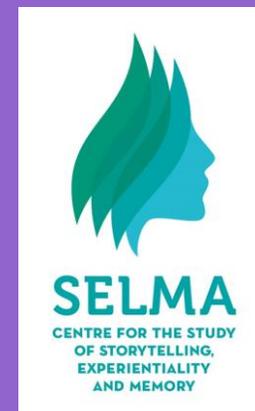


# Oral history, family memories and online participatory heritage activities

Histoire orale et culture numérique / Oral History und digitale Kulturen  
26.3.2022

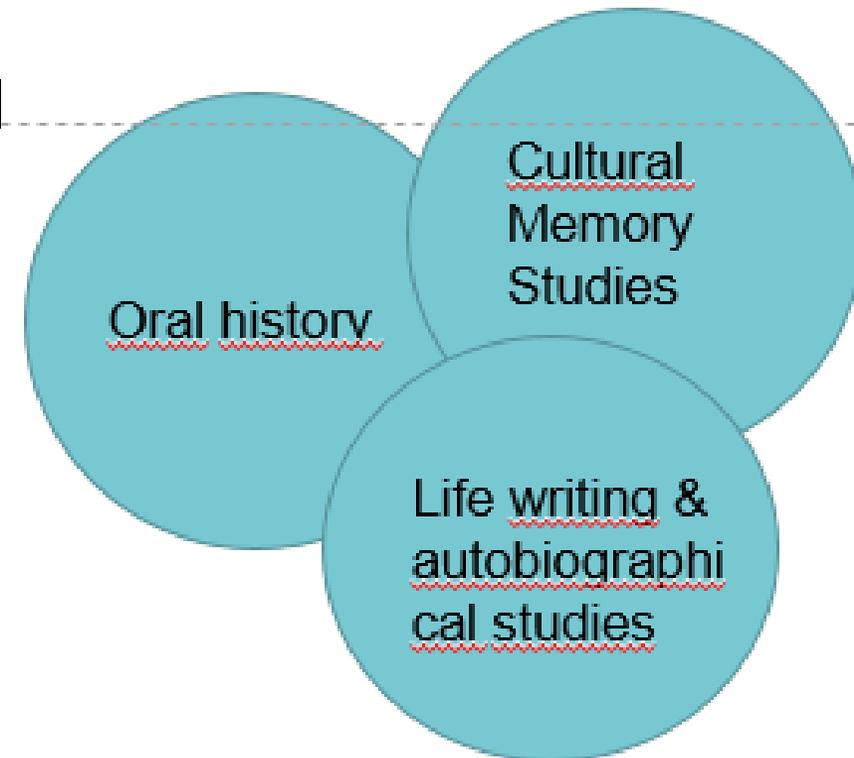
Prof., Dr. Anne Hemo  
School of History, Culture and Arts Studies  
anheimo@utu.fi



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# Oral history as a method, source and field of study

- Oral History Society, UK: “Oral history is the recording of people's memories, experiences and opinions.”
- Oral history Association, US: “Oral history is a field of study and a method of gathering, preserving and interpreting the voices and memories of people, communities, and participants in past events. Oral history is both the oldest type of historical inquiry, predating the written word, and one of the most modern, initiated with tape recorders in the 1940s and now using 21st-century digital technologies.”
- See: *Oral History* 2/2016 special issue on Nordic-Baltic oral history



# The Finnish Literature Society, collecting since 1831



Home — Archive — Archive Materials on Literature and Cultural History



## Archive Materials on Literature and Cultural History



### Archive

Using the Archives

Using the Archive Materials

Archives Price List

Archive Materials on Literature and Cultural History

Textual material

Picture collection

Sound recording materials

Meneillään olevat keruut, osallistu vastaamalla.

### Säästöpossusta osakesäästötiliin



Millainen on suhteesi rahaan? Meitä kiinnostaa suomalaisten suhde rahankäyttöön ja säästämiseen. Kerro omista tai läheistesi kokemuksista 31.3.2022 mennessä!

[Lisätietoja ja vastauslomake](#)

[Keruuessite](#) (pdf)

### Mitä on mielenterveys?



Miten sinä ymmärrät mielenterveyden? Keräämme tietoja siitä, mitä mielenterveydellä oikeastaan tarkoitetaan nykyisin, mikä siihen vaikuttaa ja miten sen hoitaminen koetaan. Kerro omat muistosi 21.4.2022 mennessä.

[Lisätietoja ja keruulomake](#)

[Keruuessite](#) (pdf)

### Sota Ukrainassa



24.2.2022 jää historiaan päivänä, jona Venäjä hyökkäsi Ukraina. Miten sinä olet reagoanut Ukrainan tapahtumiin? Kerro meille ajatuksistasi, tunteistasi ja teoistasi 31.5.2022 mennessä.

