 senior staff members. The research activity covers a wide range of endeavours, from departmentally-focused research, through cross-disciplinary research involving other departments and faculties across the Oulu campus, to cooperation with other universities in Finland and in Scandinavia. In addition, there are at least two instances of scholarly cooperation with institutions in the UK and the US. In the latter case, the funding for Finnish researchers comes from the US National Institute of Health, a highly competitive and rigorously evaluated funding source.

The research has been summarized previously in this report, but some of its impact will be expanded upon here. In a department that is as many-faceted as this one, it is not surprising that its research endeavours cover a wide range of topics. What is perhaps less apparent is that the work has a cross-disciplinary and international thrust, and in some instances, both. Cross-disciplinary work in central auditory processing is an excellent example of the latter. In Information studies, a similar cross-disciplinary and international impact might be noted in the study of how health information affects obesity. Obesity is a problem, indeed, in many Western countries and obviously the developing of approaches to understand the reasons behind it has international ramifications.

Also the cross-linguistic studies of specific language impairment (SLI) have, by definition, an international thrust. SLI involves difficulty in the use of the grammar of a language. In order to truly understand the disorder, it is critical to obtain similar measures in a variety of languages from different language families. The results of these efforts will have important implications not only for children who have difficulties in learning their native tongues, but also for the understanding of language acquisition in general.

### **9.3.3 Interaction between research and education**

In the subdivisions of this department, nearly all teachers are involved in research, and bring their research results into their instruction. In Information Studies, even in the basic course at the beginning level, faculty members bring their research into the class-room and discuss it. Moreover, as early as in the beginning course, students begin reading scientific articles and research texts. Thus research is integrated with teaching from the outset. A similar approach is utilized in Logopedics. In addition, because students in Logopedics are required to do clinical work with individuals who suffer from language disorders, they are expected to apply current state-of-the art research to their clinical practice. As indicated in the department's self-assessment, some areas important to the general curriculum are not part of the on-going research projects; therefore, not all areas of the curriculum will involve integration of research and teaching in the same ways.

As a whole, the integration of research and education is at a high level in the subdivisions of this department. Furthermore, the department and its graduate students benefit significantly from the many research projects in which students (and post-doctoral fellows) obtain the kinds of hands-on experience that are invaluable to professional training and development.

### 9.3.4 Overall evaluation

#### ◆ *Strengths and weaknesses – Opportunities and threats*

The department identifies as strengths its excellent staff, its numerous international contacts, its successful research projects, and the high level of external funding. It identifies as threats and weaknesses the heavy teaching load for lecturers, cuts in library resources, and competing responsibilities. Staff also mentioned the difficulty (or impossibility) of replacing research fellows with substitute teachers, coupled with the loss of docents' contributions to the teaching curriculum. Also mentioned were too many demands on time away from teaching, not least due to administrative duties. Among the weaknesses the staff further mentioned the impossibility of offering both compulsory and optional courses. Although the current publication rate is quite impressive, the department views its accomplishments in this regard as less strong than they would wish. The self-evaluation is honest and self-critical for which the unit should be congratulated.

While the panel acknowledges the weakness and threats identified by department members themselves, the panel would also like to underline that the strengths outweigh the weaknesses. The clear research strategy of the department should be particularly emphasized among these strengths. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that the department is flexible and open to new ideas and that there seems to be a consensus amongst staff as to future directions. The interdisciplinary and interfaculty research links are innovative and work is afoot to strengthen the research funding, the international links, and the publication records of individual department members.

To sum up, within the department there are now several excellent research projects which enjoy a high level of external funding from various sources, both national and international. In other words, the department is strong and in a propitious position to obtain additional funding for research projects.

### 9.3.5 Recommendations for the future

The need for funds for a biostatistician who would give advice on statistical elements was noted by the staff members in Logopedics. The staff in Linguistics also noted the need for additional courses in general linguistics.

#### ◆ *Research - both single disciplinary and interdisciplinary research*

As noted earlier, the department has a good record in conducting research at both single- and multidisciplinary levels.

The soon-to-be instituted structural changes which will eliminate departments in the Humanities faculty are likely to benefit the subdivisions of this department by providing greater contacts with scholars of similar research interest.

#### ◆ *Development of research environment and infrastructure*

In general, the sub-divisions of this department already have a strong, active, productive research environment and infrastructure. Support for infrastructure is needed, nevertheless, especially in funding for travel and for publications.

