



**MIGRATION INSTITUTE  
OF FINLAND**

# **Refugees, Integration, Inequality: Experiences from Finland**

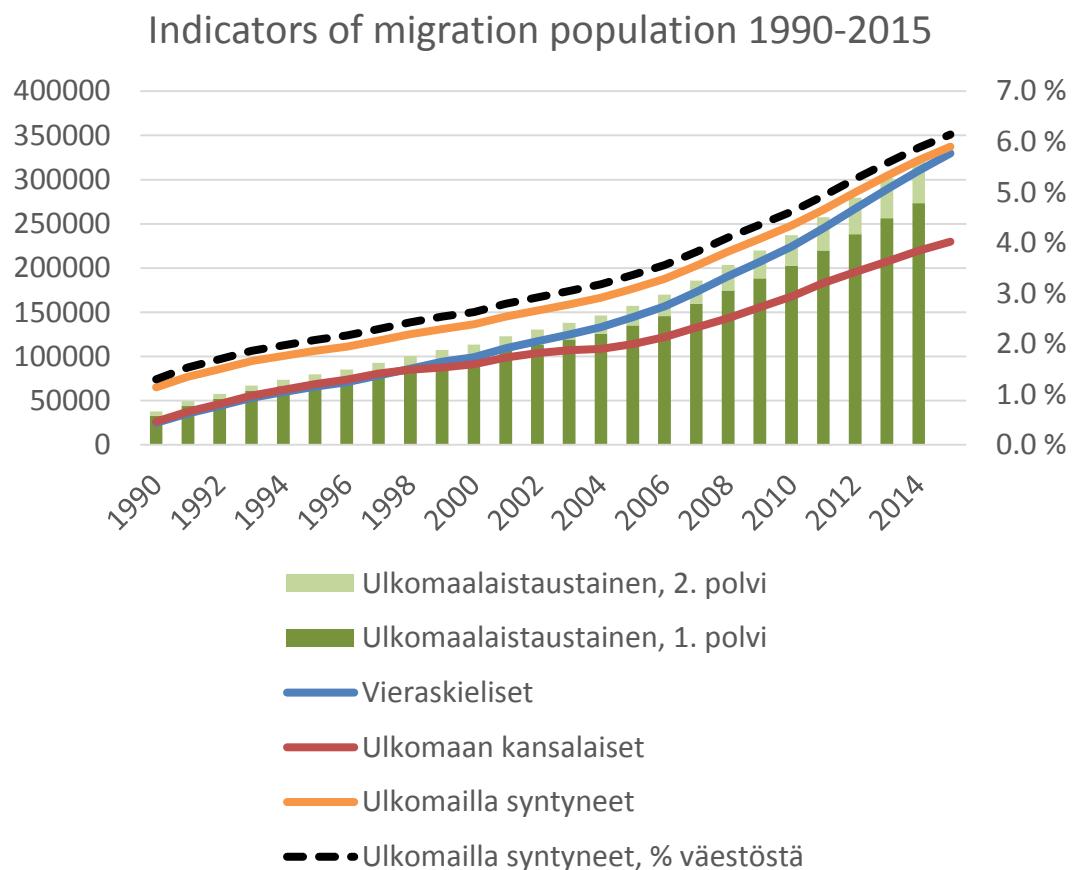
**Tuomas Martikainen**

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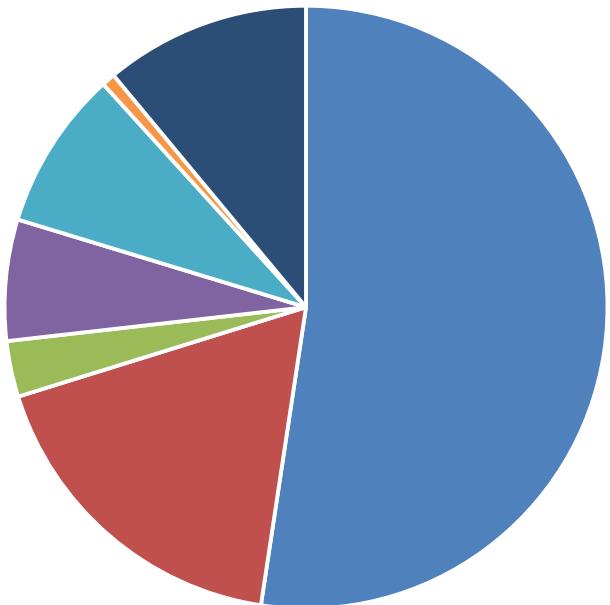
# Background data on Finland

- Immigration country since the end of the cold war
- Majority of immigrants from former SU & Europe: family, ethnic returnees, refugees, labour, students
- Emigration patterns very different for different national groups
- No systematic national migration policy, a bit more on integration
- Immigration politicized in 2010s