[Lisätietoja ja vastauslomake](#)

### Vantaalainen elämä

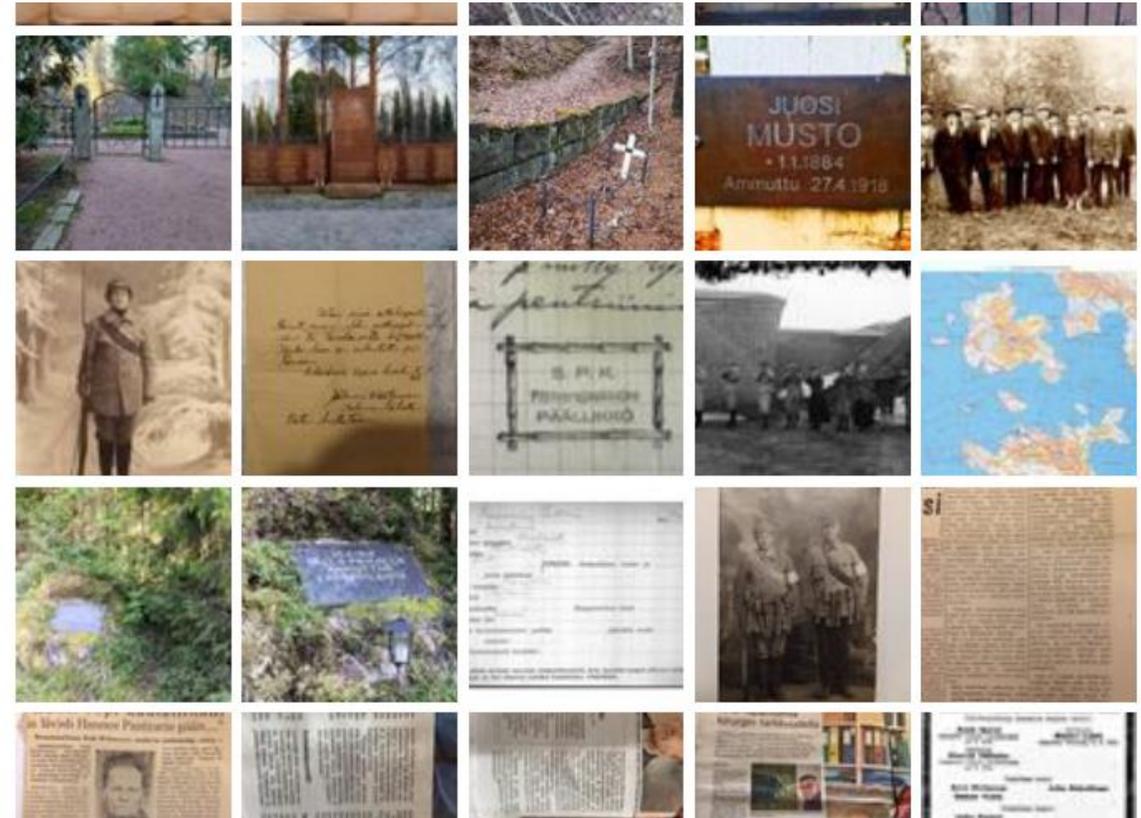
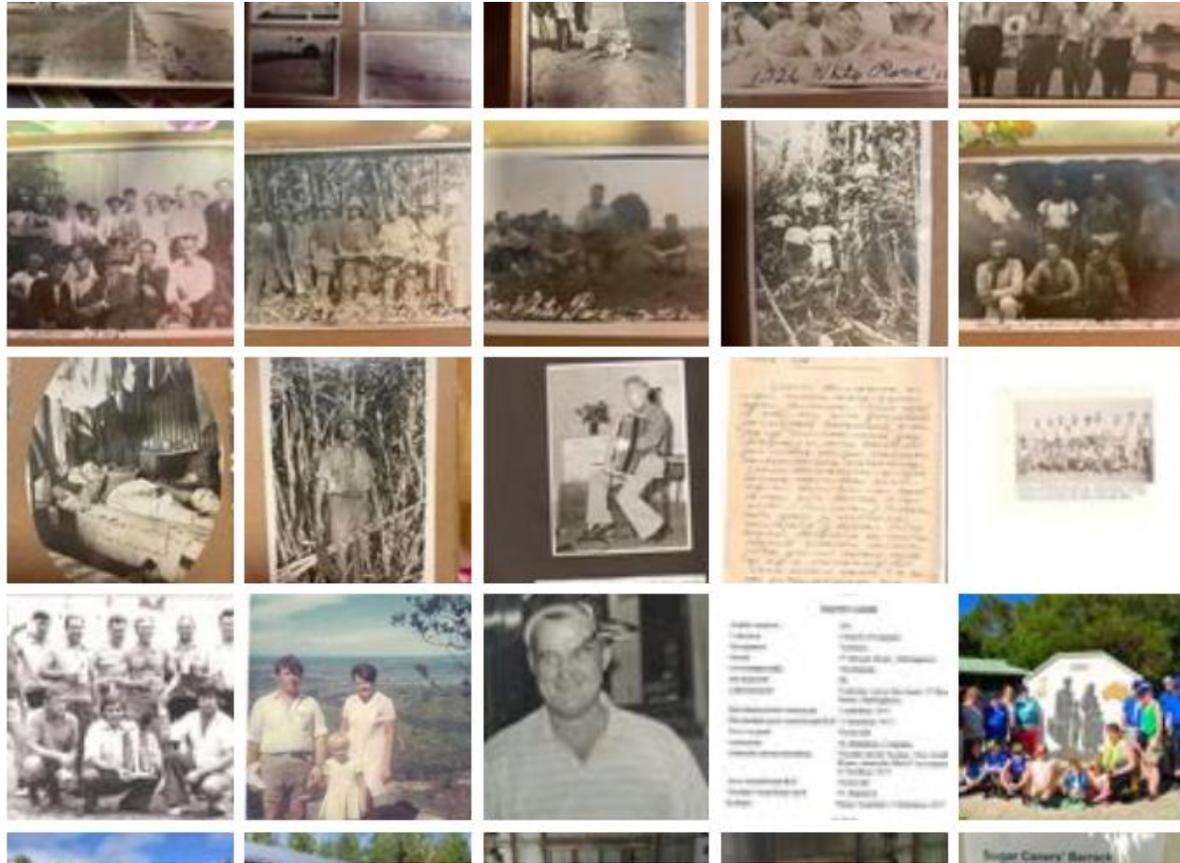
# Oral history as meaning-making