#### ◆ *Research active staff*

The staff altogether including four doctoral students, two technical support staff and four administrative staff was 35 people.

#### ◆ *The role of doctoral/post-doctoral training in research*

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### **9.3.6 Other issues**

It is vitally important for the career development and job potential of doctoral students that they be able to attend professional meetings and give papers at them, both nationally and internationally. A relatively small amount of departmentally-provided money dedicated to student travel would help to enable such activities. The ability to engage in such cross-fertilization with colleagues at national and international meetings and symposia was widely endorsed by the current students, as well as by their faculty advisors.

## 9.4 Department of History

### 9.4.1 Scientific Quality of the Research - Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 **6** 7

#### 9.4.2 Supporting Comments

##### ◆ Publications

The Department of History has well-qualified professors, lecturers and researchers and the panel was impressed with the submitted publications. The quality of publications by the staff and researchers is high. At least a third of the publications are of high international level, and the rest of good international level.

Many publications are by international publishing houses (eg. three monographs in English) and in refereed international, Nordic or Finnish scientific journals (27). Twenty articles are in foreign or international compilations or conference publications; five abstracts or reviews are published abroad.

In History, especially in Finnish and Scandinavian History, publication in Finnish is clearly essential for the university in order to serve their own society. 11 monographs have been published in Finnish and 65 articles in Finnish refereed scientific journals.

The European Cliohres Network has been one excellent channel for publishing abroad.

##### ◆ Methods and Topics

A variety of methods are used, both quantitative and qualitative, ranging from discourse analysis to time series analyses. The History department is divided into five subgroups (Finnish and Scandinavian history; History of Ideas and Science; General history; Philosophy; Classical languages and Cultures).

The main focus area involves the interaction, confrontation and adaptation of cultures, societies and ideas. The researchers of Finnish and Scandinavian history have oriented towards northern history, history of Saami people, economic and social history of northern Finland, history of education in the north, and the local history of Lapland, such as the history of place names.

The major results of the research project on the history of the Saami, their land rights and their use in Finnish Lapland are published in five monographs and related local histories. This project is funded by the Finnish Academy, NORFA and Finnish Cultural Foundation (2001-2006).

In addition to the Northern dimension there are other fields such as the history of the Baltic area, Japanese history and the history of missionaries, which base their theoretical approach on image research. The research into Ancient and Medieval History also avails itself of the study of images, an example of which is *The Image of Alexandr Nevskiy in Medieval Russia. Warrior and Saint* (Brill 2006). The research in classical languages and cultures is strong; it consists of the encounters of the languages and cultures in Graeco-Roman and Italian antiquity (Oscan epigraphy) and Samnites in Campania.

The project concerning Japanese history, “Strong and weak cultures under the pressure of Western expansion” (funded in 2000-2002 by the Finnish Academy), has produced two major publications. In Baltic studies one might mention research publications on the history of ethnic relations in Estonia and on Iron Age connections between the Baltic nations and Finland.

Some of the staff members in the department have been deeply involved in Oulu University’s focus area on the development of the information society. Past and present projects focus on innovations, knowledge transfer and business; interaction and networks;

computer science and the Oulu region. The ongoing research projects involve three PhD students and five affiliated researchers.

The focus in the History of Ideas and Science has been in the development of ideas and science in Finland, the history of ideas and science in the 1600-1700s, and the history of scientific metaphors. This has been one of the most productive areas in publication.

The main orientation in the area of philosophy has been the history of environmental philosophy, environmental ethics and the ongoing research project concerning new interpretations of the history of environmental philosophy. This project produces fertile environment for PhD students and post-doctoral scholars.

#### ◆ *Doctoral Training*

The unit has met the goals set for the amount of doctoral theses (2-3 theses per year). During the period 2001-2006 the department has produced 15 doctoral degrees. Doctoral students have participated in national graduate schools (The Graduate School of Culture and Interaction, the Graduate School for Contemporary Asian Studies, the National Graduate School for History, the Graduate School for Science Studies). Those students who participate in graduate schools are privileged by receiving grants to finance their travel to conferences and archives.

Research training has been arranged by regular seminars on departmental, faculty and national levels. Every PhD student has at least two supervisors. However, from our discussion with graduate students, it became evident that more supervision is needed.

