



KokemäkiLeaks

2024

You are holding the year 2024 version of KokemäkiLeaks magazine. The magazine was written by a group of 21 hardworking ENA11 students. Our fingers bounced on the keyboard creating diamond texts as a result and thanks to our big group we have a lot to tell you. Although our teacher left us behind in the middle of the course, we completed this with honor. This work of art will be hard to beat.

We created texts from social issues to lighter topics and everything in between, so there is something to read for everyone. This magazine also includes interviews and surveys that we wrote with enthusiasm.

There also was an exchange student in our course from Germany whom one of our students got to interview, so you will get to read about his experience in Finland. In addition, our group wrote about topics around the world.

Have fun while reading this magical piece and open your eyes to the wonders of the world!

Säde and Eva

A Letter to the Editor

Back to respectful interaction with one another

No matter which debate we are taking a closer look at, unbreakable frontlines. On the one side are those who support the subject, on the other side those who are against it. Both sides shouting out their arguments without listening to the other side, without even trying to understand the other person's point of view. Convinced of their own opinion everyone else is considered to have the wrong opinion. In a democracy, where tolerance, openness and different perspectives are the values of our society. Why can't we leave others their own opinion and accept that others may have a different opinion on the subject. Leave others their opinion doesn't mean to give up our own perspective nor agreement on their point of view. It also doesn't mean the opinions can't be discussed. But a little bit more respect in our discussions would do well. And just trying to convince other people to think the same as we ourselves is not a respectful discussion on a certain subject. If we would listen to each point of view, try to understand them well and after that discuss on which points we may can agree and where we disagree because of this or that reason. And this is the next point. Especially on social media everyone shouts out their thoughts, without even thinking about them. It seems there is only total agreement or total disagreement. Being against a special opinion directly means you must support the total opposite of it.

An example for this: As soon as Israel attacked Gaza, people chose sides. Being against the attack on Gaza directly means you are a supporter of the terrorist called Hamas. Saying Israel's genocide in Gaza is the wrong way to react directly means you are an antisemite. Even though many people in Israel themselves do not support the attack. Totally impossible to say you are not supporting the Hamas, but it is wrong to kill thousands of innocent humans. Another example: Disagreeing with the political decisions a left considered political party does apparently means for lots of people to vote for far-right parties.

Making the difference only between bad and good, right and wrong, white and black doesn't work. We live in a complex world with complex problems. Promising easy solutions and opinions on complex questions is closing your eyes from the truth. We must discuss different opinions, no question. But we must remind ourselves that the other person is a human being as well as we. That they have their

reasons to think the way they do. And we must understand this before we can discuss with each other. And we must remind ourselves that disagreeing with a person's point of view doesn't mean to hate the person itself.

Jannik Lucka

LOCAL

New headmistress, Mervi Ala-Kleemola

Mervi Ala-Kleemola is the new headmistress of Kokemäki high school. Mervi started teaching in Kokemäki high school in the fall 2017, and last fall she became the headmistress of the school.

Mervi was elected as the vice principal of Kokemäki high school the same year she started to teach. But when starting to teach she never dreamed of becoming the headmistress. She at the time dreamed of a relaxed free time since she was the vice principal and also taught history and social studies.

In Mervi's opinion being a headmistress is very versatile." Every day is different, and you can use a wide range of skills in your work tasks". Being a headmistress differs from normal teaching in a way. In Mervi's opinion the high school and its operations appear as a wider entity. "The headmistress' important job is to maintain the well-being of everyone working in the high school".

Mervi does miss being a teacher and especially talking to the students. And she thinks that both being a teacher and a headmistress have many good points. But she still thinks that headmistress's duties are more suitable for her.

"There is always more development targets when the society around changes". Mervi wants that Kokemäki high school provides the young people a good basis on which to build when they are heading for further studies and a changing working life.

Vilma Ekberg



Large or small high school?

For a long time, there has been talk about whether it is better to apply to a small or a large high school. There are pros and cons to both options.

I interviewed my friend, Aleksandra Lainio, who lives here in Kokemäki. She is a third-year high school student at Pori high school. There are 1260 students studying there this year.

Here is what she said:

"I hadn't always planned to apply to Pori high school. In eighth grade, I started thinking about options for what to do after finishing junior high school. I was excellent at school, and I liked science subjects. Then I found Pori high school's science line and immediately decided to go there.

I consider the advantages of a large high school to be at least a wide range of courses. You can study almost everything and take part in matriculation examinations exactly when you want. Besides that, it's also easier to be different from others and make like-minded friends. Disadvantages are occasional lack of space and huge group sizes.

I absolutely don't regret applying to a high school further away. Going to another high school is one of the best decisions of my life.

The advantage of a tiny school is that you know everyone, both students and teachers. Also, smaller group size enables more individualized teaching. The disadvantages are a narrower range of studies and opportunities for making congenial friends are lower.

I thought about moving to Pori a few times but moving would have meant that money would be much more limited than when living at home.

The trip to school is about 20 minutes in each direction and that is the length of a normal school trip for many, even in Kokemäki. Of course, sometimes the days with waiting are long. I would say that the body gets used to traveling and that's why the days don't feel so heavy. In total, I am on the train for about 40-50 minutes a day and waiting on top of that depending on my schedule about 45 minutes to two hours."

I study at Kokemäki high school which has about 100 students. I like to study in a tiny high school because the team spirit is strong, and you are friends with everyone. I feel like we are a solid team which is more difficult to achieve in a larger high school.

After all, everyone decides where they want to apply after finishing primary school. It doesn't matter whether you go to a smaller high school or a larger high school; I claim that you get quality teaching from both.

Säde Salminen

Interview of the new social studies teacher

I interviewed Jarkko Anttila, who's a new social studies teacher in Kokemäki high school.

Tell me a bit about yourself

I am originally from Pyhäranta but moved to Kokemäki from Turku. I have been teaching in Kokemäki for four years, but this is my first year of teaching in Kokemäki high school.

What schools did you attend to get to your profession?

I studied in Turku university but didn't go there straight from high school. I did two degrees and graduated in history and in philosophy. Studies naturally included a yearlong teacher training. Therefore, I spend quite a lot of time in the university and graduated into my teacher career without a doubt.

What is best about your job?

When a teacher starts listing the best aspects of his job, you can already start to expect the usual clichés. But I still think those clichés are genuine for the most part. Working among students is rewarding, the work is versatile, you are never bored and there is always something happening. In general, the people and the community are those great things.

Have you always dreamed about becoming a teacher or did you have other dream jobs growing up?

I couldn't picture being a teacher. Getting my livelihood by working in the music industry was my dream. Then I realized that I lacked the obsession and drive that usually point people into that direction. When one band broke up, next one didn't happen. Those who are compelled to write become authors, not drawer scratchers.

What is most challenging about teaching?

Diverse student groups can be a challenge. It's challenging when you have students, who have different personalities and students who are in a different level from one another.

Does teaching in high school differ from teaching in middle school?

Both have their own challenges. One day I'll say that teaching in middle school is easier, the next day I'll say that high school is easier. In middle school the challenges are related to educating and guiding students for example. On the other hand, in high school managing and structuring is harder.

Have you noticed any changes in your teaching style over the years?

Experience brings out positive change and progress. You know better what works and what doesn't, and you are more capable of taking on different challenges. Then again, the different student groups and individuals have an effect on this too.

Have you noticed that some teaching styles work better than others?

When it comes to the comparison of different teaching styles the diverse student groups bring out issues. Although functionality is a desirable thing right now.

Do you like to teach to big groups of students or do you prefer smaller groups?

I don't know how many of the teachers like bigger groups, a bit smaller groups are great.

In your opinion should students participate more in class? For example, raise their hands.

Yes, I personally like that students actively participate in class. A discussion about some topic is often a lot more productive than a lecture. However sometimes the conversation just doesn't start, and you have to accept that.

Do you think that distance teaching is more difficult than normal teaching?

Distance teaching is a peculiar thing. I don't think it truly achieves the goal of teaching.

What do you think about students using computers to study? Do you prefer books and does teaching material on computers change teaching?

I like both. Diverse studying methods are a great thing. We are certainly going towards fully studying with computers. Research, source criticism and taking advantage of sources are more emphasized at least in the subjects I teach.

Matias Kangasaho

Interview: Elsa Ojaniittu

Tell us a little about yourself

I am Elsa and I teach geography and biology. I live in Pori and travel to Kokemäki every day by train. I like audiobooks, animals, forest paths, plants, traveling and pick 'n' mix candies.

What have you studied and where?

I studied geography at the University of Turku. As a minor I had biology, pedagogical studies and economic geography. In addition, I studied courses related to sustainable development.

What attracted you to your subject and what is the best thing about it? When did you become interested in the subject?

Geography has been my favorite since elementary school. I have always been interested in maps and where different countries and other things are located. Later I became more and more interested in the Earth and human activity on Earth. This interest grew so big in high school that I wanted to start studying it. The best thing about geography is its versatility and the fact that with the help of geography you can understand the Earth and the things that happen here better. In addition, interest in sustainable development helps to understand the future, not only from an ecological point of view but also from an economic and social point of view.

Where have you worked before? How was it different from Kokemäen Yhteiskoulu?

My jobs have varied from working as a waiter and working in Härkäpakari during my studies to a job as a marketing employee after graduation and a job as a teacher in Jyväskylän last school year.

How did you end up at Kokemäen yhteiskoulu? What is it like to be a teacher at Kokemäen yhteiskoulu?

It was already known last spring that we would be moving to Satakunta, so I had to find work somewhere here. And on cue the position of geography and biology teacher opened up here. I had to seize the opportunity and here I am.

It has been nice to be a teacher at Kokemäen yhteiskoulu. The students, both in middle school and high school, are nice. The students bring enough challenge to every day, but as a counterweight you also get to laugh with them every day. The colleagues here are friendly and the team spirit among teachers is great.

Why did you want to become a teacher? How long have you been teaching?

This is my second year as a teacher, so I am still pretty new to this. Last year I was teaching only in middle school, so as a high school teacher this is my first year. That is why I am still looking for my own style and I collect and make quite a lot of new materials for the courses.

I wanted to be a teacher because I find it exciting to see students learn new things. I want to inspire them in my own subject. I get along well with young people, and it is nice to work with them. Long holidays are also a plus.

What is the best thing about teaching? Are there any downsides?

Can I answer this any other than young people. We are here for the students. The best thing is to see when students understand something new or when you get students excited about something to be taught. As for the downsides I say, on a general level, the poor concentration of young people, which takes time away from actual teaching.

Do you have any life instructions or tips for young people who are thinking about the future?

Believe in yourself and you can become anything. However, you always have to work for your dreams. Always remember to have good manners and respect others.

Eeva Fallström



On bench-pressing party

A couple of students from Kokemäki high school plan to visit the children's ward of Pori Hospital. The purpose would be to make the hospital's children happy with extra bench-pressing party candy that the students have ordered and received through various sponsors.

Bench-pressing party is an event where the oldest high school students celebrate the end of their school path and after the celebration go on a study break before the challenging matriculation essays. At the same time, the "power" in the high school passes to students a year younger, who themselves celebrate the event with dances.

Bench-pressing party starts in the morning with activities organized for high school students by the oldest students. The day culminates in a truck ride, where the oldest students, dressed in funny clothes, throw candies during the ride. This is especially fun for the children following along the street.



At Kokemäki high school, about 40 of the oldest students are participating in this party, but the class has collected more candies than they need. From this, one student got the idea to cheer up children who can't participate when they are in the hospital. On January 18, 2024, a few students are going to organize a small-scale bench-pressing party for the children's ward of Pori Hospital. The students plan to delight the children with funny costumes and treats.



Karoliina Kivenmäki

Big differences between German and Finnish school system leave this bold exchange student unbothered



Who are you, how old and where you come from?

"I'm Jannik Lucka, I'm from Stuttgart, in the Southwest of Germany, and I am 16 years old right now."

What made you want to go to exchange year and why did you pick Finland?

"I think I was kind of tired of school in Germany, it was just not so interesting so that's now a break from that and I think that was one of the main reasons." Jannik also added that he talked about this student

exchange thing with his mother and she said Jannik should do it this year if he wanted to do it. He said he picked Finland because he likes Northern countries. He was checking the list of possible countries to go and he chose Finland 1st and Norway was the backup plan.

How is mundane life in Finland and Kokemäki different from life in Germany and Stuttgart? Which things are similar?

“Well school starts later; in Germany my school starts at 8am and that’s quite late for German schools. The days in school are not so long also, ending mostly at 3pm while in Germany they sometimes last until half past five.” According to Jannik some of the biggest differences to his hometown are public transportation and the size difference between the two cities. Stuttgart is a big city, almost the same as Helsinki. Jannik notes *“If you want to do something, meet friends or so, you really have to plan how to get from A to B”* referring to the lack of public transportation.

What is the best thing in Finland and which Finnish food is your favorite for now?

“The best thing about Finland are the people.” He states that in Germany everyone looks at other people all the time and look at what they are doing wrong. In Finland he feels like people let others to do their thing and don’t care that much if someone does something wrong or so. For the food question, Jannik was lightning fast to answer that he really likes Finnish doughnuts. Well, no wonder he likes those, everybody loves them!

If you have heard any stereotypes about Finns, are those accurate considering your experiences?

According to Jannik the best-known stereotype is that Finns are very shy, but he feels it isn’t accurate with everyone. At school many students came to talk and get familiar with him. In Finland there are more shy people than in Germany, but he thinks the stereotype is too strong and not as accurate as you would think.

Have you enjoyed your time here and what is the best memory this student exchange year has given to you?

“Well, I have, of course. It has been a really nice time.” The early arrival of good winter and snow has been one of the favorite things for Jannik so far. *“I really like winter and we don’t have so much snow in Germany normally so it’s nice.”* Jannik says he has had a lot of great memories, but he notes that his visit in Lapland was a top memory. They also had a weekend meeting with the other exchange students, and he enjoyed that. *“There are many good memories already”* he states.

Now you have a free say about student exchange.

He really recommends having a student exchange year if you are thinking about one. *“I’m a really shy person and I don’t normally like new things. I think it was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made, since I have met so many nice people.”* He has had a really good time here and he is thankful he got this chance and took it.

Jannik has slowly but surely gotten into the Finnish culture. Although the differences are big between the big Stuttgart and the small Kokemäki, they aren’t a problem for him. As a school mate Jannik is a friendly and kind person. When you get to know him, he’s pretty chatty and unbuttoned.

Juho Lindholm

DOMESTIC

Finnish presidential election 2024

Presidential elections are expected to be held in Finland on Sunday, January 28, 2024 with a possible second round on Sunday, February 11, 2024. All Finnish citizens who are at least 18 years old by election day have the right to vote in elections.

If the new president is chosen on the first round by winning more than half of valid votes cast, their term will begin on 1st February in 2024. If the election goes to a second round, the term will begin on 1st March in 2024.

In Finland, the president is elected for a 6-year term, and one president can serve as president for two terms. The current President of Finland Sauli Niinistö has been president for the last 12 years which means that he cannot run anymore.

We currently have nine candidates for the next president of Finland.

Candidates:

Pekka Haavisto

Age: 65

Political party: The Greens

Career: Pekka Haavisto has served as a Member of Parliament in the years 1987-1995 and from 2007 until today. In addition, he has served Minister of Environment and Development Cooperation in 1995-1999, Minister of Development in 2013-2014 and Foreign Minister in 2019-2023. He has also been the chairperson of the Greens in the years 1993–1995 and 2018-2019.

Haavisto has aspired to become the president of Finland twice in the 2012 and 2018 elections. In both elections, he lost to President Niinistö. Haavisto has been the presidential candidate of the Greens in the previous elections, but in the 2024 elections he is independent.

Values: Haavisto's most important values are human rights, human dignity, peace, security and environmental protection. He also advocates for the rights of minorities, especially sexual minorities, because he himself belongs to a sexual minority. He also supports Finland's EU and NATO membership.

Private life: Haavisto has been in a registered partnership with Antonio Flores since 2002. They met each other in 1997 in Bogotá. They live in a detached house in Kulosaari which used to be owned by the USA Embassy.

He loved literature, Volkswagen beetles and wooden boats. Haavisto is a vegetarian.



Alexander Stubb

Age: 55

Political party: The National Coalition Party

Career: Alexander Stubb graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy from London School of Economics in 1999. He has served as a Member of Parliament in the years 2011-2017. However, his political career began already in 2004, when he stood as the European Parliament candidate of the National Coalition. He has also served as a minister in four governments. For example, he served as Prime Minister of Finland in 2014-2015. Stubb has worked as the director and professor of the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence since 2020.



In August 2023, Stubb agreed to chairman Petteri Orpo's request to run as the National Coalition's candidate for the 2024 presidential election. He was officially nominated as a presidential candidate by the National Coalition's additional party congress in Espoo in October 2023.

Values: Stubb has said that he is a feminist in the sense that she supports gender equality. In addition, Stubb has pushed for the rights of minorities and openly supported the equal marriage law. He has also publicly highlighted the good aspects of immigration and multiculturalism and supports Finland's EU and NATO membership.

Private life: Stubb has been married to Suzanne Innes-Stubb since 1998 and they have two adult children. They met each other in 1994. The family currently lives in Espoo.

Stubb's father is Swedish Finn, and his mother belongs to the Setälä family from Satakunta, Kokemäki, whose most famous member is E. N. Setälä, a Member of Parliament, minister and linguist who influenced both sides of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Stubb is an active fitness athlete and regularly participates in marathons and triathlons. In addition to exercise, he enjoys reading.

Jussi Halla-aho

Age: 52

Political party: The Finns Party

Career: Jussi Halla-aho graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Helsinki in 2006. He has served as a Member of Parliament in the years 2011-2014 and from 2019 until today. He has also worked as a Member of the European Parliament in 2014-2019. However, Halla-aho is best known as the chairperson of the Finns Party in 2017-2021.



On July 7, 2023, Halla-aho announced that he would seek to be the candidate of the Finns Party for the 2024 presidential election. Halla-aho was chosen as the only candidate for the presidential candidate of the Finns Party at the party congress in August 2023.

Values: Halla-aho became known for his blog called *Scripta*. In his blog, Halla-aho discussed Finland's immigration policy and multiculturalism. He is critical of immigration and multiculturalism and their effects in Finland. For Halla-aho, the interests of Finland and Finns always come first. He also does not support Finland's EU membership. Instead, he has supported Finland's NATO membership for 20 years.

Private life: Halla-aho has been married to Hilla Halla-aho since 2002 and they have two daughters and two sons. The family lives in Helsinki, Eira. In addition, Halla-aho has one more child with another woman.

Halla-aho's interests are literature, languages and history. He speaks ten different languages. These languages are Finnish, English, Russian, Ukrainian, Swedish, German, Croatian, Polish, French and Dutch. Halla-aho has been a vegetarian since 2019.

Olli Rehn

Age: 61

Political party: The Centre Party

Career: Olli Rehn graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford in 1996. However, he has already served as a Member of Parliament in 1991-1995 and later in 2015-2017. During his political career, he has also worked in Europe by serving as a Member of the European Parliament and as a European Union commissioner. At present, Rehn is the general director of the Bank of Finland.



In June 2023, Rehn announced that he would run in the 2024 presidential election. In August, the Centre Party's board of a party decided to support Rehn in the presidential election. Even though Rehn is participating in the elections as an independent, the Centre Party did not nominate another candidate for itself.

Values: Rehn's most important values are domesticity, responsibility, equality, education and sustainable relationship with nature. Rehn's values combine both patriotism and internationalism. He also supports Finland's EU and NATO membership.

Private life: Rehn has been married to Merja Rehn since 1995 and they have an adult daughter. The Rehns live in Helsinki.

Rehn has two passions: one is reading especially biographies and political history and the other is football which he has been interested in since he was a child. He has said that football is not just a hobby for him but a way of life. In addition, he enjoys cooking and rock and jazz music.

Li Andersson

Age: 36

Political party: The Left Alliance

Career: Li Andersson graduated as a Bachelor of Social Sciences from Åbo Akademi University in 2010. She still intends to continue her studies and graduate as a Master of Social Sciences. She has served as a Member of Parliament from 2015 until today. Since 2016, Andersson has served as the chairperson of her party and in the years 2021-2023, she served as Finland's Minister of Education. She is also involved in municipal politics, i.e. she has served as a Member of a council in Turku since 2012.



In October 2023, Andersson was unanimously chosen as the presidential candidate of the Left Alliance in the 2024 presidential election.

Values: Some most of important issues for her are reducing inequality, increasing equality in working life and solving the climate crisis. Andersson also supports the expansion of conscription to the entire age group, regardless of gender. She supports Finland's EU membership and has a positive but critical attitude towards Finland's NATO membership.

Private life: Andersson is in a relationship with former ice hockey player Juha Pursiainen and they have a daughter who was born in 2021.

Andersson comes from Swedish Finn family and her native language is Swedish. In her spare time, Andersson spends time with her daughter and enjoys reading. She is also a vegetarian.

Mika Aaltola

Age: 54

Political party: Independent

Career: Mika Aaltola graduated as a Doctor of Social Sciences from University of Tampere in 1999. He is a docent of international politics at the University of Tampere. He has also worked as a visiting professor and researcher at universities in Tallinn, United Kingdom, France and the United States. In 2019, Aaltola was elected as the director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs.

Aaltola took part in the presidential elections outside of politics and parties. He announced his participation in August 2023.

Values: There is not much information about Aaltola's values, but he has said that he is more conservative than liberal. He has also said that he voted for the candidate of the National Coalition Party in the parliamentary elections. He supports Finland's EU and NATO membership.

Private life: Aaltola married Kirsi Aaltola in 2019 and they have a son who was born in 2022. Their family also includes three hairless dogs. The family lives in Helsinki, Ullanlinna.

Aaltola enjoys tennis and working out at the gym with his wife. In addition, he jogs with his dogs a lot.



Jutta Urpilainen

Age: 48

Political party: The Social Democratic Party of Finland

Career: Jutta Urpilainen graduated as a Master of Education from the University of Jyväskylä in 2002. Before her career in politics she worked as a teacher. She has served as a Member of Parliament in 2003-2019. In the years 2011-2014, Urpilainen served as a Minister of Finance in Katainen's government. She has also been the chairperson of her party in 2008-2014. In 2019, she was elected as Finland's commissioner to the Von der Leyen Commission.



