

Information for the Finnish Country page for the RSA website

Finland enjoys a long tradition in regional studies, geography and rural studies. All the departments and centres listed below have detailed information in English, some more some less, and some of them have documents and working papers also in English. English also serves well to contact and visit the academic research centres and the other organisations.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND

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SELECTED CENTRES

University of Tampere, Department of Regional Studies has three intertwined main disciplines that are regional studies, local governance and environmental policy.

The Department of Regional Studies is an academic community of faculty and students concerned with the societal, economic and environmental development in all its complexity. The Department is nationally and internationally recognized for its interdisciplinary academic expertise in the fields of environmental policy, urban and regional development, local governance and political geography.

The Department is widely acclaimed for its capacity in education. The Ministry of Education has nominated it three times as a national centre for educational excellence. The latest nomination was for years 2007-2009 (also 1999-2000 and 2001-2003).

The common denominator of the various research groups and their projects is the ambition to understand and analyze social dynamics of spatial and environmental change. Alongside the specific research themes of the individual research groups there are five crosscutting themes that are common to all the groups at the Department: a) Institutions and institutional change, b) political processes, governance, democracy and participation, c) information and knowledge; politicization of knowledge, d) space and identity and e) management, leadership and networks.

The Department of Regional Studies is one of the four departments at the Faculty of Economics and Administration.

<http://www.uta.fi/laitokset/yhdt/english/>

University of Tampere, Research Unit for Urban and Regional Development Studies (Sente) is a specialised and independent research unit affiliated to the Department of Regional Studies.

The research at Sente focuses on a) leadership, policy-networks and strategic management in local and regional economic development; b) local and regional innovation systems; c) self-renewal capacity of systems and resilient regions; and d) higher educational institutes' roles in regional development.

http://www.sjoki.uta.fi/sente/index_en.php

Sente has a Net Library that contains working papers, research reports and articles in English - http://www.sjoki.uta.fi/sente/netlibrary_en.php

The Department of Geography at the University of Helsinki is the oldest and largest Geography department in Finland. The Faculty has about 25 members. In Helsinki geography has two majors: geography and regional studies. Geography is divided into physical geography, human geography, geographical education and geoinformatics. Regional studies is divided into urban and planning geography, development geography and tourism geography. Minors can be made in geography, regional studies, geoinformatics or urban and planning geography. Department also provides an international master's degree programme in geoinformatics (GIMP). The current focus in research is in remote sensing and geoinformatics, hydrogeography, political geography and urban geography.

<http://www.helsinki.fi/geography/>

The Department of Geography has also some publications in English on their website:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/maantiede/ega.html>

University of Turku, Department of Geography is the second oldest geography department in Finland. The Finnish-language University of Turku was founded in 1920 and geography was established as a university discipline in the autumn of 1924. The staff comprises about 20 persons, including five professors. The department focuses its research activity on regional environment studies, regional development studies, urban studies and applied geoinformatics.

<http://www.sci.utu.fi/maantiede/en/>

University of Oulu, Department of Geography has three majors that are Physical Geography, Human and Regional Geography, Applied Geography and Regional Planning. The object of the research carried out in physical geography is to ascertain the present state of the natural environment with respect to the relationship between man and nature, to analyze the processes taking place in nature and to map their regional occurrence. Research in human and regional geography is concentrated on the theory and empirical applications of modern geography aim being to develop the theory of regions and regional transformation, and also analyzing empirically the transformation of the Finnish regional system as an individual spatial case.

http://www.oulu.fi/geography/department_of_geography_start.html

University of Joensuu, Programme on Geography focuses on regional and community development, multidisciplinary border studies, environmental studies and rural studies.

<http://www.joensuu.fi/geo/english/index.html>

University of Vaasa, Programme on Regional Studies specialises in a) regional features of entrepreneurship; b) central places and spheres of influence, the network of urban societies; c) regional development policy and planning; and d) international functions and business environments, especially European Union as an operation field of firms and public organizations.

<http://www.uwasa.fi/aluetiede/english/>

University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute is an independent institute at the University of Helsinki. The two units of the Ruralia Institute are situated in Mikkeli and in Seinäjoki. The mission of the Ruralia Institute is to improve the sources of livelihood in rural areas and to develop the living conditions of rural people. The means are multidisciplinary academic research, teaching, development and training as well as co-operation with regional, national and international partners. The expertise of Ruralia Institute is focused on the following fields: a) rural entrepreneurship; b) rural policy; c) rural culture; d) rural communities; e) rural services; and f) organic food production cooperation and co-operative entrepreneurship.

<http://www.helsinki.fi/ruralia/>

Turku School of Economics, Programme on Economic Geography concentrates on the following themes: a) Corporate Social Responsibility; b) spatial behavior of companies and consumers; c) geography of travel and tourism; d) geographic information systems (GIS) in business; and d) Regional planning and planning theories

<http://www.tse.fi/EN/units/departmentsandunits/tm/Pages/>

Abbr eviation	English organisational description	URL	address	other contact details
	University of Tampere, Department of Regional Studies	www.uta.fi/laitokset/yhdt/english/	Kanslerinrinne 1 FI-33014 University of Tampere Finland	Tel: +358 3 3551 6421 Fax: +358 33551 7311
Sente	University of Tampere, Research Unit for Urban and Regional Development Studies	www.sjoki.uta.fi/sente/index_en.php	Yliopistonkatu 60 a FI-33014 University of Tampere Finland	Tel. +358 3 3551 8854 Fax: +358 3 3551 8860
	University of Helsinki, Department of Geography	www.helsinki.fi/geography/	P.O. Box 64 FI-00014 University of Helsinki Finland	Tel +358 9 1911 Fax +358 9 191 50760
	University of Turku, Department of Geography	www.sci.utu.fi/maantiede/en/	FI-20014 Turku Finland	Tel. +358 2 333 5580 Fax. +358 2 333 5896
	University of Oulu, Department of Geography	www.oulu.fi/geography/department_of_geography_start.html	P.O. Box 3000 FI-90014 University of Oulu Finland	Tel. +358 8-553 1700 Fax. +358 8 553 1693
	University of Joensuu, Programme on Geography	www.joensuu.fi/geography/english/index.html	P.O. Box 111 FI-80101 Joensuu Finland	tel: +358 13 251 3448 fax: +358 13 251 3454
	University of Vaasa, Programme on Regional Studies	www.uvasa.fi/alue_tiede/english/	P.O.Box 700 FI-65101 Vaasa Finland	Tel. +358 6 324 8111 Fax +358 6 324 8465
Ruralia	University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute	www.helsinki.fi/ruralia/	Mikkeli Unit Lönnotinkatu 7 FIN-50100 Mikkeli Finland Seinäjoeki Unit Kampusranta 9 FIN-60320 Seinäjoki Finland	Mikkeli tel. +358 15 20231 fax +358 15 2023 300 Seinäjoeki tel. +358 6 4213 300 fax +358 6 4213 301

