



**OUMMU RÂÄST RAAJ**  
People cross the borders



# PAST AND PRESENT OF THE SKOLT SAAMI

Seminar on history, cultural  
heritage and psychological support

**27.-28.2.2026**

**Friday 27.2.2026**

**Venue:**

Sámi Cultural Centre Sajos, Inari, Finland  
Sää'mkulttuurkōöskōs

**Working languages:**

English with interpretation to Finnish and Norwegian

**Saturday 28.2.2026**

**Venue:**

Youth and Holiday Centre Vasatokka, Inari, Finland

**Working languages:**

English, Finnish and Norwegian, consecutive interpretation

## Program

Organizer reserves right to make any changes without prior notice

**Interreg**



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# FRIDAY 27.2.2026 1/2

## Seminar on Skolt Saami history, cultural heritage and psychological support

**Venue:** Sámi Cultural Centre Sajos, Inari, Finland

**Working languages:** English with simultaneous interpretation to Finnish and Norwegian

11:00

**Arrival to Sámi Cultural Centre Sajos, Inari, Finland**

11:00-12:00

**Lunch at Cafe Čaiju (at own expense)**

12:00-12:45

**Opening of the seminar**

**Opening of the seminar on behalf of Inari and Sør-Varanger Municipalities:**

Ilkka Korhonen, Director of Education and Culture Department of Inari Municipality

Harald Sørensen, Head of Culture and Leisure Department of Sør-Varanger Municipality

**Presentation of speakers and organizers**

**Introduction of psychosocial-support providers**

12:45-14:00

**Making and Crossing Borders in Finnish Petsamo**

***Exclusion and inclusion of Skolt Saami in Finnish national strategies 1918-1940***

Peter Stadius, Professor in Nordic Studies, University of Helsinki

Research Director, The Centre for Nordic Studies

***Vanishing Natives? Skolt Saami, Finnish Travel Writers, and Borders***

Janne Lahti, PhD. Project leader (Petsamo: A Finnish Settler Colony; Kone Foundation)

Assistant professor of general history (title of docent), University of Helsinki

Researcher, Linnaeus University

***Crossing Borders in the Finnish Literary Representations of Pechenga***

Elina Arminen, Senior University Lecturer at University of Eastern Finland

***Borders, families and sijds***

Sonja Tanhua, PhD. Post doc researcher at Petsamo: A Finnish Settler Colony -project; (Kone Foundation.), University of Helsinki

14:00-14:30

**Coffee break**

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# FRIDAY 27.2.2026 2/2

## *Seminar on Skolt Saami history, cultural heritage and psychological support*

14:30-15:00

### *Sorrow, resistance and remembrance in Skolt Saami history*

Astri Andresen, Professor, University of Bergen

15:00-16:00

### *The Skolt Saami language*

#### *Drawing borders, silencing languages: The sociolinguistic history of Skolt Saami societies 1850s-2020s*

Taarna Valtonen, Senior researcher, University of Turku / Research Council of Finland  
Associate Professor (Title of Docent), Giellagas Institute, University of Oulu

### *Skolt Saami Dialects*

Markus Juutinen, University Lecturer, Giellagas Institute, University of Oulu  
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Turku

16:00-16:45

### **Light meal**

16:45-17:15

### *The Border Treaty of 14/2 May 1826 and the Skolt Saami Special Rights*

Drs. Waling T. Gorter (Cand.polit.), Professor Emeritus at the University of Arkhangelsk (NArFU), accredited conservator (NMF)

17:15-18:00

### **Panel discussion:**

#### *1826-2026: 200 Years after the Border Demarcation and the Way Forward*

18:00-18:15

### **Conclusion and farewell words**

This part is intended primarily for the Skolt Saami community members attending saturday's genealogy workshop:

18:30

### **Transportation to Youth and Holiday Centre Vasatokka and Check-in**

19:00-20:00

### **Dinner at Vasatokka**

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# SATURDAY 28.2.2026

## Genealogy workshop for the Skolt Saami community

**Venue:** Youth and Holiday Centre Vasatokka, Inari, Finland

**Working languages:** English, Finnish and Norwegian, consecutive interpretation

08:00-09:00

**Breakfast and check-out**

09:00-10:00

### Introduction to genealogy

Facilitator: Irja Jefremoff

10:00-12:00

### Genealogy circles, working in two groups

Finnish Facilitators: Jenna Gauriloff, Erkki Lumisalmi

Norwegian facilitators: to be confirmed

12:00-13:00

**Lunch**

13:00-15:00

### Genealogy circles continue, working together and finding relatives cross the border

15:00-15:30

**Coffee and light snacks**

15:30-18:00

*For the Skolt Saami community living in Finland, program in Finnish:*

**Kolttakulttuurisäätiön Sää'mpää'ljes-hankkeen keskeneräisten tulosten esittely:**

**Kysely- ja lähihaastatteluista nousseiden keskeisten teemojen palauttaminen ja**

**keskustelu**

Skolt Saami Cultural Foundation's Sää'mpää'ljes project

*For other participants:*

**Free time**

18:15

**Transportation to Ivalo and Nellim area (drop-off to Ivalo airport)**

**Transportation to Sevettijärvi and Kirkenes area**

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