

FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION GRANTEES IN THE U.S.

Academic Year
2026-27



**FULBRIGHT FINLAND
FOUNDATION**



**Expanding Finnish-
North American
collaboration through
exchanges of talent
and knowledge.**

CONNECT WITH THE GRANTEES

Please contact the Fulbright Finland Foundation if you wish to contact a Fulbright Finland grantee or invite a grantee to lecture at your institution.

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Information as of May 8, 2026

Fulbright Finland Foundation

The Fulbright Finland Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization based in Helsinki, Finland. Its purpose is to promote a wider exchange of knowledge and professional talents through educational contacts between Finland and the United States. The Foundation collaborates with a range of government, foundation, university, and corporate partners on both sides of the Atlantic to design and manage study and research scholarships, leadership development programs, and internationalization services.

The Foundation supports the internationalization of education and research in Finland and helps U.S. and Finnish institutions create linkages. Under its Internationalization Services the Foundation organizes themed study tours to the United States for Finnish higher education experts, runs the highly popular Fulbright Speaker Program, the Fulbright Dialogues series, and the Transatlantic Roundtables, as well as organizes several national Fulbright Seminars every year.

The Foundation is funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, the U.S. Department of State, the Finland-America Educational Trust Fund, private foundations, Finnish and U.S. higher education institutions, alumni of the Fulbright Finland programs, and private donors. Nearly 80 % of the Foundation's core funding originates from Finland, and advancement, fundraising and sponsored grants are a central part of the operation.

A key strength of the Fulbright Finland Foundation is the consistent strategic engagement of the alumni. Since 1949, over 6 400 students, scholars, teachers, artists and professionals have participated in our exchange programs – over 4 100 from Finland and over 2 300 from the U.S. Representing all fields in the arts, sciences, and the society at large, grantees and alumni are vital to the Foundation's vision: empowering minds to find global solutions to tomorrow's challenges.

The Board of Directors of the Fulbright Finland Foundation consists of eight members appointed by the Finnish Ministry of Education and the U.S. Embassy in Finland. The U.S. Ambassador to Finland serves as the Honorary Chair of the Board.

The Fulbright Finland Foundation awards grants to nearly 100 students, scholars, and professionals annually. This year, over 30 grantees participate in the Fulbright Finland Foundation programs to the U.S., and they have received a grant to lecture, conduct research, study, or teach in the U.S.

FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION

GRANTEES in the U.S. 2026-27

JUNIOR SCHOLARS

- 5 **Tarna Kannisto**
Social and Moral Philosophy
Cost-shared with the University of Helsinki
- 6 **Tapio Henrikki Leinonen**
Theology
Cost-shared with the University of Eastern Finland
- 7 **Ugur Akpinar**
Signal Processing
Fulbright Research Grant for a Junior Scholar in
Partnership with the Nokia Foundation

FULBRIGHT FINLAND TRAVEL GRANTS FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- 8 **Ada Junquera**
Medicine
- 9 **Anne Karhu**
Special Education
- 10 **Clément Massé**
Conservation Biology
- 11 **Caterina Soldano**
Organic Electronics
Ambassadors' Circle Scholarship
- 12 **Anna Niia Varfolomeeva**
Environmental Humanities

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

- 13 **Juulia Heikkinen**
Sociology
Cost-shared with the University of Helsinki

FULBRIGHT-KAUTE FOUNDATION AWARD

- 14 **Milla Tarpola**
Economics

FULBRIGHT FINLAND FOUNDATION GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

- 15 **Haiying Lu**
Finance
The Fulbright Finland Foundation and Idman
Foundation Graduate Fellowship

FULBRIGHT-IDMAN GRANT

- 16 **Marja Saleva**
Fine Arts
Fulbright-Idman Grant
- 17 **Eveliina Viitasalo**
Forensic Science

FULBRIGHT-TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES OF FINLAND GRANT (GRADUATE)

- 18 **Fredrik Hellman**
Information Technology

ASLA-FULBRIGHT GRADUATE GRANT

- 19 **Rose Laaksonen**
Sustainability and Environmental Management

FULBRIGHT FINNISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TEACHING ASSISTANT

- 20 **Sara Hanski**
Class Teacher Education

FULBRIGHT FINLAND UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

- 21 **Matteus Einiö**
Economics and Business Administration
- 22 **Aaro Kares**
Mechanical Engineering
- 23 **Albin Shala**
Finance

FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED AWARDS IN TEACHING PROGRAM

- 24 **Anna Aaltonen**
Science and Language Education
- 25 **Eveliina Paunonen**
Business and Marketing Education

FULBRIGHT FINLAND TRAVEL GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

- 26 **Sari Lindblom**
Leadership and Management

27 **Mikko Moilanen**
Exchange Administration

28 **Tuulikki Laes**
Music Education

FULBRIGHT FINLAND RENEWAL GRANTS

Information on awarded grants will be updated after selections have been made.