In August 2023, SDP's chairperson Sanna Marin asked Urpilainen to be the party's presidential candidate, and Urpilainen said she was considering the candidacy and would announce her final decision by November. In November 2023, Urpilainen announced that she would run as SDP's presidential candidate.

Values: Urpilainen has said that her values are based on Christianity but are in line with social democracy. The most important values for her are love, justice and equality. She also supports Finland's EU and NATO membership.

Private life: Urpilainen has been married to Juha Mustonen since 2006 and they have two children. They adopted a one-year-old boy from Colombia in March 2016. In 2019, they adopted another child from Colombia, a 3-year-old girl. The family has lived in Belgium, Brussels because of Urpilainen's work.

Urpilainen's favorite hobbies are music and dancing. She plays the piano and listens to a lot of records.

Sari Essayah

Age: 56

Political party: The Christian Democrats

Career: Sari Essayah graduated as a Master of Economic Sciences from University of Vaasa in 1995. Her political career has started in municipal politics and later she has served as a Member of Parliament in 2003-2007 and from 2015 until today and as a Member of the European Parliament in 2009-2014.

She has also been the chairperson of her party since 2015. In the current Orpo's government, Essayah serves as the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Essayah is also known for her sports career. Her sport is racewalking and she has won the world championship in 1993.

In August 2023, the Christian Democrats' board of a party nominated Essayah as the party's candidate for the 2024 presidential election, and the Christian Democrats' party congress elected her as the party's presidential candidate three days later. Essayah has already been her party's presidential candidate once in 2012.

Values: Essayah has Christian values. She objects, for example, the equal marriage law and euthanasia. She has a positive attitude towards fur farming. She also supports Finland's EU and NATO membership.

Private life: Essayah has been married to Roope Knapp since 1991 and they have two adult daughters. She lives in Lapinlahti with his husband.

Essayah's father is Moroccan and her mother is Finnish. Her native language is Finnish.

In her free time, she is involved in the church's activities. She also enjoys reading.



Harry "Hjallis" Harkimo

Age: 70

Political party: Liike Nyt

Career: Harry Harkimo graduated as a Bachelor of Economic Sciences from Hanken School of Economics in 1979. He is a businessman and entrepreneur who is best known as the main owner and chairperson of the Jokerit hockey club and as the builder of the Helsinki Hall (then Hartwall Arena). Harkimo has also participated in many TV programs.

Harkimo was elected to parliament for the first time in 2015. He was then a representative of the National Coalition Party. In 2018, he resigned from the National Coalition Party and decided to found a new party called Liike Nyt with six other people. Today, he is the chairperson of Liike Nyt and the party's sole representative in parliament.

It was decided at the party congress in 2022 that Harkimo will be the presidential candidate in the 2024 presidential election.

Values: Harkimo says that his most important values are love, equality, and patriotism. He talks a lot about the economy and wants to lighten corporate taxation so that Finnish companies can grow and produce. Harkimo has a neutral attitude towards Finland's EU and NATO membership

Private life: Harkimo was married to Leena Harkimo in 1989-2002 and they have two sons, Joel and Leo Harkimo. Harkimo's second marriage was with Merikukka Forsius in 2004-2005. They have a son, Dan Harkimo. Today, Harkimo is in a relationship with Jasmine Pajari.

Harkimo's favorite hobby is sailing. He has also been a vegetarian since 2018.

What is the situation now?

Alexander Stubb is currently leading the polls with 24 percent support and Pekka Haavisto is second with 22 percent support. It is almost certain that the second round of the elections will be held between them. Jussi Halla-aho is third in the polls with 13 percent support.

I made my own poll for my own age group and the result was that 50 percent of the answerers would vote for Haavisto, 25 percent for Stubb and 25 percent for Halla-aho.

Polling percentage is expected to be high in these presidential elections.

Anna Salo



Finnish Defence Forces

The Finnish Defence Forces is the Finnish armed forces, whose main task is the military defense of Finland. The President of the Republic of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, is the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces. General Timo Kivinen has been the commander of the Defense Forces since August 2019.

Finnish Defence forces main tasks:

1. Finland's military defense
2. supporting other authorities
3. participation in the agreement with the European Union on the provision of aid. Participation in regional surveillance cooperation or other international aid giving and international activities
4. participation in international military crisis management and military tasks in other international crisis management



Finnish Defence Forces was founded in 1918. In the spring of 1918, the Independence Senate of Svinhufvud declared the Civil Guards to be government troops, Finland had received an army with Jaegers as officers, to which the Conscription Act of 1878 under Grand Duke Alexander II of Finland was applied.

Finnish Defence Forces have not always been named the same. The troops of the Republic of Finland were the first name of Finnish Defence forces in 1918 when it was founded. There have been other names over the years.

During peace, the defence forces have about 12,000 people hired, of which about a third are civilians or have received civilian training. The defense forces train 22,000 conscripts every year. The current wartime troop strength is 280,000 soldiers. In principle, these are divided into standby forces and supplementary forces. There are 870 000 reservists.



The ground forces make up the main part of the defence forces' wartime strength. Ground forces include infantry, artillery, air defence, pioneers, signal, logistics and special force.

The Navy defends Finland with its three main tasks: monitoring maritime areas and combating territorial violations, securing sea connections and combating maritime attacks.

The Air Force monitors Finland's territorial integrity around the clock. A situational picture compiled with air surveillance radars and other sensors from the territory of Finland and outside it creates the basis for securing territorial integrity.



In Finland if you are a man, you have liability to military service. The year you turn 18 you need to undergo a medical examination to find out if you are fit for service. Every year about 1 000 women complete voluntary military service. About 60 percent of women who have completed military service, has also received leadership training. Nowadays more and more women want to go to army.

As a woman, you can complete voluntary military service after turning 18. The content and requirements of women's service are the same as for men. Women and men have an equal opportunity to enter leadership training and later a military career. Service tasks are not divided according to gender but based on personal suitability and competence. Women start service at the same time as men.

Finland's own Permanent Conscription Act was enacted in 1922, and it was amended in 1932, when the first military refresher training exercises for reserve non-commissioned officers and reserve officers were

established. In 1936, military refresher training course could also be assigned to the rank of crew. The crew ranks are private, NCO Student and Private First Class.



Finland applied for NATO membership at the end of February 2022, when Russia attacked Ukraine. Russia reacted to Finland's membership application with a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to which Finland's accession to NATO would seriously damage the countries' bilateral relations.

Finland became a member of NATO on April 4th, 2023. With NATO membership, Finland joined NATO's joint defense, which increases the preventive effect of Finland's defense. Even as a member of NATO, the core mission of the Finnish Defense Forces is the military defense of Finland. Finland will also decide on the implementation principles of military national defense itself in the future.

Joining NATO is not visible at all in the defense forces. Things have remained the same, but we'll see what the future brings.

Laura Jaansalu

What's happening at Finland's eastern border?

In 2022 February Sauli Niinistö said that the masks have been taken off and we can only see the cold face of war. Russia had started the full invasion of Ukraine. Since that Finland and the entire EU have prepared for several different scenarios and made sure that we are ready should Russia try to expand the conflict either militarily or through a hybrid operation, which seems to be the case at the moment. In this article I'm going to chronologically follow the situation at Finland's eastern border.

Tuesday, November 14

The Finnish media starts to report on the growing number of asylum seekers coming to the border. At the same time the Finnish Ministry of the Interior is preparing the first restrictions on the cross-border traffic to restrict the possibilities of applying for asylum. There are not unusually many people at the border but the number of third-country nationals coming there has increased, because Russian authorities changed the way they act with people without necessary travel documents. Most of the third-country nationals come from the Middle East and seek for an asylum at the border.

Wednesday, November 15

The number of asylum seekers arriving at the border keeps growing, especially in the southeast, and President Niinistö publicly demands the government to make decisions. In the morning, Interior Minister Mari Rantanen says that the government will hold a press conference in the afternoon, but in the end the event is cancelled reportedly due to the new intelligence information.

Thursday, November 16

The first restrictions are announced on the government's press conference. Firstly and most importantly the four southernmost border-crossings (Nuijamaa, Vaalimaa, Niirala and Imatra) will be closed at the night between Friday and Saturday. It is also decided that submitting asylum applications will be allowed only at Salla and Vartiuss border crossings. Human rights activists express their concerns about the realization of human rights.

Friday, November 17

A relatively big group of asylum seekers arrive to Niirala and Finnish border guards have to use gas to stop one of them. The first restrictions are implemented at night.

Saturday, November 18

The opposition pressures the government to establish more and stricter restrictions. The Finnish Border Guard reports that FSB (The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation) doesn't allow the refugees to return to Russia once they have gone through the gates on the Russian side of the border. Despite that there are several protests against closing the border.

Sunday, November 19

The speaker of the Finnish parliament Jussi Halla-Aho warns that there may even be Wagner soldiers among the asylum seekers.



Monday, November 20

The phenomenon has rather strengthened than subsided and it becomes clear that further restrictions are needed, which is noticed also by the government. In the evening the prime minister Orpo announces that more border-crossings will probably be closed on the following days. In Poland Sauli Niinistö says that Finland has no way to send asylum seekers back to their home countries. Conscripts are called to help building barriers and mounting barbed wires on check points.

Tuesday, November 21

The government tries to close the whole border but the Deputy Chancellor of Justice Mikko Puumalainen doesn't accept the government's proposal because according to him it would violate the international law and human rights. On the following days he receives unforeseen amount of hate for his decision, which is thought to weaken democracy.

Wednesday, November 22

The government decides to close all but one border crossing. The one remaining open is in Raja-Jooseppi, which is located in northern Lapland and is open only four hours a day.

Thursday, November 23

The Ministry of the Interior reports that they have started preparations to open hotspot camps if needed. The government on the other hand publishes a memorandum in which they explain why they had to close almost the whole border. The memo says it's likely that some individuals arriving in Finland are a threat to our internal security.



Saturday, November 25

Helsingin Sanomat tells that most of the Finns want the border to be completely closed. The Prime Minister Petteri Orpo tells media that Finland is not going to negotiate with the Kremlin this time unlike during the 2015 refugee crisis.

Sunday, November 26

According to Orpo, it is possible to close the entire border if necessary. When asked about the situation at the border he says that it seems that the phenomenon just keeps going and even more restrictions might be needed. He also tells that the government wants

to stop the instrumentalised migration and is capable of doing it.

Monday, November 27

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg tells international media that "NATO stands in solidarity with our allied Finland". Helsingin Sanomat reports that in Helsinki the government is getting ready to get the job finally done and close even the last check point. Orpo admits that new restrictions are planned but does not comment the possibility of completely ending the cross-border traffic.

Tuesday, November 28

The government holds a press conference to announce their historical decision to completely close the border for two weeks so that applying for international protection is concentrated to open border crossings at airports and harbours. In the memorandum there is a mention that the decision might be against the EU-law.

Thursday, November 30

The latest decision is implemented, and it becomes impossible to cross the land border between Finland and Russia. Finnish Immigration Services decides that there is no longer need for hotspot camps and stops organizing them. UNCHR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) says that they are worried about the latest restrictions on the cross-border traffic and applying for asylum, but the European Commission doesn't speak out.

Tuesday, December 12

The border has been completely closed for almost two weeks and is to open in few days. The government decides that Niirala and Vaalimaa check points will be opened on Thursday as they were meant to. Other border crossings will remain closed. Explaining the decision Orpo says that there is a high risk that the instrumentalised migration continues. He also promises that the entire border will be closed again if the phenomenon keeps going.

Wednesday, December 13

Migri (The Finnish Immigration Service) sends newspapers an email in which they tell that some of the asylum applications left at the eastern border seem to be irrelevant and will be processed in an expedited manner.

Thursday, December 14

Vaalimaa and Niirala check points are opened and the illegal entry continues instantly. By afternoon over 120 asylum seekers have arrived to the border. Therefore, in the evening Mari Rantanen holds a press conference and announces that government has decided to close the entire border again. The decision is to be implemented on Friday at 8pm.

Friday, December 15

Over 200 people apply for an asylum during the day, which is second most during this crisis. In the evening rest of the checkpoints are closed. Dual citizens trying to cross the border and get to Russia cause traffic jams and unrest on the roads leading to the border. The entire border is closed.

Saturday, December 16

Petteri Orpo is interviewed in TV and he calls the situation "a hybrid attack against the sovereignty and borders of Finland and the EU". The Ministry of the Interior starts looking for ways to tackle the phenomenon for good without having to keep the border closed until further notice. An asylum seeker climbs over a border fence at Vaalimaa and submits an asylum application despite the border being closed.

Friday, December 29

A Finnish newspaper *Uutisuomalainen* publishes an article in which they tell that 66% of Finns support government's actions and only 16% are against them. The poll was held before the border was re-closed and the margin of error was 3,1 percentage points.



Monday, January 1

A group of Russians living in Finland complains to the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland about the closure of the border. Ivan Deviatkin, the contact person of the group, tells media it's unfair that dual citizens can't visit their families. Complainers say that keeping the border closed is against both human-rights and the Finnish constitution.

Monday, January 8

The latest closure of the border is coming to the end, and the government starts to plan new decisions. *Helsingin Sanomat* reports that the government's will is to keep the border closed. According to them it seems like nothing has changed on the eastern side of the border, so there is no point in opening any border crossings again.

Thursday, January 11

As *Helsingin Sanomat* reported earlier on the week, the government decides to keep the border closed. The ministry of the interior explains that international crime is part of the phenomenon and there are still people behind the border waiting for it to open. Interior Minister Mari Rantanen says that the government is also looking for other ways to stop the hybrid operation and illegal immigration.

Friday, January 12

The Finnish border guard reports that they have caught 11 Iranian men who crossed the land border illegally. When caught, men were cold and tired, and it seems like someone had helped them on the Russian side of the border. The men are suspected of a border offence just as over 1000 other asylum seekers, who have crossed the border during the last couple of months.

No one can tell how long the situation at the eastern border will go on, but the government will surely keep making decisions regarding it, and us citizens should just hope everything goes well in the end.

Juho Oksa

Tourism in Lapland

Tourism is an essential part of the shops in Lapland. Travelling employs many people and brings massive incomes to local businesses. Gorgeous nature and activities attract people to travel there.

For example, in January 2023, around 17,000 traveled to Kittilä which is a Finnish municipality in Lapland. Accommodation sales in that month were about 5 million euros.

I interviewed Pirre Mahlberg, who is a merchant in K-market LevinPoro in Levi:

-Can you briefly tell us something about yourself?

-I am Pirre Mahlberg, 40-year-old K-grocer from Levi. I am BBA by training, and I have graduated from Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences. I started K-retailers' degree in 2017 and I finished it in 2019.

-How long have you been a merchant?

-I have been a merchant at K-market LevinPoro for almost five years. Before becoming a merchant, I was in LevinPoro for less than a year as a store manager, so I've been here for over five years now. Before my merchant career, I worked for an insurance company for almost ten years, but in that time, I realized that

everyday work from 9am to 5 pm, working only on the computer and obeying the employer's instructions wasn't for me. That's why I became an entrepreneur.

-Are there huge differences in the number of customers and product sales between summer and winter?

-Yes, the variety is completely different in winter and summer. In the summer we really rely on the locals and in the winter the ski crowd brings euros to the house. For example, the value of the inventory is even 80 000€ lower in the summer than in winter, which tells a lot about the size and change of the variety. It brings its own challenges to everything.

-If you could choose, is the current situation pleasant, or would you prefer that the customer flow would be the same throughout the year?

-The number of customers changes from summer to winter practically in one week so fiercely that the turnover increases even 250-300%. It's enjoyable that money seems to grow in trees in the winter, so I would hope that the ski season would continue throughout the year. In my opinion, the skill and success of a merchant is measured in this ski season by the fact that you manage to keep the shop open throughout the year every day and you offer employees jobs without unfair layoffs. You always hire the right number of staff for the winter and train them so well that they know everything when the Christmas season begins. This year-round entrepreneurship in the ski resort is such a roller coaster that not just any merchant, for example from Kokemäki could handle these seasonal fluctuations. Many businesses in Levi and other ski resorts always close for the summer, only a few of them offer their employees year-round jobs. When I started, I only had one permanent employee. Now I have three, and everyone always has full paid holidays each year and we are open every day throughout the year.

Recently, there has been a lot of talk about tourist tax and how it would be collected in practice. It is used in many European countries, for example to cover the costs of tourism. Time will tell if it will be introduced in Finland or will other means be invented instead.

Säde Salminen

The hero dogs of '23

On 16th and 17th of December numerous amounts of dogs and their owners gathered to Messukeskus in Helsinki. The yearly dog fair was held there once again with over 15 thousand dogs visiting there over the two-day event from 12 different countries. The fair includes different shows and different awards and honours for the dogs and their owners. For example, "the best veteran" award and "the best in show" award.

However, perhaps the most fascinating awards given in the event are the hero dog honours. Hero dog honour is given to a dog who has remarkably helped to save one or more human lives. In Finland dogs have been awarded for their help since the 1970s. The hero dog honour is divided to different categories which differ a little bit every year but this year the categories were: finding a lost person or a person in need of help, alarming about sudden illness, alarming about fire and saving from a danger. I will now introduce you one winner from each category:

Brittany Selma was on regular walk with her owner on a cold day. Against its owner will and orders Selma decided to go to other direction. Selma walked a few hundred meters, stopped and started to bark loudly. The owner was confused as Selma didn't normally do anything like this, but they quickly realized why. They found an old person who had been lost for over two days and who was in critically freezing condition. The owner called an ambulance and the old man was saved thanks to Selma.

German Spitz Mittel Pekko woke up its other owner in the middle of the night by barking and jumping. The owner was a little confused at first why Pekko had done so but quickly realised that the other owner sleeping next to them hadn't woken up to the barking and jumping. After noticing that the owner had symptoms of a heart attack, they called an ambulance which took the owner to hospital.



German Spitz Mittel

Welsh Springer Spaniels Lara and Viivi were on a cottage with their owner and their children. Suddenly the fire alarm went off when everyone was sleeping. The owner or the kids didn't wake up to the alarming sound but Lara and Viivi did. They realized something was wrong and went to wake up the owner. They barked and jumped against them and managed to wake them up. The owner noticed the fire alarm sound and quickly took the kids and the dogs out and called the fire department. The firefighters extinguished the fire, but the cottage was so heavily damaged that it couldn't be repaired. Without Lara and Viivi the owner or the kids probably would have woken up too late to save themselves.

Jack Russell Terrier Riku was enjoying a peaceful day with its family. Suddenly Riku started to run at the family's small child barking. The owners saw that there was a viper very close to the child. Riku drove the snake away but shortly after its condition got worse as the snake had bitten it in the stomach. Riku fought with courage and fully recovered.

The awards are given by The Finnish Kennel Club and this year total of 22 dogs received the hero dog honour and 17 dogs were given an honourable mention for their help.

Jimi Kuivakoski

INTERNATIONAL

Boeing 737 Max 9



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced on 7.1.2024 that some of the country's Boeing 737 Max 9 planes will be temporarily grounded and inspected due to the accident that had happened. On Friday, the plane that left Portland, USA, had to make an emergency landing after takeoff, when a piece of the plane's frame part came off. The frame part in question is a panel that contains the door connection. In the accident plane, the panel did not have a door, but a kind of cover plate. The plane landed safely back in Portland when it was first at an altitude of approximately 4900 meters. No one sat near the hole. Six people were slightly injured.

The FAA's decision affects 171 planes around the world. According to the European Union's Aviation Safety Authority, (EASA) the plane model that has now undergone inspections is not in use in EU countries. Turkish Airlines is also shelving its five Boeing planes. The low-cost airline of the United Arab Emirates, Flydubai on the other hand announced that flights with its three Boeing 737 Max 9 planes will continue as normal. Boeing's previous model, the 737 Max, was grounded for almost two years after two disastrous accidents. 346 people died in Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines plane crashes in 2018 and 2019.

United Airlines found loose bolts on its Boeing 737 Max 9 planes. United Airlines also said that they found, for example, bolts that needed additional tightening. The company has the largest fleet of Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft. Every aircraft needs an inspection and according to the authorities, the inspections last from four to eight hours per aircraft. In total 684-1368 hours, approximately 29-57days.

A door panel that came off the plane was found in a teacher's backyard in Oregon by a teacher named Bob. He had sent the authorities pictures of the piece he found in his backyard. Jennifer Homendy, the chairperson of the US National Transportation Safety Board, said that it could be seen from the pictures that it was at least part of the door panel detached from the plane. The Norwegian Transport Safety Board published a picture of the door panel in question in the X message service. And it is said to weigh just under 30 kilograms.

Two iPhones have also been found on the ground in Oregon, which are believed to belong to the plane's passengers. The phones are intact and working correctly. One of the phones was still in airplane mode, and the baggage claim for the Alaskan Airlines flight was found in its email application. The phone had a broken charger attached to it, so it must have been torn out by force.

The decommissioning of some aircraft was expected to cause about 60 cancellations. Boeing stocks fell 9 percent shortly after the accident.

Aviation Administration remains vigilant and prioritizes passengers' safety. And the ongoing investigations truly woke up and they are trying to prevent these incidents in the future.

Juuso Lahtinen

Chaos caused by the Houthis



The Houthis also known as the Defenders of God, are a guerrilla group in Northern Yemen and they have Yemen's capital Sanaa at their control. Yemen's civil war has torn apart the whole country since 2015 when Houthis took over the country's capital.

The Houthis' slogan proclaims death to the United States and Israel, curse to the Jews and victory to Islam. The Houthis have said that the attacks were a countermeasure to Israel's military operation in Gaza.

Shipping suffers in the Red Sea. The Houthis says that they only attack ships that Israel owns or ships that are going to an Israeli port. This is not the first time that The Houthis try to destroy Israel. They have tried to send drones and launch missiles, yet without harm.

Many European and Asian cargo ships now have to use a separate route. One option is bypassing the continent of Africa which causes freight cost, delay to customers and increases the distance almost by a third. Increased distance might add over a week to normal route.

Cargo traffic through the Suez Canal has dropped by more than 40 per cent since Yemen's Houthi rebels began attacking ships. The Suez Canal includes about 15 per cent of world shipping traffic and 30 per cent of global container trade. The consequences of attack will leave a mark to the whole world's shipping.

