

**Riitta Jytilä: Experience of violence and traumatic memory in contemporary prose fiction – Susanna Hast’s *Ruumis/huoneet* and Iida Rauma’s *Hävitys***

In the article, I study the experience of violence in the works of Susanna Hast and Iida Rauma. I approach my research subjects as trauma literature and ask, on the one hand, how dealing with traumatizing violence against children opens the boundaries set between private and public in these two works. In addition to the societal significance of trauma, I highlight the works in terms of their aesthetics: how does the language and narrative of literature, e.g. metaphors and intertextuality, enable the handling and conceptualization of trauma? In the article, I elaborate the idea of trauma as an “entangled object” where different political, economic, cultural and psychological dimensions and interests meet. The works deal with the experience of violence, but also problematize the truth of the individual, stressing the cultural construction of trauma. They show that we are part of a larger network where our own experience is always in relation to the vulnerability of others as well. I read

works as examples of a development in which fiction, mental health work and social change are intertwined in many ways.



**Heidi Kosonen & Elina Westinen: “Let me go, I’ll tame my demons on my own” – Self-willed death in Finnish rap music**

As a stigmatized and silenced death, suicide continues to be a taboo, particularly beyond abstract or scientific viewpoints. Suicide as a cause of death is also gendered: in Finland and elsewhere more men than women continue to die of suicide. In this article, we explore how suicide and suicidality are discussed in Finnish rap music. In particular, we analyze 1) what kinds of reasons and motives suicide and suicidality are associated with, 2) whose suicide/suicidality is discussed and 3) how suicide/suicidality are discussed, with special focus on the message and tone of the songs. Our data consist of 38 songs, explored with discourse-analysis and loose categorization. The analysis reveals both holistic

and social/sociological reasons given to suicide. Moreover, it discusses the viewpoints of close friends and family, but also personal accounts. Finally, the analysis encompasses songs that either stigmatize or carnavalize suicide, offer support or express societal critique. Our observations are guided by the affordances of rap music as a low-threshold genre, traditionally for boys and young men. While previous research has emphasized analysing the effects of rap music, our study joins the few qualitative ones that place emphasis on nuanced, deep understandings of the phenomenon.



**Toni Saarinen: Eschatological populism and “The Great Replacement” myth**

Even in contemporary times, myths carry enormous significance as transmitters of information, shapers of worldviews and tools for ideologies. They are discourses that speak of the unseen and above ordinary, yet they take secular forms as well. “Eschatological populism”, as I have termed it, builds on older myths

as it describes "the people" who face an imminent existential danger. Such ideas constantly combine with notions of a great conspiracy. This article defines eschatological populism, presents its core constituents, and examines the mythic discourses that it entails. In contemporary right-wing populism, secular eschatology often appears as a nativist idea of the "true people" being invaded in their homeland. I describe the mythic construction of the (ending) world in right-wing populism and analyze "The Great Replacement" myth. This conspiracist myth argues for the existence of a hidden plot according to which "the elite" attempt a "white genocide" in the West by bringing in immigrants from the Middle East. The Great Replacement appears as both strategically ambivalent allusions in populist communication and violent far-right action. Thus, it demonstrates the many uses of mythic discourse and the power of myth in constructing and sustaining ideologies.

## KULTTUURINTUTKIMUKSEN SEURA ry

SÄLLSKAPET FÖR KULTURSTUDIER I  
FINLAND rf

SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL STUDIES IN  
FINLAND

### PUHEENJOHTAJA/CHAIR

Kaisa Murtoniemi,  
Tampereen yliopisto  
✉ [kaisa.murtoniemi@tuni.fi](mailto:kaisa.murtoniemi@tuni.fi)

### SIHTEERI/SECRETARY

Sanna Raninen  
✉ [sihteeri@kultut.fi](mailto:sihteeri@kultut.fi)

### VERKKOSIVUT/WEBSITE

[www.kulttuurintutkimus.fi](http://www.kulttuurintutkimus.fi)

### POSTITUSLISTA/MAILING LIST

✉ [kultut@lists.jyu.fi](mailto:kultut@lists.jyu.fi)

Kulttuurintutkimuksen seuran tavoitteena on toimia korkeakouluissa ja muissa tutkimuslaitoksissa kulttuurintutkimusta harjoittavien tutkijoiden yhdyssiteenä ja jatkokoulutusta tarjoavana yhteisönä. Tavoitetaan seura toteuttaa järjestämällä tieteellisiä tapahtumia kulttuurintutkimuksen eri alueilta sekä julkaisemalla *Kulttuurintutkimus*-lehteä.

The objective of the Society for Cultural Studies in Finland is to serve as a connecting link between cultural researchers active in institutions of higher education and in other institutions, and to function as a community offering post-graduate education. The Society pursues these goals by arranging scholarly meetings and seminars around topics from various fields of cultural studies, and by publishing the journal *Kulttuurintutkimus*.