

Activism Digitally and on the Ground: Two Cases from Turku, Finland

Shifts in language and culture: computational approaches to variation and change, October 5-7, 2022 Tallinn University, Estonia

Tero Ahlgren, 6.10.2022



Topics

- Turku ilman natsseja (Turku without nazis) - 20.8.
- Turku Pride 2022 - 27.8.
- Alice Mattoni: *participation infrastructure* of protests
- Terry Gunnell: performativity of protests (audiences)

Background: Turku ilman natseja

- First time organized 2018
- Counter protest against the far right movements 188 Kukkavirta (188 Flower Stream)
- Demonstration (march), park event, afterparty
- Website, Facebook, Instagram



Background: Turku Pride

- First time organized 2011, continued 2014
- Thousands of participants, organized in blocs (political parties, student organizations, ngo:s etc.). Including the mayor and deputy mayors of the city of Turku
- Demonstration (march), park event, after parties, events along the Pride Week
- Website, Facebook, Instagram



Frenzel et al (2014): four infrastructures of a protest camp

- The **domestic infrastructure** that sustains the daily life at the protest camp and includes the running of common services, including food provision and medical support;
- the **action infrastructure** that allows the protest camp to function as a hub from which other forms of protest might develop;
- the **communication infrastructure** that refers to the protest camp as a form of representation in which and from which the activists communicate with potential supporters, bystanders and opponents;
- the **governance infrastructure** that sustains the decision-making process occurring within the protest camp and affecting the mobilization of which it is part.

Mattoni: participation infrastructure

- “all the processes, spaces and technologies that people might employ to take part in protest activities” (Mattoni 2019, 20)
- “Furthermore, low-tech media were also used at the protest camp to engage in conversation with potential supporters, such as the ‘debt wall’, a placard in the middle of the campsite on which anyone could declare her loan” (Mattoni 2019, 21-22)

Promoting the protests

- FB events, shareable content, posters

- Turku ilman natsseja

<https://fb.me/e/2MHQ84Pkl>





Promoting the protests

Turku Pride <https://fb.me/e/1vS1hvdZL>

IN ENGLISH

SCHEDULE

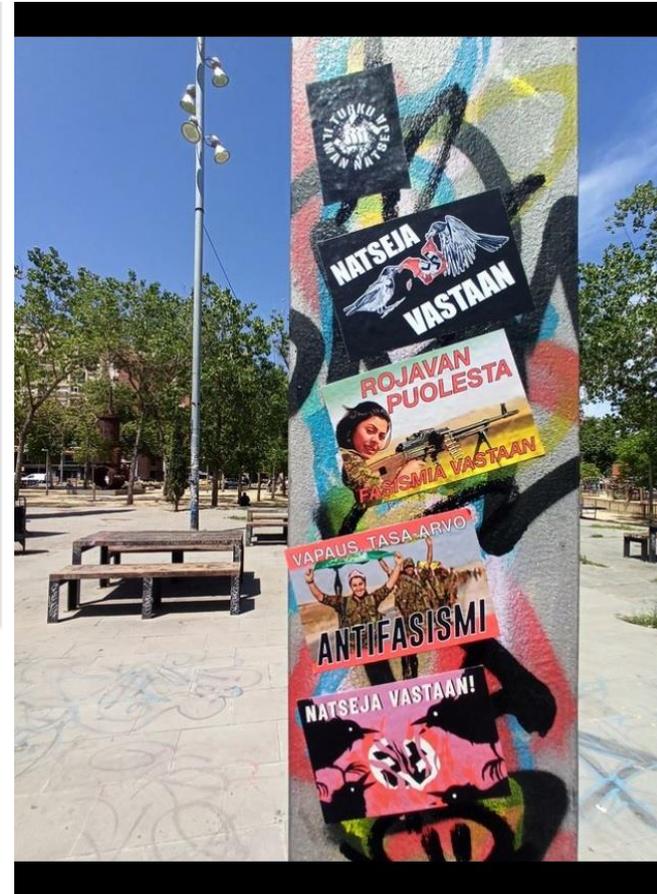
11:00 Gathering at the corner of Yliopistonkatu and Kristiinankatu

11:30 The demonstration march takes off

12-13 Speeches and program in the Park of Porthan

The anti-fascist and anti-racist "Turku without nazis" demonstration will take place in Turku on August 20nd, 2022 in order to protest the far-right organization Kansallismielinen Liittouma and their white supremacist 188-kukkavirta event.

