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THE 'LANGUAGE & IDENTITY IN POST-SOVIET SPACES' SEMINAR SERIES



LANGUAGE POLICIES IN THE FINNO-UGRIC REPUBLICS OF POST-SOVIET RUSSIA: WHEN LANGUAGE REVIVAL FAILS?

**Konstantin Zamyatin
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Research on language policy in Russia and its ethnic republics titled after the ethnic groups speaking Finno-Ugric languages investigates language ideologies and planning as well as the impact of revivalist efforts on language practices. The designation of de facto minority languages with an official status in order to extend their compulsory use in the public sphere became a policy tool in the Russian Federation. However, official bilingualism of the titular languages on par with the Russian language also became a major constraint that limited the scope of this policy. Today, after more than two decades of policy implementation, it is possible to evaluate its accumulated lasting effects in Russia's Finno-Ugric regions. Zamyatin has studied language policy as a public policy, assessing its impact on sociolinguistic situations in the regions in order to understand this policy's scope and limits. This problem also has wider implications in the context of the larger theoretical debate about the scope and limits of language policies in multilingual states more generally.

Konstantin Zamyatin is a postdoc researcher at the Department of Finnish, Finno-Ugric and Scandinavian Studies, University of Helsinki. Zamyatin's current research interests are ethnic and language politics. He is currently working on completing a monograph tentatively entitled *Language Policies in the Finno-Ugric Republics of Post-Soviet Russia: When Language Revival Fails?* He is also the author of *An Official Status for Minority Languages? A Study of State Languages in Russia's Finno-Ugric Republics* (2014) and co-authored (with Janne Saarikivi and Annika Pasanen) a popular monograph entitled *Why and How Languages of the Peoples of Russia are to be Maintained* (in Russian, 2012).

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