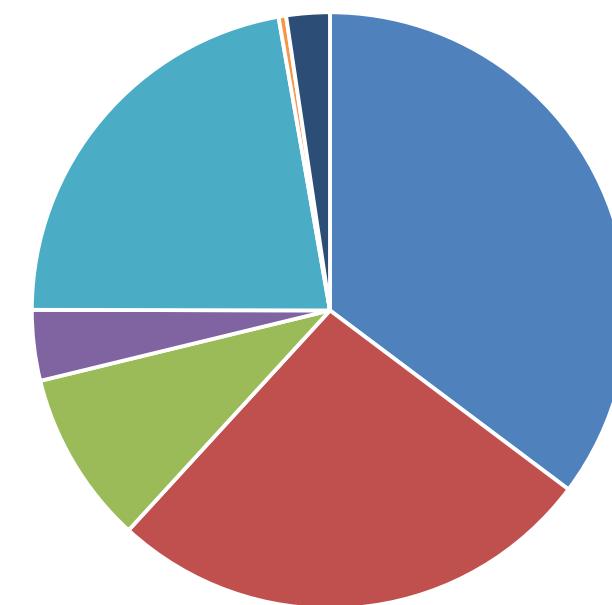
# Diversification of immigration: Country of birth 1990 & 2015, Finland

Foreign Born 1990



- MUUT EU(28) MAAT ■ MUU EUROOPPA ■ AFRIKKA
- AMERIKKA ■ AASIA ■ OSEANIA
- TUNTEMATON

Foreign Born 2015



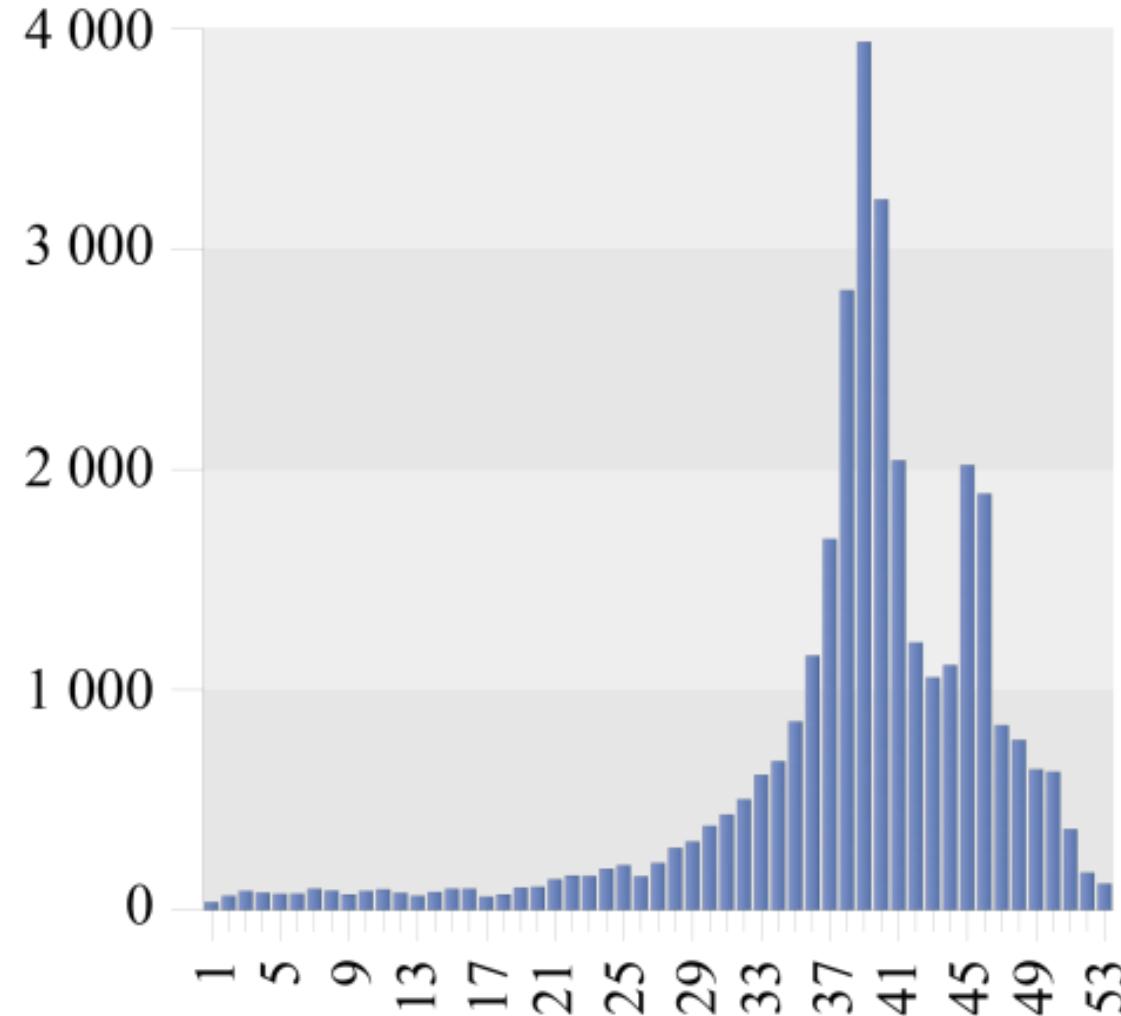
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- TUNTEMATON

