



MIGRANT RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

Migrant Rights X Finnish Immigration Policies

A public forum to discuss the new government program to limit migrant rights in Finland.

SPEAKERS

- Riina Bhatia**
Deputy City Councillor, Helsinki, Green Party
- Erna Bodström**
Migration Researcher, DSSc, University of Helsinki
- Julia Stähle**
President of the Swedish Youth of Finland
- Teemu Haapalehto**
Director of Immigration Affairs, City of Espoo
- Nick Walters**
PhD, Co-Founder & Chair, Helsinki LEFT ry

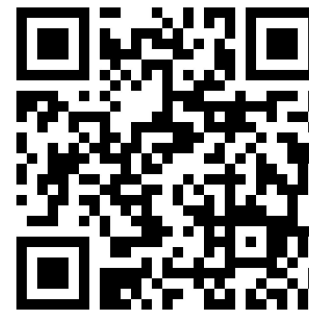


Program Agenda

- 17:30: Arrival, welcome coffee
- 18:00: Introductions
- 18:10: Opening speeches
- 18:40: Panel discussion
- 19:25: Q&A session
- 19:45: Way forward & next steps
- 20:00: Public forum ends



Questions/Comments:
<https://presemo.oalto.fi/migrantsrights>



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Councillor, Helsinki,
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Creating trustworthy and accessible digital public services for migrants



- Interdisciplinary team of 30+ people
- Funded for 3 (+3) years
- Looking for hybrid services, possibly based on conversational AI and/or speech-based interaction
- One of the main migrant groups of interest is migrant women
- Piloting services in the City of Espoo.

trustmproject.aalto.fi



TRUST
TECH



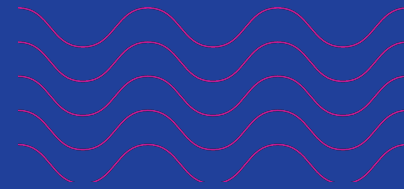
DESIGN



POLICY



IMPACT



Mobile Futures: Diversity, Trust and Two-Way Integration (2021-2027)

We want to re-imagine the role of migration in a just society by:

- *Producing new knowledge on social and institutional trust*
- *Identifying discriminatory and racist practices in the functioning of various institutions and finding ways to dismantle these structures*
- *Challenging and developing societal debates on migration and integration, and building genuine cooperation between researchers and stakeholders*



**MOBILE
FUTURES**

□ mobilefutures.fi

□ hello@mobilefutures.com

<https://www.instagram.com/helsinkileft/>



helsinkileft



helsinkileft 🥳 @HelsinkiLEFT is excited to announce that our founding meeting was held on Monday, and our application to @prh.fi to become a registered association (Helsinki LEFT ry) was approved on Tuesday! We also agreed to apply to become a chapter of @helsinginvasemmisto and @vasemmisto, with a decision expected in late August, and elected the following board members:

Full Members

Chair: @nickw2025
Vice Chair: Ditmar Hasanaj
Treasurer: Kyle Bailey
Secretary: David Thompson
Outreach: Melissa Plath
Membership: Muji Hakak
Community Building: @mira.maalouf
Communications: Em @sekkainen

Vice Members

Youth Engagement:
@vikram.sundar.chakraborty
Multilingualism: @ershad.balkhi

Thank you!

Thanks very much to our board members, auditors, and everyone who has supported us



Liked by anitaktr and 77 others

5 JULY



Add a comment...

Post

Safer Space Rules

- Our event is a discrimination-free and harassment-free zone.
- Please respect and listen to others.
- Please do not make assumptions about other people's gender, sexuality, nationality, religion or other personal matters.
- Please present your views as your own thoughts and try not to speak on behalf of others.
- Be open to discuss with others and to new perspectives.
- Try to create a positive and respectful atmosphere in the discussion.
- If you disagree with someone, try to raise the matter in a constructive and friendly manner.
- If the situation feels uncomfortable, please raise the issue, for example, by informing the workshop chairs or the conference organizers.

Questions/Comments?



[https://preemo.aalto.fi/
migrantsrights](https://preemo.aalto.fi/migrantsrights)



Erna Bodström

*Migration
Researcher,
DSSc,
University of
Helsinki*



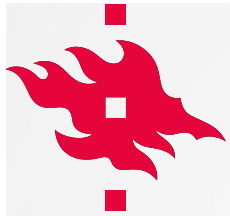


ASYLUM, INTEGRATION, AND THE POLITICS OF DIFFERENTIATION

IN THE 2023 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

Erna Bodström, DSSc
25 Aug 2023

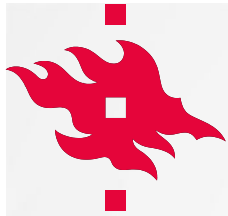
Photo credit: ©Lauri Heikkinen, Prime Minister's Office



ABOUT ME

- **Migration researcher**
 - Affiliated Researcher at the The Centre for Research on Ethnic Relations and Nationalism (CEREN)
 - Research Fellow at the Finnish Migration Institute (as of Sep 2023)
 - Research topics: integration, asylum decision making, asylum activism, administrative texts
- **Specialist** about the residence permit system in Finland (volunteer/paid)
- **Author** of "Refugee Crisis: My Journey to the Frontiers of Europe"





