

# *Digital histories of industrialization, innovation & beyond*



***Mats Fridlund, FT DI***

Professor of the History of Industrialization

History of Industrialization & Innovation Group (hiiva)

Aalto University School of Engineering

# Hiiva digital historians



**Professor Mats Fridlund** *Head of the Hiiva Group*

- PhD, (1999) History of Technology, KTH

**Docent Petri Paju** *Kone Foundation Research Fellow*

- PhD (2008) Cultural History, University of Turku



**Dr Mila Oiva** *Kone Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow*

- PhD (2016) Cultural History, Univ. of Turku & Aleksanteri Institute

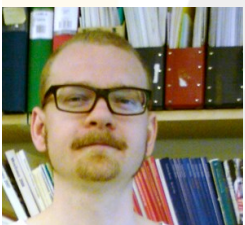
**Dr Matti La Mela** *Postdoctoral Researcher*

- PhD (2016) History, European University Institute, Florence



**Prof. Joanna Guldi** *Kone Foundation Digital History Fellow*

- Assist. Professor in History of Britain & its Empire, Southern Methodist University, USA, PhD (2008) History, UC Berkeley



**Docent Johan Jarlbring** *Kone Foundation Digital History Fellow*

- Senior Lecturer Media & Communication Studies, Affiliated Researcher HUMlab, Umeå University, PhD (2009) Cultural Studies, Linköping Univ.

# Helping history happen

- **Symposia series**
  - **2013**: *Digital Humanities Finland*
- **Conferences**
  - **2015-2016**: *Digital History in Finland Conference*
- **Conferences sessions**
  - *Annual Meeting of Society for History of Technology*
  - *Swedish History of Technology and Science Days*
  - *Finnish History Days*
- **Hackathons & ThatCamps**
  - *Annual Meeting of Society for the History of Technology*
  - *DHH2015*
  - *DHH2017*
- **Collective research & dissemination projects**
  - 2015: Roadmap project
  - 2016: From Roadmap to Roadshow



# Roadmap project

## ***Towards a Roadmap for Digital History in Finland:***

*Mapping the Past, Present & Future Developments of Digital Historical Scholarship*

- Collective application of Finnish digital historians - **Fridlund** as PI
- Funded by the **Kone Foundation** 2016–2017
- **Petri Paju** as postdoc researcher
- **Aims**
  - To map current position of Finnish digital historians as a collective
  - Where it could be headed in digital history research and teaching
- Arranged two seminars **April 2016 & June 2017**
- **Presentations at various conferences**
  - *DHN 2016, Oslo, DHN 2017, Göteborg*
  - *SHOT*

# Roadmap project - projects

- **Online Questionnaire**

- With Finnish 'digital historians'
- Identified key problems
- Online: <https://digihistfinlandroadmapblog.wordpress.com>

- **Studying Finnish historian's use of computers**

- Empirical historical project
- Identified key periods from 1960s
- Published in Haik



- **Zotero group "Digital history Finnish bibliography"**

- [https://www.zotero.org/groups/digital\\_history\\_finnish\\_bibliography/](https://www.zotero.org/groups/digital_history_finnish_bibliography/)

# Follow-up project

***From Roadmap to Roadshow:  
A collective demonstration & information  
project to strengthen Finnish digital history***

- **Combined research & dissemination project**
- **Aim:**
  - identify best practices to facilitate Finnish digital history research
- **Targeting key issues identified in Roadmap project**
  - **Collaboration** between Historians and IT specialists
  - **Best practices** in research projects
  - **Lack of teaching** in digital humanities methods

# Roadmap to Roadshow

- **Four project researchers**
  - Full-time Finnish reserachers: **Petri Paju** & **Mila Oiva**
  - Part-time international researchers: **Joanna Guldi** & **Johan Jarlbrink**
  - Both as lecturers & resource persons
- **Research part – research on Digital History**
  - Research on critical issues
  - Studies of Finnish & international experience
- **Dissemination part – teaching Digital History**
  - Travelling symposia
  - To major Finnish universities with history departments