- “The first thing that makes oral history different, therefore, is that it tells us less about events than their *meaning*... Oral sources tell us not just what people did, but what they wanted to do, what they believed they did. Oral sources may not add much to what we know, for instance, of the material cost of a strike to the workers involved; but they tell us a good deal about its psychological costs.” (Alessandro Portelli 1991)
- Oral history is “ ... a powerful tool for discovering, exploring and evaluating the nature of the process of historical memory -- how people make sense of their past, how they connect individual experience and its social context and how the past becomes part of the present, and how people use it to interpret their lives and the world around them” (Michael Frisch 1990).

# Mediated memory - Memory on the move

- The need to move away from methodological nationalism and beyond the nation-state:
- Travelling memory: “... all cultural memory must ‘travel’, be kept in motion, in order to ‘stay alive’, to have an impact both on individual minds and social formations” (Astrid Erll 2011.)
- Transcultural memory: “The translocal, transnational, and global circulation of mnemonic contents, media, and practices” (Astrid Erll 2011.)
- Transnational memory: beyond (national) borders, e.g.
  - Global migration, global communication, post-colonialism, the (digital) mediascape ... (Chiara DeCesare & Ann Rigney 2014.)

# Participatory heritage activities and spontaneous archives



# Family memory

- “Family is the most important memory community. Most of us were born into families, and our lives have been embedded in them. In families we learn to feel the sense of belonging and experience the first links with the wider world. Families shape our understanding of individual and collective identities. Stories recounted in families have impact on our historical consciousness. Many of us cherish their family legacy, be that family heirlooms, photographs or digitized family videos. Some fall for the charm of genealogy, the others take the adventurous path of family historians.” (Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková 2021, 1.)



30 April 2018 · 🌐

Rauhallista Vappua! Tämän ryhmän ansiosta tutustuin Itä ja Länsi 1918 muistojulkaisuun ja löysin sieltä oheisen Toivo Vainion, mummoni enon, kuvan. Toivo kuoli 14.4.1918, ja hänet on haudattu Orimattilan Kuivannolle. Tänään kävin Kuivannolla. Ajattelin Toivoa ja muistelin isovanhempiani. Perhehistoriaa ja siihen vaikuttaneita yhteiskunnallisia tapahtumia ymmärtämällä sitä alkaa ymmärtämään omia vanhempiaan ja heidän valintojaan paremmin.



👍 You and 24 others

2 comments

8 January 2019 · 🌐

My great grandfather Axel PIHLAJAVIITA and his family emigrated to Australia in early 1900. My grandfather was about 9 years old at the time. Both have long passed. Although a little worse for wear, we still have these family treasures...



👍👍👍 You and 124 others

28 comments



26 August 2018 · 🌐

A day late. I am a Happy Finnish Woman 🇫🇮

When I hang up my clothes is when I feel closest to my mother as I hear her voice in my head instructing me as a small child how to group things, how to hang shirts so you won't see the clothespin mark, and how to hang certain items flush with the line instead of bent over because of her strict preferences.

I miss you



You and 193 others



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