#### ◆ *Research Activity*

During the visit the panel became aware of the dynamism and enthusiasm of all members of the department and their engagement with historical research. The department has arranged teaching to allow each member of the staff to have one teaching period free for research. Research activity in the department has received positive national and international recognition. The award of the best dissertation in the University was given to a doctorate in this Department in 2006.

### **9.4.3 Interaction between research and education**

The main function of the Department of History is to undertake high quality research and provide research-based teaching. It considers it important for society to provide high quality teacher education and to disseminate relevant historical knowledge to society. The department was chosen as the national quality unit in teaching for 2001-2003.

Staff manage very well to combine research and teaching, and this is clearly evident when considering the numbers of MAs and PhDs.

Internet-based teaching is widely used in the department. Unfortunately, the University has decided to withdraw financial support from the Torus network (a national network for history and science).

### **9.4.4 Overall evaluation**

The self-evaluation documentation and site visit showed that the department is strongly research oriented and committed both to research as well as to teaching. The results (the number of MAs and PhDs) show that the department has been productive. The submitted publications reflect positively the scholarly energy and the range of topics in the department.

The department has been able to take advantage of external funding received for different projects and to encourage students to write their theses on themes related to these projects. Each member of the staff is collaborating with Nordic or international partners.

◆ *Strengths and weaknesses – Opportunities and threats*

The Unit in its report mentions as strengths the good atmosphere in the department, the diversified profile of research and methodological innovativeness of the research. We found also that the department realizes the importance of strategic planning for the future.

The main threat for research is the financial situation at the university which hinders participation in international conferences, and ordering books and periodicals. Libraries are as important for humanists as laboratories are for scientists.

**9.4.5 Recommendations for the future**

The panel encourages the Department to publish in major, refereed international journals and in other languages than in Finnish. At the same time we would emphasize the value of monographs in Finnish.

If one publishes in refereed international journals it is necessary to have the language checked by a native speaker. Therefore, it is necessary that funds be made available for this function.

The main threat to the research field is the paucity of funding to support participation in international conferences, and ordering books and periodicals. Resources for libraries to buy books and order essential periodicals are too limited. Libraries are as important for humanists as laboratories for scientists. The panel would like to recommend that the Snellmania Library be preserved, as it constitutes an essential research resource for historians and other researchers in the Faculty.

◆ *Research - both single disciplinary and interdisciplinary research*

That the Department is participating actively in interdisciplinary research can be seen in the past and ongoing projects where borders have been crossed between faculties and departments. There are good resources for new and ongoing projects in the networks and other contacts between the universities of Oulu, Umeå, Tromsö and Luleå as well as the networks in the Barents Region.

We were impressed by many ongoing projects, such as: The project on Baltic regionalism “Constructing political spaces in Northern Europe 1800-2000” (funded mainly by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) enhances networks to the south; and the project entitled “Forcing the way: Women in professional networks of power and knowledge in the 20th century Finland”. This interdisciplinary project received funding for the years 2007-2009 from the Finnish Academy within the framework of a larger project on Power and Society.

◆ *Development of research environment and infrastructure*

At the moment the History Department provides an innovative environment to teach and to do research. There is a good spirit and strong motivation to plan new projects and to meet new challenges.

Collections at the Oulu Research Archives offer excellent possibilities for research in the field of Northern and local history as well as for biographical studies.

The main threat concerns the decreasing library resources with books and journal subscriptions. The lack of financial resources has hindered the subscriptions of many internationally important journals and the purchasing of books. The University should be aware of this threat to research and attempt to rectify this problem.

◆ *Research active staff*

During the period 2001-2006 there were 21 active research staff members in the department, including three established chairs (Finnish and Scandinavian History, General History, History of Ideas and Science). In addition the department benefits from several docents who do active research work and many part-time PhD students who are working full time outside the department.

The department has a strong international profile due to its foreign fellows and visitors. Hopefully the innovative environment and the exciting research profile of the department will attract even more foreign scholars to contribute to the research and teaching at the Department of History. In this respect the role of the faculty and of the international office of Oulu is crucial. We would recommend that the university should give even more financial support for the mobility of staff and promote further cooperation with internationally distinguished scholars.

## 9.5 Department of Art Studies and Anthropology

### 9.5.1 Scientific Quality of the Research – Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7

#### 9.5.2 Supporting Comments

##### ◆ Publications

Because of the clear differences in the three subdivisions of this unit, the following discussion will frequently present each subdivision separately.

