

# FIIA <sup>3/2017</sup> NEWSLETTER

The Nordic foreign policy institutes strengthen cooperation, FIIA will publish a topical report on North Korea in October and FIIA's relocation to Arkadiankatu will take place in November.

## The Nordic Foreign Policy Institutes strengthen cooperation

The five Nordic institutes of International Affairs have recently established more systematic cooperation thanks to funding made available by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

This new cooperation covers an exchange programme for researcher visits between the institutes. During 2016–2017 13 researchers visited another Nordic institute for up to one year. Joint research projects have been established on issues such as Brexit, Russian foreign policy and Nordic responses to geopolitical changes.

The five Nordic institutes also engage in an annual roundtable with key Chinese foreign policy institutes where topics of common interest are discussed.

## Upcoming report on North Korea

In October, FIIA will publish a report, *North Korean Conundrum: International responses and future challenges*, edited by Senior Research Fellow **Elina Sinkkonen**. The report provides an overview of the so-called North Korea problem and discusses the main options that the international community has at its disposal for dealing with it.

The study is the final report of Sinkkonen's research project "Geopolitical and Ideological Tensions on the Korean Peninsula



*The Summer Session keynote was delivered by Lt. Gen. **Steven M. Shepro**, Deputy Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, who provided a military angle on the current European security environment and NATO's continued adaptation of its defence capabilities.*

and Their Regional Ramifications" partly funded by the Korea Foundation. Project Director **Bart Gaens** and Senior Research Fellow **Katja Creutz** also contributed to the project.

## CUSPP Summer Session

The fourth FIIA Center on US Politics and Power (CUSPP) Summer Session took place on 29–31 August. The event brought together prominent American, European and Finnish experts to discuss the theme "Reimagining Transatlantic Relations in the Trump Era".

Among the panelists were President of the US–Russia Foundation Celeste Wallander, former US Secretary of Defence's Representative to Europe **Robert Bell**, Foreign Policy columnist **James Traub**, and Professor **Andrew Michta**, Dean of the College of International Security Studies at the Marshall Center. Video recordings of selected

sessions are available at the FIIA website.

Key topics explored at the conference included security in the Baltic Sea region and the High North, external influence on Western elections, the fate of the liberal rules-based international order and the evolution of great power relations in the 21st century.

Before next year's Summer Session, FIIA will publish a report which will further develop the themes raised during the conference.

The event was organized with the support of the Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation, and in cooperation with the United States Embassy in Finland and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

## FIIA to move in November

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, FIIA will move from its current premises in Katajanokka, Helsinki, to a more centrally located

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs is an independent research institute that produces high level research to support political decision-making and public debate both nationally and internationally

Arkadiankatu 23 at the end of November.

### Staff News

Visiting Senior Fellow **Olli Ruohomäki** will extend his visit at FIIA by another year. He is at FIIA via an exchange programme with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In the framework of the Nordic foreign policy institutes' exchange programme, NUPI researcher and expert on Russian politics Kristian Lundby Gjerde will visit FIIA from the beginning of October until the end of November.

PhD researcher **Matti Pesu** has joined the European Union research programme until the end of August 2018. He is an expert on Finnish foreign, security and defence policy.

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### Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs

This year's third issue of *Ulkopolitiikka*, the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs, focuses on **China's economic rise and its implications**. China's investment in the EU has reached a record high. One of the biggest concerns is that China's political leverage will increase along with the economic influence.

In his **essay on China**, Sitra's Teppo Turkki focuses on the concept of Chinese meritocracy. Beijing admires Singapore, which has created a modern mix of Chinese culture, capable leaders and a strong state. Those are the ingredients with which China seeks to become the leading power.

The Journal is available both as a **printed journal** and as an e-paper at [lehtiluukku.fi](http://lehtiluukku.fi).

### Recent publications

All FIIA publications are available on the Institute's **website**.

#### Report 51

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**Managing Unpredictability: Transatlantic relations in the Trump era**

Mika Aaltola & Bart Gaens (eds.)

#### Working Papers 97-99

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**Republican government in the United States: Its implications for US foreign policy**

Anna Kronlund

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**Spirituality as a political instrument: The Church, the Kremlin, and the creation of the 'Russian World'**  
Veera Laine & Iiris Saarelainen

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**China as a leading economic power: Could China stabilise the global economic system in times of crisis?**  
Mikael Mattlin

#### FIIA Briefing Papers 224-225

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**The EU in the German Elections: A Window of Opportunity for Euro and Defence Reforms**

Niklas Helwig

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**Endgame in Venezuela: Dictatorship or Re-Democratization?**

Mikael Wigell

#### FIIA Comments

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**Qatar engulfed: Tactical steps raise stakes in protracted crisis**

Wolfgang Mühlberger

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**Russian foreign policy: the art of avoiding choices is in high demand**

Arkady Moshes

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**Beyond a war of words? Assessing tensions on the Korean peninsula**

Jyrki Kallio, Charly Salenius-Pasternak, Bart Gaens & Ville Sinkkonen

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**US "soft power" and the Trump administration: Disturbing signs**

Leo Michel

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**No Eastern troublemaker: Estonian EU Presidency seeks unity in a fragmenting Europe**

Kristi Raik

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