



OUMMU RÂÂST 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'mkulttuurkõõskõs

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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the European Union

150 INARI
Aanaar Aanar Andr 1876

**Sør-Varanger
kommune**

Aurora

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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