ASLA-FULBRIGHT MID-CAREER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (MCPD)

29 **Jouni Lounasmaa**
Innovations in Healthcare
Cost-shared with the New Children's Hospital
Foundation

30 **Heidi Rosenström**
Non-Formal Education
Cost-shared with Heureka, the Finnish Science
Center



Tarna Kannisto

SOCIAL AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY

ASLA-Fulbright Research Grant for a Junior Scholar
Cost-shared with the University of Helsinki

SPECIALIZATION:

Philosophy of Education and Childhood,
Educational Ethics, Pedagogy and
Methodology of Philosophy and Ethics

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Reflective Equilibrium in Test:
Philosophical Discussion as Inquiry and
Research Method in Educational Ethics

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My research project concerns the methodology of case-based research in educational ethics. The methods involve philosophical discussions with teachers. The aim is to gain deeper understanding about the everyday moral choices that teachers are obliged to make, and to provide tools and methods for educational professionals to reflect on the ethical choices of their work. I will study both the theoretical underpinnings and the practice of case-based methodology.

KEY WORDS:

Ethics, Education, Methodology, Teacher

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Helsinki, Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Stanford University, Graduate School of
Education, Stanford, California

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Meira Levinson

GRANT PERIOD:

January 2027 – March 2027

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- D. Soc.Sci., 2024, University of Helsinki, Finland
- M.Soc.Sci., 2014, University of Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, since 2025
- University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 2024-25
- Doctoral Researcher, University Teacher, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 2014-24

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Leiviskä, A., Kasa, T., Pyy, I., Kannisto, T., Zamotkin, I. (2025). *Demokratiakasvatus polarisaation ajassa*. Gaudeamus.
- Kannisto, T. (2024). The School between the Public and the Private. Educational Institutions and Social Justice. University of Helsinki.
- Kannisto, T. (2023). Schools and the principle of non-intrusion to the private. *Theory and Research in Education* 21, 3.
- Kannisto, T. (2022). Basic education as a collective good: In defence of the school as a public social institution. *Journal of Philosophy of Education* 56, 2.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2025: ASLA-Fulbright Research Grants for a Junior Scholar
- 2025: Kone Foundation Grant
- 2021: Chair, the Finnish Society for History and Philosophy of Education
- 2016: Kauppaneuvos Otto Malm Grant



Tapio Henrikki Leinonen

THEOLOGY

ASLA-Fulbright Research Grant for a Junior Scholar
Cost-shared with the University of Eastern Finland

SPECIALIZATION:

Martin Luther's Theology and
Reformation History

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Masculinity in Martin Luther's Thought
and Early Lutheran Theology

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project analyses Martin Luther's theological teaching and early Lutheran perspectives on ideal masculinity: what belonged to proper masculinity and male behaviour in a drastically changing Early Modern environment, and how does it affect our current worldviews? Through source analysis, the project provides insight into historical and ideological development of masculinity ideals in contemporary Western societies infused by Protestant ethics and beliefs.

KEY WORDS:

Reformation Theology & History,
Masculinity, Lutheranism

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Eastern Finland, School of
Theology, Joensuu

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Yale University, Divinity School, New
Haven, Connecticut

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Volker Leppin

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026 – February 2027

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>> [INSTAGRAM @t4psu](#)

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- ThD, 2026, University of Helsinki, Finland
- MTh, 2013, University of Helsinki, Finland
- BTh, 2011, University of Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland, since 2026
- Project Researcher, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland, 2025-26
- Doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 2020–25
- Seamen's Pastor in the Benelux Countries, Finnish Seamen's Mission, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2018–19
- Pastor, Oulunkylä Evangelical-Lutheran Parish, Helsinki, Finland, 2013-24

