

## URKO (URALILAINEN KOLMIO, URALIC TRIANGULATION)



Principal Investigator: Päivi Onkamo

URKO (*Uralilainen kolmio, Uralic triangulation*) studies human linguistic, genetic and cultural diversity in the Uralic language speaker area. We **build online interfaces** to three open access databases: i) typological data of Uralic languages, ii) spatial data on Uralic language distribution areas, and iii) Iron Age, Bronze Age and Stone Age archaeological artefacts in Finland. To stimulate use of this data, we **develop computational approaches** to conduct interdisciplinary studies of human (pre)history, and **teaching modules** introducing data-driven paradigm to a new generation of scholars.

The breakthrough potentials of the consortium are dual: The databases and methodological innovations with special emphasis on geo-spatial data and methodology will **advance the field of digital humanities** as a whole. Breakthroughs in the subject field, the **interdisciplinary study of human history**, will stem from the development of overarching computational statistical approaches for integrating linguistic, cultural and genetic data. URKO focuses on the Uralic speaker area, which is understudied compared to e.g. Indo-European speaker areas.



An example map of the interdisciplinary database of the Uralic linguistic area. Uralic language speaker area is illustrated along with the current vegetation zonation, spread of Textile ware and sites of published aDNA samples.

High quality databases and interfaces, and cutting edge analyses based on them, will help integrate North-East Europe, and especially the Baltic Sea region, into global perspectives on human history.

URKO belongs to one of the six Thematic Collaborations in Research of the University of Turku,

‘Cultural memory and social change’ and build an elementary part of newly founded Interdisciplinary Research Center of Cultural and Biological Diversity, an UTU research center. This ambitious project is feasible due to our already established network of interdisciplinary researchers.

### CONTACT:

(*firstname.surname@utu.fi*)

Project leader: Prof Päivi Onkamo, Dept of Biology. <https://sites.utu.fi/paleogenetics/en/>

PI: Prof Sirkka Saarinen, Dept. of Finnish and Finno-Ugric Languages

PI: Adjunct prof Harri Tolvanen, Department of Geography and Geology

Coordinator: Dr Outi Vesakoski, Dept. of Biology/Finno-Ugric Languages, [www.bedlan.net](http://www.bedlan.net)