

For Immediate Release

**Immigration History Research Center Names Juha Meriläinen as Karni
Scholarship Winner**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL, Minnesota (03/30/2010) - The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota is pleased to announce **Juha Meriläinen** as the recipient of the 2010 Michael G. Karni Scholarship. Rev. Dr. Juha Meriläinen (<http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/khl/english/unilect.htm>) is a University Lecturer in the Department of Church History, University of Helsinki.

Meriläinen's research project is titled "The History and Identity of Finnish American Lutherans between 1880 and 1970." He will be conducting research in the IHRC's extensive Finnish American print and archival collections to study the role of religious identity in the integration process of an immigrant minority group.

The Karni Scholarship was established as a memorial tribute to Michael G. Karni, a pioneering historian and publisher of Finnish American research and literature. The award is intended to help defray expenses of visiting professors, lecturers, and graduate students from the U.S. or abroad consulting the archival collections of the IHRC, with particular emphasis on its Finnish American holdings. This is the sixth year of the award competition.

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