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Elderly Sami as the “Other”

Discourses on the Elderly Care of the Sami, 1850–1930

ABSTRACT In this article, the authors have examined images of elderly Sami in relation to elderly care in Sweden between the years 1850 and 1930. What discourses can be revealed from spoken statements, written documents and every-day practices? This study has shown that the higher the degree of closeness and mutual exchange between Sami and non-Sami, the more the image of the “Other” as something “foreign” has been challenged and rejected. To be able to one-sidedly distance oneself from other people and turn them into stereotypes requires a certain amount of emotional and geographic distance. Where there has been physical distance and a lack of mutually beneficial exchange, the elderly Sami are more often described as “foreign,” “threatening” and “deviant,” a force of nature that must be tamed and controlled. The Sami dismissed as “not-quite-human” in the popular discourse were the paupers among them. A more balanced relationship existed between the Sami and the settlers in the mountains and the elderly Sami were often described as “one of the family.” The staffs of the Sami old-age homes were far more nuanced in their view of the elderly than the civil servants sent from Stockholm to report back on the Sami.

KEYWORDS Sami, elderly, elderly care, discourses, ethnicity

FRANK MÖLLER

“Wild Weirdness?” “Gross Humbugs!”

Memory-Images of the North and Finnish Photography

ABSTRACT In this essay it is argued that northern photography can serve as an epistemological triangle both combining different layers of experiences and memories with one another—experience in the north, experience as inhabitants of the north and experience as such—and connecting photographers, subjects of photography and viewers with one another. The essay discusses selected photographs of northern indigenous people and landscapes—and the approaches underlying them—in terms of what is here deemed key concepts in social research including northern studies: experience and memory. Owing to the surplus of meaning that images inevitably carry with them and their irreducibility to one meaning, photographic images, it is argued, contribute to what Sherrill Grace has called the north’s “resistance to measure and closure.” Images may help the beholder to acknowledge that different groups of people may have different memories of what only seems to be the same history. A brief discussion of the work of Jorma Puranen, Tiina Itkonen and Antero Takala substantiates these claims.

KEYWORDS photography, experience, memory, Jorma Puranen, Tiina Itkonen,

KJELL SJÖBERG

River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* (L.) Fishing in the Area around the Baltic Sea

ABSTRACT The river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) was previously caught in large numbers in Europe when migrating up in the rivers during autumn for spawning the next spring. It was used as food and was also used as bait in cod fishing in the North Sea. Today the river lamprey has decreased in numbers over much of its distribution range, but in the Baltic Sea area, the population is still at a fairly good level, and fishing for lampreys as food (a tradition going back to at least the fifteenth century) is still going on in northern Swedish and Finnish rivers, as well as in coastal rivers in the southern Baltic Sea area. In this article the current situation as regards river lamprey fishing in Sweden, Finland, Latvia and, to some extent, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland is presented.

KEYWORDS river lamprey, *Lampetra fluviatilis* (L.), Baltic Sea area, lamprey fishing, lamprey fishing gears

SABIRA STÅHLBERG & INGVAR SVANBERG

Catching Basking Ide, *Leuciscus idus* (L.), in the Baltic Sea

Fishing and Local Knowledge in the Finnish and Swedish Archipelagos

ABSTRACT Ide (*Leuciscus idus* (L.)) gathers in shallow bays in the Baltic archipelagos during warm summer days. Finnish, Estonian and Swedish islanders called this “basking” or “sunbathing.” The phenomenon was previously well known among fishermen, but it is very little researched. Local people caught the basking fish until some decades ago with special techniques, for example closing the bay with nets. Catching basking ide required observation, knowledge, attention and skill, but could provide a large catch when done properly. The method called for cooperation, but also divided the islanders according to fishing rights. The islanders’ observations and fishing techniques reflect a broad local ecological knowledge and the capability to utilise local resources from the environment. This historical and ethno-biological study investigates perceptions and traditional knowledge of basking ide, fishing techniques connected to ide and from a larger perspective, the interaction between humans and fish in the Baltic archipelagos.

KEYWORDS ide, *Leuciscus idus* (L.), Baltic Sea, local knowledge, historical fishing methods