## Major groups of asylum seekers 2014-2016

2014		2015		1.1.-19.9.2016	
<b>Applicants 3 651, 97 nationalities.</b>		<b>Applicants 32 476, 106 nationalities.</b>		<b>Applicants 4 481, 90 nationalities.</b>	
• Iraq	826	• Iraq	20 485	• Iraq	972
• Somalia	411	• Afghanistan	5 214	• Afghanistan	656
• Ukraine	302	• Somalia	1 981	• Syria	466
• Afghanistan	205	• Syria	877	• Somalia	376
• Russia	198	• Albania	762	• India	177
• Nigeria	166	• Iran	619	• Eritrea	177
• Syria	149	• Unknown	303	• Russia	124
• Albania	109	• Russia	190	• Nigeria	121
• Iran	95	• Nigeria	167	• Iran	110
• Algeria	91	• Kosovo	165	• Pakistan	91

Source: Finnish Immigration Service

# Asylum seekers per week in 2015



Source: Finnish Immigration Service

# Refugee & asylum in Finland

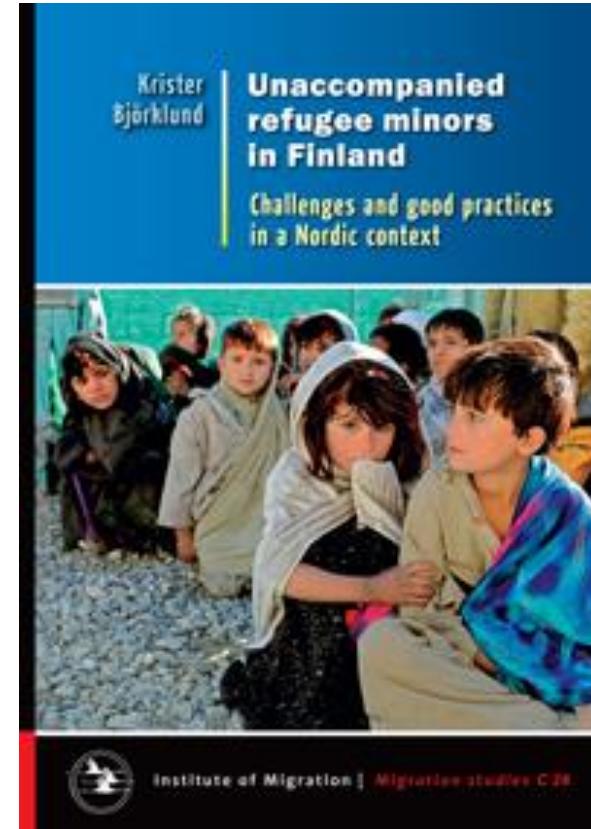
- Quota refugees / UNHCR
  - quota 750 since 2001
  - quota 1050 for 2014-2015
- Asylum seekers
  - 1,000-4,000 in the 1990s-2000s
  - 32,500 in 2015: Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria
- Prior to 2015 under 50,000 refugees in Finland altogether
- Over time concentrated in major cities and the capital region
- High levels of unemployment among refugee groups, though gets better over time
- Refugees (esp. Somalis & Muslims) are the key target of the Finnish anti-immigration lobby

# Refugee & asylum affairs: Self-made problems á la 2016

- Declaring Iraq etc. "safe" countries
  - > more negative decisions, but restricted possibilities of return
  - > to be expected: rise in the number of undocumented with very restricted rights in a vulnerable position etc.
- Restrictions of refugee law
  - restrictions of family reunification financial constraints
  - > increasing numbers of individuals without a family
  - > to be expected: mental problems, crime, social problems, etc.

# Research at MIF

- Halaten / ERF
  - reception of UAM works quite well
- CAGE / NordForsk
  - comparative study of young refugees in Nordic countries
- URMI / SRC Academy of Finland
  - migrant segregation & settlement of asylum grantees



# The way forward for refugee populations

- Integration
  - provide opportunities education; e.g. language, recognition of previous studies
  - consider easing work life entry
  - accept (& support) cultural etc traditions
- > wait, it takes time
- > also, the 2nd generayion benefits
- Inequality
  - let people be proud of themselves
  - combat direct and indirect discrimination
  - identify new forms of disadvantage / discrimination
- > inequalities will persist, but we can affect the level it takes

# Thank you!

## Migration Institute of Finland

- Founded 1974
- Research and documentation
  - immigration
  - emigration
  - internal migration
  - ethnicity
- Funded by the Ministry of Education  
on Culture