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Leinonen, T. (2025), Martin Luther and the Theology of Moses: Examining the Lectures and Sermons on Deuteronomy, Doctoral Dissertation, University of Helsinki.
- Leinonen, T. (2025), Promoting Faith, Order, and Peace behind the Polemics: Approaching Martin Luther's Political Theology in 1525. In: *The Renaissance Papacy's Projects of Religious Reform between Early Christianity and "Catholic Orientalism"*, A. Annese, L. Battista & A. Gerrace (ed.), Refo500 Academic Studies 110, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 243–262.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: ASLA-Fulbright Research Grants for a Junior Scholar
- 2026-31: Steering Committee Member, Martin Luther and the Global Lutheran Traditions Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2025-30: Steering Committee Member, Religion in Europe Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2024: Finnish Cultural Foundation: Grant for 28 Months of Scholarly Work, Project: Lutheran Masculinities 1517–1937 (PI: Dr. Sini Mikkola)
- 2023: Finnish Cultural Foundation, Full Grant for 12 months of Scholarly Work
- 2022-23: Visiting Researcher Appointment, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA
- 2022: Advanced Theological Studies Fellowship, Theologische Universiteit Kampen, Kampen, The Netherlands
- 2019: Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Eino Jutikkala Fund: Full Grant for 36 Months of Scholarly Work



Ugur Akpinar

SIGNAL PROCESSING

Fulbright Research Grant for a Junior Scholar in Partnership with the Nokia Foundation

SPECIALIZATION:

Optical Fabrication

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Accommodation-Invariant Near-Eye Displays With Wide Field-of-View

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project focuses on the production and evaluation of next-generation near-eye display (NED) systems for virtual reality. By utilizing novel flat optics, we aim to maximize visual comfort and provide a naturalistic, high-resolution 3D experience with a wide 100° field-of-view. The resulting prototype is expected to enable prolonged VR usage, making it suitable for safety-critical applications, remote operations, and healthcare.

KEY WORDS:

Computational Optics, Machine Learning, Near-Eye Displays, Wavefront Coding

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Tampere University, Signal Processing Research Centre, Tampere

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Utah, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Salt Lake City, Utah

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Rajesh Menon

GRANT PERIOD:

November 2026 – January 2027

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- BSc., 2015, Middle East Technical University, Turkey
- MSc, 2017, Tampere University of Technology, Finland
- PhD, 2023, Tampere University, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Postdoctoral Researcher, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland, since 2023
- Doctoral Researcher, Tampere University, Tampere, Finland, 2018-23

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Ugur Akpinar, Erdem Sahin, and Atanas Gotchev, 2020, "Phase-coded computational imaging for accommodation-invariant near-eye displays," IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP), IEEE, pp. 3159–3163
- Ugur Akpinar, Erdem Sahin, and Atanas Gotchev, 2020, "Computational multifocal near-eye display with hybrid refractive-diffractive optics," IEEE International Conference on Multimedia & Expo Workshops (ICMEW), IEEE, pp. 1–6.
- Ugur Akpinar, Erdem Sahin, Tina M. Hayward, Apratim Majumder, Rajesh Menon, and Atanas Gotchev, 2023, "Wavefront coding for accommodation-invariant near-eye displays," IEEE Transaction on Visualisation and Computer Graphics, Submitted.
- Ayoung Kim, Ugur Akpinar, Erdem Sahin, and Atanas Gotchev, 2025, "Snapshot Hyperspectral Imaging with Co-Designed Optics, Color Filter Array, and Unrolled Network," IEEE Open Journal of Signal Processing.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2023-25: Research to Business Funding for "Crispy - A lightweight XR Display Technology That Provides Visual Comfort and Immersion", Business Finland
- 2018-22: Postgraduate studies, Tampere University of Technology



Ada Junquera

MEDICINE

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration
Ambassadors' Circle Scholarship

SPECIALIZATION:

Ovarian Cancer, Spatial Biology,
Precision Oncology

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Spatial Multiomic Analysis of Cancer Cell
Niches Driving Chemotherapy Response
in High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

High-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSC) is defined by frequent relapse and eventual chemotherapy resistance, leading to poor survival. We aim to characterize the ecosystems of cancer cells surviving first-line chemotherapy. By employing spatial multi-omic approaches, we will explore these niches in patient-derived samples. Our research seeks to uncover the molecular mechanisms driving therapeutic resistance to improve future ovarian cancer care.