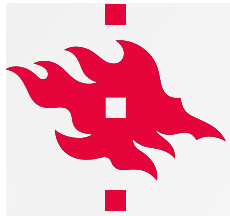
THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME TODAY

MIGRATION POLICY IN THE PROGRAMME

- Asylum (and deportation) (5.5 pages)
- Permanent residence and citizenship (1.5 pages)
- Labour migration (2.5 pages)
- Integration (2 pages)

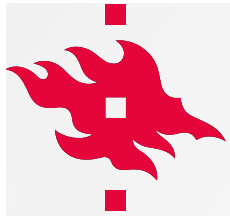
TODAY

- Asylum and deportation
- Integration
- Politics of Differentiation



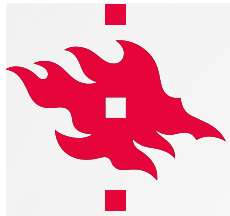
ASYLUM

- Making the asylum process "more efficient", while "improving quality"
- Taking away the asylum applicant's possibility to go through the interview record and, therefore, to correct possible mistakes
- Examining the possibility to restrict the appeal on deportation decisions to one appeal level
- Restricting subsequent asylum applications further (last restricted in 2019)
- In general, **moving to the lowest possible level** in providing international protection



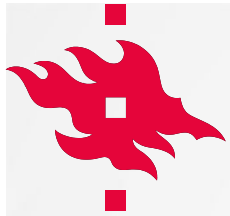
DEPORTATION AND THE UNDOCUMENTED

- Restricting the right to social services and security of undocumented migrants
- Enabling detention of migrants on new grounds ("public order and security") and for a longer duration
- Examining the possibilities of conviction of being undocumented for a prison sentence (while "taking into account the impact on public finances")
- **NB!** These are all measures that are likely to add costs



INTEGRATION ("THROUGH WORK")

- Providing "help and encouragement for getting started in a new society"
- Encouraging availability of language learning at workplaces
- Shortening the integration period
- Making stabilising life in Finland more difficult by
 - limiting the length of refugee status
 - limiting the length of stay for work-based migrants who have become unemployed ("the three-month rule")
 - restricting the requirements for permanent residence and citizenship

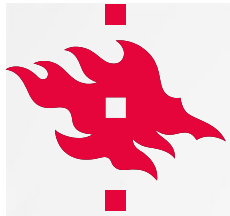


POLITICS OF DIFFERENTIATION

- "Finland fully supports those who have fled **the war in Ukraine...**"

VS.

- "The asylum mechanism based on **crossing European borders** and applying for asylum in Finland will be minimised." (Including quota refugees)

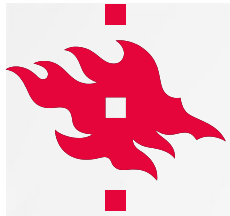


POLITICS OF DIFFERENTIATION

- "Additional labour force will be recruited primarily from **the EU and the EEA countries**. --- The Government will introduce a target country model for labour migration (--- from) **India, the Philippines, Brazil and Vietnam.**"

VS.

- "Rejected asylum applicants (mainly from **Iraq, Somalia, Turkey, and Russia**) will be prevented from being granted a work-based residence permit instead."

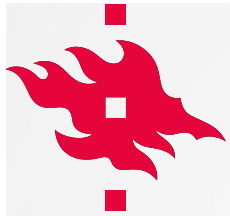


POLITICS OF DIFFERENTIATION

- "...a permanent residence permit based on a six-year period of residence..."

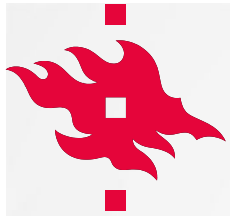
vs.

- "...a permanent residence permit based on a four-year period of residence, if the person: has **a minimum annual income of EUR 40,000...**"



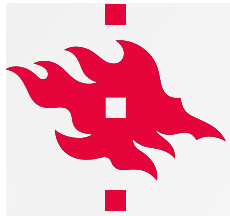
POLITICS OF DIFFERENTIATION

- "In a family reunification process by **a sponsor who has been granted international protection**, a requirement of a two-year period of residence will be introduced... The Government will examine the possibilities to introduce a pre-entry language test (for the spouse of **a sponsor who has been granted international protection**)."



POLITICS OF DIFFERENTIATION

- "...the Government will differentiate the social security system and social benefits of **immigrants** and **permanent residents of Finland** from each other..."



THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME

- Making the asylum process "more efficient", while "improving quality"
- Providing "help and encouragement for getting started in a new society"

- **restricting the rights** of **ALL** immigrants living in Finland
- creating **inequality** and **further differentiation** within the Finnish society



PERUSSUOMALAISTEN MAAHANMUUTTOPOLIITTINEN OHJELMA 2023

Suomi on tulossa vuonna 2023 tienhaaraan. Seuraus Suomen maahanmuuttopolitiikasta viimeisten reitun 30 vuoden aikana on täysi epäonnistuminen. Ainoa keino lieventää maahanmuuton negatiivisia levelmiötä on voimakkaasti vähentää lainsäädännöllisillä ja hallinnollisilla toimenpiteillä maahanmuuttoa EU- ja ETA-maiden ulkopuolelta Suomeen.





**Teemu
Haapalehto**
*Director of
Immigration
Affairs,
City of Espoo*

Questions/
Comments:

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Diversity, Trust, and
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