

Editorial

This theme issue, *Journal of Finnish Studies* 23 (2), ventures to an area of inquiry different from the typical themes of this journal: entrepreneurship in Finland. Finland has recently collected superlatives in a number of areas, from the happiest country in the world to the least corrupt country (not to mention Finland's fame in the field of education). From working on this theme issue as *JoFS*'s general editor, I have now learned that Finland is also among the best countries for entrepreneurs (Entrepreneurship in Finland). The contributions to this issue encapsulate an attitude toward excellence: after having achieved impressive goals, one should not rest but must engage in a constant quest for further improvement. The articles show innovation and inspiration, and they do not shy away from identifying areas where more work is needed. The factors emphasized as prerequisites for the maintenance of excellence must include the willingness to invest in entrepreneurial education, to provide opportunities for business students to practice their skills in hands-on settings, and (3) to create and promote opportunities for collaboration between universities and businesses. Knowledge about personality types and human capital and their relationships with successful entrepreneurship must also be sought out, in order to support the growth. Digitalization of sales and commercialization of research are examples of changes that must be responded to in both business and the academic world. As Tiina Brandt points out in her introduction to this issue, Finland has done its part by providing an essential boost to entrepreneurship by its financial support during the 2020 pandemic.

The guest editor, Dr. Tiina Brandt from Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences, has compiled a collection of articles reflecting cutting-edge research on entrepreneurship in Finland. The collection grew out of two important conferences (in 2018 and 2019) held at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences—a concrete factor behind the choice of the Tampere crest for the cover of this issue. But the symbolism of the Tampere crest adds to the rationale behind this selection for our cover: the centrally depicted Tammerkoski Rapids motivated the very establishment of Tampere and enabled its development into a leading industrial town during the early decades of the nineteenth century. The hammer on the crest reminds one of Tampere's many factories that have had an essential role in re-shaping Finland from an agricultural society into an industrialized nation. After World War II, Tampere's metal industry, which included factories such as Lokomo and Tampella, helped to respond to Finland's heavy task of paying war reparations (see, e.g., Finnish War Reparations to the Soviet Union). The caduceus on the crest stands not only for commerce, trade, and logistics; it is also a symbol of messengers and negotiation. Let this theme issue be a messenger about Finland's leading research on entrepreneurship—and let it help to negotiate new, applied grounds in the field of Finnish Studies.

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References

- “Entrepreneurship in Finland: Finland is the Best Country for Startups!” Financial Quarter of Finland—finrepo.fi. [Online]. <https://finrepo.fi/en/entrepreneurship-in-finland>.
- “Finnish War Reparations to the Soviet Union.” [Online]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish_war_reparations_to_the_Soviet_Union.

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