



AALBORG UNIVERSITY
DENMARK

EDUCATION REFORMS SEMINAR SERIES PRESENTS

NELLI PIATTOEVA

**”INFRASTRUCTURING THE NATION. EXAMINING THE
ROLE OF NATIONAL LARGE-SCALE ASSESSMENTS”**

OCTOBER 6, AT 2.30 PM CET ON ZOOM



Associate Professor Nelli Piattoeva has recently participated in the podcast [FreshEd talking about numbers](#), is involved in a project on de-colonial and de-Cold War dialogues on childhood and schooling and so much more.

As one of the four directors of the network, Head of Centre for Education Policy Research at Aalborg University, Professor Mette Buchardt, hosts this seminar, so tune in to learn more about the infrastructuring of a nation!

Registration for the zoom session until October 3, 2020: nre@hum.aau.dk

[Press here to learn more about the Reforms in Education: A European Research Network and their online seminar series with a seminar a month during the fall.](#)



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Timetable for the lecture

14.30-14.35: Opening - the purpose of the network and the lecture series by Mette Buchardt

14:35-15:00: Mini lecture by Nelli Piattoeva

15.05-15.10: Short break

15.10-15.20: Two respondents open the floor with a short comment and a question each (3-4 minutes each)

15.20 - : Answers followed by open discussion

15.55-16:00: Summing up and info about next month's seminar

Nelli Piattoeva, Associate Professor, New Social Research programme at Tampere University:

Infrastructuring the nation. Examining the role of national large-scale assessments.

“In this paper, I use the theoretical resources of research on datafication and data infrastructures combined with a materiality perspective on the construction of nationhood to examine the role of national large-scale assessments (NLSA) as a means of manufacturing the nation. Researchers of education policy principally view the recent rise and spread of NLSAs as a manifestation of the globalization of education policies and practices. Within this view, the discursive and material ways that enable the actual initiation and implementation of the assessments, whether policy, expertise or digital infrastructures, act as relays in and of the globalizing education space. Without denying the embeddedness of NLSAs in this globalizing setting, I’m interested in how NLSAs equally rely on and enable the (re)construction of state-centric nationhood. Looking at the classics such as Benedict Anderson’s *Imagined community* or Michael Billig’s *Banal nationalism*, it is clear that material infrastructures are key to the construction and maintenance of national communities. Nations are not just imagined constructions of the mind, but are – and have to be - performed materially; they are networked, relational, and socio-material. Infrastructures connect different locations (Larkin 2008) and allow the nation to function as an entity (DeLanda 2006). “It is the technical elaboration of the state as a physical entity that creates the condition in which the nation as a concept and a sensation can be narrated and internalized by individuals” (Taylor, 2015, 63) enabling the “national space (or national territory) [to emerge] as a social, material and political construction” (Williams and Smith 1983 in Marriman and Jones, 2017, 601). Following these insights, in this talk, I seek to examine the material efforts, particularly the building of a digital data infrastructure, that constitute the invisible lifeblood of NLSAs in Russia. I look at how NLSAs offer a means to reinforce Russia’s nationhood and (re)border the Russian national education space. The talk will seek to cover two complementary and somewhat intriguing cases. One is the extension of the digital infrastructure of NLSA to as remote areas as the zones of permafrost. The other is a case of administering NLSAs to students of the Russian diaspora abroad”.



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About Nelli Piattoeva and her research projects:
FreshEd Podcast on numbers alongside Rebecca Boden:
<https://freshedpodcast.com/nellipiattoeva-rebeccaboden/>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nelli_Piattoeva

<https://twitter.com/NelliPiattoeva>

<https://coldwarchildhoods.org/> : **Memories of Everyday Childhoods - De-Colonial and De-Cold War Dialogues on Childhood and Schooling**

Through autobiographic, autoethnographic, and collective biography research, this project aims to write alternative histories to inform current research and thinking about (post)socialist pasts, presents, and futures