KEY WORDS:

Precision Oncology, Spatial Technologies,
Ovarian Cancer, Tumor
Microenvironment

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Helsinki, Research Program
in Systems Oncology (ONCOSYS), Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Harvard University, Harvard Medical
School, Laboratory of Systems
Pharmacology, Boston, Massachusetts

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Peter Sorger

GRANT PERIOD:

June 2026 – September 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- M.Sc. in Translational Medicine (Cancer Track), 2021-23, University of Helsinki, Finland
- Bachelor's in Business Management, 2022-26, UPSA, Spain
- Bachelor's in Biology, 2017-21, University of Oviedo, Spain

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Doctoral Researcher, Färkkilä Lab, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, since 2024
- Visiting Lecturer, Spatial Proteomics, UNAM, Mexico City, Mexico, May 2025
- Student Ambassador, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, since 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Perez-Villatoro, F., Shabanova, A., van Wagenveld, L., Junquera, A., et al. (2026). Single-cell spatial atlas of high-grade serous ovarian cancer uncovers MHC class II as a key predictor of spatial tumor ecosystems and clinical outcomes. *Cancer Discovery*. doi: 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-25-1492. (148 p)
- Junquera, A. & Färkkilä, A. E. M. (2025). Tracing cancer progression through interpretable spatial multi-omics. *Trends in Cancer*. doi: 10.1016/j.trecan.2025.11.002
- Launonen, I. M., Erkan, E. P., Niemiec, I., Junquera, A., et al. (2024). Chemotherapy induces myeloid-driven spatially confined T cell exhaustion in ovarian cancer. *Cancer Cell*. Vol. 42, Issue 12. (pp. 2045–2063).
- Kang, Z., Szabo, A., Farago, T., Perez-Villatoro, F., Junquera, A., et al. (2025). Tribus: semi-automated discovery of cell identities and phenotypes from multiplexed imaging and proteomic data. *Bioinformatics*. Vol. 41, Issue 3. (btaf082).

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026: Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration
- 2025: Syöpäsäätiö personal grant
- 2025: Ida Montinin Säätiö personal grant
- 2024-27: CANDOC Precision Cancer Medicine National Pilot program
- 2017-21: Maria Cristina Masaveu Peterson grant for academic excellence



Anne Karhu

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration

SPECIALIZATION:

Special Education; Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS); Single-Case Experimental Designs

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Evaluating Implementation and Effectiveness of Evidence-Based Behavioral Support Models

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My project focuses on improving additional behavioral support in schools and early childhood education, used within PBIS. I will collaborate with U.S. researchers to strengthen research design, implementation practices, and teacher training. The goal is to advance evidence-based behavior support and develop sustainable ways to help students with social, emotional, and behavioral needs.

KEY WORDS:

PBIS, Behavior Support, CICO, Teacher Training

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Eastern Finland, School of Educational Sciences and Psychology, Joensuu

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Missouri, College of Education and Human Development, Columbia, Missouri

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Tim Lewis

GRANT PERIOD:

June 2026

>> [LINK TO THE FULL CV](#)

>> [INSTAGRAM](#)

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ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Docent (Adjunct Professor) in Special Education, 2025, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- Doctor of Education, 2018, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- Master of Education, 1998, University of Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Lecturer in Special Education, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland, since 2018
- Trainer (Behavior Support), Niilo Mäki Institute, Jyväskylä, Finland, since 2017
- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland, 2020-22
- University Teacher in Special Education, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland, 2018-20

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Karhu, A., Paananen, M., Gregoriadis, A., Husberg, H., Pöntinen, S., & Savolainen, H. (2026). Applying Individual Behavior Support to Finnish and Greek Schools: A Single-Case Experimental Study. *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00313831.2026.2623276>
- Paananen, M., Karhu, A. & Savolainen, H. (2026). Check in Check out Behavior Support in Mainstream Schools: Intervention Response and Moderators. *Behavioral Disorders* 51(2), 63-72. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01987429251363206>
- Savolainen, P., Karhu, A., Närhi, V. & Savolainen, H. From Fidelity to Sustainability - School Wide PBIS in Finland. (2025). *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00313831.2025.2506376>
- Karhu, A. & Heiskanen, N. (2025). Developing Inclusive Early Childhood Education through Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support: Structure, Comprehension, Experimentation. *Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs* 25, 777–787. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-3802.70010>
- Karhu, A. & Närhi, V. (2024). The efficacy of short-term in-service teacher training in implementing a behavioural intervention. *Journal of Education for Teaching* 51(1), 79–91. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02607476.2024.2430202>

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2023-25: Principal Investigator, LINTU Project
- Board Member, Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Europe, since 2024
- 2019-22: Postdoctoral Researcher, ERASMUS+ SWPBS International Project
- 2023: Invited Scientific Expert, Ministry of Education and Culture (Educational Support Reform)



Clément Massé

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration

SPECIALIZATION:

Large Carnivore Conservation, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Arctic Ecology

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Trophic Ecology, Conservation, and Management of the Wolverine in Arctic Socio-Ecological Systems

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The visit focuses on isotope analysis modeling methods to advance large carnivore ecology, particularly wolverine research. We focus on top carnivores' roles in Arctic ecosystems, and co-managing wildlife with Indigenous People. We foster multidisciplinary knowledge exchange and Arctic cooperation in wildlife research.