# Roadmap - Research

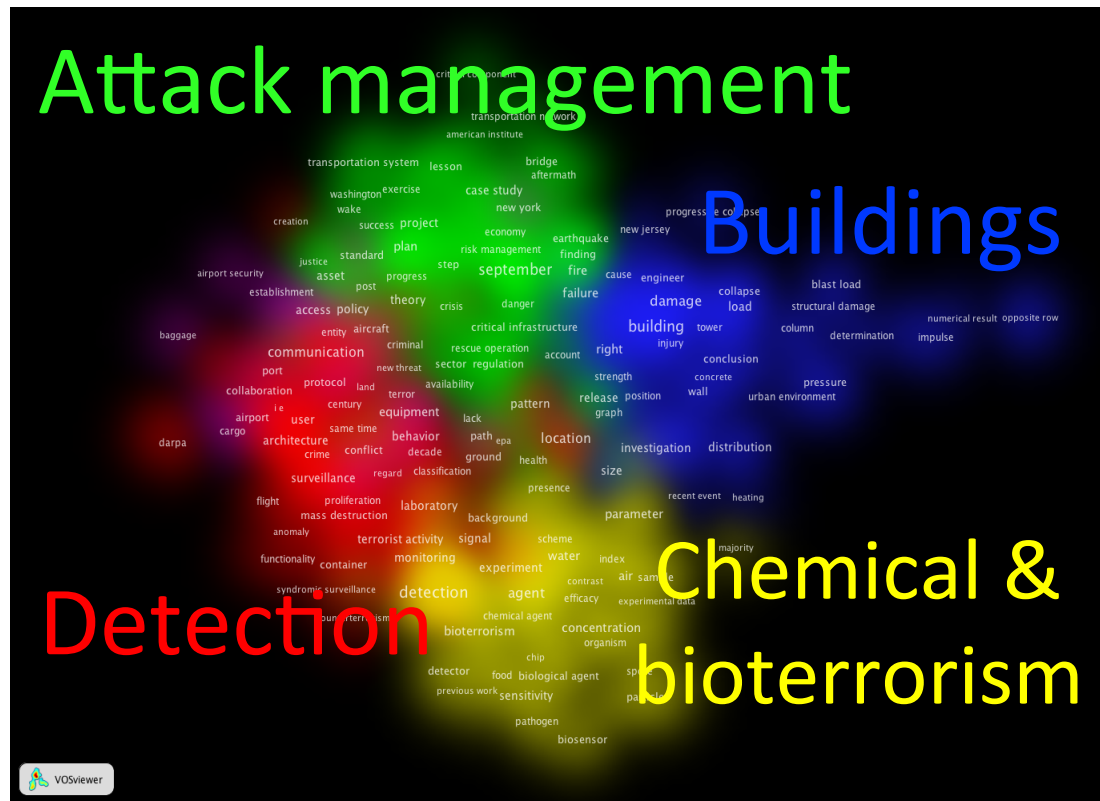
- **Research** on critical issues
- Interviews, participant observation & literature reviews
- **Institutions:**
  - Studies of experience of **setting-up DH laboratories**
- **Practices:**
  - Investigate **interdisciplinary collaborative research** in DH-projects
- **Methodologies:**
  - Mapping state-of the-art of **digital history research methods**