The ships are now more aware about possible attacks. Some shipping companies have added armed guards and others have took ships out of the radar to make it harder for the attackers.

The USA and the Great Britain have started countermeasure against the Houthis. Great-Britain's Ministry of Defence said on Twitter that attacks against Houthi military targets in Yemen were successful. Ministry of Defence said on Twitter that "This action was jointly with US in response to repeated Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea".

Things might get out of hand and that's why, for example, French President Emmanuel Macron said that France will not involve in this situation. Macron emphasized that the issue was diplomatic, not military and that France was trying to avoid any escalation.

Emil Lievonen

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

Volcanos in Indonesia

Indonesia has at least 150 active volcanos and over 70% of people live within 100 km of one. According to a graph made by Oregon State University, Indonesia had the most deaths by regions in 1600-1982 caused by volcanos. Between the years of 1600 and 1982, over 160 000 people lost their lives due to the various volcano eruptions in Indonesia.

Indonesia is located at intersection of the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is a path along the Pacific Ocean that is prone to multiple earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The vicious terrain is caused by two tectonic plates subducting one another. So, in other words a slab made from Earth's crust is crashing into another similar slab. Subduction is a cause of various natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and landslides. These natural disasters cause carnage all around the world, for example tsunamis in Japan, earthquakes in the USA and volcanic eruptions in Indonesia.

Mount Merapi is a volcano in the Sumatra island in Indonesia. It has regularly erupted since 1548 making it the most active volcano in Indonesia. At the start of December 2023, the Merapi volcano once again erupted and started to spew ash. The ash tower reached a height of 3 kilometers, making it taller than the volcano itself.



Mount Merapi is a popular hiking spot and a lot of people were present when it erupted. Dozens of hikers had to be evacuated and about 75 climbers who had started their way up the mountain became stranded. Ash reduced visibility and the temperature forced the search and recovery operations to be halted. Ash also made flying impossible for helicopters, so the search party had to carry out on foot.

Eleven bodies were found on the first day near the crater of Mount Merapi on the island of Sumatra, while several others were found alive and carried down the mountain. Rescued survivors had suffered multiple burns and fractures. on the second day of searching, the bodies of 13 people had been found and 52 survivors had been evacuated. After the body of the last climber, who was declared missing, was found the final death toll was determined. Out of the 75 people, 52 had been safely rescued and 23 had died in the eruption of Mount Merapi.

Matias Kangasaho

Native of North Sentinel

The Sentinelese

North Sentinel Island is located in the Bay of Bengal, west of Thailand. The island belongs to India, but it does not have Indian legislation. The island, which is only about 72 km² in size, has been inhabited for an estimated 60,000 years by a tribe that has had no contact with the outside world. The population could not have been verified, as there is no information on how many people live in the jungle. However, estimates are around 15—200 people. The indigenous people of Sentinel Island are protected because of their vulnerability and for this reason you cannot go closer than ten kilometers to the island, under the threat of severe punishment.

It is believed that the inhabitants of the island do not know how to make fire, but instead maintain fires started by lightning, for example. The native people of Sentinel are therefore still living in the Stone Age, although only 50 kilometers from the island is a city of about 100,000 inhabitants called Port Blair, where people live a normal life. The Sentinelese may be the descendants of the first people to leave Africa. However, it is unclear when the indigenous people were first discovered. However, the first reported encounter with the Sentinelese occurred in 1867, when an Indian ship was wrecked on North Sentinel Island. The crew made it ashore, but to everyone's surprise the indigenous people came running out of the woods with bow guns. The Indians were alerted for help and eventually the crew was rescued by the British Navy.

The first proper contact with the Sentinelese was made in 1880, when the British took two old people and four children from the island and took them to the aforementioned city, Port Blair. The purpose of the British was to show the tribe that they were friendly and wanted to help them. The tribesmen were treated well and were given various supplies and food and finally they were returned back to other tribesmen. However, this plan did not work, as the Sentinelese do not have the same bacterial strain as other people, and as a result, the elderly people taken from the island died.

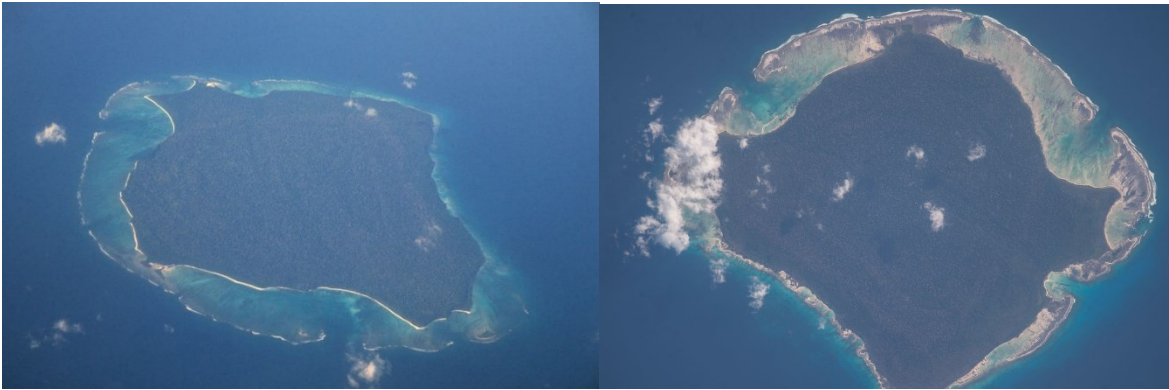
The first video of the tribe was obtained in 1974, when they went to the island to film a documentary. The purpose of the documentary's cameramen was to bribe the tribesmen with food. The situation escalated and the tribe attacked the cameramen. As a result, the director of the documentary got an arrow in his leg. In 1991, for the first time, people got close to the Sentinelese without starting to shoot with bow guns. They tried to help them by taking coconuts to the island. They also tried to speak to the tribe with the words: "*daga*" (coconut) and "*laha*" (come here). However, it is unclear what language the tribe speaks. After this visit, it was decided to leave the Sentinelese alone.

Years pass without contacting the tribe, until the 2004 tsunami arrives. The tsunami caused great damage on North Sentinel Island. The water level rose so much that the island's beaches changed to a completely different look. An Indian helicopter flew over there to see what had happened to them, and opposite was a member of the tribe with a bow gun. In 2006, two illegal Indian fishermen were shipwrecked on the island. The Sentinelese killed the fishermen and buried the bodies on the beach. The Indian government ordered a helicopter again to see what is happening on the island. Despite many attempts, the fishermen's bodies have not been retrieved from there.

The latest information about the indigenous people of the island dates back to 2018, when Alabama missionary John Allen Chau decided to go to the island to spread Christianity. The fishermen who had taken John to the vicinity of the island have said that he introduced himself to the Sentinelese in English: "*Hi, I'm John! I love you and Jesus loves you.*" According to the fishermen, John was supposed to give fish, football and scissors to them. John was shot with arrows by the tribe of Sentinels, a rope was tied around his neck and he was dragged into the forest. Later, the man's body was brought back to the beach. His body is still

on the island today. John's actions have been criticized a lot on social media. He must have been aware of the risks, as only a year earlier Indian law had prohibited even taking photographs of the island under penalty of imprisonment. Seven fishermen who helped John were arrested.

The North Sentinel native people are not the only outcast people in the world. It is estimated that there are more than a hundred indigenous peoples in the world who avoid contact with the outside world.



Aava Lehtonen

Winter in Finland

Winter in Finland has changed hugely over the decades. One of the most significant reasons to this is climate change.

If we go back to 1960s, we can notice that cold weathers were typical for winters. -8 Celsius degrees was the most common temperature during winter.

In the 1970s situation changed a little bit. Temperatures decreased, and it was common that it would be -10 degrees during winter.

In the 1980s situation stayed the same. Around the year 1987 the situation changed massively. In Finland people were used to cold winters through decades. In the end of 1980s cold weathers nearly disappeared. The coldest temperature of the winters revolved around -2 and 0 degrees.

The change did not affect only the temperatures but also the amount of snow. From 1960s to the end of 1980s the amount of snow was huge whereas in the beginning of 1990s the amount of snow decreased significantly. Snow hardly covered the land and in some areas such as in cities the roads could be well seen.



The period of warm winters lasted from 1987 to 1996. However, after 1996 a small change happened. During 1996-2013 the average temperatures of winters changed between 0 and -7 degrees. This change allowed snow to fall and stay on the ground.

After 2013 a notable change happened. During 2013-2023 Finland had its second period of warm winters. The difference between the first and the second period of warm winters was nearly puny. The average

temperatures of winters were the same in the first and the second period. What was different between the first and the second period of warm winters was the amount of snow. During the second period there was a little bit more snow despite the fact that temperatures were warmer.

Though climate change has widely affected winter weathers in Finland, it has been noticed that cold winters are possibly returning. Winter 2023-2024 showed a massive change compared to previous years.

Current winter begun in November when the first snow fell in Finland. Temperatures in the beginning of winter changed between 0 and -7 degrees. In the early December a short warmer season came and nearly all of the snow melted. This season did not last long and soon temperatures decreased and it snowed again. During the winter 2023-2024 temperatures have changed between 0 and -42,3 degrees. Since winter is still continuing the average temperature cannot be calculated yet.

The average temperatures of winters throughout the decades might not seem cold. This is because when the average temperature of winter is calculated only the most common temperatures in the biggest cities are considered. This means that smaller towns and their weathers are not considered, and it changes the final result radically.



Lapland is a Finnish tourist attraction. It is commonly known for reindeer, northern lights, snow, extreme coldness and as a place where Santa Claus lives.

In Finland the coldest temperatures during winters have been recorded in Northern Finland, Lapland. The coldest temperature is -51,5 degrees and it was recorded on 28th of January in 1999 at Kittilä, Pokka. The second coldest temperature is -42,3 degrees and it was recorded on 4th of January at Enontekiö.

Finnish winter has its pros and cons. Winter attracts tourists from all around the world to travel to Finland, especially to Lapland. Traveling increases the income which is good for the economy. Saunas, icy baths, sledding, northern lights and Santa Claus are the most common things tourists are willing to try and see. Tourists strengthen the Finnish culture

and keep it lively.

Finnish winter can be fascinating, but it is also dangerous. Extremely cold temperatures and the amount of snow complicate daily essentials. Some cars do not start, water pipes freeze, temperatures inside houses decrease and snow covers for instance roads. The amount of accidents also increases. Slippery roads cause traffic accidents and other injuries. Freezing temperatures also expose people to hypothermia.

On the internet tourists can find Finnish winter survival -guides. They include information about everything tourists need to know when they are coming to Finland during winter. Guides include for instance the information how to dress up, how cold it can get, and which are the best places to visit.

The best advice for tourists traveling to Finland during winter:

1. Dress warmly
2. Try out winter activities, such as sledding, ice skating, and skiing
3. Experience new things, for instance the Santa Claus Village, Finnish saunas, icy baths, and northern lights
4. Explore the country
5. Take vitamin D
6. Remember reflectors – they protect you in the dark



Sanni Suovanen

Northern lights



Northern lights are a light phenomenon occurring in the atmosphere and are created by the solar wind coming from the sun. The solar wind blows electrically charged particles towards the earth. In the earth's atmosphere electrically charged particles collide with atmospheric molecules causing a beautiful light effect.

The appearance of the northern lights varies in several seasons: daily, in a 27-day period, seasonally and in 11-year periods. Northern lights occur in oval-shaped area. The oval is asymmetrical with respect to the magnetic pole. As the earth rotates, the oval moves south with respect to the earth's surface. The sun rotates on its axis in 27 days which affects the appearance of the northern lights. Northern lights are the most common when the sun's magnetic activity is at its highest in its 11-year sunspot cycle.

The color of the northern lights depends on the energy gained by the particle in the collision. Collision with an oxygen atom creates green and red northern lights and collision with nitrogen molecules creates blue

coloring. Northern lights manifest in many forms and the form depends on the stage of the northern light storm.

The northern lights are more common the further north you go. The northern lights are best observed in clear and dark conditions. Temperature has no effect to northern lights but when it's freezing the weather is usually clear. In cities light pollution can hinder the visibility of the northern lights so you should look for them in the dark, away from the light pollution of the cities. Northern lights occur as much during the day as at night, but daylight blocks them. Northern lights also occur in summer but because of the brightness they are not very distinguishable.

The Finnish name for northern lights "revontulet" comes from an old Finnish belief. It is believed that the northern lights are created by firefox "tulikettu" or "tulirepo". When firefox's tail rubs against the rocks and falls it creates sparks, the northern lights. The northern lights are also associated with many other beliefs in different cultures. Many northern peoples have believed that northern lights are the blood of the dead. Siberian peoples and some Indians believe that the blood splatters the sky when the dead play ball or some other games. In Scandinavian mythology the northern lights are thought to be reflected from the armor of valkyries.

Eeva Fallström

Flying and climate change



Nowadays many people are trying to avoid flying because of its climate impacts. Airplanes emit around 100 times more CO₂ per hour than a shared bus or train ride. Aviation contributes roughly 2.4 % of global annual CO₂ emissions. Aviation is projected to cause about 0.1 degrees of warming by 2050 if aviation continues growing at pre-pandemic rates.

According to the New York Times, airlines are promising that in the next three decades they are trying to put effort to fly more sustainably, with pledges to achieve "net zero" carbon emissions. There has been criticism of the slowness of the change. 2.4 percent of global CO₂ emissions come from aviation and industry is responsible for about 5 % of global warming. This number might seem low at first, but only a very small percentage of the world flies frequently. Even in the richer countries around half of the population flies in any given year, and only 12-15 % are frequent fliers. This means that only a small percentage is accountable for the number.

Impacts of flying on climate change are worrying many people and the EU. Tightened climate measures of the EU will raise the prices of flying tickets. Climate expert Matti Kahra says that it is quite sure that the price of the ticket will rise and there are three reasons why: the flight emissions trading tightens, the regulation on sustainable flying fuel comes into effect and the compensation of increasing in emissions. According to Helsingin Sanomat, the direction is clear: flying companies and customers will pay a bigger price of disadvantages of flying. We must remember that inflation has already raised prices.

At the end of 2023 Helsingin Sanomat announced that Denmark will set up a separate tax for flying, which concerns the flights leaving from Denmark. In the beginning the tax will be roughly 30 Danish Kroner, which is about four euros, but it will rise to 50 Kroner in 2030. Long-distance flights will be taxed harder. Government has predicted that flying in homeland will decrease about nine percent because of the tax. The ecological transmission will be financed with the funds collected through taxes.

To sum up, flying affects the climate change and now the EU is raising the prices of flying tickets when inflation has already affected the prices.

Johanna Vuori

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Were women hunters after all?

Hunter-gatherer culture was the way of life for early human history for about 300 000 years. In hunter-gatherer cultures the main attributions were that they were egalitarian and sustainable. Hunter-gatherers foraged and hunted food from their environment. They used to live in small groups and were nomadic or semi-nomadic. Nomadic living means existing without a permanent settlement. The lifestyle of hunter-gatherers varies depending on location and season. Hunter-gatherers use local resources for their survival. They may hunt, fish and gather fruits, berries and nuts. When they had chased the animals away from their location by hunting them, they had to follow the animals in order to find food. This meant relocating and building new settlements. Their settlements could be constructed or portable dwellings, caves or rock shelters outside.

Until now, scientists have believed that hunter-gatherer cultures, among other early humans, had divisions of labour. It was thought that men did the hunting and women solely gathered, not counting an individual rare case that may have required women to do some hunting. New research suggests that this was not the case. While some individual cases of women hunting have been seen in archaeological research, this new study pulls all the scattered reports together, and views this newfound data from a different perspective.



There has been a significant number of evidence of female hunters and even soldiers. However, gender bias is present in all of society. Specifically in research it can substantially affect the way we interpret the world. Because women are a minority in the academic community, there are considerable disparity in who is chosen for example a research subject selection. This can result in a male-focused bias. This bias has and still does prompt researchers to focus their findings and topics on males. This is what we call a gender bias in research.

In cases of gender bias, misjudging important discoveries can lead to misinformation. Let's say that an archaeologist finds an old grave. In the grave there is a human corpse and hunting gear. When new findings like this are done, the scientists, being human beings, tend to interpret them in a way that promotes the prejudices that are already in place. There are multiple examples of situations where this has happened. Before new studies like this have been done, the general belief has been that woman didn't hunt. Because all of the evidence is judged with that in mind, subconsciously or consciously, some evidence supporting female hunters can be knocked aside.

These gender biases are formed when half the population are systematically ignored, and it leads to disastrous consequences in the medical field, in government policy and workplaces. For example, women are 47% more likely to be injured in a car accident, because test drives and safety mechanisms were tested with the thought of males being the sole drivers. In the medical industry women are not heard, which leads to a lot of major injuries to be judged as period pain, or "woman troubles". Maybe this is because we have lived in a world where we have been taught that women weren't hunters but caretakers and thus couldn't have been in leadership positions, women have such a hard time being respected and it has made it harder for women to get into positions like manager or CEO. That could be about to change.

This new research was published in PLOS One in June of 2023. The study was done by a team from the University of Washington and the Seattle Pacific University. The lead researcher was a biological anthropologist Cara Wall-Scheffler. The new researchers in the project gleaned data from across original ethnographic literature and reports in order to investigate the prevalence of women hunting in foraging societies in more recent times. They analysed 63 different foraging societies and the results stated that in 79% of them, women were hunting. In societies where hunting was considered the most important activity, woman participated in hunting 100% of the time.



The reason why this research focused on recent times, is because there still are people who live a hunting and foraging lifestyle. These groups usually live in remote areas of low- and middle-income countries. This new research looks to them as a window into humanity's past. The researchers found that the hunting done by female members of the village was purposeful. In fact, the best hunters were the oldest women. All of these women had their own toolkits and even favourite weapons. In this sort of lifestyle, if you didn't succeed in your hunt, there wouldn't be any food to eat. In situations like this, doesn't it make the most sense to have all hands-on deck?

An anthropologist at Wayne State University, Randy Haas, told NPR news about his experience with hunter-gatherer culture research and gender bias regarding such research. Haas has seen the effects of gender bias first hand. He was a part of a team in Peru that found a 9,000-year-old person buried with an exquisite number of hunting tools. Because the number of weaponries was so fine, it was immediately assumed that the individual was male. Haas records them thinking that the person must have been a chief or a great warrior.



No one thought about the individual possibly being a woman, before the bone structure and more specifically an enamel of the persons teeth was analysed. Haas and his team of collaborators were all stunned with the fact. They decided to review similar findings across the Americas over the previous 70 years. In 27 gravesites of individuals found with hunting tools, 11 of them were female. This ratio is associated with 30-to-50% of people buried with hunting gear in ancient American gravesites to be female.

There are some critics to this newfound research and its findings. However, in feminist research as a whole, the goal isn't only to disregard old studies that spread misinformation, but also to spread information and knowledge about the fact that there are various male dominated disciplines that could have been misjudging data from the start due to gender bias. Feminist research does studies with the goal of challenging methodologies developed by men and challenges the legitimacy of supposedly objective knowledge that many people call "universal truths". Because these "truths" aren't value-free, but in fact manufactured to justify patriarchal norms in society.

Kimberly Hamlin, a professor at Miami university of Oxford, Ohio, was interviewed by NPR news. She spoke up about the new research and its significance. "I think that next to the myth that God made a woman from a man's rib to be his helper, the myth of man the hunter and woman the gatherer is probably the second most enduring myth that naturalizes the inferiority of women." Believes like the ones that Hamlin mentions in her statement being interpret as ultimate truths hurt, not only women but also men. The problem is not just the fact that some of these truths lead to harmful structures in society, but they also affect the way that people think and therefore also have an effect on science. We need to make sure that the facts that we teach our future generations have not been twisted to fit one's values, and perspectives, but are actually "universal truths".

Kia Koivula

The impact of technology on the music industry

Music production with AI

To speed up and simplify music production, many artists now employ [artificial intelligence](#) to create AI-generated music. In the past few years, AI has matured as a compositional tool, allowing musicians to discover new sounds derived from AI [algorithms](#) and software. As a result, [AI-generated music](#) has become mainstream and is adding another dimension to the music industry.

What is AI music?

You can create whatever you want. You could make perfect songs for yourself. If you like someone's voice especially, like your favorite actor or favorite singer, and you want them to sing your favorite song from another artist. With AI music generators or with normal online music mixer, you can make someone sing the song you like.

Or if you are an artist, you can use AI to find different kinds of sounds and easily mix them in your song. It is much easier to use an online mixer to modify songs. You already have the voice and melody, and you can just add any type of sound you want.

How does AI generate music work?

AI-generated music works when you feed large amounts of data to AI algorithms that study chords, tracks and other data to determine patterns for creating music similar to the information the algorithms have processed.

Artists have started to embrace this technology and its capabilities, leading to an increasing demand for AI music generators.

Different Ai music generators

- Meta's AudioCraft
- OpenAI's MuseNet
- iZotope's AI assistants
- Brain.fm
- Aiva Technologies
- Amper Music's Score tool

Streaming platforms

Many of the highest-rated streaming music apps include a wide range of features that distinguish them from one another. As a result, selecting the best streaming music service is more challenging than you'd think.

Apple Music

Apple Music is compatible with Apple TV, CarPlay, iPad, iPhone, and Mac.

Pros:

- Features more than 100 million tracks
- Cool video playlists
- 24/7 Apple music stations and video channel
- Rich hi-res audio and Dolby Atmos sound
- Supports lyrics and karaoke

Cons

- Lacks a free version
- Lossless audio not available on all platforms

Spotify

Spotify remains the king of the steaming music hill. This comes courtesy of a robust musical catalog, podcasts, collaborative playlists, and a stacked Student plan that includes Hulu and Showtime. Spotify's deep podcast selection elevates the service to a true top-shelf product. If you're a podcast devourer, this is the streaming service for you.

Pros

- Collaborative playlists and Group Session options
- Optional desktop app that lets you play locally stored audio files
- Premium accounts let you hear select albums before they're released
- Scrolling lyrics for all versions of the app
- Podcasts
- Free version

Cons

- Still lacks hi-res audio

YouTube Music

From Google Play Music's ashes rose YouTube Music, a service with a fantastic blend of customized playlists, search-by-lyrics functionality, and official studio releases. What's more, as an extension of YouTube's massive entertainment branch, there is an eclectic selection of unique music, including community uploads and video game soundtracks.

