

Finland: one nation – (only) two languages?

Sažetak:

Finland today is an officially bilingual country, with Finnish and Swedish as the two national languages with an equal official status. In this lecture, I will discuss the language situation in Finland from a historical perspective, and from a less canonical point of view. I will first describe the prestige of Swedish before the 19th century, and then discuss the national project in the 19th century that caused rapid - and also rather surprising - changes in the linguistic landscape and the power relations of the languages in Finland. I will close by analyzing more broadly "monolingual multilingualism", and discuss suppressed minority languages and their present emancipation in the multi-national Arctic area.