



*Multiple Belonging: claiming several languages and cultures as one's own*

**Suzanne Muddle Lilius**

Lilius is an independent researcher and has extensive expertise regarding the situation of the Horn of Africa, regarding sociology, culture and the Somali language. Organizer and editor of proceedings of Turku International Congress of Somali Studies in 1998, Lilius has been a focal point in the Somali Studies International Association in Europe and has been active in this field for more than two decades. Lilius will reflect on Somali culture in the wider context: focusing on a society built on writing and reading, as compared to oral expression.

### Friday 9th December

**09.00-16.00 - Somali Oral Expressions Pasila library**

This event, in collaboration with Pasila library and Somaliland Seura, will expose the greater community to the beauty of Somali literature. The library will speak to the importance of libraries being a place of inclusion for new migrants. During the event there will be books, Somali and African, on display in the main entrance. They will be available for everyone to look through and some will be available for purchase. This event will host scholars, and authors who will share their work with the public. This event will be chaired by Mohamed Hassan Alto. To begin the day, Arte De Heer, director of the Turku City Library will join us to speak about how "A reading society is a happy society".

This session will explore the beauty of the Somali language. We will have with us Dr. Georgy Kapchits from the University of Moscow presenting his book, Soomaali



been ma maahmaahdo- Somalis do not lie in proverbs. Said Jama Hussein, author of Shufbeel and Safar Aan Jiho Lahayn will read from his collection of short stories. For the afternoon session, 2-4 pm we will have young Somali Finnish artists display and perform their work.

PhD Aart de Heer is director of Turku City Library in Finland. In May 2016, De Heer visited Hargeisa and Berbera, Turku's twin city in Somaliland. De Heer is interested in essayistics, poetry and the sociology of literature. He has written articles in Finnish on multilingualism and the impact of reading on well-being.



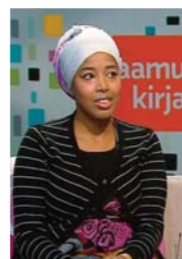
### 18.00-21.00 Somali Poetry Night

This evening will be dedicated to poetry and the Somali language. Starting off the night we will have Said Salah Ahmed, legendary poet and playwright, reading poetry.

Next we will have Abdisalam Hereri, renowned TV and radio producer, will present his book, Feedh Qaloocon. This is book is Nurudin Farah's first novel, From a Crooked Rib, translated into Somali.



The night will end with Somali poet Caasha Luul joined by Clare Pollard from the Poetry Translation Centre. Caasha Luul will read her poems in Somali, and Clare will present them in English.



### Saturday 10th December

**17.00-21.00 Celebrating Somali Art and Culture Kanava Youth Organization**

The culminating night for Nordic Somali Week - Finland, will be a celebration of Somali art and music. The night will begin with Said Salah Ahmed speaking to the themes of the festival. Next we will Said Jama Hussein, who will present on his short stories. Following that, we will have Caasha Luul, reciting her poetry.

The night will end with a live performance by Ali Dhaanto, one of the most popular Dhaanto singers. Ali Dhaanto gained popularity in the Somali Ethiopian region but is now based in Europe. He will perform popular Somali cultural dances.



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*Present*

# Nordic Somali Week Festival

FINLAND





## Nordic Somali Week Festival Finland 2016

*Kayd Somali Arts & Culture and partners are happy to present Nordic Somali Week Festival 2016. This inaugural event will be taking place from the 8th - 10th December in Finland in partnership with the University of Helsinki. Events including book launches, workshops, lectures and panel discussions, create a platform for Somalis to celebrate their achievements and vocalise their lived experience through the arts.*

*Nordic Somali Week Festival brings both a celebration of culture and an opportunity to strive for better in the diaspora. This festival, on the heels of a recent decision from the University of Helsinki to establish a Somali language course at the university, will focus on Somali language trainings. This festival will bring together Somali artists, writers, poets and the wider host community. Nordic Somali Week Festival, reflecting the socio-political climate in these countries will offer a space for engagement and exchange with the following schedule:*



**Thursday 8 December 2016**

**09.00 - 12.00**

**Workshops for Somali Teachers  
Finnish National Board of Education,  
Hakaniemenranta 6, 00531 Helsinki**

The Nordic Somali Week Festival in collaboration with Finnish National Board of Education will host a half-day workshops and trainings on Somali Language and literature focusing on the role of the mother tongue teachers in the Finish schools. This session is exclusive to Somali teachers working as mother tongue supporting staff to the schools in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa cities.

### We will offer the following workshops:

*Standardization of the Somali Written Language*

**Chaired by Maxamed Xasan Cali "Aalto"**

Maxamed Xasan Cali is an author and an independent researcher on Somali language and literature. He is a trained literary translator, and co-authored or co-translated Somali poetry into English.

*Somali proverbs*

**Dr. George Kapchits**, University of Moscow

George Kapchits is the author of several books, including "Soomaali been ma maahmaahdo / Somalis do not lie in proverbs", and has been working on Somali literature and language for more than 30 years. He lectures on the Somali language at the Universities of Moscow and Berlin. He is a qualified as a linguist in the field of Amharic and Somali studies, Dr. Kapchits worked as a broadcaster in the Somali Section of Radio Moscow's World Service.

*Teaching in Our Way*

**Dr. Jama Musse Jama**, Redsea-Online Cultural Foundation

Jama Musse Jama is an ethno-mathematician and author. He has a PhD in African Studies specializing in Computational Linguistics of African Languages. He has created and currently directs the Somali Corpus, an online platform to manage a corpus database for Somali language.

**14.00-15.00 Official Opening Session  
University main building,  
Auditorium XI  
City Centre Campus of the University  
of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 38, 00100**

### Opening Speech by Said Salah Ahmed

Said Salah Ahmed is an esteemed playwright, poet and teacher. His opening speech will touch on the themes of this program: Language, Culture, Heritage, Identity, Diaspora and Co-habitation.



Nordic Somali Week Festival- Finland will kick off in Helsinki. The festival will consist of discussions, academic seminars, poetry readings and live entertainment. This festival is in partnership with the Department of Word Cultures, at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Helsinki; and different local community and professional organizations.

### 15.00-18.00 Somali Language and Literature Training

The Nordic Somali Week Festival in collaboration with Helsinki University will host a half-day conference on Somali Language and literature. The university has recently decided to establish a Somali language course and conference will focus on the cultural and linguistic role of Somali speaking teachers within the Finland education system. In Finland, Second generation Somalis are employed as class assistants. This conference will focus on training them to become effective cultural mediators for families and Finnish education authorities. The various sessions will focus on Somali language teaching, standardization and developments in understanding the language.



The sessions for this day will look as such:

*Teaching Somali in Italian Universities*

**Professor Giorgio Banti**, Oriental University of Naples

Giorgio Banti is a professor of Historical and General Linguistics, and of Somali Language and Literature at the Oriental University of Naples. He is one of the most senior Somalists and has been working with different research groups on Somali language and literature for almost 40 years.



*Towards lexicographic description of Somali nouns with the word "road" as an example*

**Dr. George Kapchits**, University of Moscow

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*Somali Corpus: A framework for linguistic annotation*

**Dr. Jama Musse Jama**, Redsea Cultural Foundation



Jama Musse Jama is an ethno-mathematician and author. He has a PhD in African Studies specializing in Computational Linguistics of African Languages. He has created and currently directs the Somali Corpus, an online platform to manage a corpus database for Somali language.