



PhD Erika Katjaana Sarivaara 15th April 2021

Indigenizing the teacher education

The case of the University of Lapland



LAPIN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF LAPLAND
For the North – For the World



Educational Indigenous and Saami research at the UoL



PhD, docent
Pigga Keskitalo
(2010)
Saamelaiskoulun
kulttuuri-
sensitiivisyyttä
etsimässä
kasvatus-
antropologian
keinoin



PhD Erika Sarivaara
(2012)
Statuksettomat
saamelaiset –
Paikantumisia
saamelaisuuden
rajoilla



PhD Inker-Anni
Linkola (2014)
Saamelaisen
koulun
kielimaismesta –
etnografinen
tutkimus
saamen kielestä
toisen asteen
oppilaitoksessa



PhD Outi
Korpilähde
(2015) Kun
pohjoisen
matkasta tuli
elämän
mittainen:
suomalais-
vaimot
saamelais-
yhteisössä



PhD Rauni Äärelä-
Vihriälä (2016)
Dat ii leat dušše
dat giella - "Se ei
ole vain se kieli":
Tapaustutkimus
saamenkielisestä
kielipesästä
saamelaisessa
varhais-
kasvatuksessa



PhD Rauna
Rahko-Ravantti
(2016)
Saamelaisopetu
s Suomessa:
tutkimus
saamelais-
opettajien
opetustyöstä
suomalais-
kouluissa



PhD Marikaisa
Laiti (2018)
Saamelaisen
varhais-
kasvatuksen
toteutus
Suomessa



PhD Madoka
Hammie
(2020)
Speaking my
Language and
Being Beautiful
– Decolonizing
Education in
Ryukyus with a
Special refence
to Sámi
language
revitalization



PhD Outi Laiti (2021)
Old ways of knowing,
new ways of playing -
The potential of
collaborative game
design to empower
Indigenous Sámi

Indigenization and decolonization in education

Indigenization

- Teaching about Indigenous people and bringing Indigenous understandings into education **for all students**
- Indigenous knowledge systems together with Western knowledge systems
- Benefits Indigenous students, all students, teachers, and community members involved or impacted by Indigenization

(see Alfred, 2009; Alfred & Corntassel, 2005; Pete, 2015)

Decolonization

- **Valuing and revitalizing** Indigenous knowledge and approaches and weeding out biases or assumptions that have impacted Indigenous ways of being



**The National Curriculum
prompts to teach about Saami
people in elementary school**

The processes of transformation at UoL:

MANDATORY STUDIES (2022):

1. Saami knowledge (1 ECTS)

- Saami people as indigenous peoples

ELECTIVE STUDIES:

1. Saami language studies for Saami speakers

(25 ECTS) 

**2. Saami didactics for Saami speakers (5
ECTS) **

3. Saami pedagogy studies (5 ECTS)

4. Saami cultural studies (5 ECTS)

**5. Saami language for Finnish speakers (5
ECTS)**

**6. Indigenous and Saami research studies (25
ECTS)**

7. Saami rights (5 ECTS)

8. Saami art (5 ECTS)



Indigenizing the mindset of educators, students and administration



1. Seeing the value of indigenous themes in curriculum
2. Not looking at the numbers of students – often those are low
3. Continuos reflection of own attitudes and prejudices
4. Indigenizing teaching

(see Antoine, Mason, Mason, Palahicky, Rodriguez de France 2020)



Giitu!

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