Pros

- Let's you easily switch between audio and music videos
- Many music discovery tools
- Cool location- and time-based playlists
- Can search for songs by lyrics
- Collaborative playlists
- Family and student plans
- Podcast support

Cons

- Lacks hi-res audio
- Real-time lyrics not available for every song

What is a music promotion service?

Picture these services as your backstage crew, dedicated to getting your beats out there. They're the maestros of making sure your tunes don't just echo in empty halls. From getting your song on hot playlists to buzzing about it on social media, these gurus do it all. They're like your personal music megaphone, amplifying your sound across this vast digital universe.

Platforms where promote your music

Think about where your fans hang out. If your tunes are for everyone, Spotify and Apple Music are your jam. If you are more of a visual artist. Hit up YouTube. For the new kids on the block and niche sound lovers, SoundCloud's where it's at. And if you're dreaming of viral fame, don't sleep on TikTok.

Why Use an Online Music Promotion Service?

It's like having a passport to Musicland. Gone are the days of your music being confined to local listeners; now, you are getting your music heard globally.

These digital experts are adept at transforming your tracks into viral hits. The cherry on top? As they weave their promotional spell, you're free to focus on crafting more amazing music.

It's customized to fit your unique musical style, ensuring your songs resonate with the right audience.

Laura Jaansalu

SOCIETY & ECONOMY

Vastaamo data break

In October 2020 it was published that over 33 000 Vastaamo psychotherapy center customer's patient information had been stolen. Part of the information was published in Tor network. Vastaamo says that the data break happened in November 2018 and in March 2019. The number of the victims is the biggest in history. Marko Leponen is the head of investigation and he says that the criminal entity is large and technically very challenging. Tolvanen is a professor of criminal law and he says that most likely nothing other than an absolute prison sentence is out of the question. He continues that it's only a matter of criminal suspicion.

Aleksanteri Kivimäki is a well-known hacker who is suspected of the data break. His crimes have attracted attention internationally. In 2015 Kivimäki was sentenced to two years' probation having penetrated to over 50 700 servers and used them illegally. Leponen says that there is a lot of evidence against Kivimäki but pleaded not guilty. The defense hopes that the case will be examined thoroughly. At the end of February Julius Kivimäki was arrested in France and brought to Finland.

Aleksanteri Kivimäki was to be arrested as a suspect of data break, although the defense resisted imprisoning. He was imprisoned for eight different criminal titles for instance a gross attempt at extortion, a gross data break and dissemination of information infringing private life.

Vastaamo's former CEO Ville Tapio says that the company's employees of the IT department concealed the data break because they wanted to cover up that they had made a mistake. District attorney Pasi Vainio says that in their activity they invested in growth not information security. Ville Tapio's lawyer Liina Kokko reported that Tapio denies his guilt of criminal activity. In the pretrial investigation Tapio shifted the blame to the necks of the other two people and according to them Tapio would have demanded that all information of the data break must hide from others.

One victim of the crime says that this process has aroused distrust to other people, the police and the judiciary. She is not alone with her feelings. Yle has collected information of the investigation process and got results from 41 victims and all of them were dissatisfied with police action. Victims have complained that the process is complex, and they have said that the informing has been unclear. One of the victims says that it feels like the case has not been taken seriously. She continues that the case has been traumatizing and they have been all alone with the process. The communication with the police has been minor. The superintendent says that the big amount of the victims is the reason behind not being contacted personally for instance by phone.

Tolvanen, the professor of criminal law, says that it arouses confusion when people don't know if their case is being handled or not. He continues that he understands the police's situation the case being unique. There are about 33 000 victims in this case and 10 600 of them have not made a police report. The detective inspector Sari Vähäniitty says that the processing of the criminal reports has taken four months of full-time work. Ville Tapio, the former CEO of Vastaamo, was sentenced to a three-month suspended prison sentence for a data protection crime. According to the law Tapio was a guilty of a data protection crime, because the information of the patients wasn't protected with decent passwords. Tapio and the district attorney have complained to the Court of Appeal.

Because of the big number of victims it is not possible for them to follow the trial in the court room, so they have been given a possibility to follow the trial in different places. One of the places has been a movie theater, which feels insulting to the victims.

Kivimäki's Lawyer Peter Jaari says that Kivimäki can't be associated with criminal acts. According to the defense the servers didn't belong to Kivimäki. Jaari says that the act has been made with virtual servers and logged in with a shared username. He also says that the charge is based on guessing. The District Attorney Pasi Vainio said that the prosecutors are opposing liberation of Kivimäki because there is a danger that Kivimäki would escape the trial. Prosecutors have demanded that Kivimäki serve a seven-year prison term, while the defendant has denied all the allegations. Kivimäki has also been placed on Europol's most wanted list just over a year ago.

A lawyer Jenni Raskio, who represents about 1,500 victims of the case says that the incident has almost made people commit suicide, people being afraid of change workplaces and some of the victims are unable to work. Raskio says that she has been thinking a lot of victim's position because in practice, the victim is left alone to survive.

To sum up the case Kivimäki is accused of a gross data break, spreading information that violates private life in almost 9600 cases, over 21 300 attempts at gross extortion and 20 aggravated extortions. The trial in the district court of Länsi-Uusimaa lasts until the end of February.

Johanna Vuori

Mental health in Finland

The current situation with mental health in Finland is terrifying. Especially after the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic the number of mental health problems has increased. Since 2022 mental health has been talked about in the government and the parliament. The government was aware that the pandemic caused for instance anxiety and alienation especially in the young but after the pandemic it has been a mystery for the government to understand where all these problems have come from. It is hard to solve the problem because there are not enough professionals and mental health services are strained.

People feel worse moment by moment. This can be noticed in human behavior and in the increasing amount of disablement. At present, adult women and the young have the worst situation. More and more suffer from common mental illnesses such as depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The government of Finland has promised to increase the amount of budget of mental health services, but current concern is that the resources of the state might not be enough. There are plenty of other aspirations that the state needs money for. It is under debate which aspiration is the most important and therefore mental health and everything that has something to do with it has come up.

What makes the situation even concerning is that the budget of the state is pretty tight at the moment. The government must cut the budget. It is feared that these cuts will direct to mental health services meaning that mental unwellness and inequality will likely increase.

Not only tightness of the budget and unwellness are massive problems but also the fact that psychiatric departments are strained. The departments are so strained that there are not enough places for each help-seeking patient meaning that most people suffering from mental health problems do not get the help they need and have to stay home.



During the past couple of years, several cases have been reported where mental health services have shown disregard towards help-seeking people. More and more are turned away from appointments and told to be in touch again if the situation gets worse. But though these people have been in touch again the same thing happens over and over again. This has led to loss of various human lives. Especially the lives of the young have suffered severely because of this kind of behavior. The matter has been researched and most of the psychiatric departments explain their decisions

with that people do not meet the criteria. Nevertheless, in most cases people have met the criteria. Some psychiatric departments have even said that people meet the criteria excessively. For instance, in substance abuser care caretakers have said that people seeking for help are too intoxicated to receive it. According to



Petteri Orpo is the Prime Minister in Finland and a part of the government. He has taken a stand on mental health.

research, mental health services make excuses why they do not take patients in because there is not enough space. This is exceedingly concerning since the amount of mental health problems increases constantly. The more people get turned away from the appointments the more the number of ultimate acts, such as suicide, increases.

The situation in Finland is not the worst yet if compared to European Union's situation because in some countries, such as Estonia, the situation is worse. But despite that Finland is close to the top of European Union's suicide statistics.

Schools in Finland offer help which is easily available. School curators, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses have promised that there will be time for each student. Although most students have experienced that these people help enough, some students need more help. Most school psychologists have said they are afraid of these students not getting more help due to lack of professionals and strained mental health services. School psychologists also say that even in short time this starts to affect not only students' personal lives but also their studies.



Sanni Suovanen

The cuts you don't know about

Extended foster care is becoming shorter after gaining an extension just three years ago. Back then the time of care was changed from twenty-one to twenty-five years. This was a part of an extensive reformatting of the foster care system. After the election of the new right-wing parliament, a new suggestion was made to shorten the time of care for a mere 24 billion saved. This amount of money could be saved from other sources. For example, the 4% tax reduction on gasoline costing the state nearly twice the amount, tax reductions in the higher earning brackets, and streamlining the processes in social work to minimize cost.

Extended foster care includes a multitude of professionals intended to support young adults. A personal social worker assigned to the customer makes an estimate on the need of support for every individual. Everyone in extended foster care also receive 500 euros worth of financial help intended for hobbies, and any costs emerging from further education are refunded. Those studying are not



required to raise a student loan, but are entitled to general income support, which other university students do not receive.

Also, other social services are facing less funding, for example affordable housing, receiving adult social services, outreach youth work and workshop opportunities. All of these are crucial services for young adults attempting to gain a foothold in life. The law suggests that the young adults that will go longer receive extended foster care should take advantage of these other services. The glaring problem here being that there simply is no way to reliably get assistance when adult social work is experiencing serious staff shortages and lack of funding.

During the discussion of this new law, only three members of majority parliament were present, and did not use their time to make many statements. This also reflects the other vice poorly constructed law proposal, which only takes into account the money saved, rather than the long-term effects. Such as, the real confusion and extra work this new law would cause for social workers and young adults.

The Finnish Ombudsman for Children, an authority meant to defend the rights of children and young adults, made a statement regarding the new law. While it does not explicitly condemn the new law, it brings up the lackluster preparation, the bad law creating etiquette and the consequences of the new law to those who are truly affected. However, as the name says, the Ombudsman for children prioritizes underage people. This is presented in the statement in the form of suggestions to direct funding toward preventative foster care, so no child would need to be taken from their homes in the first place.

The new oppressing laws have caused upraise in the general population, and multiple protests have been made to pressure the parliament to take back their ludicrous legislative proposals. There has been also talk about disassembling the current majority parliament because of their extremist views and poor political etiquette so far.

The new right-wing parliament of Finland is dead set on pushing those with the least even deeper into the ditch. Young people in need of social services are especially vulnerable due to already existing marginalization, and today's politicians have made clear just how little they care. No one deserves to live with the gnawing doubt of whatever will do to get through tomorrow, if that day even comes.

Remy Hämäläinen

Driving school

This year most of Finland's driving schools are in distress, because of growing popularity of driving instruction permit. In the last five years driving instruction permits have doubled their popularity because they are the cheapest option for many. On average basic driving school costs are about 1500€, so for many about 200€ for a driving instruction permit which includes the permit, emergency brake and necessary mirrors for teacher.

Because of this many driving schools are in the red and in smaller towns many instructors have quit their jobs. Also, chairman of the Finnish driving school association Timo Suominen is concerned. Not only because of grown popularity of driving instruction permits, but also because of new law reform which removed the need to inspect the emergency brake. About 2000 driving tests can't be taken because of improperly installed emergency brakes or because the student is missing necessary documentation.

Part of Kokemäki High School students answered my questions on driver's education. 48% of those who answered took opportunity completing driver's education whit Driving instruction permit and only 35%

chose Driving school. Main reason for most of them is that they get to drive more without any extra payments. Only 13% chose both.

- Driving school
- Driving instruction permit
- Driving school and driving instr...
- I didn't take driver's education



Hermann Ruohonen

Fur farming



Fur farming is the raising of animals in a shelter in order to obtain fur from them. Among other things, minks, blue foxes, silver foxes, sable dogs and chinchillas are bred at the fur farms.

Despite breeding, domesticated animals have the same instincts and needs as their wild relatives: moving, hunting, swimming with minks, digging with foxes, defending territory, mating, taking care of puppies and maintaining social relationships specific to the species.

Already in 2001, the scientific committee of the European Union strongly criticized fur farms. According to it, animals in shelters cannot fulfill their behavioral needs, and they are not domesticated. Lack of domestication causes constant fear and stress in animals.

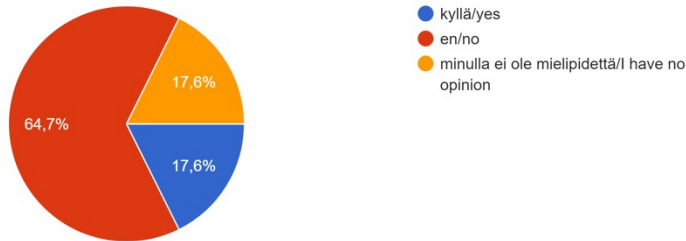


A survey was conducted about fur farming, in which 17 anonymous students from Kokemäki High School participated. The survey mainly consisted of multiple-choice questions, the answers to which were required to provide reasons.



Kannatatko turkistarhausta/ Do you support the fur farming?

17 vastausta



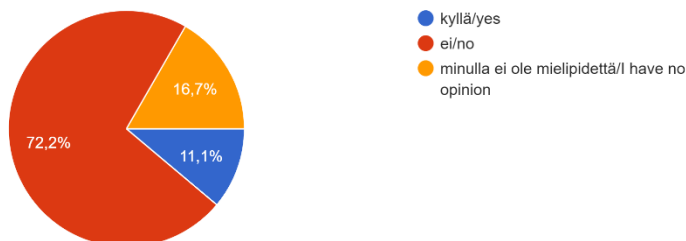
Based on the answers, the majority of respondents were against the fur farm. The main reasons for the opposition were the poor conditions of the animals and the possibility of diseases spreading. Also, nowadays we no longer need fur to make warm clothes.

However, 17.6% of the respondents were not against the fur farm and the same 17.6% could not express their opinion on the matter. Proponents of fur farming justified their position, for example, by saying that we humans need something warm to wear, in which case fur is a good material for clothing. Supporters were also of the opinion that animal rights are fulfilled.

In the second Multiple Choice question, the question was raised as to whether the animal rights stipulated in the law are executed in the fur farm.

Täyttyvätkö laissa säädettyt eläintenoikeudet turkistarhauksessa mielestäsi? In your opinion, are the animal rights stipulated in the law fulfilled in the fur farm?

18 vastausta



Based on research and other news, it can be said with certainty that animal rights are not executed, but still some of the respondents were of the opinion that the rights are executed as stipulated in the law. Among other reasons, the argument that farm animals such as minks do not have the same rights as, for example, pets.



To quote the argument of one of the survey respondents: "Minks are considered harmful animals to Finnish nature and people because of the diseases they spread, we feel that their living conditions do not matter much."

In Finland, there have been many citizen initiatives regarding fur farming to ban them by law, and the subject is currently being discussed in the parliament. On the "Rights for animals" website, there is an opportunity to sign a petition so that the Finnish

administration bans fur farming immediately.

A bird flu epidemic is spreading in Finnish fur farms, which causes concern about the possibility of a new global pandemic. In Denmark, during the corona pandemic, fur farming was temporarily banned due to the high risk of disease in the farms. Finland must now do the same and ban fur farming immediately without a transition period. Fur farming is not only ethically reprehensible, but also extremely risky for society as a whole.

In addition to the fact that fur farming is secondary to human needs and causes unnecessary suffering to animals, it is also problematic from an environmental point of view. When the manure and urine of fur animals accumulate under the cages, eutrophic and acidifying nitrogen, phosphorus and ammonia compounds can be released into the environment, which causes, among other things, water pollution and damage to trees.

Karoliina Kivenmäki

Bad working conditions in Zara

Zara is a popular clothing brand and according to Yle it is a part of clothing giant Inditex, whose other trademarks are for instance Pull & Bear, Bershka and Massimo Dutti. In Finland company's action has been narrowly victorious but during the pandemic it made defeat. Lately Zara has been on the surface about its bad working conditions.

A warehouse worker Tarik Pinarli told Yle what it is like to work at Zara. He says that he applied for a job because he knew that Zara applies employees who are not able to speak Finnish. Now he is thinking that as a result of the article he will be smoked out, but he continues that he doesn't care. According to the article it is said that Zara is led by fear and abuses its employees. Also, the former department head Aalto says that the leading culture in Zara is based on understatement and intimidation. According to Terveystalo's report a bad working organization causes a significant or even unbearable occupational health risk. All the 12 employers that Yle interviewed said that burnout and psychosomatic stress symptoms are an epidemic-like phenomenon in the work community.

Pinarli says that there are constantly new friendly people and then they just burn out and leave. He continues that this is a sad place to start working life. The Regional state Administrative Agency inspected Zara last autumn and found illegal deficiencies and noted that working in the company's boutiques burdens employees' health remarkably. The company's biggest problems are too big an amount of work, unrealistic aims, communication problems among workers, disrespectful treatment and abuse. According to occupational health care the employer must be sure that the employees have prerequisites to perform work tasks and decrease the amount of work if it is necessary. One significant sign of bad working conditions in Zara is that the store manager in the boutique in Aleksanterinkatu has changed five times in a year.

All the employers interviewed by Yle said that Management's visits are at least uncomfortable or at worst traumatizing experiences. The employers are saying that the leaders come there and are complaining about untidiness and messiness. Usually at the end of the visit someone is crying. Other employers are saying that the management tries to humiliate employers by trying to make them cry in front of other employers. According to Tarik Pinarli it is not easy to get fired from Zara, but they can make employees' lives hard and put pressure on their necks until they resign. Yelling and intimidation are part of working in Zara. You can become shouted at and a written warning if you make even a little mistake. Yle has seen some messages where the management of the chain is speaking aggressively. Yle tried also to reach Zara's Finnish and Nordic leaders by phone, but they declined to be interviewed.

Zara's internal health survey was made in summer of 2023 and 19 of 60 employees in Aleksanterinkatu responded to the survey. The survey shows that 95 % of the employees feel that the amount of work is too big, 85 % say that the conflict situations are not solved matter-of-factly and 55 % have faced disrespectful treatment. The Regional state Administrative Agency has intervened in the situation and will do a follow-up check in two of Zara's boutiques during this year.

There are many ways an authority can intervene in a company's action if there are problems. For instance, the regional state Administrative Agency can give an exhortation or an obligation if some shortcomings in the company's activity are noticed. If the company doesn't change its action despite the obligations and exhortations the occupational health and safety authority can oblige the employer to take action and impose a penalty. If there is a reason to suspect a crime, the occupational safety and health officer has to report an offence. The work environment expert Erika Kähärä is worried about the low-paying industry favored by juveniles. She says that she recognizes the situation when the employer is moving into the grey area. This might not break the law but there are noticeable shortages.

To sum up, bad working conditions have caused many mental and physical problems. Abusing and disrespectful treatment makes the work traumatizing and stressful, which explains the phenomenon where employees are constantly burning out and feeling that the amount of work is too big.

Johanna Vuori

The impact of shortage of staff in the education sector on young people

The shortage of staff increases in the western countries all over different sectors, the reason is well-known. Although poorly paid jobs might be a big factor, it is not the only one. The average birth rate for Europe has decreased in the last decades and is under 2,1 since 1975. 2,1 is the minimum birth rate needed for a population to reproduce itself. (*bpb.de*) In the following we can see that the younger generations are not as strong as the older generations, which means we have a bigger retired part of the population and not enough people working and doing all the jobs. But no other sector is affected more critically than the social sector is. It starts with too few daycare places and schools shutting down from time to time because there is not enough staff available. But it goes on with greater consequences such as hospitals deciding who they treat or not, deciding about life and death. An ethically difficult question. This goes also for mental health facilities, and this in times of increasing suicidal attempts and thoughts among young people. (*faz.net*) Times of increasing suicidal attempts and thoughts among young people? Could this be connected to school somehow? Kerstin Boller thinks so. In an article on the German "jugenhilfeportal.de" she has written about the topic and suggested parents as well as teachers to look better, especially after holidays. (*jugendhilfeportal.de*) But how can we expect teachers to look after each student in their class as an individual, when we have class sizes of about 30 students. And as this would not be enough, it has already become an everyday occurrence that schools have to cancel lessons because they do not have a teacher for

it. So how does the shortage of staff in schools affect young people? Dipl. psychologist Claudia Lucka, currently working in the school psychological counselling centre in Stuttgart, was ready to comment on the topic:

What impact does the shortage of teachers have on children/young people, and what can you see of this as school psychologists?

It may result in not learned basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic. As a consequence, they are denied (social) participation. Everyday life things, which seem quite easy, like shopping, paying bills etc. are growing to insuperable tasks to people who have never learned those basics. The reasons for this can be for example a lack of talent, additional things like ADHD (lack of ability to concentrate), an early school entry or not being ready for school so far. Because they often can't finish their tasks in school, they get them as additional homework. After a school day filled with frustration because they realise that they can't do it, they have to do the same after school at home. The responsibility for good education is shifted to the parents, because the teachers do not have the capacity for difficult students. Now we are at the point where education depends a lot on the parental home. But not only students with learning difficulties are left behind. Gifted students can't be supported by the teachers in the way they need. Often they are doing the same simple tasks over and over again, as a consequence they are bored and might lose motivation for school. This can go so far that we have students who refuse to go to school at all. Young people can't receive individual support by the teachers because classes are too big, and teachers are working over their limit. And again, students having a parental home in a good financial situation have higher chances to get better education. They are more likely able to afford additional private tuition or even a private school, which often have smaller classes and more teachers. And even they can't afford those, parents with one job can support their children better than parents with three jobs. Additional problems can be caused by conflicts among different ethnic groups such as Bosnia – Serbia and Russia – Ukraine. It is impossible for teachers to support every student in the way needed in a class of 30 students under those circumstances. Teachers should set an example for students, show them different ways and opportunities, especially for those whose parental home is failing. It is important to show young people that someone is interested in them. But building up a good relationship needs time. Time the overworked teachers do not have. To put it bluntly: we are producing "little school shooters" by young people who feel abandoned and left behind by everyone. That worries me because they are so many. And one is enough to cause a lot of damage. We have a lot of young people in counselling who cannot believe someone really wants to hear how they are. They are thinking it does not matter what they tell us. They have never made the experience that someone really cares about them and is interested in them. That they are important and that they are good in something.

What impact is the teacher shortage having on existing teachers, and what can you see of this as school psychologists?