The Code 1, 2, and 3 publications in archaeology are numerous, reflecting the high amount of research activity in this subdivision. They represent a number of themes and areas, and are published in a variety of different venues, in several different countries. This is evidence of a solid research profile for the subdivision. The subdivision has several projects which were productive during the 2001-2006 period and which continue to produce publications. A number of these represent well the University's research strategy priorities. Archaeology has obtained a substantial amount of external research funding.

The archaeological research is published in appropriate international journals and books. The criteria utilized for the selection in the RAE category of "best publications" for archaeology may not reflect well the true range and quality of the work, since choices were limited to short works in English. Some of the journals represented are of the most important in the field, for example *Current Anthropology*, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, and *Reviews in Anthropology*. Both the range and the rank of journals seen among the numerous publications are strong indicators of the subdivision's research projects and profile.

Other archaeological publications which appeared during the evaluation period are written in Finnish and represent the northern orientation of the research. The language and format of these are appropriate for the intended audience, i.e., communities in the region. In total, the output is extensive as well as varied. Staff members noted the continual increase in international publications over the years evaluated.

We also note that, true of many areas in the humanities, some scholars in archaeology place strong value on publications of monographs as well as on academic journal articles.

The unit's cultural anthropological subdivision has initiated a number of valuable projects over the years to which many of the publications are linked. Projects that produced publications during the evaluation years 2001-06 include:

The Sociocultural Change of Aborigines in the Kola Peninsula in the 20th Century, a project that involved Russian research cooperation and resulted in a monograph before the evaluation period and one peer-reviewed article in 2003 and a code 3 article in 2002;

Gender Dynamics and Subsistence Systems in Circumpolar Societies, a project focusing on Sámi, Canadian first nation, Native Alaskan, and Khanty women and that resulted in two code 3 articles in 2006;

Human Environmental Relations in the North: Research Development, Climate Change, and Resilience, a project headed by a Finnish Distinguished Professor from the University of Alberta and housed at the Thule Institute that has just begun.

The theme of gender at the center of the Gender Dynamics project is also evident in other staff publications during the evaluation period, including one dissertation. Younger staff members made frequent use of net-based and journalistic discussion forums listed under Code 19 in the evaluation form. In fact, of the unit evaluation document's total 93 pages, nearly 20 pages were devoted to listings of code 19 communications. These reflect perhaps generational shifts in the modes of scholarly exchange of ideas. The committee questions, however, the emphasis on categories like Code 19 which must necessarily divert time and energy from more substantial, analytical, peer-reviewed works. While such communications can be of value for researchers' development and network building, they should

not be considered a substitute for peer reviewed scholarly contributions. These same tendencies are notable among Literature staff as well.

Although there were no publications in Code 1 and only five publications in Code 2 categories during the evaluation period, staff members emphasized the value of museum outreach and applied anthropology (code 12) through their selection of best publication samples. The bulk of publications for this subdivision were authored by a handful of very active writers. The three sample publications provided were the work of a single staff member.

During the evaluation period, the Northern cultures focus resulted in one dissertation as well as publications in code 9 and 12. The Aboriginal focus has resulted in several publications in codes 12, 15 and 19. The Contemporary culture focus has resulted in one dissertation and a great number of communications, although, at less optimal code levels, as noted above.

The unit's Literature subdivision has undertaken research on a more individualized basis than one notes in the other two subdivisions, where research collaboration is more developed as a scholarly practice. Staff members have produced a variety of specific studies in both Finnish literature and literature in general. Important research themes for the staff during the evaluation period 2001-06 include the literary history of the North (a topic which contributes to the university's identified focus on the North as a cultural space), gender and queer studies, postcolonial studies and children's and juvenile literature. The latter theme has generated works of notable quality.

Of the unit's overall twelve dissertations defended during the evaluation period, the subdivision produced one-third, with topics covering the Sámi author Nils-Aslak Valkeapää, Kierkegaardian aesthetics in the novels of Joseph Heller, the role of the natural environment in the works of Reino Rinne, and feminist themes in Finnish and Anglo-American iterations of the New Woman.

