

SKANDINAVISTIKOS CENTRAS AND RESEARCH NETWORK
NEW GEOGRAPHIES OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

INVITE TO THE LECTURE BY

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**VYBORG – A LOST BORDER CITY OF
HISTORIES, MEMORIES AND MEANINGS**



Thursday, June 1, 1 PM

Room 314

Speaker's abstract:

Vyborg, founded in the 13th century, grew during centuries under Swedish, Russian and Finnish rule into a flourishing multicultural and multilingual community and became the capital of its region, the Karelian Isthmus. Before WWII, Vyborg was the second largest city in the independent state of Finland. During WWII, it was invaded through Soviet troops and became part of the Soviet Union after the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947.

In my talk I shall discuss how Vyborg – despite of decades past – has not lost its significance in the mental space and cultural memory of Finnish people. My focus lies on the ways Vyborg has been remembered, re-written and re-conceptualized in literature, as well in personal memoirs as in fiction and poetry. Vyborg literature is regarded and analyzed as a communally shared place of memory that makes a return to a lost time, space and city possible.