

## Constructions of girlhood in liminal, public and urban spaces in the City of Turku, Finland

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**Speaker:** Dr Ann-Charlotte Palmgren  
Åbo Akademi University, Finland

**Chair:** Assoc Professor Tracey Skelton  
Dept of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday, 19 August 2016, 3.30pm – 5.00pm

**Place:** Earth Lab, AS2-02-03, NUS

### Abstract

The main point of departure of this paper is that space is always invested with meaning by its users as well as its creators, and even when its creators have the power to define its official and dominant meaning, its users are usually able to develop tactics that allow them to use the space in alternative ways.

In this paper the focus will be on constructions of girlhood in the city of Turku, Finland's fifth largest city, and on memories connected to liminal spaces such as pedestrian crossings, parking lots and alleys. The empirical data consist of memories written by ninety-eight girls aged fifteen and sixteen.

### About the Speaker



**Ann-Charlotte Palmgren** holds a Dr. Pol. Sc. degree in Gender Studies and a M.Phil. degree in Nordic Ethnology from Åbo Akademi University in Finland.

Her research interests include girl's studies, youth cultures, internet culture and urban studies. In 2014 her book *Göra Ätstörd. Om flickskap, normativitet och taktik i bloggar* [in English: *Doing Eating Disordered. Girlhood, normativity and tactics in blogs*] was published.

Palmgren is currently studying teenaged girls in relation to urban spaces and socio-spatial aspects of the city of Turku in Finland.

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