The subdivision's selection of best publications were chosen so as to highlight the range of research topics pursued, and include examinations of film and television, juvenile literature, Dante, Bakhtin, and the uses of literature as a vehicle for identity among small Uralic peoples. The subdivision's scholarly output for the evaluation period 2001-06 included no Code 1 publications and only a single Code 2 publication, diminishing the subdivision's international research visibility. In the areas of Code 3 and Code 6 publications, the subdivision had a stronger showing, publishing a range of studies in English, Russian, Swedish, Finnish and Estonian. The output becomes extensive in Code 11 and 12—i.e., refereed research articles published in Finnish journals or chapters in edited volumes—reflecting the fact that Finland remains the leading scholarly context for scholarship on Finnish literature, culture, and film. Although a number of the works listed under Code 11 were brief reviews, others represented substantial, original contributions to contemporary research.

As noted with cultural anthropology, electronic communications in the Code 19 category were extensive, perhaps even excessive, given the paucity of Code 1 and Code 2 publications.

#### ◆ *Methods and Topics*

The research topics pursued by the archaeology subdivision are varied. They include: osteological analysis of Sámi sacrificial sites, physical anthropological investigations of human remains, archaeological reconstructions of social ancient and historical life, Mediterranean funerary traditions (the Crustumerium project), textile investigations, and zoo-archaeology. Archaeological research often entails extensive laboratory work as well as artifact conservation, for which the unit's laboratory facilities are essential.

The Cultural Anthropology subdivision lists three main foci of research activity: Northern cultures and societies, Aboriginal cultures of America, and Current phenomena of Western culture. Current research topics in the subdivision address all three foci. Northern studies focuses on topics and methods that have been long central to cultural anthropology, including livelihood studies, and their transformation in times of economic and cultural

change. The Aboriginal cultures focus has included ethnographic examinations of religious traditions within North American Shawnee culture during past eras. The project Current phenomena in practice focuses on gender studies and makes use of the scholarly paradigms of postcolonial and gender studies. On the one hand, some staff members appear committed to longstanding scholarly research traditions within cultural anthropology while on the other hand, scholars within gender studies have embraced current trends within cross-disciplinary cultural studies and postcolonial discourse. The committee especially valued the empirical research that various scholars produced but also notes the relatively restricted number of approaches and seeming lack of methodological complexity adopted within much of the work presented.

Research in the literature subdivision employs topics and methods shaped by international scholarship in the area, particularly that of postcolonialism, gender and queer studies and film history. Given the subdivision's selection of best publications, it was difficult to ascertain the specific scholarly innovations that the staff members were bringing to these scholarly discussions. The topic of ethnofuturism introduces a movement in Estonian literature that has been little examined in international research to date.

#### ◆ *Doctoral Training*

The unit as a whole admits 42 students per year and counted 53 doctoral students in 2006. In 2006, the unit graduated 32 master's students and 3 doctoral students. Over the evaluation period 2001-06, the unit produced a total of 12 doctorates, 2 in cultural anthropology, 4 in literature and 6 in archaeology. The unit appears to be meeting its quotas in all respects, although the degrees are not distributed uniformly over the three subdivisions.

There are few joint seminars and little common training across subjects in the Department, but this is not surprising given the very different orientations, theories, and methods central to the different disciplines currently included in this department. Students benefit from methodology courses in the Faculty Graduate School. For archaeology, the Finnish National Graduate School in Archaeology and the Nordic Archaeology Graduate School provide training opportunities, and these facilitate cooperation with scholars both in Finland and abroad. The students involved in biological anthropology projects receive the benefits of 4 advisors in connection with the project, which is funded by the US National Science Foundation. Both pro-seminars and seminars provide opportunities for students to present their research.

A limitation is that, although archaeology staff here willingly collaborate in advising students elsewhere, they receive no credit for doing so, making such collaboration less attractive for staff.

In the cultural anthropology subdivision, staff noted a regularly convened graduate seminar linked to students' progress toward the Ph.D. The subdivision appears to rely heavily on the university graduate curriculum for instruction on methodology and other aspects of graduate training. Staff members mentioned the importance of informal study groups formed by graduate students themselves for making progress in reading and theory. The relative lack of consistent graduate guidance in this subdivision may help account for the low level of degree completion in the past several years. No dissertation has been defended in cultural anthropology during the last four years of the evaluation period.

In the Literature subdivision, doctoral training appears highly individualised and in need of more organized intellectual exchange and stimulation. Currently the subdivision offers a monthly research seminar for its doctoral students and occasional concentrated seminars in the summer periods. Staff members spoke of informal study groups that had formed in order to fill the perceived void. Staff members also expressed hopes that the faculty's coming reorganization would facilitate greater contact with other faculty staff.