Teachers consider several times whether they stay at home when they are sick or not, because they know that it will be more stressful for the other teachers when they cannot make it to school. Teachers go to school even they are sick or come back too early instead of taking their time to recover. Because they know it would cause more stress for the others they go over their limits for a long time. But this behaviour causes in many cases burnout which needs a long time to heal or will not heal at all in some cases, so teachers are absent for a longer time or even for ever because they do not take care of themselves. Furthermore, more and more tasks are being transferred to teachers. We know what good education needs, but it is not done by putting all the tasks on the shoulders of the teachers. They would need more relief, for example for all the organization stuff. We have so many teachers in counselling who do not know where to start, because they have so much to do. Or there are schools having so much trouble to find teachers, so they enact a clause that the teachers they get cannot request a transfer to another school if for example they do not fit into the team, or the working atmosphere is horrible for them. Which again leads to more stress when you cannot

find a solution. We had for example a teacher, who was bullying the other teachers in the team. The school authority was just saying they must have sympathy with the teacher. But the whole team was suffering from that. Out of 10 of the teachers, we have still 3 in counselling. They even have gathered a lot of material against that one teacher, but the school authority is not willing to act. But those 3 teachers are all at their limit, so sooner or later they will take a sick leave. Which is absolutely not helpful and actually, it would be up to the school authority to act for the wellbeing of their teachers in this situation. But back to the point, the fact that teachers cannot choose their working environment themselves increases the stress, which in turn leads to an increased shortage of teachers. And not only teachers and students are suffering from this, also the parents, who see how bad their kids are doing in school and who cannot even do anything because of the obligation to attend school, their children have to go anyway.

"We know what good education needs, but it is not done by putting all the tasks on the shoulders of the teachers."

What impact does the shortage of school psychologists have at this point?

Well, that depends on who you ask whether we have a shortage here or not, but we have an average of 5439 students and 350 teachers per school psychologist, the World Health Organisation recommends one school psychologist for 2500 students maximum. But it means for us that we have more cases per school psychologist. We had in the last year one third more cases than the years before. We can see the corona pandemic arriving now in our cases. We have now a lot of students who refuse to go to school at all, and they won't even get their school-leaving certificate. And our main task, the crisis, so I would say we have also more and above all more severe crises than in the past years. I do not know the exact numbers for it, but we had for example in the last year many student suicides, which we did not have that often before. All this let us go beyond our limits as well. We have the advantage that our busy times are linked to school time, so we can shift some tasks like writing the reports or doing the giftedness tests into the holidays, but there are also many cases we cannot do during the holidays. When we do for example a coaching method with a bullying victim, then the person must go to school next day to realise that in practice. If we would do that in the beginning of the summer holidays, it is already forgotten when the person goes back to school. But to come back to the question, we can see that there is not much time to read some background information about topics we do not deal regularly with, and we only know a bit about. So the training and working quality suffers as a result. And I have the feeling that more cases are coming back to us, but also that the cases have grown more complex. I have more cases where I think it is something clinical. Actually, we must say that is not our task anymore to deal with and send them to a therapist. But I have talked with an old colleague of mine who has now an own practice, and she told me she has now over a year waiting time for new clients. And what should we do if we cannot get them a therapist? To sum it up, we have more complex and severe cases and more sectors are affected, so the processing time increases, which tends to lead to us being overworked.

But of course you can also imagine what happens if you don't hire enough employees.

Even though it seems not worth caring about to apparently many people, we should ask ourselves what it means to ignore the situation. By neglecting the youth, we also put our own future at risk. The young people will have to take care of us one day. Keep this in mind.

Jannik Lucka

The rise of sustainable Fashion

Fast fashion has gained popularity in recent years. However, there's also a growing awareness and movement towards sustainable fashion. Many people are becoming more conscious of the environmental and social impact of fast fashion and are actively seeking out alternatives that are more sustainable and ethical.



What is sustainable fashion?

It is fashion that is ethically made and environmentally friendly. Clothes are created and consumed in a way that can be sustained while protecting both the environment and those producing garments.

Sustainable clothing is made using biodegradable components from natural or recycled fibers. Natural materials are grown without pesticides or fertilizer use. They consume less energy and water, and also employ no chemical treatment thus reducing the overall carbon footprint.

Sustainable fashion is marketed in a responsible and conscious way that acknowledges and accounts for their environmental and socioeconomic impacts

How can we make our fashion more sustainable?

There are many ways to become more sustainable and you can also be sustainable in all stages of the producing product, materials, manufacture, packing, and transportation.

- Materials

First materials, what materials are sustainable and the ones you should use? The most known one is wool. Wool is renewable, durable and biodegradable, which makes it a sustainable fabric. Also, some sheep farmers use techniques that sequesters carbon from the atmosphere to reduce environmental impact. Pineapple 'leather' is made using waste materials. Its production is much more sustainable than normal leather and it is also animal-free. Production also requires less water and no harmful chemicals have been used. There are still a few more like linen, better cotton, lyocell and other natural fibres that are also classified as sustainable. Also using fabrics that are dyed using natural dyes are more sustainable than the ones that are dyed using artificial dyes.



Using biodegradable materials like hemp or bamboo increases sustainability because it can help reduce the fashion industry's water usage and contribute to more sustainable water management practices. This is because materials like bamboo require less water than traditional cotton.

Recycled materials are an excellent way to increase sustainability and are more eco-friendly. Making products from recycled materials reduces useless waste. It also saves energy and materials since there is no need to make new fabrics.

- Manufacture

How can you manufacture clothes more sustainably? One important thing is to use renewable energy for production. Good options for renewable energy are for example solar and wind. Renewable energy also has plenty of benefits such as zero emissions.

Another aspect is ensuring fair labor practices and supporting ethical working conditions throughout the supply chain. There are several steps brands can take to achieve this. Fashion companies can partner up with suppliers who prioritize fair labour practices and provide safe working environments. They can also collaborate with organizations that certify ethical manufacturing practices, such as Fair Trade or Wrap. When fashion brands actively engage in these measures, they can create better working conditions for their workers.

- Packing

Packing is also an important part of fashion. When packing the products, it would be best to use eco-friendly materials in the package. For example, using card boxes to back the products is more ecological than packing them in plastic.

- Transportation

The worst pollution comes from transportation emissions, so it is super important to reduce them to become more sustainable brand. There are a few strategies that fashion companies could take to reduce their transportation emissions. One way is to optimize delivery routes to minimize mileage and fuel consumption. Two is to try to use as much as possible green transportation. Green transport is modes of transportation that do not negatively impact the environment. These modes rely on renewable sources such as wind and solar energy. Green transportation reduces fossil fuels since it uses other energy sources that do not involve fossil fuels.

- Partner with sustainable organization and agencies

Partnering with sustainable organizations and agencies is a great way to increase sustainability. Since they can provide guidance and expertise on sustainable practices, helping brands to make more sustainable choices. Collaborating with organizations and agencies can create awareness and promote sustainable practices within the fashion industry as a whole. There are plenty of organizations that brands can collaborate with. Fashion Revolution which advocates for transparency and ethical practices in the fashions industry. There is also Textile Exchange which focuses more on promoting sustainable and responsible fiber and materials sourcing. Among these there are also, Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Fair Trade Certified, GOTS, and many more. There are also many agencies that work with brands. Eco-Age is a sustainable fashion agency that offers consultancy services to help brands adopt sustainable strategies and communicate their sustainability efforts effectively. There is also Ethical Fashion Initiative which connects brands with artisans and producers in developing countries. In addition to these there are also Remake, Fashion Revolution, and others.

How can you identify brands that produce sustainable fashion and those that don't?

In Vogue India there was published an article "Vogue's ultimate guide to sustainable fashion" written by Emily Chan on April 12th, 2021. This article had a text that I quoted; "Considering the number of factors involved, there are still too few brands out there currently tackling all of these complex issues". By this the writer means that there are too few sustainable fashion brands.

Fashion brands often face challenges in becoming sustainable due to various factors. One being that the fashion industry has traditionally prioritized fast fashion production, low prices and constant trend turnover. This leads to overconsumption, excessive waste and unethical labor practices. For example, focusing on quick production and low prices, which can lead to harmful environmental and social impacts. Additionally, implementing sustainable practices requires significant changes in supply chains, production methods, and consumer behavior. It can be challenging for brands to strike a balance between sustainability and profitability while also meeting consumer demands.

However, there are many fashion brands that are making efforts to become more sustainable by using eco-friendly materials, promoting ethical practices and embracing circular fashion. And it is important for consumers to support these brands and choose sustainable fashion options whenever possible.

Sustainable brands

The best way to know if a brand is sustainable is if they have the green certification. Various certifications have been developed to spot sustainable fashion. There are certifications for material sourcing and environmental aspects, one for labour standards and trade, also one for animal welfare. All of the sustainable fashion certifications can be found on the internet. And those are the certifications you shall look for in clothing. These certifications are given by different agencies after the companies have proven that their products meet the criteria required for them.

Sustainable companies should be transparent and consistent with their mission and purpose. This means that companies should share the information about their labour practices and the manufacturing process of the product. If this type of information is available on the brand's website, it would be good to read it since that tells you if the brand or the products are sustainable. It would be also good to check if the brand is either carbon neutral or carbon positive. Carbon neutral means that greenhouse gas emissions are equal to zero and carbon positive means that the brand is going beyond this, making additional contributions to the environment.

Not sustainable brands

If you want to know if a brand is sustainable, I recommend reading the brands websites. If you cannot find information of purpose and mission, the brand might not be sustainable. Since, the brand should share this kind of information on their website. The brands that don't share information of how their products are made usually means they're not producing the product in a sustainable way.

Also, If the brand does not have any certifications means that they do not fill any requirements for those certifications. So, they are not either making the product sustainably or they are not using sustainable materials for the products.

Green washing

While discussing sustainable fashion we can't forget about greenwashing. Greenwashing is an attempt to capitalize on the growing demand for environmentally sound products. So basically, companies claim to have environmentally friendly products without evidence. Greenwashing deceives consumers into believing that when they buy a product, they are making a positive environmental impact which is not actually the truth.

Then how can you identify greenwashing? Most of the time greenwashing includes the use of terms such as eco-friendly, all-natural, pure and plant-based without certifications for these or any other explanation.

How can you make fashion choices more sustainable?



1. Buy less clothing and avoid buying 'useless' clothes.

Value what you buy, this means that you should think before you buy, and try to buy clothes you know you will wear multiple times and clothes that will look good on you and fit well. Avoid buying clothes just because you think they are cute. Buy clothes that fit your style and that you can style with your other clothes.

2. Shop for second-hand clothing.

Buying preowned clothing can make your wardrobe more sustainable. Also buying secondhand you can find clothes you truly like much cheaper than new.

3. Buy natural and organic.

Buying clothing made with organic or natural fabrics has many Earth-friendly benefits such as reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides. Also, it reduces the amount of microplastics in rivers and oceans that come from synthetic fibers. Natural alternatives to synthetic fabrics include cotton, bamboo, wool and many others. Avoid clothing made of materials such as polyester and acrylic, because these materials are made from petroleum which is a high emission fossil fuel.

4. Shop sustainable brands.

Choose ethical and sustainable brands that care about the environment, pay their workers fairly, and are transparent across their entire supply chain. Some clothing uses renewable energy and materials, but they still use unethical labour practices to make the clothing. So, to really make sure that the brand is sustainable is to do research on a brand before you buy from them.

5. Donate or sell unwanted clothing, don't throw it out.

If you have clothes that are still in good condition, don't throw them away. There are many places where you can either donate or sell your clothes. Great places to sell clothing are online second-hand marketplaces. Such as Tise which is an application invented in Norway where you can sell clothes and accessories. If you feel that you want to just get rid of some clothes, a good way to do so is donating them. There are multiple places where you can take your clothes for donation. Salvation Army and Red Cross organization are great to donate clothes for since the clothes go for people in need. Also, there is the Finnish organization UFF which you can also donate your clothes for.

Embracing these sustainable practices, fashion brands can make a positive impact on the environment and society. By making fashion sustainable, we are one step closer to saving the world and ensuring a better future for the next generations.

Vilma Ekberg

Upcoming commuter train traffic all around Finland

The Finnish train traffic company known as VR is getting some competition for their commuter train services, because another company called *Suomen Lähijunat OY* has bought some old commuter trains from VR and is planning on starting their own commuter train services by 2025.

Antero Alku, the managing director has said that after renovating and modernizing the trains, they will provide consistent commuter train traffic to places where it hasn't existed before. The company originally planned a route between Salo, Turku and Uusikaupunki to receive this service. However, according to the new plan, several other cities are now going to have routes for commuter traffic, including these: Seinäjoki, Vaasa, Kokkola, Oulu, Jyväskylä, Kuopio, Joensuu, Kouvola, Lappeenranta, Imatra, Tampere, Pori and Rauma. The company has thought that more populated areas would have commuter trains leaving with 30-minute intervals and smaller places with around 2-hour intervals.

What makes all of this possible is an EU-regulation that opens the rail traffic working under the monopoly in Finland. EU requires grounds for an equal competition on the market and also encourages the growth of the railway traffic. On top of that, increasing commuter train traffic helps reduce climate emissions.

Even though VR and Suomen Lähijunat OY are technically competitors, they still have the same goal: increasing train traffic. Both companies are satisfied with the transaction of the old trains and VR supports the idea of increased competition and the opportunity for cities to develop their commuter train traffic in their own area. Antero Alku believes that there will be more competitors in the future, for example from foreign countries since Finland has the potential for it.

This commuter train service is exceptionally huge for the city of Rauma. There have been no passenger trains that have gone to or through Rauma since 1988. Rauma is an important city for the people of Satakunta, and a consistent way to get in and out of there without a car certainly would not hurt.

Not all people travel by train, because of the currently limited routes and the fact that the departing times of the trains don't match with people's schedules. The commuter trains could help by adding brand new routes that can take you pretty much anywhere and reducing the time you must wait between trains. And who knows, maybe this could do wonders for train travelers' wallets too? Either way, only time will tell what is to come of this project, but of course most people are probably hoping it would have a positive impact in people's lives.

Niklas Virtanen

Queers have always been in Finland

The Finnish Broadcasting Company produced an informative documentary on the history and current life of Finnish LGBTQ+ people, proudly proclaiming that it would be a warm and honest program that wouldn't fetishize or ask inappropriate questions. Mainstream media outlets have been notorious for misrepresenting and mischaracterizing the community since the dawn of TV. There has been appropriate worry for the message this new program sends to the general public. Will it backtrack the progress the queers have managed to push for in Finland?



The episodes are narrated by known social media personas, who have built a part of their media presence on the back of their minority status, such as the singer Benjamin, or the YouTuber Henny Harjusola. The show starts more or less in the 60's, telling the story of the first Finnish queer people who managed to get their moment in the limelight.

There is honest conversation about the rocky life of those people who had to endure the hardships of being a queer person in a world where they were labeled as sick, deranged, perverted and dangerous. The show displays many locations mainly in the Capital area that have been crucial to the queer culture and traditions in Finland. The parks, clubs, beaches and the dangers of going there. Even to this day there is a nagging in the back of every partygoer, the shadows in the street corners, someone nice offering a drink of unknown origin.

Most of the people interviewed for the show are either figures with deep roots in activism over decades, or popular in the social media sphere. There has been talk of the inclusion of just every day queer people, as well as younger individuals. The youngest of the interviewed people was Aaron Luokkala at 22-years-old. Even though this is included in the definition of a young person, the complete lack of teenagers is noticeable.

The show is especially interesting to queer youth, who never lived the history the people are talking about in the interview sections. The clubs and parties, the culture, are all just something you may hear an elder in the community talk about, if you have those people in your close circle that is. We get to see all those

people who came before us, who fought for the rights we have today. Nowadays we don't even think about such thing as suggesting homosexual acts to people as illegal.

There is a myriad of other topics the show goes over. The intersection of BIPOC and queer culture in Finland, the rights of families diverging from the social expectation of a nuclear family. These are topics that can only be judged by those directly involved in them, and thus the in-depth criticism shall be left to those parties.

All in all, the show is fairly informative, even though it also leaves out many smaller subsections of the queer umbrella. The mentions of polyamorous, aromantic or asexual, the wide range of genders and sexualities, are either completely absent or small. Despite its shortcomings, the show is worth watching for those who want to learn more about the history of queer people in Finland.

Remy Hämäläinen

Why do people gamble?

Gambling (i.e. playing games of chance for money) dates to the time even before written history. Nowadays gambling is strictly controlled and even banned in several countries, but those restrictions have not succeeded on stopping people from losing money to casinos and betting. Actually, during the age of internet gambling has become easier and more addictive than ever. The real question is why is it so popular even though everyone knows that the house always wins?

Most importantly every gambling house aims to make their games as addictive as possible. It might be unethical, but their only goal is to make you lose as much money as possible. Flashing lights, sound effects and "near misses" are meant to make you continue playing and in the "best case scenario" you eventually lose your sense of time. The more you play the more house wins.



One of the most popular and probably fastest growing forms of gambling is betting. The internet has definitely affected gambling as a whole but the effects on betting have been the biggest. People have bet for hundreds of years but until now, it has not been possible to do it from your own sofa with your friends while watching the match at the same time. It makes following sports more interesting and is a great way to socialise. For example, many of my friends regularly bet on football and it is always fun to talk about it with them. Maybe losing money doesn't feel that bad if your friends lose, too.

Another popular way to gamble is playing in online casinos. Those games are even more about pure luck than betting because you have almost no way to affect the outcome of the game. Web casinos often have huge prizes to lure more players, but they are built in a way that makes losing everything more likely than winning anything. However, many gamblers like casinos and it might be just because they have those "high-risk high reward" games. Human mind naturally looks for risks and the sad truth is that some people play because they believe that gambling is the only way to fund their life.

I spoke for three friends of mine about gambling and found out that every one of them at least bets and none of them have lost or won significant amounts of money. However, they all said that they would never recommend any form of gambling to anyone. I wondered why on earth would they do something they could not recommend to others and asked them about it. Apparently, they think that gambling is fun and

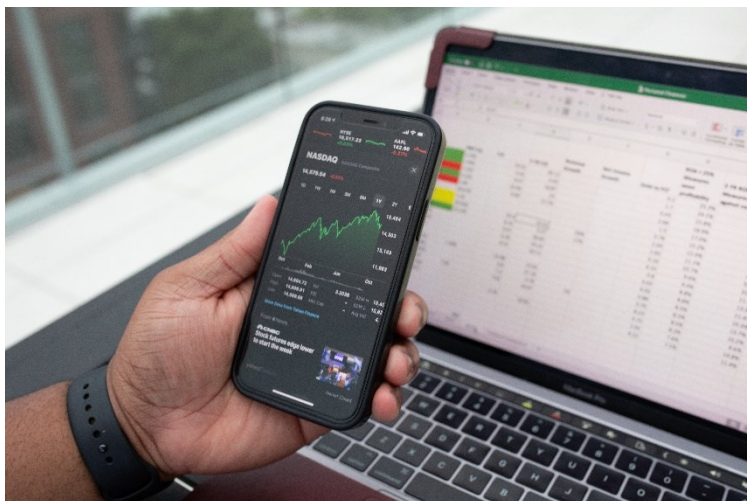
enjoyable but as Niklas said it could also become addictive and destroys one's life, which is why they wouldn't recommend it despite it being entertaining.

In conclusion, gambling gives some people much joy but might be very harmful for others. If you gamble, please do it in a responsible way.

Juho Oksa

A well awaited so-called “January phenomenon” struck again

The economical phenomenon named “January phenomenon” takes place basically without exception every year. It means that the best performing stocks are the ones that were the least performing stocks last year. It's widely acknowledged among investors, but for an average person it may be an unfamiliar concept. Even though it is well-known anomaly, it unfortunately surprises many oversight people. This is one of the most important in-depth facts to keep in mind when investing. Even though this doesn't matter for long-term investors, it's still a useful thing to know just to understand its' effects to the stock market.



This phenomenon has also showed that January is often one of the best months in the stock market, if investors observe this and don't make mistakes caused by that. All in all, January is mostly good for investors. Even though this causes many abnormalities, January has usually been an exceptionally good month for investors. That's why the January phenomenon isn't really a negative thing.

As usual in the economics and investing, there are multiple reasons which causes the January phenomenon. This situation shows that the stock market isn't always fully efficient, just like any other industry. “If the stock market was always stable and fully efficient, this kind of aberrances shouldn't happen” says community builder Antti Järvenpää. The most repetitive reasons that professionals and analytics give are taxation and the high hopes for stocks to pick up. Investors tend to sell stocks that are losing to utilize them in taxation. That causes big sales pressure which makes the stocks in hand to go down veritably much.

About 2/3 of all stocks in OMXH25 are in rise at the moment. The biggest fallers are typically small companies. The reasons for this is their weak liquidity and the larger changes in supply and demand caused by it. According to Seppo Saario and his book, estimately 78% of stocks in OMXH25 will rise in January every year. The January phenomenon strikes so strongly to Nasdaq Helsinki, because it consists of internationally relatively small companies.

