

Editorial

Three years ago, Fennia transformed into a solely digital Open Access journal. After a careful consideration and planning together the Finnish Society of Geography, the departure from the traditional print form was justified by better global visibility and access. Although it is difficult – and possibly premature – to make an assessment of the success of this revolution, one can clearly see an increase in the number and spatial coverage of submissions. This issue included, altogether 26 papers have been published in the OA system. Printed back issues since 2001 can also be accessed through the OA system. Apart for the abstracts available for articles between 1989 and 1999, full articles do not exist in digital form. Their inclusion in the system would require tedious scanning. Hopefully such digitalisation could be accomplished in the future, potentially as part of the National Digital Library campaign. In the meantime, earlier articles can be scanned and sent upon request.

The current issue also testifies an important change in the journal. Prof. Jukka Käyhkö resigns as the Editor of Fennia after ten years in the office, first as the Managing Editor and since 2004 as the Chief Editor, and hands over the duties to Dr. Paola Minoia. Paola is a senior lecturer in development and tourism geography from the University of Helsinki and has taken over the editorial tasks with great enthusiasm and new ideas. It is necessary to change the people from time to time, even more so with a small editorial team of two to three people who produce Fennia with the support from the Editorial Advisory Board. On the one hand, the journal deserves innovative ideas and thinking out of the box that can only materialise through fresh people. On the other hand, taking care of a journal is rather wearing business, and during an academic career, there are times when one needs an opportunity to concentrate on other things, too. So this change is mutually beneficial.

Changes are also happening in the managing editorial board. Dr. Helka Kalliomäki (formerly Moilanen), a post-doctoral research fellow in human geography from the University of Turku, will continue in her duty and will be supported by Dr.

Rami Ratvio, a senior lecturer in urban geography from the University of Helsinki. Raisa Mantila, from the publisher Vammalan Kirjapaino Oy, will continue as the layout manager.

We are grateful to the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters for the financial support it provides to the Geographical Society to cover the publication costs of our journal. We are also indebted to the reviewers and all editorial board members who collaborate on a voluntary basis to help us producing the new issues.

The new winds will bring about changes in the Editorial Advisory Board structure, with an international team larger than before, to represent more widely different topics and sub-disciplines in both human and physical geography. We thank the previous board members for their cooperation, and welcome the new ones. The board now includes the following members: Thomas Allen (East Carolina University), Marco Antonsich (University of Loughborough), Jørgen Bærenholdt (Roskilde University), Lawrence Berg (University of British Columbia), Diane K. Davis (University of California), Bruce Forbes (University of Lapland), Francois Gemenne (Sciences Po Paris), David C. Harvey (University of Exeter), Hill Kulu (University of Liverpool), Niina Käyhkö (University of Turku), Rachael McDonnell (University of Oxford), Anssi Paasi (University of Oulu), Petri Pellikka (University of Helsinki), Jarkko Saarinen (University of Oulu), Gunhild Setten (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Heidi Soosalu (Tallin University of Technology), Markku Sotarauta (University of Tampere), and Benno Werlen (Friedrich Schiller University of Jena).

The journal will continue in keeping an attention on studies related to Finland, but simultaneously, its intent is to become more international in scope. Therefore, we strongly encourage submissions from researchers and scholars from Europe and the rest of the world. These coming months and years will see an attempt to improve the quality status of Fennia in the publishing realm. Despite some discordant notes, the most widely employed measures of quality are various citation indices and the journal ranking in them. Following

the 'publish or perish' concept, *Fennia*, in spite of its long tradition in the editorial world of geography, cannot continue much longer without an established ranking index, as a growing number of institutions only take into account papers published in ranked journals. Various questions are being raised regarding the best possible strategies to acquire more relevance and international visibility. One question is, for instance, whether *Fennia* should continue as a journal published independently by the Geographical Society of Finland, or should it join a commercial publishing house, a decision that has been done by some other Nordic

journals in geography. This fundamental question, together with other related ones, will be raised and discussed in a roundtable session during the forthcoming annual Geography Days to be held in Helsinki on 26–27th October 2012.

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