#### ◆ *Research Activity*

The evaluation document lists 6 research active senior staff (one retired 2004), three do- cents, twelve postdoctoral staff members, eleven doctoral students and eleven other re- search active staff.

The research activity in archaeology is varied, including several specializations: Northern Finland, Classical/Mediterranean archaeology, biological anthropology (with human and animal osteology), historical archaeology, and laboratory archaeology. There are a num- ber of on-going funded projects. Six doctoral dissertations have emerged from these, and professional training has been and is well served in this research, benefiting a large number of the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Archaeology has very good international linkages and joint research activities. Ac- cording to their report, they have research collaborations and student or staff exchanges involving 25 countries.

As a group, the cultural anthropologists expressed greater acceptance of the notion of presenting their research in English than the committee noted in many other humanities disciplines. By the same token, several staff members underscored the need to make their findings available to source communities in Finnish. These scholars also seemed more at ease with the university's emphasis on article publication over monograph production. Sen- ior staff members noted that it was easier to motivate doctoral students to undertake article dissertations, which might later transform into monographs.

In the Literature subdivision, the evaluation document states that "the staff has ac- tively participated in different Finnish projects on the history of literature," although these were not detailed in the report. We have already noted the limited international visibility of the subdivision. This situation is, as noted above, partly a reflection of the fact that Finnish remains—logically and appropriately—a primary language of scholarship in Finnish literary studies. Greater efforts to contribute to research in international venues, however, would undoubtedly have beneficial effects, particularly if staff members focus on longer duration, challenging research projects requiring extensive research efforts.

#### **9.5.3 Interaction between research and education**

As noted in section 'Doctoral Training', most PhD students in archaeology are also connected with active research projects and so have received hands-on experience and mentoring from the multiple project leaders. For example, students involved in biological anthropology pro- jects were advised by the 4 (international) advisors in this collaborative project. Seminars provide opportunities for students to present their research.

The cultural anthropology staff noted their attempts to introduce research method- ology into their teaching at an early stage and stressed an integration of research and educa- tion, albeit with few concrete details.

The Literature subdivision appears to have found effective means of linking teaching and research at the undergraduate level. Staff members spoke of using course offerings as vehicles for developing their thoughts on particular topics and exploring new texts or ap- proaches.

#### **9.5.4 Overall evaluation**

In summary, the overall evaluation of the Archaeology unit is very positive; the grade the panel gives is 6 for this unit.

#### ◆ *Strengths and weaknesses – Opportunities and threats*

The archaeology staff mentioned as strengths their successful research projects, high level of external funding from a variety of sources, and ability to continue to obtain funding. The subdivision maintains strong international contacts and has attracted a number of interna- tional students.

The unit noted as threats and challenges, cutbacks in library budget and space, difficulties in funding graduate students, and a high teaching load. The subdivision pursues numerous projects, but lacks overarching projects which would consolidate and hone research activity.

Some longstanding areas of research specialization in the subdivision fall outside of the faculty's focus areas. One example is Classical archaeology.

The cultural anthropology staff noted as weaknesses and threats their lack of resources, short term employment, and a lack of understanding of the value of the humanities in Finnish society and at the university of Oulu. Staff also noted "doctrinaire concentration on focus areas," and expressed ambivalence regarding the retirement of senior faculty.

The staff regarded as strengths and opportunities its diversity, and its teaching and research.

The unit as a whole complained of an excessive number of graduate students, a paucity of graduate funding, and a lack of common projects in strategic areas, perceptions with which the committee concurs.

A difficulty for the research and graduate training is the impending retirement of staff members. This situation may result in diminished effort and activity in the research areas they represent.

### **9.5.5 Recommendations for the future**

#### **◆ Research - both single disciplinary and interdisciplinary research**

Staff members predicted that the structural change which will eliminate the current departmental divisions might be beneficial to Archaeology, facilitating even more contacts with other units across the campus, for example, with biology, medicine, chemistry, history, linguistics, and Saami studies. Similarly, literature may benefit from contacts with such other units as English, German, Scandinavian languages, Saami studies, and philosophy, among others, where many aspects of literature and literary theory are also dealt with. (In the current structure, there is very little connection between archaeology and literature, which have quite different theoretical orientations and methodologies.)

Opportunities need to be sought to increase time available for research, to reduce the high teaching obligations, and administrative obligations.

In some senses, the research and scholarly activities of the archaeology unit, though impressive in their breadth, both geographically and topically, seem too disperse and diffuse. We recommend that members of this unit consider consolidating more of their efforts in fewer directions and projects which will have greater impact.

