



Book announcement:

Biography, gender and history: Nordic perspectives
Eds. Erla Hulda Halldórsdóttir, Tiina Kinnunen, Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Birgitte Possing

New publication on biography and history by the book series Cultural history – Kulttuurihistoria at the University of Turku
<http://www.utu.fi/fi/yksikot/hum/yksikot/kulttuurihistoria/tutkimus/culturalhistory/Sivut/home.aspx>

How to construct a life of a nineteenth-century Icelandic ordinary woman? What perspectives does surveillance material open up when exploring an individual? How to use portraits as biographical clues? What do group biographies or pair biographies add to the genre of historical biography?

This book, with contributions by scholars from various Nordic countries, reflects the biographical turn that has influenced Nordic historical research during the past few decades. It is a contribution to the growing international interest in, and theorisation of, biography and biographical research as a method of doing history. The individual chapters focus on challenges of gender, context, and relationality in biographical research, and develop the methodologies of biographical research further.

'This is an excellent volume covering a significant gap in the interdisciplinary field of historical and biographical writing not only in the Nordic milieu but more widely; it does so from a rich range of perspectives, theoretical and methodological approaches, as well as biographical case studies. It is indeed a rare contribution in the life-writing literature.'

- Professor Maria Tamboukou (University of East London)

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Book orders: <https://utushop.utu.fi/p/1900-biography-gender-and-history-nordic-perspectives/>

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Erla Hulda Halldórsdóttir, Tiina Kinnunen, Maarit Leskelä-Kärki

Doing biography

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Birgitte Possing

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Christina Carlsson Wetterberg

Biography as a way of challenging gender stereotypes: Reflections on writing about the Swedish author and feminist Frida Stéenhoff (1865–1945)

II GENDER

Erla Hulda Halldórsdóttir

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Antti Harmainen

Group biography as an approach to studying manhood and religion in late nineteenth-century Finland

Kristine Kjærsgaard

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Tiina Kinnunen

'Fighting sisters': A comparative biography of Ellen Key (1849–1926) and Alexandra Gripenberg (1857–1913) in the contested field of European feminisms

Irene Andersson

Telling stories of gendered space and place: the political agency of the Swedish communist Valborg Svensson (1903–1983)

IV RELATIONS

Maarit Leskelä-Kärki

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Heini Hakosalo

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Tiina Kinnunen, Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Erla Hulda Halldórsdóttir, Birgitte Possing

Afterword: Future challenges