This phenomenon is repetitive, so we can always wait for it to happen. Some takes acts to use it to their advantage, but for the most part investors wait for it to end and hope for the best. As said it's important to understand it and know how it'll affect the market, but for an average investor there's no point doing short-term playing with the stocks as that often may go the wrong way. Investing, in the end, is long-term saving, and usually the best way to invest is to do it with a long time frame without further thoughtless moves. Stock market can always surprise with its unpredictability and the January phenomenon is no exception. It may come earlier than expected and vice versa. That's why people shouldn't count too much

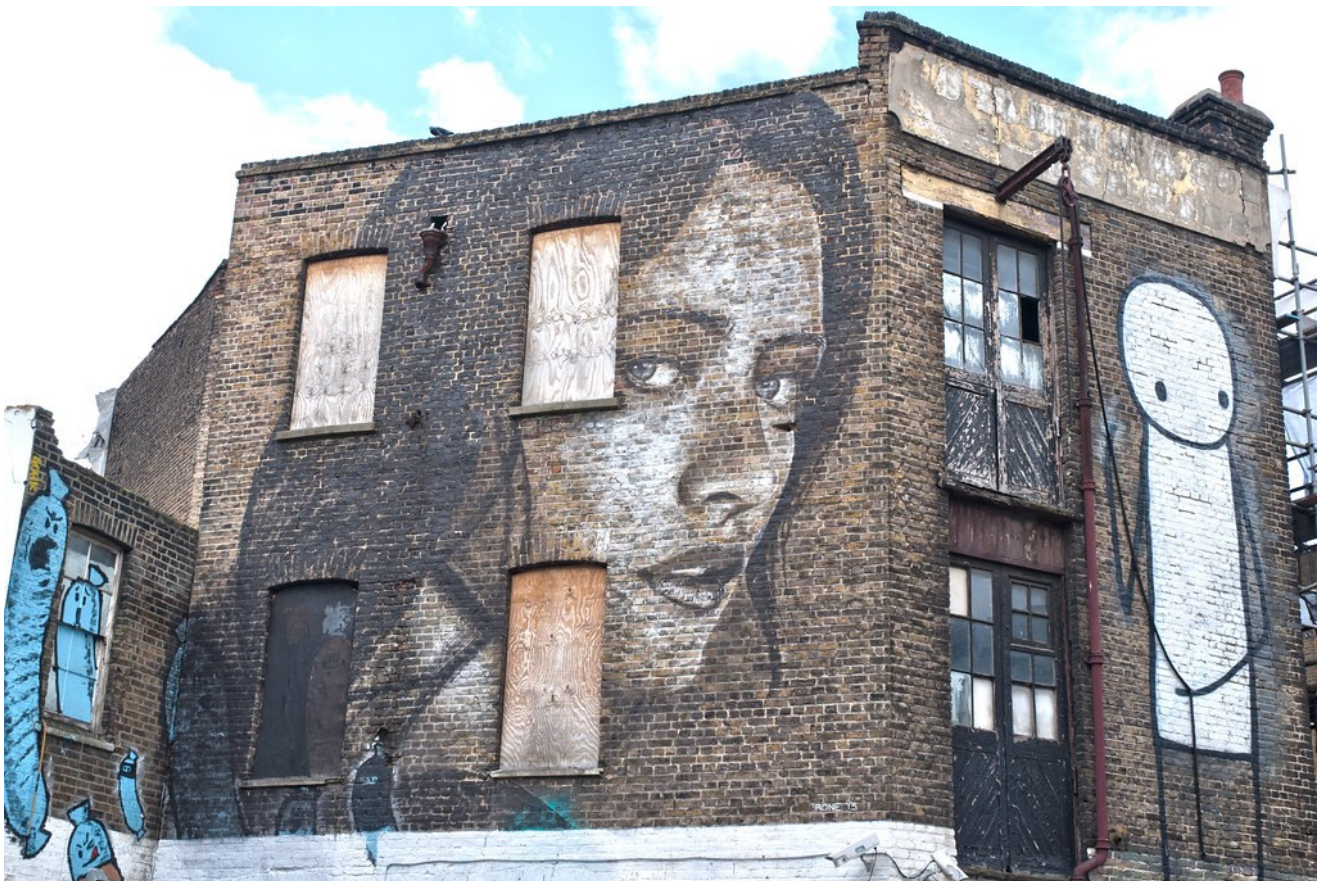
on it and often the most efficient way to prepare for it is to acknowledge the situation but not start “playing” with the stocks.

Juho Lindholm

CULTURE, HISTORY & PSYCHOLOGY

The fascinating world of street art and urban culture

Street art is one of the largest art movements and it has gained great popularity. It is still growing as a form of art and is displayed in public, on buildings, on streets, trains and other publicly viewed surfaces. You can also find street art in urban areas such as highway overpasses and under bridges. Many pieces are created in the form of guerrilla art, which means to convey a message connected to political ideas or social commentaries. Artists usually intend to make a personal statement about the society that they live in, in their art. This has often been implemented using different elements combined with painting. But not all street art involves painting, for example stickers.



History of street art

Officially street art began in the 1960s but drawing and painting on natural surfaces has existed since prehistoric times. For example, the first cave paintings were made over 64 000 years ago. Of course, the thing we call street art is very different than wall writings back then. The first appearances of graffiti

popped up in the 1920s and 1930s in New York City. These primitive graffiti were made by gangs marking their controlled territories during the war of infamous gangs.

In the 1960s in New York difficult times were experienced when it was on the brink of bankruptcy. Because of that there were many closed down factories and construction sites. These places became a perfect canvas for creative kids. This led to the development of a whole art form that started from a simple signature, and from that it evolved to murals that covered entire subway cars.

The New York Golden Age



In the 1970s New York, young people began to use spray paint and other materials on buildings and on subway trains. There happened the evolution of different styles, many street artists at that time would use pseudonyms and nicknames in a unique way. They used their original design to battle for people's attention. There is not much content from the early momentum of street artist communities since only a few captured the process. Marta Cooper was one of the few that captured it. In the 70s she started to document the New York street art and street artists. She has published a book about the development of the whole movement. The book is called Subway art, and it was published in the early 1980s. This book quickly became a style guide for graffiti artists in the USA as well as in Europe.

While street art gained popularity in the 1980s, it found its way into galleries and museums. Artists such as Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat saw that the street art scene gave credibility to such a realm, and they wanted to bring it to the fine art world. After that street art has secured position in the art world. It also became more validated, even though in some cities it is considered to be illegal.

Urban culture

Urban culture is basically the culture of towns and cities, places that have large population in a limited space that follows social norms. This has made it possible for subcultures close to each other to expose to social influence. Urban culture is a term that refers to the meanings, ways of life, and social practices associated with the modern city. The meaning of it is to embrace the dynamic nature of urban culture and its inherent complexities surrounding social dynamics and class interactions. By accepting it, you get more opportunities to grow as a person and become more emphatic towards others. You also gain valuable knowledge about the world around you.



Street art is a huge but also illegal part of urban culture. It connects to urban culture by capturing the essence of the city and its people through artistic expression. Street art often addresses social or political issues, giving a voice to marginalized communities and sparking conversations within the urban environment. Street art has the ability to transform neglected spaces into vibrant cultural hubs. It adds color and creativity and a sense of identity to the streets. This not only attracts tourists but also stimulates local business, contributing to the economic growth of the community.

Vilma Ekberg

Journalism

Is traditional journalism dying?

- What is journalism, the history of journalism

Journalism, the work of writing, collecting and publishing news.

Before mankind invented printing presses or written languages in general, we heavily relied on word of mouth which was also the main source of news for us. Travelers brought news with them to places they visited. People that heard the news would spread them to those around them and that's mainly how word got around.

Due to the printing press being invented, newspapers became the primary medium of journalism in the 18th century. During the next century in the 1800s newspapers became much more important and major national papers started to form such as the London Times, the New York Times and the Paris Temps.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_journalism

- Radio, TV, traditional media

With all sorts of electronics being developed during the 1900s, radio and TV also rose to be more common mediums alongside newspapers. Now in addition to reading news, you could also listen to the radio and watch TV that broadcast them.

In the very beginning of radio development in the 1800s it was just wireless telegraphy until later on it became a method of broadcasting. Analog television broadcasting began in the 1930s and by the end of the decade there were roughly 25,000 all-electronic television receivers worldwide.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_radio

- Journalism after the 2000s, after social media, how did social media affect journalism

As we stepped into the 2000s, the internet and social media changed the game for journalism since spreading information suddenly became faster and easier. News from all around the world was now accessible for everyone worldwide. For a lot of people social media and news from the internet became their main source of information instead of physical newspapers.

In addition, other mediums of traditional media such as radio and TV have also become less common after the rise of social media. Younger generations turn to social media to look for information or read news whereas older generations consume more radio, TV and newspapers. These mediums are no longer the only option for keeping up with the world since we can now pull out our phones or laptops whenever we want to read anything from anywhere at all times.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalism>

- Is journalism dying due to everything being on social media

Nowadays we still have both newspapers and news on social media, but is the traditional form of journalism going to be replaced by the rise of social media? Is there a need for physical newspapers and magazines in the future?

As the internet has become a very popular medium for reading news, many newspapers have started to offer their news online as well. They have all sorts of online subscriptions, so the people no longer have to have papers delivered to their houses. In addition, these physical papers have been around for centuries, and the older generations haven't grown up with social media.

Some people find traditional mediums more credible, and we are often taught to be critical with news we read on the internet. There are also a lot of fake news on social media because it's such a fast phased medium where nearly anyone can write anything. Can one be replaced by another?

Savanna Sudwikatmono, a student at Pepperdine University, wrote an essay in response to the following question: *"Can social media fully replace traditional media? What are some of the positives and negatives if it does?"* on March 4th of 2022. In her response, she wrote that traditional mediums such as print, radio and TV have yet to disappear to this day, even with the rise of social media, and in fact companies still spend money to promote their products on traditional media.

Sudwikatmono also stated that traditional and social media need each other to keep existing. Social media won't fully replace traditional media because of the need for journalistic credibility which is its strength. Credibility is a high priority in the media business and if traditional media can remain a more trustworthy medium, it can't be replaced by social media because people will continue to seek for credibility from traditional media.

Traditional media delivers messages through one-way communication to the largest audience it can reach but social media can be used for distributing these messages and it's also a tool for interaction. Both have a different purpose. Thus, one can't be replaced by the other if they are serving different purposes.

Reem Abdellatif, editor in chief of Argaam Plus, had a different approach at an industry debate to the question of "Traditional media is dead?"

She said at the beginning of her argument that traditional media is dying for several reasons and one main reason is that young people are forcing journalists to change how they communicate with them, because they want to be talked to not talked at. Traditional media, for example, newspapers and TV often talk at millennials and that's where we need a change.

Abdellatif also stated that there's no doubt that traditional platforms are dying, which is why they have to change their strategies. Everyone is adjusting their focus and budgets to adapt to digital media and not the traditional platforms.

<https://www.pfeifferlaw.com/entertainment-law-blog/is-traditional-media-dead>

<https://www.thegulfintelligence.com/mediafiles/cataloguedatasheet/601e8ba3-daae-4ad1-b68f-9e04fd6349e5.pdf>

- My opinion

In my opinion traditional journalism isn't dying, it's just changing. I don't think physical newspapers, radio or TV will be replaced by social media, because as long as they have demand, they will continue to exist. At least for now there still is such a big demand for these mediums that it's profitable for companies to continue offering them.

Older generations might not be too fond of big changes like social media and may just want to stay with what they are familiar with, and other people just like to listen to the radio while driving or drink coffee while reading the paper in the morning. Not everyone prefers social media no matter how much more effortless or fast phased it is which is exactly why traditional mediums still exist to this day.

Newspapers, TV or the radio aren't the same as they used to be decades ago, but how could they? The world is changing all the time and so is everything in it.

Susanna Valonen

Ancient cities found in the Amazon rainforest

The scale of the findings was revealed with a laser scanning. Ruins of even more massive and older cities have been found than ever before in the entire Amazon rainforest.

The people of an unknown culture built population centers and roads 2500 years ago, from which the remaining stepped platforms and ramparts were charted with the laser scanning made from the air. It was done in the valley of Upano at the roots of the Andes, Eastern Ecuador.

These ruins were already discovered in the 1970's, but the real scale of them came to light in research done in 2015. Although it has already been almost nine years, these results were published to everyone just recently, on the tenth of January 2024.

According to lead researcher professor Stéphen Rostain, the discoveries compare to the ruins of the Mayan cities in middle-America. There were numerous openly built "garden cities" and the researchers focused on the two hugest ones. By an estimation, tens of thousands of people lived in them.

It was long believed that only small tribes of hunter-gatherers lived in the Amazonia, even though the first Europeans exploring the area had said that they had witnessed agriculture and cities in the rainforest.

With the most recent findings, an estimated eight million people lived in the rainforest before the arrival of the Europeans. However, the diseases that came with them have killed a large portion of the aboriginal people in America.

The people have most likely perished or fled the cities due to volcano eruptions, though, because layers of volcanic ashes were found in the area. All of the items found by the researchers were around 1500 years old, meaning that the cities in the rainforest were abandoned long before any European set foot on the American continent.

Discoveries like these are always spectacular, giving us hints of what life could have been like thousands of years ago. It is also a miracle that these structures and different items have remained for this long, making us wonder, what kind of other traces of ancient civilizations we might find in the future. Perhaps they could originate from an even further point of time.

Niklas Virtanen

The golden age of pirates

The years 1690–1730 can be considered the golden age of pirates. The great wars of European countries were over, and the seas were once again full of merchant ships sailing between colonies. Ships in cargo in France, carrying a wide variety of supplies to Europe, were an easy target for pirates. Pirates were seen as enemies of all nations – according to the old law, pirates were without a homeland and nationality, meaning they were not protected by any law and therefore could be chased by anyone. The pirates responded to this by starting to rob ships regardless of the colors of the flag, even though the punishment was the gallows. So, if a pirate was captured, the death sentence always awaited them. However, this did not stop the pirates because they thought that life is short, and you have to make the most of it. Taking risks brought excitement to their lives.

Francis Drake was the first Englishman to sail around the world between 1577 and 1580. He pillaged every Spanish ship he encountered. Queen Elizabeth first financed the trip because Drake's raiding expedition undermined the power of Spain, which was competing with England. Usually, piracy was passed down from father to son. One pirate, John Hawkins, is actually Francis Drake's cousin. Hawkins became the chief architect of the Elizabethan Navy. He redesigned the navy so the ships were faster, more manoeuvrable and had more firepower. He was also a slave trader who kidnapped and sold over 300 African slaves to Spanish plantations in America.

Many pirates were either French or Dutch. So does the Dutch pirate Piet Pieterszoon Hein. Piet Hein was the son of a sea captain, and he became a sailor while he was still a teenager. At only 20 years old, Hein was captured by the Spanish and spent four years as a galley slave on a Spanish ship. He had to row long distances every day. He was released in the Spanish-Dutch prisoner exchange in 1602. After that Hein became the captain of a merchant ship and amassed a considerable fortune.

There were not many female sailors and it was believed that women at sea brought bad luck. However, there were a few, and the most famous female pirates were Anne Bonny and Mary Read. Usually, women did not become pirates, but if a woman found enough courage and a desire for adventure, nothing prevented her from becoming a pirate. The women fought the authorities on the deck of the ship while the famous captain John "Calico Jack" Rackham and his men hid below deck. They were better at robbery than most men and that is why they went down in history.

Old sailors considered women at sea to be sure symbols of bad luck. The reason for this fear was the mermaids, the sight of which meant certain destruction and shipwreck for the ship. Mermaids used their songs to lure ships into the bays, or cursed the ships so that they would never find a harbor again. The existence of mermaids has not been proven, as only about 5% of the oceans have been explored. There are several eyewitness accounts of mermaids. Even Christopher Columbus himself reported seeing mermaids near the island of Hispaniola during his voyage to discover America in 1493. According to the captain, their appearance did not correspond at all to the stories told about them. The most famous and feared pirate of all, Blackbeard, is said to have been so afraid of mermaids that he ordered his ship to navigate away from the "enchanted" waters where they were said to appear. Mermaids were also known to be greedy, and especially covet treasures acquired by cunning and deceit.

Pirates roamed the Baltic Sea between 1300 and 1800. However, piracy in the Baltic Sea has been different than elsewhere. For the most part, pirates waited in port so they could seize cargo from another ship. Piracy in the Baltic Sea has also been allowed when the order has come from the King of Sweden. In this case, there was no punishment for robbing merchant ships and therefore pirates were part of the general street scene in medieval Turku.

Danish and German pirates came to Finland's poor coastal villages in search of suitable young men who could join them on raids. The young Finnish men were helpful because they knew the waterways and knew how to sail through the shoals. Foreign pirates would not have been able to move in the Finnish archipelago without the help of the locals.

It is believed that the pirates had several bases in castles around Finland. Turku castle was one of the biggest bases. Bases were also located in Satakunta and one of them was the Aborch Castle (*Jokilinna*). There is no certain information about the location of the castle, but it is believed that it was built along the Kokemäki River between 1387 and 1395. It was demolished at the beginning of the 15th century.

Pirates may sound like fictional characters, but they still exist, even if the pirates no longer look the same or have the same fleet. Today, pirates mainly move in the waters of Africa and Asia. They invade large merchant ships at dawn with canoes. The transport of valuable cargo by sea has decreased since the 1990s, so the location of the attacks varies. In Callao, Peru, ships are robbed of valuable cargo in the port, while in Nigeria, attacks are carried out on the open sea. Their purpose is to rob ships and demand large ransoms with which they can buy villas and luxury cars.

At the end of December 2023, many large ships have had to interrupt their journeys due to pirate attacks. Ships have to go around Africa and cannot go through the Red Sea. The detour will take two or three weeks more than the original route. The pirates are well armed and they managed to rob several ships, for example a Danish ship.

Aava Lehtonen



Why learning psychology is important?

Studying psychology allows you to understand your own behaviour, emotions and ideas. The principals of psychology will allow you to assess, evaluate and provide solutions to all unwanted emotional situations. In short, psychology helps you better understand yourself and others. The insights you gain into motivations, thought processes, the influences of groups you interact with and many other aspects of human behaviour, will help with understanding situations you go through.

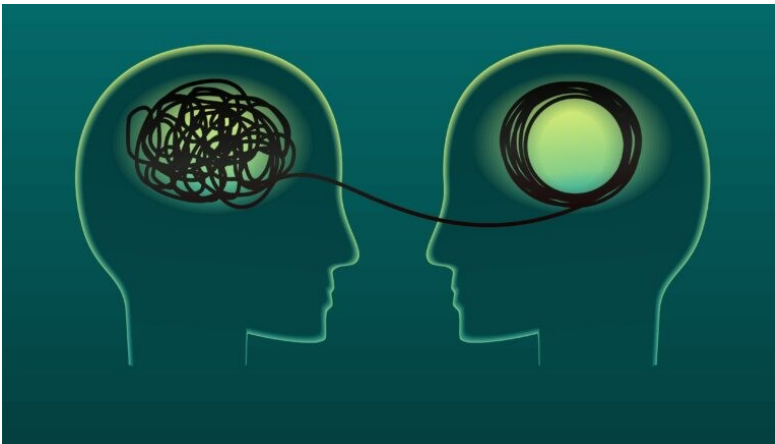
Psychology is both an applied and academic field that benefits private individuals and society as a whole. Some of the ways in which psychology contributes to individuals and society are:

-Improving the understanding of why people behave the way they do.

-Understanding the different factors that impact the human mind and human behaviour.

-Understanding issues that impact our daily lives, well-being and overall health.

One of the most important things learned from psychology is that other people are as complex as you, and are affected by their environment, same as you are. People usually understand that their actions come as a response to external factors, but often fail to understand that other people are equally exposed to external factors and responding to them as well.

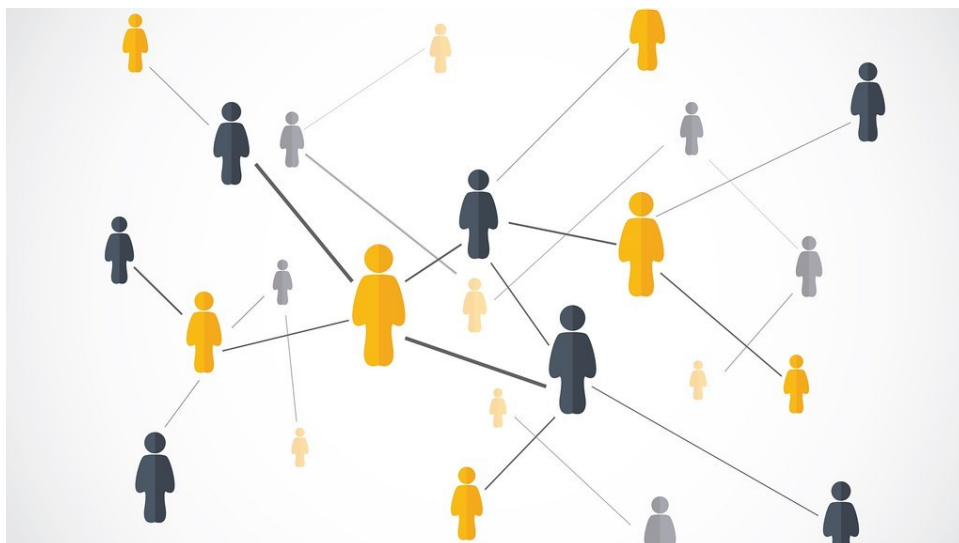


This often leads to not understanding where the other person is coming from and thinking that the opposers actions are unjustifiable and their own are justified. The first step to understanding others behaviour, is to start thinking of them as equals and as human beings with aspirations, flaws and emotions.

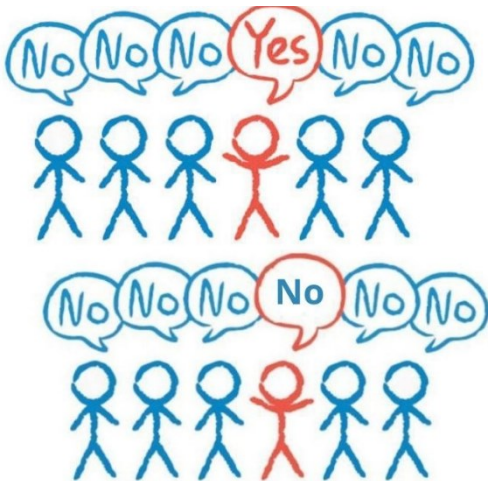
This is an example of how psychology can be beneficial in all exports of life.

There are over 8 billion people on this planet, and you are bound to interact with a lot of them. There is no such a job, in which you wouldn't have to get along with other people. This is why understanding others behaviour and being able to adjust to different situations and people, is extremely important. Psychology helps with understanding relationships as well as your own traumas and flaws, which helps with dealing with your own thoughts and therefore also others.

Psychology is a broad field and as such encompasses the study of human thought, behaviour, development, personality, emotion, motivation and more. Therefore, a lot of subfields and specialty areas have been made. Such as clinical-, developmental-, biological- and social psychology. The context of this article is specific to the latter. Social psychology is the study of your mind and behaviour with other people. It looks at your personality, interpersonal relationships, and most importantly group behaviour.



In groups the confrontation is strongly visible. Group behaviour defines the way individuals are influenced by the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of others in the group. Groups influence people's social behaviour in order for them to fit in a particular group. This is known as group conformity. Group conformity means matching attitudes, beliefs and behaviours to group norms, beliefs and practices. In basic terms it means a person's tendency to act in the same way with the others around. It is driven by the desire to be liked and accepted as part of the group. Conformity happens regularly in our social worlds. It plays a big part in the adaptation of attitudes and opinions to a group's expectations.