In cultural anthropology, we recommend a careful weighing of the relation of teaching and research when planning future projects and instruction. Stronger linkage between teaching and research, as well as prudent limitations in graduate research topics may help staff improve their research productivity and visibility. Projects with significant methodological and theoretical depth will likewise assist in raising the subdivision's research profile. In the past, the subdivision has been effective in attracting international funding, and the current project on Human Environmental Relations in the North indicates that the department continues to possess foundations for important undertakings.

In literature, we recommend more concerted efforts to produce research in internationally refereed journals. Such efforts could profitably involve exploring to a greater degree the wealth of new discussions ongoing in the field, and to engage with them in a critical manner. Formulating a joint project that takes up some topic of shared research interest and includes international contacts in extended discussion would both raise the subdivision's research profile and potentially help in publication efforts as well as doctoral student and postdoctoral funding. An obvious possibility would be to focus on elements of the North.

◆ *Development of research environment and infrastructure*

The archaeology subdivision has a strong, active, productive research environment and infrastructure. The archaeology laboratory is essential and needs full support; its space is already too limited.

◆ *Research active staff*

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◆ *The role of doctoral/post-doctoral training in research*

In archaeology, we recommend ways to consolidate research efforts. In cultural anthropology, greater analytical methodological depth would undoubtedly prove of value to postdoctoral staff. Underscoring the value of comparative research, as exemplified by past projects in the subdivision is highly advisable.

In Literature, we suggest mounting one or more joint research projects that will allow for collaborative research and exchange of ideas.

See above.

**9.5.6 Other issues**

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## 9.6 Giellagas Institute

### 9.6.1 Scientific Quality of the Research - Numerical Rating: 1 2 3 4 **5** 6 7

#### 9.6.2 Supporting Comments

##### ◆ *Publications*

The unit has two main foci: linguistics, and cultural studies. Both areas have produced valuable and interesting research with significance to scholarly audiences as well as the general readership, both Saami and others of the Nordic region.

The submitted work in the linguistics area, focusing on the North Sámi verb system shows the author's prodigious command of linguistic theory and its applications to Sámi languages. This work is part of a larger oeuvre of studies spanning a career that has shaped scholarly understandings of Sámi linguistics, as well as the broader field of Uralic historical linguistics, both within the Nordic region and abroad.

In the area of cultural studies, *The Sámi People. Traditions in Transition* reflects its author's strong commitment to creating instructional materials for use in college classrooms. It spans a wide range of periods and offers a Sámi-centered view of Sámi history in each of the Nordic countries. The work on Karl Nickul included as one of the department's best publications was also of quality and reflects a commitment to Sámi intellectual history.

The other articles included as best publications, focusing on substrate studies, education, settlement names and Norwegian policies, and adverbial noun constructions reflect the wide range of topics of interest to the department and the successful mentoring efforts of the two professors.

During the period 2001-06 the department produced only one doctorate, but a number of others are expected in the coming year: one in 2007 and an additional four in the following year. This is an important development for the field.

A specific issue for all publications produced by the Giellagas Institute is the language of publication. The staff members emphasized their threefold mission to provide scholarship for the academic society, the broader Saami community, and Nordic administrative decision-makers. They noted that during the period covered by this evaluation, they had jointly produced some 133 scholarly works: 32 in Saami (roughly one-quarter of the total scholarly output), 52 in Nordic majority languages (chiefly Norwegian and Finnish), 45 in English, and 4 in German. Choice of language greatly affects the readership of their works and has direct impact on both the scholarly and local communities. The committee found the department's active publishing in all five of these languages of great value.

##### ◆ *Methods and Topics*

The unit's two professors employ markedly different but complementary research methodologies ranging from close linguistic analysis to historically informed cultural studies.

##### ◆ *Doctoral Training*

Staff members described graduate guidance based on personal mentoring and annual research schools co-organized with Sámi University College of Kautokeino, Norway. These schools include invited researchers and represent an important element of graduate training. Research links with Tromsø university are a further source of graduate student guidance.

Staff and students mentioned the difficulties of finding time together, in part due to the great distances that department members travel due to their research and employment. This can lead to students feeling isolated in their work, a point further aggravated by the lack of joint research projects that would bring students and scholars together. Much of the cur-

rent research in the unit takes the form of individual studies, a situation that the staff members are planning to ameliorate in the near future through outside project funding.

