

Obstacles to the realization of Sámi rights in Northwestern Russia

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The article examines the influence of the Russian Indigenous rights framework on different aspects of the lives of the Kola Sámi. In Russia, the Constitution and federal laws contain legal norms that protect the rights of Indigenous peoples. However, in the last decade, scholars and the media have paid increasing attention to challenges related to the realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples. In this study, the effects of Sámi rights are examined with the help of legal pluralism, emphasizing the grievances of the Indigenous peoples of Russia and the contradictions of the legal system. The research material consists of four interviews, 21 news articles from 2013–22 and one podcast. The results show that the three areas impacting the rights of the Kola Sámi are self-government and self-determination, obstacles to the practice of traditional livelihoods, and contradictions in the existence of rights *de jure*. The research emphasizes the detrimental effect of Arctic development during the Putin administration on the realization of the rights of the Sámi people. The article also refers to colonial practices that have affected the experiences of Indigenous peoples from the Soviet era onwards, especially obstacles related to the exercise of rights.

Russian heritage speakers in foreign language teaching

Johanna Viimaranta

The article discusses how heritage speakers of Russian experience their learning environment as compared to Finnish-speaking foreign language learners. A questionnaire was conducted among degree students of Russian as a foreign language at the University of Helsinki and was answered by 40 respondents. The main result is that students find it important for heritage speakers and foreign language learners to be taught in separate groups. Heritage speakers were also found to differ from foreign language learners in how they experience the studies and their relevance to their future careers.