

Presentation of the speakers



Heikki Mikkeli is docent of European Area and Cultural Studies at the University of Helsinki, with expertise in European identity. In his book *Europe as an Idea and an Identity*, Heikki Mikkeli introduces various attempts to unify Europe from antiquity to the European Union. The possibility of a common European identity is also discussed.



Kristian Gerner, Professor emeritus of History at Lund University, and previous Professor of Eastern European history and culture at Uppsala University. A former Chairman of The Swedish Committee Against Antisemitism, Kristian Gerner investigates how countries in Central Europe treat the experiences of the holocaust and of communism as parts of history.



Olli Kivinen, an independent columnist of the largest newspaper in the Nordics, Finland's Helsingin Sanomat, former Senior Editor and Columnist of Helsingin Sanomat, Correspondent to The Times (London) and The Independent, has become an esteemed Finnish expert on foreign policy and Europe in particular.



Seppo Hentilä is currently Professor of Political History at the University of Helsinki. Recently he spent a year as visiting professor of Humboldt-Universität in Berlin. He has focused his research on Germany before and after the Unification, as well as history politics and political uses of history.



Ozan Sunar, a freelance writer and author, came to Sweden from Turkey in the 70's. Among other jobs, he has been head of cultural programmes at the Swedish public service television company SVT, as well as a political adviser on immigration issues. He is co-author of the anthology *Håller Europa?*, which discusses identities, cultural diversity and religion in Europe.



Gellert Tamas, raised by Hungarian parents in Sweden, is a Swedish journalist writing in their largest newspaper Dagens Nyheter and working for Swedish television stations. By chance he found himself amid a crumbling Eastern Europe, reporting to Sweden from centre stage. In his most recent book he depicts how the Swedish Government seems to have nodded towards a scarily hostile policy toward immigrants during the first years in this millennium.



Catherine Fieschi is Director of Counterpoint, the British Council's think-tank and a visiting scholar at St Antony's College, Oxford. Her work on mobilization, identity formation and institutional development addresses how citizens, institutions and states engage in self-definition as traditional coordinates seem to vanish under the pressures of globalization.



Albyn Leah Hall is a novelist and psychotherapist who has lived in New York, Los Angeles, Ireland and London. She is author of novels *Deliria* and *The Rhythm of the Road* and has a film in development. Interested in human extremes, she has worked with prisoners and political prisoners in Northern Ireland as well as a variety of mental health issues. Her written work focuses on culture clash and those who live on the margins of society.



Mikko Fritze lives in Estonia where he is director of Capital of Culture 2011 in Tallinn. With work experience including social work, business, marketing, public relations as well as teaching, translating and interpreting, Mikko Fritze has twice served as director of the Goethe Institute, first in Estonia and then in Uruguay.