# Roadshow - Teaching

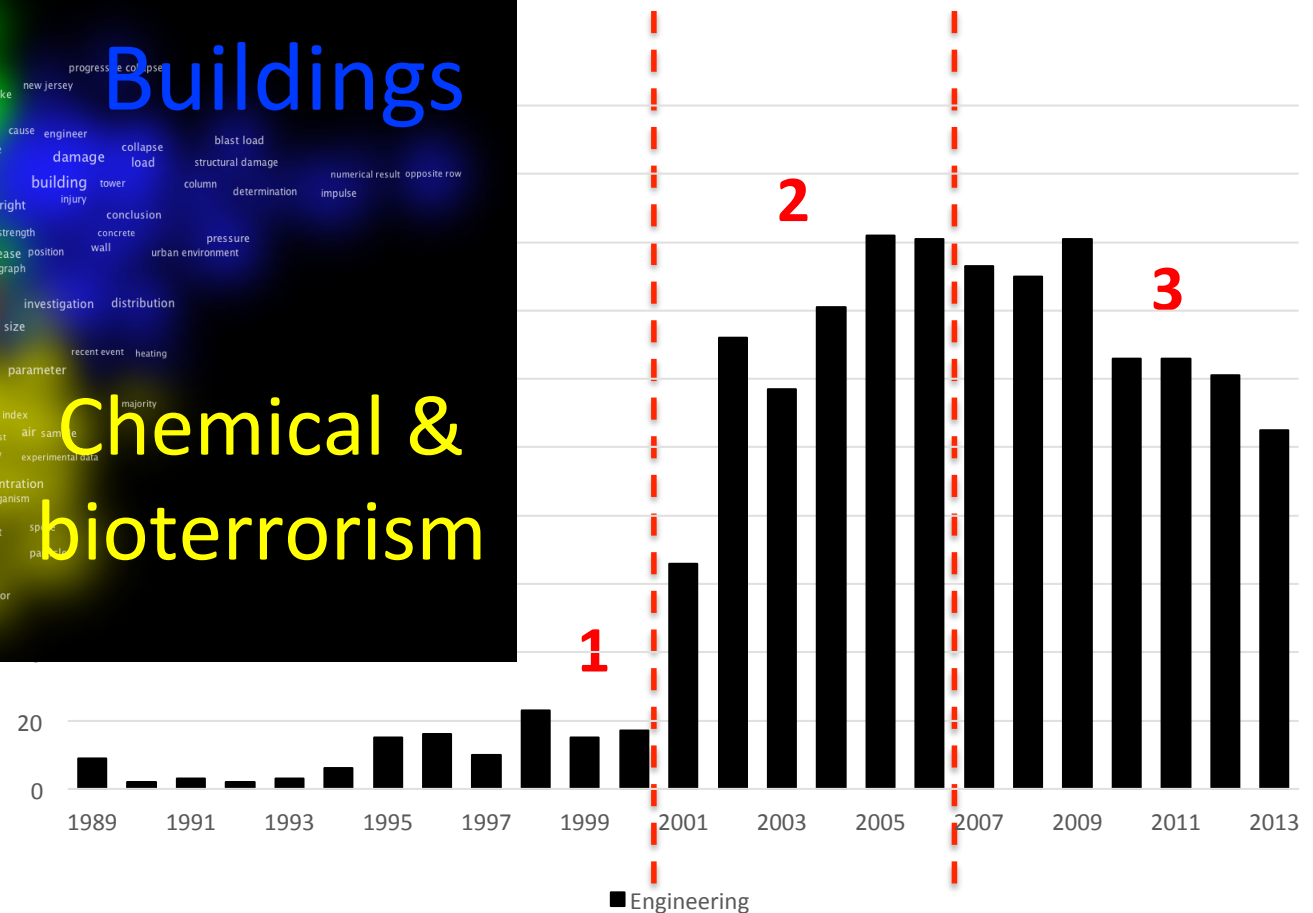
- **Disseminating**
  - February 2018
  - All projects researchers participating
  - Half-day symposia + tryout workshop
- **National Finnish roadshow**
  - Major Finnish universities with history departments
  - Oulu, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Tampere, Turku & Helsinki
- **Teaching & Inspiring**
  - Sharing best practice
  - Digital history research methods & sources
  - Includes hands-on tryout sessions



# *The 9/11-effect on engineering research, 1989-2013*



# 1.842 articles in WoS



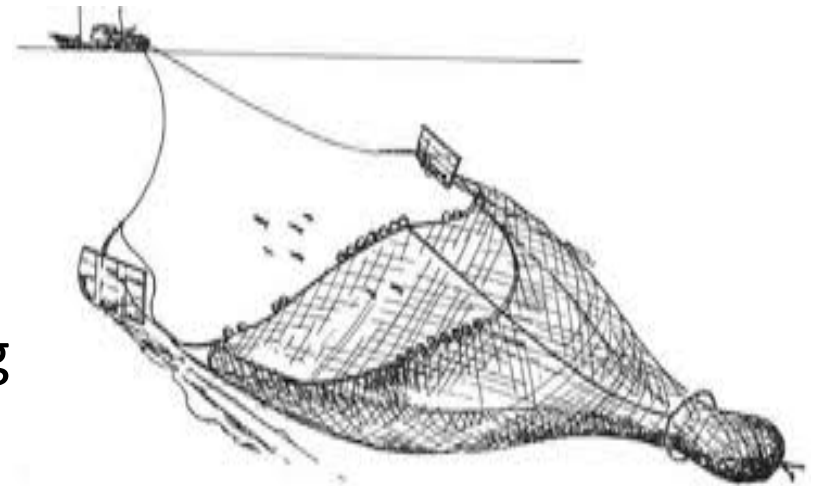
# New methodological programme:

## *Conceptualizing 'Digital history 1.5'*

- An exemplar of **digital history 1.5** paradigm?

- **'Trawled reading'**

- Reading targeted through **search**
- Combining **close** & **distant reading**
- A **quali-quantitative** form of reading