Kansallismielinen Liittouma is a far-right coalition founded in 2017. They will once more be arranging the 188 "Kukkavirta" event which previously have gathered Finnish and Scandinavian far-right organizations such as Nordic Resistance Movement, Soldiers of Odin, Suomen Sisu as well as politicians from The Finn's Party. In 2019 the event was combined with a National Socialist march when the



turkuilmannatseja
Barcelona



turkuilmannatseja Barcelona sin nazis! Barcelona ilman natseja!
#ilmannatseja
13 vk



105 tykkäystä
KESÄKUU 30



Lisää kommentti...

Julkaise



turkukaupunki • Seuraa



turkukaupunki Iltahämärä jokirannassa 🌈💕

Kirjastosilta loistaa Pride-viikon kunniaksi sateenkaariväreissä 22.–28.8. Poikkeuksena 24.8., jolloin Turun kaupunki juhlistaa Ukrainan itsenäisyyspäivää valaisemalla Kirjastosillan sinikeltaiseksi. 💙💛

📷: Siina Alaranta

6 vk



zuev5448 🌈💕🥰🥰🥰🥰🔥🔥💖💖FI

5 vk Vastaa



lumihutale52 Kaunista on! 💙💛

5 vk Vastaa



Isarat875 💖🌈

6 vk Vastaa



katorvokki 💖👍

6 vk Vastaa

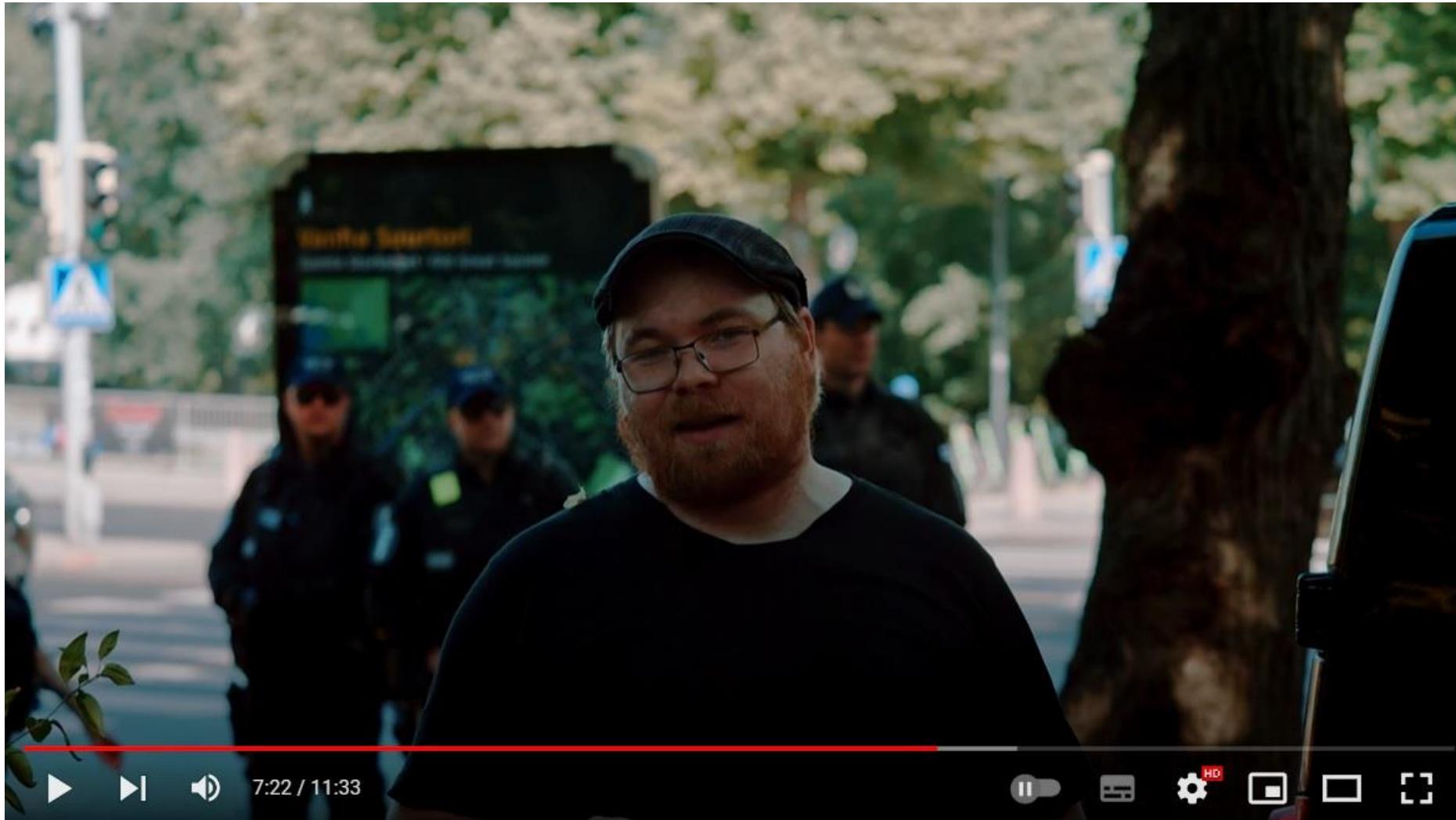


UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

Gunnell: performativity of protests (audience)

- “[...] techniques which showed a strong awareness of the fact that the media, and thereby the rest of the world was watching;” (Gunnell 2019, 223)
- “Alongside awareness of the various spaces and the costumes involved in them, it is naturally also worth considering the various kinds of communication that were taking place within these spaces, all of which commonly interacted in various ways to create different kinds of experiences for all of the actors involved,” (Gunnell 2019, 225)
- Audio (drums, chants), visual (placards, clothing)

Dimitri Ollikainen: Turku ilman natseja 2022 <https://youtu.be/7SqGq4xvTEg>





turkukaupunki • Seuraa



