

## Preface by the volume editors

We are pleased to present the first issue in the Nova Series of the journal *Fenno-Ugrica Suecana*. The original journal appeared from 1978 to 1994, and presented a broad range of research ranging from the minority Finno-Ugric languages of the Scandinavian countries to Mari and Hungarian, as well as literary and cultural studies. With the Nova Series, we intend to continue that tradition and present a broad selection of research specifically involving, but by no means limited to, Finno-Ugric studies in the Scandinavian countries.

This first issue contains both peer-reviewed research articles as well as briefer reports. In later issues, we hope to add survey articles, literature reviews and discussion papers as well. Two of the research papers, Mikko Heikkilä's *Varhaisen kantasuomen vokaaliston uudennoksisista sekä niiden ajoituksesta* and Petri Kallio's *Jälkitavujen diftongit kantasuomessa* touch upon the traditional core area of Finno-Ugric linguistics, namely historical phonology. The historical phonology of the Finnic languages is currently an extremely vibrant field. Thanks to the contributions of the two mentioned and other authors our understanding of the development of Proto-Finnic, its break-up into daughter languages and the dating of that break-up is rapidly changing. The authors present differing views on the reconstruction of Proto-Finnic vowels in non-initial syllables. Heikkilä presents a detailed argument for constructing four vowels *a*, *ä*, *i* and *j* in Proto-Uralic, whereas Kallio examines the development of diphthongs in non-initial syllables based on a different reconstruction (*a*, *ä*, *ə* and *ɛ̃* in Proto-Uralic and Early Proto-Finnic). The third research paper, *Flerspråkiga ungas identiteter och diskurser om dessa – ett internationellt projekt som börjar avkasta resultat* by Jarmo Lainio, Carla Jonsson and Anu Muhonen, presents an ongoing research project on multilingualism among urban youth which is carried out at a number of universities including Stockholm. The project studies *Superdiversity*, that is, the phenomenon that the (usually multiple) languages and identities that urban young people encounter in their daily lives can no longer be neatly categorized as, for example, the usage of two different languages in clearly defined social contexts. The Stockholm study deals with Spanish-Swedish and Finnish-Swedish bilingualism. The paper presents data, methodology as well as preliminary results of the study. Here, the writers point out the contrast between the monolingualism of institutional Sweden (apparent, for example, in the virtual absence of minority languages in the urban landscape of central Stockholm) and the multilingual daily practice of many urban young people.

Among the research reports, Peter Piispanen describes his Ph.D. research on the usage of quantitative and statistical methods as well as population genetics in the reconstruction and dating of proto-languages, focusing on the Uralic languages; Mikko Heikkilä describes his Ph.D. research on the chronology of sound changes in Proto-Germanic, North Germanic, Proto-Finnic and Proto-Saami and the role played by the study of loanwords and toponyms in establishing that chronology; and Igor Vintin describes the direction of Finno-Ugric research at the N.P. Ogarev Mordovian State University in Mordvinia.

We hope that this first issue of the Nova Series of *Fenno-Ugrica Suecana* will be the first of a long series, and we warmly welcome contributions to further issues (see the Instructions to Authors at the end of the journal).

On behalf of the Editorial Committee,

The volume editors,  
Merlijn de Smit and Peter S. Piispanen