Another aspect of group behaviour is obedience. There are certain roles that take place in groups. These roles can for example be leadership roles. A status symbol immediately gives a person permission to be better than others and then be able to behave according to this status. The others in the group show rigid obedience toward their leader. In every group there is an "us" and a "them". The inner group "us" belong to the group and follow the internal expectations and rules. The outgroup consists of all the others who do not belong to the ingroup. This is called the social identity theory. It provides evidence proving that people classify themselves into ingroups and outgroups.

The stronger the ingroup is preferred, the stronger is the feeling of fitting in and fellowship. Some of the reasons to why people prefer the inner group are for example it helping in maintaining a positive self-image, perceiving members of another group to be more different than they really are, which helps enforce a feeling of supremacy and importance in the inner group. Understanding the theory of social identity is important because when we understand it, we can try to work against it to some extent.

People usually gravitate towards like-minded individuals who offer a sense of security, comfort and belonging, thus reducing our ability to develop and learn about others. While this can reduce conflict and distress, it can further deepen polarization which in the long run can bring more disparity. For example, extremist groups and cults use polarization to grow. People in these groups isolate themselves from other perspectives, which leaves them vulnerable to the reinforcement of extreme ideas and identification.



Polarization can also affect political affiliation and contribute to extremist positions within political parties. The impact of social media and political news can intensify these beliefs. As people become increasingly

polarized, they are also more likely to seek out information that confirms their already in place opinions and beliefs. When people are only exposed to one perspective, they become increasingly entrenched in their positions. Group polarization often goes unnoticed, particularly by the people most affected by it. Learning how to recognize it can be helpful, since it allows you to see how social influences might be influencing your decisions.

As our society keeps on developing and we keep finding new ways to divide each other into even more groups, confrontation and polarization will keep on roaming and creating more disparity and displaced anger in people. This is why educating ourselves in this matter is extremely important. For example, knowing about polarization helps us understand the division and conflicts that can arise in society. By being aware of polarization, we can strive to bridge divides, promote open-mindedness and foster constructive dialogue. It's crucial for promoting understanding, empathy and finding common ground amidst differences.

Then again learning about confrontation is important because it helps us navigate conflicts in a healthy and productive way in our personal lives as well as on the big scale. It teaches us effective communication skills, assertiveness and problem-solving techniques. By understanding how to handle confrontation, we can address issues directly, express our needs and boundaries and work towards resolution. Learning about psychology and behaviours allow us to delve deeper into the reasons behind these types of phenomena such as polarization and confrontation.

Help us understand the cognitive and social processes that contribute to polarization, such as confirmation bias and group dynamics. This knowledge enables us to approach divisive issues with empathy and critical thinking, fostering more constructive conversations and promoting tolerance and understanding. It empowers us to challenge our own biases and work towards a more inclusive and educated society.

Kia Koivula

The reincarnation of Anne Frank

Barbro Karlén was born in Sweden in the spring of 1954, nine years after the tragic death of Anne Frank. She believed until the end of her life that in her previous life she was the most famous victim of the Holocaust, Anne Frank. Annelies "Anne" Frank was a German Jewish girl who became one of the most famous victims of the Holocaust. Anne wrote her diary during World War II, when the Nazis were persecuting the Jews. Anne wrote in her diary about the events of the war until she was sent to a concentration camp. Anne Frank died in March 1945, at the age of 15.

For many years, humanity has wondered if reincarnation can happen. Some people claim to remember their past lives and they can tell about it in terrifying detail. Usually, if a person has memories of a previous life, they start talking about it around the age of 3. Even as a small child, Barbro noticed that she was different from other children. Barbro felt like she did not belong in the family she was in. As a small child, she had asked her parents to call her Anne, but the parents thought that it was just a phase that would pass when the girl grows up.

Later in life, Barbro started asking her parents where her real parents were. She did not believe her birth parents were her real parents. She asked her family about the whereabouts of people she did not know, like "Where is Margo?". Margot "Margo" Frank is Anne Frank's three years older sister. Barbro's family did not know who Anne Frank was, as her story was not well known outside the Netherlands until her diary was translated into English.

The older Barbro grew, the more certain she was of being someone else. Barbro's parents took her to a psychiatrist, who, however, found nothing unusual about Barbro. In the 1960s, Barbro Karlén got to know

the story of Anne Frank at school. Many of the students in the class were hearing about the Holocaust for the first time, but Barbro was more shocked than her classmates. Barbro was surprised at how much her teacher knew about her real family and life before she hid from the Nazis.

When she researched Anne Frank and read her diary for the first time, she realized how much they had in common. They both enjoyed the outdoors, reading and wanted to be writers. They had similar facial features and character traits. The most surprising thing was that Barbro's fears seemed to be related to Anne's experiences in the concentration camp. Barbro was afraid of men in uniform, showering and having her hair cut. All this refers to things experienced in the concentration camps, because the Jews' hair was cut in concentration camps and the guards wore uniforms. Thousands of Jews experienced their death in such a way that they were told they would be able to take a shower, when in reality they were taken to a gas chamber and poisoned with cyanide.

Barbro became a writer in her youth and believed that if Anne had lived, she too could have published her writings. Her family still had doubts, but since their daughter was undiagnosed, they allowed her to continue reading about Anne. When Barbro was ten years old, a few years after the story of Anne Frank was presented, her family vacationed in Amsterdam. Anne's story was known worldwide at the time, and the secret annex where Anne and her family had lived hidden from the Nazis, and which she called home for the last years of her life had been turned into a museum. As Amsterdam is notoriously difficult to navigate for foreign tourists, Barbro's father stopped to get directions. A local resident drew them a map, but the family still needed more help to find Anne Frank's house. Barbro told her family that she knew how to get there, and with no other choice, they followed her. Barbro effortlessly led her family through the maze of back streets and alleyways, and they arrived at the museum in half the time they would have arrived with a map. It was the first of several moments on the trip that began to change her family's opinion of her claim to be reincarnated, as she had never been to Amsterdam and had no way of knowing where Anne Frank's home was.

When they arrived at the house, Barbro said that she was back in her dreams. She felt horrified. Barbro recognized everything she had seen in her dreams. All of a sudden everything started to make sense and that made her afraid. Barbro mentioned that she remembered the exterior looking different, when they entered the annex. As they navigated around the museum, she told her family stories that weren't public, and was excited to see "her" room because it was wallpapered with photos of her favorite people. When Barbro entered the room, she was disappointed to find the walls bare and she was visibly upset. Her mother asked the guide about the photos, hoping to ease her daughter's worries. The guide told her that there were photographs plastered all over the walls, but because they were often touched by visitors, the workers had taken them down to be cared for and framed. Later Barbro said: *"When I came into that house, it was the most horrifying feeling I have ever had."*

As an adult, Barbro continued to write, and she published a work on reincarnation. Barbro also gave several speaking engagements about the reincarnation of Anne Frank, and eventually her story led her to meet Buddy Elias, Anne Frank's cousin. Elias was very skeptical of Barbro's claims. He did not tell her who he was, but when they met, he said that only family had an immediate connection. From their first meeting, Elias believed that Barbro Karlén was the reincarnation of his cousin Anne Frank. Elias died in 2015, but Barbro continued to write. She worked as a horse rider and lived a quiet life. In her book, she admits that the memories have faded over time, but they still come back every so often, and that she believes her life's mission is to do justice to Anne Frank's story.

Barbro Karlén died after a long illness in the USA on October 12, 2022, at the age of only 68.

Aava Lehtonen

Horror movies



The purpose of horror movies is to evoke fear, horror and disgust in the viewer. The horror genre creates tension and fear in viewers by using various techniques such as suspense, shock and surprise. This can be done by using visual and auditory cues that reference the abnormal, the supernatural and the unknown. Nevertheless, almost 48 percent of people watch horror movies for fun even though they were designed to create such a suspenseful and nervous environment that it would be impossible to sit still and enjoy the ride. So how have we developed into enjoying them?

The history of horror movies

Horror movies have been around for a while. The first ever horror movies were in black and white, but horror as a genre has been around from much farther. For example, Frankenstein was at its first form a novel that then turned into an acted-out play and finally into a movie in 1931. Despite Frankenstein being probably the earliest well-known horror film, it wasn't the first. The first ever horror movie was only three minutes long and made by Georges Mèliès in 1896 and it was named *the house of the devil*.



The golden age of horror is considered to be in the two decades between the 1920s and 30s. In that time many classic horror movies were introduced, as well as the first movies that's purpose was to attempt to

unsettle their audience. Monumental titles from the 1920s such as *The Cabinet or Dr. Caligari* (1920) and *Nosferatu* (1922) are still thought to be the best horror movies of all time, at least considered as such by Rotten Tomatoes. Later in the 1930s wildly known classics such as *Frankenstein* and *the Mummy* were introduced.



Moving forward to the 1970s and 1980s the new obsession was with religious evil. In this time literature became once again the source material for horror films. A new writer rose to fame, one that is popular even nowadays, Stephen King. *Carrie* (1976) and *the Shining* (1980) are now firmly established as hallmarks of horror history. In the 1980s a new concept of horror, the slasher format began to gain popularity. The first bit of slasher movies were made in the 60s but it didn't quite catch on in that time. In slasher films the main plot was for the killer to hunt down and relentlessly kill a bunch of characters, usually young people, one by one. The ones that ended up being cult classics were the kickstarter of the slasher genre *the Texas Chainsaw massacre* (1974) and *Halloween, Friday the 13th* (1980).



By the 1990s technology had improved and thus began the journey of CGI and computer-generated special effects that created monster horror films like *Anaconda* (1997). However, CGI monster films weren't the stars of the decade. With the concept of slasher movies being popular, they were also considered to be lazy

and cheap. Therefore, people lashed on to comedy, to make fun of said movies. One of the most popular horror films to this day is a slasher parody *Scream* (1996). Even while the movies' whole purpose was to show the stupidity of the slasher genre, it was globally met with overwhelming success.



When the horror genre moved to the 21st century many new aspects were introduced. A zombie subgenre and video adaptations came to dominate the field. In the 21st century as a whole, a lot of novels were made into films and the horror genre was not an exception. *World War Z* was at first a novel made in 2006 and later made into a movie in 2013 one of the first to get the tide moving with zombie focused movies. Another among the first of the wave was a video game adaptation *Resident evil* (2002). Others worth mentioning are *Dawn of the Dead* (2004), *Land of the Dead* (2005) and *Zombieland* (2009). There was definitely no shortage of Zombie focused movies in the 21st century.



Reactions to horrifying films

The 1973 horror film *The Exorcist* might not be the scariest horror movie ever, but it sure did awake the most reactions. Reports were made about people throwing up and leaving the movie before it was even halfway done. Despite the reactions to this film, it managed to be a box-office success. What might have helped its case, was the competitiveness that the movie provoked, as young people were dared to go see it,

and bets were made on who could sit through the whole film. It was also a critical success, being nominated for 10 academy awards including best picture, best director and best actress.



The concept of horror movies being so horrifying, that it becomes a kind of challenge to be able to sit through it, is not a new one. These horror films are not being described only as horrifying but rather disturbing. A number of these films are based on true events, which makes them a hundred times more disturbing than for example a movie where the killer is a monster that does not and could not exist. In these cases, the concept of fear of a rare situation or something supernatural becomes horrifying, because the event has indeed happened to someone. The idea of people watching horror movies to unconsciously or consciously prepare for situations, becomes real.

One movie that is loosely based on real events, that has sparked a lot of conversation and interest, is *Megan is missing* (2011). It is a found footage horror film where two young teenagers are kidnapped and tortured after talking to a stranger on the internet. In movies like these there really isn't much to gain from. This movie shows that not every horror movie uses fear in a way in which it can be enjoyed, and that some horror films are watched rather as a challenge to be able to sit true than for enjoyment.

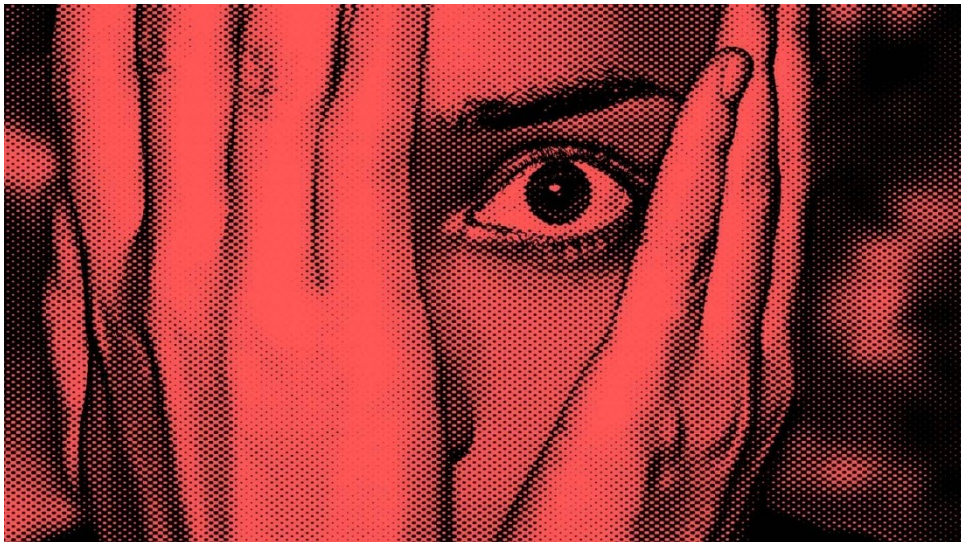


Megan is missing is said to traumatize its audience, as the movie is graphic and perverted. The reactions to this film have been controversial, as some say it wasn't that scary, while some say that they couldn't sit through it, as it was too disturbing and caused too much fear. The divergence between the two kinds of reactions is probably based on the plausibility of something like that happening to the viewer. A big differentiating factor could be gender as in the horror genre female characters tend to be the victim of unimaginable torture and pain, that is usually presented and written by male directors. Alas, women might find it more disturbing than men.

Why were the first horror movies made

Movies are made in order to try and evoke emotions in the viewer. Many people say that a good movie is the kind that makes you feel something. Sometimes directors and writers go for positive emotions such as happiness or surprise. In some movies the point is to get the audience nostalgic or excited for the future. These sorts of films might be superhero films or coming of age films. Sometimes the emotions they go for are sad, and the audience is supposed to leave the theatre after a good cry and thinking about a lost love or an old family pet. But what to many people is the most interesting emotion that can be caused with cinematography, is fear.

Fear affects our whole body. It triggers our fight or flight response and gets our adrenaline going. Reactions to fear are individual, different for a lot of people. Fear is a strong emotion, and it can be scarring at its worst and at its best still uncomfortable. But while it is strong and, in some cases, even paralyzing, it has had a significant role in our evolution as it is closely linked to our instinctual need for survival. Our physiological response to fear is intense, and so it makes sense for directors as well as audience members to want to explore that feeling and the different responses to it.



Why we enjoy them

Enjoying seeing people getting killed on your TV, can first seem crazy, but in fact a lot of people like watching that happen. We humans like to overthink a lot and try to be ready for all sorts of situations. Horror movies may help us deal with certain situations if such were to happen to us. In horror movies the aspect of comedy is also weirdly present in people killing. For example, the famous slasher parody *Scream* shows characters dying in humorous ways, which can give the audience member a sense of security and

superiority as they would never do something as stupid. The audience can also guess or, in some movies, even know who the killer is, and therefore be prepared for what is coming and root for the victims to get out alive.

In horror movies people are supporting and hoping for the survival of the characters. Sometimes this means that the victim has to become the killer in order to survive. When the victim of a horror movie tries to survive, that is what the audience roots for, but when the victim starts to get on top of the game and tries to avenge themselves, the audience roots for the victim to kill. Self-defence is almost always justified in horror movies, but it is interesting to see how the perception changes when the character is aiming for revenge. How murder is justified in some situations and for someone to do is a weird, interesting thing.



Horror movies dwell in the depths of the average person's mind unlocking their worst fear and terrifying possibilities. However, we find it gratifying to experience situations happening that would upset us in real life but from an emotionally secure point of view. In a controlled and safe environment, we explore something unusual and little seen. These films activate our wonder for evil and how far humans can go in terms of brutality, revenge and survival. We consume horror movies for the same reason some people read books. To gain novel experiences, as they allow us to live out alternate realities. Being adventurous in this way makes us feel more daring and boost our ego.

Horror movies can help us get an understanding of how far we ourselves would be ready to go. Horror entertainment helps us satisfy our curiosity about the dark side of human psyche. In the movie *The Purge* (2013) the government of the United States of America allows people to do any crimes and anything that they want with no social control whatsoever during twelve hours a crime is legal. *The Purge* shows how a person's mind works and to what extent people would go, were there no authority to manage and control them.



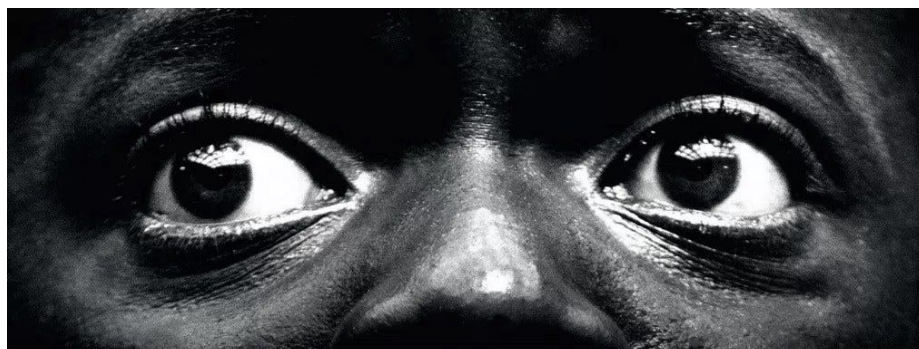
The reason we consume horror is to experience simulation. Anticipation and exposure to horrifying acts can stimulate us in opposing ways. Negatively in forms of fear and anxiety or positively in the form of enjoyment and joy. Watching a horror movie simultaneously activates both types of stimulation. And interestingly the most pleasure and joy experienced is at the most fearful moment. The biochemical in our bodies also changes when we consume horror. Fear and fright can trigger the release of adrenaline, which results in heightened sensations and surging energy.

Horror movies are a fun way to celebrate all things scary but sometimes they can get a little too terrifying. While horror movies may help some with anxiety, that's not the case for everyone. They don't officially cause anxiety but can trigger the symptoms, even though we know that the things we are seeing are not real. It's all about what happens in the body. During horror movies, our brain releases adrenaline, which prepares our bodies for stressful situations. Our sympathetic nervous system responds to the threat and triggers our "fight or flight" response. Knowing our limits is important. It is not easy for the actors either. The lead actor in *Mother!* (2017), Jennifer Lawrence said that even though she knew the situations, which she was acting out in the movie, were not real, her body didn't. The experience was for that reason draining for her, and she stated that she couldn't and wouldn't do something like that again.

Horror movies today

The state of horror movies today is hotly contested. The genre has long relied on endless reshoots, remakes and sequels, which means that a lot of original ideas are not seen. Of course, we have to take in considerations the fact that a lot of movies and especially horror movies rely on the same formula of events, that it is basically impossible to make an actual unique movie at this point of cinematography. That being said winning awards for horror movies is fairly hard to do.

Horror has rarely been appreciated at prestigious award shows, such as the Oscars. There have only been six movies to ever be nominated for best picture. The most recent one has been *Get Out* (2017). *Get out* is a psychological horror that follows a black man who discovers dark secrets about his white girlfriend's family. The movie is directed by a then first-time director Jordan Peele. The film was nominated for Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Actor. With this movie Peele became the first person to earn these nominations with a feature debut, while also making history for being the first black writer to win in the category of Best Original Screenplay. Alas, when it comes to horror (and cinematography as itself) glass ceilings are still to be broken as well as stories and progress in all fields of filmmaking are still to be made.



GET OUT

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JORDAN PEELE

With more than 75 million tickets sold, 46 films released and 798 million grossed domestically in 2023, horror movies continue to be Hollywood's reliable moneymaker, and it's a genre that is growing in importance. The horror genre has doubled its market share since 1995 and is still growing, with no show of slowing down. The 2024 lineup is filled with new scary stories, as well as returning popular franchises. At least 35 movies are already scheduled for release in 2024. The lineup includes long-awaited favourites such as *Smile 2*, *Nosferatu*, *A Quiet Place: Day One*, *Terrifier 3* and *Winnie-the-Pooh 2*, as well as new movies with popular leads like *the One*, *Immaculate*, *Never let go* and *Speak No Evil*. So, who knows, maybe the horror genre will make history in 2024.

Kia Koivula

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

League of Legends

The extremely popular MOBA (short for multiplayer online battle arena) called League of Legends has been seen in an article on this newspaper before, created by my brother. I am here to bring continuation and more information regarding the game, especially on its competitive and professional side. League of Legends was released in 2009, created by a company called riot games.

The basics (and a little more) of the game

League of Legends (or LoL in short) is a battle arena, in which two teams consisting of five players are trying to destroy each other's bases. At the start of every match, all players start from the exact same premise: from level 1, with 500 gold to spend on basic starter items. Every time a player dies, they will respawn back to their base after a certain time.

There are 5 different roles, each going to separate lanes. Four of the roles are rather simple, since their role just corresponds with the lane they are going to play on: Top, Mid, Bottom and the support role. In every other lane there is just one player on both teams, but on the bottom lane, helping the bottom laner, is the support. Killing minions and the enemy characters grants gold and experience to your character. You can use gold in the shop for powerful items. Experience increases your character's level, increasing its stats. The spice of League of Legends is the jungle role. They don't "farm" minions, but big and much stronger monsters in the jungles of the map, getting their experience and gold that way.

The ultimate objective of every match is to destroy the enemy team's defensive turrets and base, which is made difficult by the fact that the turrets (defensive towers with a big turret) attack you and deal devastating damage to your character, if there are no minions under it. The minions won't matter if you attack an enemy character under the turret, since it will keep attacking you until you either die or get out of its range. A few side objectives exist in the jungle too, such as dragons, which increase certain stats of your whole team when slain, depending on what kind of dragon it is. Rift herald is a beast that you can capture and unleash to do heavy damage to the opposing defense turrets and nexus (the nexus is a big crystal in the enemy base, which is the final objective you need to destroy to win the game). Lastly there is the most important objective called Baron Nashor. It is much harder to defeat and requires the help of most of the team. It grants the strongest improvements to the team that takes it down. Any of these jungle objectives can be stolen by the other team, if timed correctly.