turkukaupunki Rakkaus kuuluu kaikille!! Näin huusi hyväntuulinen Turku Pride -kulkue 3500 osallistujan voimin lauantaina Vähätorilta Puolalanmäen juhlaan kulkiessaan. Turun kaupunki on vahvasti mukana niin prideviikolla kuin vuoden jokaisena päivänä edistämässä yhdenvertaisuutta ja tasa-arvoa kaikille ja kaikkien kesken. Pormestari Minna Arve 'n sanoin: Turku ei ole hiljaa, kun ihmisoikeuksia pitää puolustaa. ❤️❤️❤️



5 vk



marjabeepic ❤️👍

5 vk 1 tykkäys Vastaa



kalevareijo Kaikille! Kuka estää? Paha hetero? 🤔

5 vk Vastaa



salmenniemi Mitähän Sigmund Freud sanoisi? 🤔

5 vk 1 tykkäys Vastaa



mpjv02 🇺🇦👍👍

5 vk 1 tykkäys Vastaa





Turun yliopisto - University of Turku @UniTurku · Aug 22

Happy Pride Week for everyone! We participate in Turku Pride and the Pride Parade on Saturday, 27 August in the group of Study in Turku. Join us in the University and @StudentUnionTYY group! #studyinturku #TurkuPride #Pride



Studentpräst Mia @studentprastMia · Aug 27

Turku Pride 2022! 🌈🥰❤️
#turkupride å



IG/ @turkukaupunki



”Christmas without nazis” (turkuilmannatseja.fi)



To conclude

- “participation in contemporary social movements simultaneously occurs in different geographical settings, configuring a spatially hybrid participation infrastructure that poses important challenges to activists.” (Mattoni 2019, 19)
- Would benefit from a more detailed analysis of the personal engagement with the different media platforms

References

- Frenzel, F., Feigenbaum, A. & McCurdy, P. (2014). Protest Camps: An Emerging Field of Social Movement Research. - *The Sociological Review*, 62(3), pp. 457–474.
- Gunnell, T. (2019). Protest and Performance. The Pot and Pan Protests in Iceland. – C. Asplund Ingemark, C. Johansson & O. Pripp (eds.). *Former som formar. Musik, kulturarv, öar. Festskrift till Owe Ronström*, pp. 221–233.
- Mattoni, A. (2019). I post, you rally, she tweets. The challenges of hybrid spatiality in the Occupy Wall Street mobilizations. – M. Mortensen, C. Neumayer & T. Poell (eds.). *Social Media and Materialities. Critical Reflections*, pp 18–27.