

## English Abstract

### *The Political Nature of Kilpisjärvi – Journeys in the Cultural Landscape of Käsivarsi*

Why is there no national park at the Kilpisjärvi region? Do reindeer belong to nature? Why is there no consensus on what to do with the landscape?

The Northwest Arm of Finland, the Käsivarsi region, contains the highest fells of the country and is characterized by stands of mountain birch and exceptionally rich mountain flora, due the limestone bedrock and the nearness of the Arctic Ocean. The region is of great national importance for both science and tourism. Also mining companies are interested in the riches that lie in the ground.

For the indigenous Sámi people, Käsivarsi is an ancient cultural landscape where their ancestors have lived from time immemorial. And the Sámi still remain in the area: the wilderness that may look empty is a home for the indigenous reindeer herders and their stock. For their lifestyle, the competing ways of using the land signify a threat, in some cases an existential one.

*The Political Nature of Kilpisjärvi. Journeys in the Cultural Landscape of Käsivarsi* offers new perspectives to the disputed region. Moreover, the book discusses various conflicts between different views on the landscape and, ultimately, on the human-nature relationship.

The interdisciplinary book approaches the nature and cultures of Kilpisjärvi from the perspectives of social sciences, linguistics, law, ecology, tourism research and personal experiences of both locals and travelers.