The characters

Until now, I've been referring to the playable characters as just characters. They are actually called champions and there are over 150 of them to choose from. Every champion has their own unique abilities. Some are easier to master, while others take incredible precision and countless of hours of gameplay to unleash their full potential. The only limit to playing any champion you want, is that before choosing your champion, there is a ban mechanic, which means that every player can get rid of 1 champion that then cannot be played in that game. On top of this, two of the same champions can also not be played in the same game.

The competitive scene of League of Legends

Just as most popular video games, LoL has its own competitive possibilities. There is a built-in ranked mode in the game, which is available for everyone. The ranks go from the worst to the best as follows: iron, bronze, silver, gold, platinum, emerald, diamond, master, grandmaster and challenger. Going up in the ranks is simple. Each game you win, you gain league points, and each game you lose, some are taken away from you. Each of the ranks has four divisions, four being the lowest and one being the highest. To go up a division, you need 100 league points. After reaching the highest division of the rank, let's say gold one, you again need to win 100 league points to rank up into platinum in this example. Achieving the highest ranks is not an easy task, and many people have said that it's even more difficult than in other games with a rank system.

The ranked game mode is the way for most players to play competitively, but there are also professional players who compete in various tournaments with their esports team against other teams. There are lots of different tournaments and leagues which are either within a country or continent. These can be separated into two tiers (tiers being divisions based on the leagues' size), where tier 1 leagues are more prestigious and tier 2 are the smaller leagues. The two most important tournaments are the international ones, which are the Mid-season invitational and the World championship (also known as "Worlds"). The teams that compete in these international tournaments are "drafted" from the tier 1 leagues based on their performance. This is the list of the tier 1 leagues

Name	Abbr.	Region	Main casting language(s)	Location	Established	Size	MSI	WC	Latest winner	
									Spring	Summer
League of Legends Champions Korea	LCK	 South Korea	Korean	Seoul	2012	10	2M	4M	Gen.G (2023)	
League of Legends Pro League	LPL	 China ^[CN]	Mandarin	various ^[LPL]	2013	17	1M+1P	4M	JD Gaming (2023)	
League of Legends EMEA Championship ^[LEC]	LEC	 Europe, the Middle East and Africa	English	Berlin	2013	10	1M+1P	3M+0.5P	G2 Esports (2023) ^[SF]	
League Championship Series ^[LCS]	LCS	 North America ^[NA]	English	Los Angeles	2013	10	1M+1P	3M+0.5P	Cloud9 (2023)	NRG (2023)
Pacific Championship Series ^[PCS]	PCS	 Asia-Pacific ^[SEA]	Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, English	online	2020	10+2+3	1P	2P	PSG Talon (2023)	
Vietnam Championship Series	VCS	 Vietnam ^[VN]	Vietnamese	Ho Chi Minh City	2018	8	1P	2P	GAM Esports (2023)	
Campeonato Brasileiro de League of Legends	CBLOL	 Brazil	Brazilian Portuguese	São Paulo	2012	10	1P	1P	LOUD (2023)	
Liga Latinoamérica ^[LLA]	LLA	 Latin America ^[LA]	Spanish	Mexico City	2019	8	1P	1P	Movistar R7 (2023)	

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_League_of_Legends_leagues_and_tournaments

There is a set number of spots allocated to each one of these leagues in the world championship and the mid-season invitational tournaments. For example, the LCK (League of Legends champions Korea) and the LPL (League of Legends pro league) both get to send 4 teams into the world championship tournament, based on a qualifying series played within the respective leagues. The rest of the leagues only get 3 or less spots, which indicates that the LCK and LPL are superior when it comes to the players and teams' skill level.

The latest sensation in the LoL competitive scene is the conclusion of Worlds 2023. After an incredible performance in the final series, the esports team from Korea called T1 (previously SK Telecom T1) managed to take home the gold medal, as well as a US\$445,000 cash prize. The total prize pool for the tournament was a whopping US\$2,225,000, which was shared between all the teams. The lower your ranking, the smaller the prize. T1 is considered to be the best team ever when it comes to League of Legends, because they have managed to win gold in the Worlds tournament four times, and twice in the mid-season invitational. Their roster includes lots of great players, including the best overall player in the world known as Faker.

Though T1 is the best team overall, it does not mean that the other teams are weak either. The tournaments are really unpredictable, and there are many teams, which have given a hard time even to T1. For example, in the last years World championship, another Korean team called DRX defeated T1 in the finals. Pretty much anything can happen, and even the underdog usually has a moderately high probability of winning, because in League of Legends there are countless opportunities to do unpredictable plays, which can totally turn the tide of a game. After all, strategy can be just as important as mechanical skill, if not more.

Niklas Virtanen

Tero Laurila

Tero Laurila is a Finnish pro poker player who enjoys his life and makes a living from his favorite hobby. Tero Laurila plays poker all around Europe seeking and hunting for poker tournaments. He plays Omaha and Texas Hold'em poker. In Omaha you are dealt four cards and in Texas Hold'em you are dealt two cards. The rules are all the same in two of these. The most recent ones where Tero Laurila played tournaments are in Barcelona and Paris. He focuses on tournaments for weeks or months.

Tero Laurila makes YouTube videos from his travels and poker games and also explains the hands that he has played and what he could have done better. Tero has over 1.3 thousand YouTube subscribers and over 50 entertaining YouTube videos. On his best video he has approximately over 5 thousand views where he wins a whopping 64 thousand euros in Barcelona and it's his biggest single win. Tero's videos don't seem to be far apart from the others. He gets a lot of good feedback from his viewers that his videos are really interesting and that his videos are very educational.

Tero has over 200 thousand euros in tournament winnings and his biggest singular win is 64 thousand euros.

Tero Laurila made "bankroll" challenge where he started from 15 thousand euros, and he tried to get it to over 20 thousand euros in winnings and he reached his goal in one of his videos. After reaching the first goal he made a second goal to 30 thousand euros, then he reached that goal too and made one more goal to reach up to 35 thousand euros and he didn't make it and his time in Paris came to an end. Because he had spent too much time in Paris, he had to visit his home country for a moment. While he was in his home country Finland, he updated that he didn't make the goal and he said that his "bankroll" challenge is now in

12 500 euros, so he had lost over 18 000 euros. He has times in his videos where he lost over 10 000 euros from his goal, but he made it almost every time back. Tero Laurila said in one of his videos that he made a break-even in his “bankroll” challenge because he used the money for hotel rents, and he also used the money for food and living expenses in Paris, so he said that he did not lose any money.

In his free time Tero Laurila enjoys playing floorball and loves to spend time with his friends.



Juuso Lahtinen

Bizarre football match in blizzard

On 30th of November Finnish football club HJK hosted Scottish Aberdeen FC in freezing conditions for a football match. Even though the temperature was -5°C there was still over 9000 spectators at the Bolt Arena. A few days before the match 36 years old HJK midfielder Perparim Hetemaj announced that he would be hanging his boots at the end of the season, which meant this would be his last ever professional match in Finland. Hetemaj played exactly 300 matches in Italian first division Seria A, which is one of the best football leagues in the world making him one of the best Finnish footballers of all time.

The match started just as HJK supporters could have dreamt of. After 33 minutes HJK were 2-0 up thanks to goals from Boureima Balde and Santeri Hostikka. In the 40th minute bouncing ball fell to Aberdeen’s centre back Angus MacDonald around 35 meters away from goal, after taking one touch he hit it in the volley finding the top right corner and scoring goal of the season contender leaving HJK goalkeeper Niki Mäenpää no chance of saving it.

At the start of the 2nd half the match had to be stopped because Aberdeen fans behind Mäenpää’s goal started to throw snowballs at him. The large piles of snow just in front of the stands made making of the snowballs very easy for the fans. The incident caught a lot of attention on social media. The short video of it was shared by numerous big accounts such as B/R Football and TNT sports who have almost 20 million followers on Instagram combined.

After the match in an interview Mäenpää said: “The Scots are quite funny. After the match I showed them thumbs up.”

Shortly after that from a corner kick another Aberdeen centre back Finnish Richard Jensen headed the ball to the back post where his teammate Luis Dok was left unmarked and made it 2-2. After that there was no change to the scoresheet but in the 75th minute the match had to be stopped again. This time due to heavy

snowfall. The pitch was already ploughed in the half time but they had to do it again and players had to go to the dressing rooms until the snow was cleared off the pitch. During the process Christmas songs were played from the stadium's speakers so the fans would have something else to do than watch those snowploughs go around the pitch. The match was stopped for over 10 minutes.

After the match had ended in a 2-2 draw Hetemaj together with HJK coach Toni Korkeakunnas who would also leave at the end of the season got their chance to say their final goodbyes to their fans. HJK will play their final group stage match on 14th of December when they will travel to Greece to face PAOK Thessaloniki FC. There's really nothing to play for either team in that match as HJK can't get to 2nd place in the group anymore and PAOK have already secured the 1st place.

Jimi Kuivakoski

Collapse of Tom Lockyer has shocked football fans



In Saturday evening between Luton Town and Bournemouth, we saw a horrific incident when Luton Town's captain Tom Lockyer collapsed. The game got an unpleasant turn at 65 minutes, when Luton Town's captain Tom Lockyer fell face down on the grass. Players immediately gestured for the medic.

Luton Town's manager Rob Edwards ran on the pitch and made sure that players made room for the medics. Lockyer was taken care of for several minutes and respectfully the cameras were not pointing at him. The game was draw at the time the incident happened and everyone thought that match postponement was the wisest thing to do. The match will be fully played again later on. Luton fans showed true fandom when they sang Lockyer's name.

Both teams went on the pitch 30 minutes after the incident and they wanted to thank the fans. Luton announced later on that Lockyer had cardiac arrest. This is not the first time when Lockyer has collapsed. Lockyer's previous collapse wasn't as bad as one that was against Bournemouth, but the previous one might have had an effect to newest collapse. Christian Eriksen who experienced similar incident in Euro 2020 tournament stunned the watchers, because the cameras pointed at him while he was treated on.

Tom Lockyer's statement for this situation: "I am doing very well and feeling very much myself after the cardiac arrest I suffered in Bournemouth. The reason I am doing so well is all down to the heroic actions of the players, staff, doctors and paramedics". Lockyer now has started rehabilitation in his own home.

It is everyone's responsibility to help person in need, CPR is one the basics. Lockyer said that "people should learn about CPR, because you never know when you might need it. It literally saves lives, like mine".

Emil Lievonen

Vancouver Canucks acquires Nikita Zadorov from Calgary Flames for draft picks

Calgary Flames has traded the 28-year-old defenseman Nikita Zadorov to division rivals Vancouver Canucks. Calgary acquired 2024 entry draft fifth round pick (originally acquired from Chicago Blackhawks) and 2026 entry draft third round pick in return. The trade was first announced by the general manager of Vancouver Canucks, Patrik Allvin. This 6'6" tall defenseman is best known for great off-puck movement and his heavy body checking. Zadorov earns 3,75 million USD and is on his last year of his contract. The Russian defenseman moved to Calgary in 2020-2021 season from the Chicago Blackhawks.

Trade rumours weren't wrong

Rumours about the trade of Zadorov had been around for a long time before the actual trade happened. Canadian hockey insider Rick Dhaliwal reported earlier this season that Canucks were the most likely team on Zadorov's list. This report happened just before Zadorov requested a trade from Calgary. Four days after the trade Zadorov gave his first comments about his trade request.

According to Zadorov, Calgary didn't offer him a new contract and that was the reason he requested a trade. He published a farewell post to Calgary on his Instagram a couple days after the trade happened.

Trade effect for the teams involved

Vancouver Canucks has been on a heater and is sitting currently on the 2nd spot of the league behind the reigning Stanley Cup Champions Vegas Golden Knights. Signing of Zadorov strengthens their defense significantly and brings more depth to their roster. With such an offensive game strategy Zadorov gives them more options especially to their defensive zone play. Presumably Zadorov will have a big role in Canucks' defense. So far, he has logged 18:24min average ice time this season with 21 games played. Total of 19 blocked shots equal to 0,904 blocked shots per game.

Vancouver paid a fairly low price considering the the trade value

According to numerous hockey experts and inside journalists, this trade seems to be clearly in favour of Vancouver. Many people say that Calgary gave Zadorov away for too little of a compensation. It is fair to say, that Vancouver got what they wanted, and Calgary got what was available. Now it is just time that



shows how the Russian defenseman can adapt to Vancouver's game strategy. There is great chance that the Flames will sign another defenseman to fill the gap that the leaving of Zadorov caused to their roster.



Juho Lindholm

Paralysis of a 26-years-old Finnish hockey player has left the ice hockey world speechless

Finnish ice hockey player Sanni Hakala experienced an unpleasant incident in late November. Hakala crashed the goalpost head-first and immediately received everyone's attention. Swedish team HV71's captain Sanni Hakala was paralyzed from the chest down and even now her hands are not fully functional. The match was stopped for 40 minutes before it was decided to be stopped completely.

Hakala's statement for this situation: "It is still hard to understand what has happened, that the crash into the goal post was as serious as it was, that the consequences have become so big. Not only that I am forced to stop playing hockey, something that has been a big part of my life for many years, but that I may be forced to sit in a wheelchair for the rest of my life".

Sanni Hakala has received many heart warming messages and many popular magazines have covered this unfortunate situation and it seems like the whole hockey world wants to unite again after Adam Johnson's horrific incident that happened not long ago.

Finland's ex ice hockey team coach Jukka Jalonen thinks that Ice Hockey Federation is ready to pay for Sanni Hakala's rehabilitation. Jalonen says that these kind of incidents are rare, but whenever this happens in any kind of sport it is sad to see. As a father of two hockey boys, Jalonen has experienced a few injuries with boys and it has startled him, because you never know where injury might lead.

Fundraising for Sanni Hakala has started. Donations can be given through SHL's website and phone number to Swish application can be seen on social media. The surgery will be done in a few days and rehabilitation



might take long. Hakala is in a danger of being left without financial compensation from the insurance for a long time. Every donation is a step for the better.

Emil Lievonen

The Magnus Protocol

Statement begins.

The Magnus Protocol is a new and upcoming horror audio podcast by the producer Rusty Quill, starting production in 2023. The podcast is a sequel to The Magnus Archives, a 5-season, 200-episode work that ran from 2016 to 2021. Often shortened as TMA, the audio drama has been considered as the most popular acted horror podcast so far. The fundraising for TMP speaks for itself, climbing to over 700 000 pounds compared to the fifteen thousand pounds required to produce a single season. With the astounding amount of money raised, the crew will be able to produce three 30-episode seasons, a spinoff, epilogues and other extra material for our enjoyment.



The people behind both shows are a three-person crew. Jonathan Sims, the lead writer and the star actor of TMA, the director Alexander J Newall and April Sumner, the executive producer. The large amount of money raised for the production of the show also allows multiple guest writers to put their own voice into the horrifying world of The Magnus Archives.

The Magnus Institution, the heart of the plot, was a place for the academic research of the esoteric and paranormal activity. And, of course, included also an archive to store all sorts of spooky stories from any walks of life. In 1999 the Manchester headquarters burnt down and no one survived. Now, nearly 25 years later a pair of underfunded government workers get sucked into the world of Fear Entities, powerful gods yearning for an end of the world of their own designs.

TMA has a very complicated metaplot, and even though TMP can surely be listened to as a standalone podcast, Easter eggs will be scattered throughout episodes for the dedicated fans to find. A new listener might know nothing about *Grifter's bone*, but to someone in the deep end of fandom lore that band name can only be an omen of something horrid happening soon.

There is no doubt that TMP will be a huge success amongst the fans of the world, but hopefully will also be able to reach a larger audience than ever before. The first episode has been released to Kickstarter supporters, while the rest of us must wait until next year for the bone chilling experience that Jonathan Sims and his crew are able to create through the means of audio.

Statement ends.

Remy Hämäläinen

The Crown

The Crown is a Netflix original series about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The series was created and written by British screenwriter Peter Morgan. The first season was released in its entirety on Netflix in November 2016. The sixth and final season was released in two parts. The first part was released in November 2023 and the second part in December 2023.

The events of the series begin in 1947 when young Princess Elizabeth marries Prince Philip. The plot of the first season stretches back to 1956. The second season describes the years 1957–1963, the third season 1964–1977 and the fourth season 1979–1990. The fifth season deals with the events of the 1990s and the sixth season ends in 2005.

The actors of the main roles change every two seasons because their characters naturally age. For example, Queen Elizabeth II is played by Claire Foy for the first two seasons, Olivia Colman for the next two seasons and Imelda Staunton for the last two seasons.

The key events of the first season are the death of King George VI, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Margaret's relationship with Peter Townsend, Prince Philip's challenges in adapting to his wife's new role and the Queen's challenges as a young woman with conservative Prime Ministers.

The first season of The Crown was a great success. It won the Golden Globe for Best Drama Series and Claire Foy awarded the Golden Globe for Best Actress at the 2017 Golden Globe Awards.

The key events of the second season are the Suez Crisis, the Queen and Prince Philip's marriage problems, Princess Margaret's wedding, the visit of US President John F. Kennedy and the births of Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

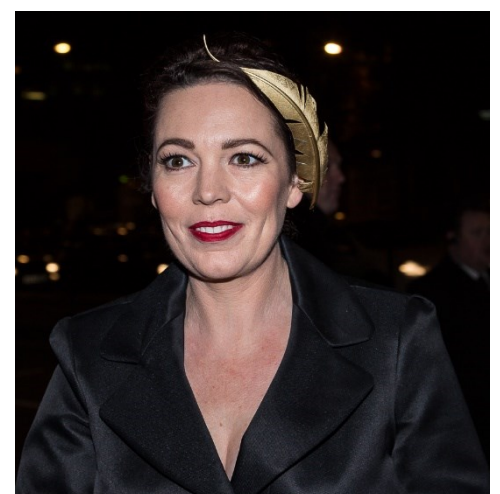
The second season achieved the same popularity as the first season. It has been described as nuanced, psychologically accurate and valuable but never boring.

The key events of the third season are the election of anti-monarchy Prime Minister Harold Wilson, the Aberfan disaster, Prince Charles' appointment as Prince of Wales, the Apollo 11 moon landing, Prince Charles' relationship with Camilla Shand, Princess Margaret's divorce and Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee.

The key events of the fourth season are the election of Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first female prime minister, Charles's marriage to Diana Spencer, their tour of Australia and New Zealand and the problems in their marriage, The Falklands War and disagreements between the Queen and the Prime Minister.



Claire Foy as Queen Elizabeth II in the first and second seasons of The Crown



Olivia Colman played Queen Elizabeth II in the third and fourth seasons

In the third season, Queen Elisabeth becomes increasingly tough and serious, and Elisabeth's new actress, Olivia Colman, interprets this change accurately. The change of actors caused different reactions in the audience, but they quickly adapted to this. Olivia Colman also won a Golden Globe award for her role as Queen Elizabeth II in 2020.

The key events of the fifth season are Queen Elizabeth's *annus horribilis* in 1992, Diana's *Panorama* interview, the divorce of Prince Charles and Princess Diana and Elizabeth's state visit to Russia.

The key events of the sixth season are death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee, death of Princess Margaret and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Prince William and Catherine Middleton's relationship and the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles.

The last two seasons of the series have garnered the most criticism. The fifth season has been described as boring and the end of the sixth season disappointment. However, Imelda Staunton's performance has been praised. In addition, the actress of Princess Diana, Elizabeth Debicki, has collected a lot of praise.



Imelda Staunton played Queen Elizabeth II in the last two seasons

Peter Morgan has always emphasized that the series is only loosely based on true events. The Crown has still collected a lot of criticism and caused indignation even among members of the real British court.

Before the release of the fifth season, former British Prime Ministers Tony Blair and John Major also got angry. They demand that Netflix should state at the beginning of each episode that the series is fiction. Netflix did not agree to this. Some critics feel that too many irrelevant and too personal things about the members of the royal family have been brought into the series.

The negative reception of the fifth season may also be influenced by the death of Queen Elizabeth II in the same autumn. Then the filming of the sixth season was also stopped for a few days. Including the Queen's death as part of the events of the series was considered. In the end, the writers stuck to their decision to end the series until 2005. However, the death of Queen Elizabeth II made Morgan change the ending of the series.

I have watched all seasons of The Crown. My favorites are the first, fourth and sixth seasons. In the first season, I was fascinated by Elizabeth's growth from a princess to a strong Queen despite opposition. She was 26 years old when her father King George VI died, and she became Queen. In conservative Britain in the 1950s, it was thought that a young woman could not serve as head of state.

In the fourth season, I liked the most plot twists related to Charles and Diana's marriage. The series gives a negative impression of their marriage and I have started to be interested in how it really went. We will probably never know. In addition, in the fourth season it was interesting to follow Diana's problems, such as bulimia and postpartum depression. This illustrated well that the life of a princess is not perfect.

I was looking forward to the sixth season and I think the first four episodes were a success. They depicted Princess Diana's last summer and eventually her death. Princess Diana's death in 1997 was a shock to the whole world and it was also successfully filmed in The Crown. The remaining episodes of the sixth season revolve around Prince William. He inherited his mother's favor and tried to live with it as normal a life as he could. In the last episodes, Elizabeth's death and the planning of the funeral are in the center. Peter

Morgan has said that in *The Crown*, Queen Elizabeth II will live forever, but after her death, they wanted to bring death into the series in some way.

Many fans of the series have said that they did not like the ending of the series, but I did. I thought the end of the series was touching and respectful of the former Queen.

The actors of the series also deserve praise. All the main characters have had multiple actors, because the series depicts events spanning almost 60 years. However, the actors have succeeded in their work and kept the tempers of the characters similar. For example, Queen Elizabeth II was always as careful and thoughtful, Princess Margaret stubborn and humorous, and Prince Charles shy and sensitive.

Although the series is mainly fiction, it has also helped to learn a lot about the British royal family and history. In addition, Google has been my best friend when watching the series. I recommend the series if you are interested in Queen Elizabeth's reign and the twists and turns in her and her family's private life. However, remember that everything you see and hear in the series is not true!

Anna Salo



The British royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on June 15, 2013