#### ◆ *Research Activity*

The unit contains 7 research active staff members (two professors, four lecturers<sup>3</sup>, and one postdoctoral scholar) and 15 doctoral students, both active and inactive. In addition, the report lists 7 additional members of the research active staff, listed as research scientists.

The staff have been working independently from each other continually, producing interesting scholarship although not with the intellectual benefits of collective scholarly co-operation.

Staff members mentioned the lack of juried publication venues in Saami language despite the clear importance of publishing in Saami for the unit's mission. This factor diminishes the unit's credits in university-wide evaluations of research productivity and does not accurately reflect the importance of these works to the field.

Staff members emphasized the importance of building a Saami scholarly infrastructure and a robust Saami academic community. This work includes developing an academic language, outlets and contexts for scholarly exchange as well as opportunities for sharing research findings with the broader Saami, Finnish, and Norwegian communities.

### **9.6.3 Interaction between research and education**

Staff members noted the fact that within the unit's teaching, "instruction feeds research and research feeds instruction." Students spoke of materials produced as handouts in classes that eventually became textbooks or scholarly articles. Given that no suitable materials existed previously for either Saami mother-tongue instruction or other aspects of Saami cultural studies, the professors of this department have responded to the pressing need to develop and publish works to be used within the classroom. This important and time-consuming work should be counted as valuable scholarship, particularly as it often represents the first research of its kind in particular Saami topics. Both professors further model the ideal of Saami scholarship by maintaining Northern Saami as the working language of the unit and the language of instruction in the unit's courses. One of the unit's lecturers, a former undergraduate and graduate student in the unit, noted that the Giellagas Institute was the first official institution in her life in which she had been able to make use of her native language for public purposes. Committee members found this aspect of the institute stimulating and commendable.

### **9.6.4 Overall evaluation**

The committee appraised the unit's research as displaying a majority of publications at a good international level and many others at a fair international level. Once again, the value of publishing in Saami language and the continual work of building up an academic community and discourse must be recognized as of great intellectual and social merit.

#### ◆ *Strengths and weaknesses – Opportunities and threats*

The unit noted as weaknesses its small size, language issues, and the geographic distance between Oulu and major Saami domicile areas. As threats they noted concerns of marginalization as well as a lack of in-house expertise in international grantsmanship.

Strengths include the unit's commitment to producing research from an emic Saami viewpoint, its development of Saami language as a medium for intellectual discussion, and its training of new Saami scholars. Opportunities include the great relevance of the unit's work for Nordic society and its likelihood of attracting future outside funding, particularly as related to international indigenous cooperation.

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<sup>3</sup> *Editor's comment:* should be 'three lecturers and one amanuensis'

### **9.6.5 Recommendations for the future**

#### **◆ Research - both single disciplinary and interdisciplinary research**

Both professors have well established research profiles. In the future it would be valuable for the unit and the field to create more joint projects and to find partner institutions or departments and funding opportunities that would permit theoretical and methodological innovation. The committee urges the unit to build expertise in major grant writing, availing themselves of all pertinent university resources for this purpose. Major funding from EU sources appears highly possible for the unit, particularly if the staff frame research with a strong comparative component and international participation. A project that would gather students and scholars at various levels and bring them in contact with materials of great significance to the Saami society (e.g., the planned land use project described at the evaluation interview) could serve as an ideal platform for advancing the field and the mission of the institute. Such a project may help focus the graduate studies of students into a more honed set of topics.

The unit's laudable commitment to developing Saami intellectual life and to using Saami as the language of communication within the institute may carry with it unfortunate exclusionary effects, both for students of Saami background who do not speak a Saami language and for other students and scholars. In the future the unit may wish to find ways of offsetting this possible risk.

Given the university's stated focus on the North and the variety of research projects on Saami culture and society across the entire faculty, the Giellagas Institute could become an effective research catalyst. Its potential in this respect remains as yet somewhat unrealized. Further cooperation with units across campus and with indigenous studies institutes elsewhere might also allow the Institute to access valuable human resources and contact networks that would help mount more extensive collaborative projects.

#### **◆ Development of research environment and infrastructure**

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#### **◆ Research active staff**

There are 30 research active staff at the Giellagas Institute during the period 2001-2006 including 16 doctoral students.

#### **◆ The role of doctoral/post-doctoral training in research**

See above.

### **9.6.6 Other issues**

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