



Prof. Dr. Laura Stark

Laura Stark ist seit 2005 Professorin für Ethnologie im Department für Geschichte und Ethnologie der University of Jyväskylä, Finnland. Sie begann ihre Ausbildung an der University of California in Davis, USA, wo sie 1991 ihr Studium in Linguistik

und Kulturanthropologie abschloss. Ein Fulbright Stipendium brachte sie 1992 nach Helsinki. Hier erwarb sie 1998 den Ph.D. in Folklore Studies. 1998 wurde ihr der Young Researcher of the Year Award der Kalevala Society zugesprochen und 2001 erhielt sie den Kalevala Award der Finnischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Von 2002 bis 2004 leitete sie ein Projekt zum Thema »Modernization and Popular Experience in Finland 1860-1960«. Vor ihrer Berufung an die University of Jyväskylä war sie über drei Jahre Fellow des Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.

Neueste Publikationen:

- Magic, Body and Social Order: the Construction of Gender Through Women's Private Rituals in Traditional Finland. *Studia Fennica Folkloristica* 5. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 1998
- Satu Apo, Aili Nenola & Laura Stark, Hg.: Gender and Folklore: Perspectives on Finnish and Karelian Culture. *Studia Fennica Folkloristica* 4. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 1998
- Peasants, Pilgrims and Sacred Promises: Ritual and the Supernatural in Orthodox Karelian Folk Religion. *Studia Fennica Folkloristica* 11. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 2002
- The Magical Self: Body, Society and the Supernatural in Early Modern Rural Finland. *Folklore Fellows' Communications* 290. Helsinki: Academia Scientiarum Fennica, 2006
- Laura Stark, Hilikka Helsti & Saara Tuomaala, Hg.: Modernisaatio ja kansan kokemus Suomessa 1860-1960 (Modernization and Popular Experience in Finland 1860-1960). Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 2006

Kontakt

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DAAD Gastprofessorin

an der
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Prof. Dr. Laura Stark

Sommersemester 2008



Lehrveranstaltungen

► Seminar: The Body and Gender in Popular Culture

This course examines concepts and practices connected to gender and the body in the late modern West. Theoretical topics covered by this course include: deconstructing gender and sex; the body as social practice; the body as a system of signs; the body and power relations; the body as a historical construct; the radical deconstruction of the body as problematic text; and the body 'project' in modern culture. This course consists of both lectures and readings, as well as one examination and active projects by students on products of popular media, art and science: popular music, dance, sport, television, film, advertisements, animation, comic books, Internet, and works of popular science fiction. If students wish to explore other popular cultural materials, they can discuss this with the instructor on the first day of class. Lectures and readings will be in English.

Zeit: Dienstag, 10.15 bis 11.45 Uhr

Ort: Institut für Kulturanthropologie/Europäische Ethnologie (PH06)

Lehrveranstaltungen

► Seminar: Witchcraft and Magic in Scandinavian and Finnish perspective

This course consists of two parts. The first part is a discussion of Scandinavian magic and witchcraft beliefs in the historical context of the witchcraft trials (16th-18th centuries). The second half of the course examines the later persistence of Finnish magic and witchcraft which contained a number of features inherited from Eurasian shamanism. Finnish magic specialists known as »tietäjäs« were still reciting epic-length incantations at the beginning of the 20th century, and village witches were reported to have secretly entered neighbours' cattle sheds to perform harmful magic as late as the 1950s. The lectures examine, among other things, possible reasons for different attitudes toward witches in different Scandinavian countries, as well as the social function of magic-workers in 19th-century Finland. The course will connect magic practices and beliefs to their social, cultural and economic contexts in order to provide a broader picture of the kind of social situations in which magic and witchcraft flourished. Included in the course will be a discussion of how modernizing changes in Finland led to a decline in supernatural beliefs at the end of the 1800s and start of the 1900s. Lectures and readings will be in English.

Zeit: Donnerstag, 10.15 bis 11.45 Uhr

Ort: Institut für Kulturanthropologie/Europäische Ethnologie (PH06)

Lehrveranstaltungen

► Vorlesung mit Lektüre *Gender and Folklore: The case of Finland*

What can orally-transmitted folklore tell us about gender models in past cultures? This course takes as its example Finnish 19th-century rural culture. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, large amounts of folklore were recorded from the Finnish countryside, resulting in one of the largest folklore archives in the world. This course discusses how folklore can be seen as »windows« onto past gender concepts and stereotypes, taking into account source criticism for different folklore genres. Finland is an especially interesting case study because Finnish women have the reputation in Europe of being »strong« and enjoying »gender equality« with men. How did this reputation arise? Did it hold true in the older agrarian culture? Course topics include: Kinship, household and social class in 19th century Finnish agrarian society, sexuality, marriage, and children; work, money and power; alternative genders and mixed genders; images of women as guardians of the household versus women as wasteful and destructive; women's magic rituals; fantasy and taboo regarding the female body and sexuality; women and gender in lyric poetry, and elderly women, death and laments.

Zeit: Mittwoch, 10.15 bis 11.45 Uhr

Ort: Philosophische Fakultät, Institutsgebäude, Humboldtallee 19/21, Raum 0.110

Vortragsangebote

- **Male power versus female power in 19th-century agrarian Finland: public patriarchy and women's behind-the-scenes strategies**
- **Pre-modern concepts of self and body in Finnish magic narratives**

sowie nach Absprache