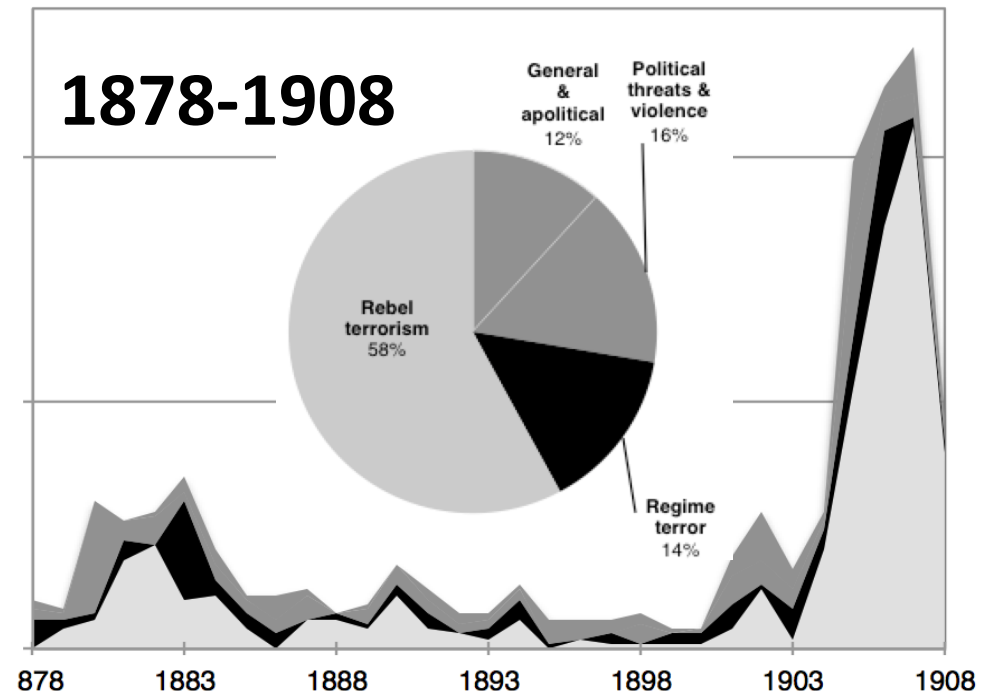
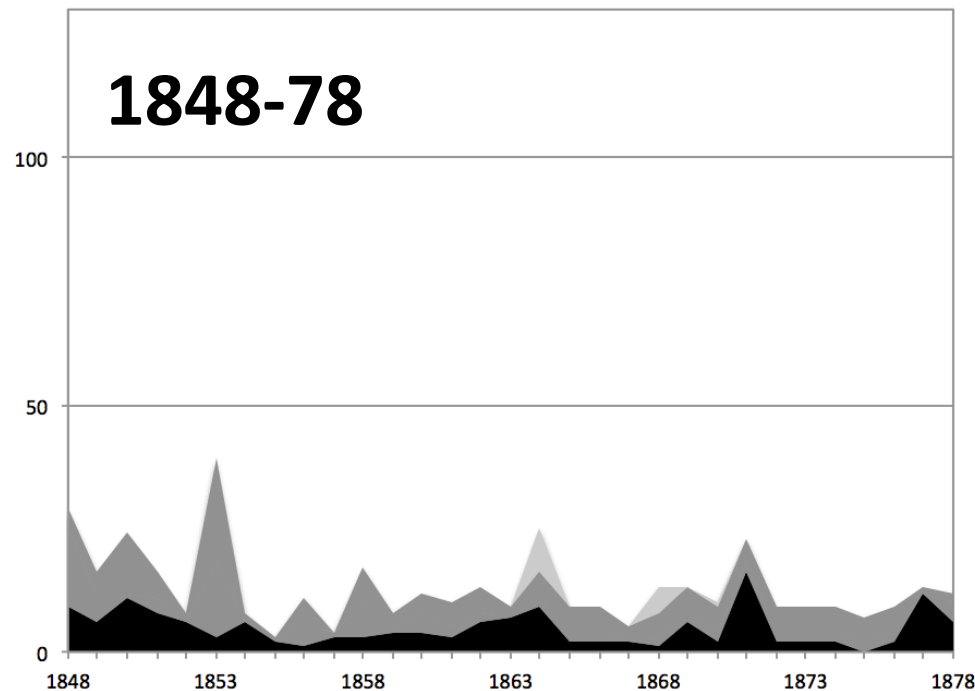


- Source criticism?
- Strengths & weaknesses?

# A **first** empirical & methodological project

## *Emergence of terrorism in Sweden 1848-1914*

- *How did **terrorism** evolve?*
- **1169 hits** on 'terro?is\*'  
*Aftonbladet* 1848-1914





# Planned projects:

## *Histories of transnational industrialization*

- ***“Capitalist Products to Communist Markets, 1945-91”***
  - Finnish-Russian-Swedish project
  - Using DH methods & creating digital source collection
- ***“The Industrialized Lingonberry, 1870-1920”***
  - Using DH methods - especially GIS
- **Comparative history of 2nd and 4th Industrial Revolutions**
  - Nordic industrializations 1880-1910 & 1990-2020
  - Comparisons of electrification and digitalization of industry
  - Using digitized Scandinavian engineering journals & newspapers

*Thank you!*



**HISTORY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION & INNOVATION**

*@HiivAalto*