KEY WORDS:

Arctic, Wildlife, Conservation, Indigenous

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Oulu, Ecology and Genetics, Oulu

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Alaska Anchorage, Wildlife Ecology, Anchorage, Alaska

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Jeffrey Welker

GRANT PERIOD:

June 2026 – August 2026

>> SOCIAL MEDIA: @nordic.clement

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- PhD in Biology (Ongoing), University of Oulu, Finland
- Master's degree in Arctic Ecology, 2022, University of Oulu, Finland
- Interdisciplinary Arctic Studies Program, 2018, University of Lapland, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Doctoral Researcher, University of Oulu (current, until 2027)
- Research and Field Assistant, University of Oulu, 2019-22
- Arctic Nature Guide, Ivalo, 2016-19

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Masse et al., 2023, Long-term dietary shift in a generalist predator, the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2023.1284901>
- Bolduc et al., 2025, Impersonating predators and prey to study trophic interactions through real-life simulation <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210x.70180>
- More, see: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Clement-Masse-2>

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026: Co-Chairing the Finnish Association of Polar Early Career Scientists
- 2025: Finnish Cultural Foundation Grant Awardee
- 2024: University of Oulu Strategic Funding Awardee



Caterina Soldano

ORGANIC ELECTRONICS

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration
Ambassadors' Circle Scholarship

SPECIALIZATION:

Organic Materials and Nanostructures, Characterization and Optoelectronic Devices

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Organic and 2D Materials for Next-Generation Electronics: AI-Driven Discovery Meets Advanced Characterization

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project explores how organic and atomically thin materials can be engineered into next-generation electronic devices for light emission and sensing. Using advanced characterization facilities at Northeastern alongside machine learning tools, the collaboration aims to uncover fundamental material properties and accelerate the design of more efficient, sustainable organic electronics

KEY WORDS:

Organic Materials, Thin-film and Characterization, Optoelectronic Devices

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Aalto University, Department of Electronics and Nanoengineering, Espoo

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Northeastern University, Quantum Materials & Sensing Institute (QMSI), Boston, Massachusetts

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Swastik Kar

GRANT PERIOD:

July 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [RESEARCH GROUP](#)

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- PhD, 2007, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA
- MSc, 2004, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA
- Laurea (MSc), 2002, University of Bari, Italy

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Assistant Professor, Aalto University, Espoo, Finland, since 2019
- Visiting Faculty at Quantum Materials & Sensing Institute (QMSI), Northeastern University, Boston, USA, 2024-27

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- C. Soldano, O. Laouadi, V. Kornienko, K. Gallegos-Rosas, A. Azari *Electroplex Emission in TADF-Based Organic Light-Emitting Transistors*. ACS Photonics 12 (11), 5858 (2025)
- C. Soldano, O. Laouadi, K. Gallegos-Rosas *TCTA:Ir(ppy)₃ Green Emissive Blends in Organic Light-Emitting Transistors (OLETs)*. ACS Omega 7 (48), 43719 (2022)
- C. Soldano *Engineering Dielectric Materials for High-Performance Organic Light Emitting Transistors (OLETs)*. Materials 14 (13), 3756 (2021)
- C. Soldano *Metal-based Hybrid Carbon Nanotubes: a Novel Platform for Multifunctional Applications*. Progress in Materials Science 69, 183 (2015)
- C. Soldano, F. Rossella, V. Bellani, S. Giudicatti and S. Kar *Cobalt Nanocluster-filled Carbon Nanotube Arrays: Engineered Photonic Bandgap and Optical Reflectivity*. ACS Nano 4 (11), 6573 (2010)
- C. Soldano, S. Kar, S. Talapatra, S. K. Nayak and P. M. Ajayan *Detection of nanoscale magnetic activity using a single carbon nanotube*. Nano Letters 8(12), 4498 (2008)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration Awardee
- 2016: ITWIIN2016 Innovation Award as Best Italian Woman Innovator for “innovative organic materials for electronics & display applications” sponsored by Italian Women Inventors & Innovators Association (ITWIIN)



Anna Niia Varfolomeeva

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration

SPECIALIZATION:

Arctic Resources and Infrastructures

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Data Centres in the Afterlives of Arctic Industries

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My project examines how data centres are developing in former industrial regions in northern Finland and Alaska. I explore how data infrastructures build on earlier extractive histories. The project looks at how technological change reshapes landscapes and communities, and contributes to discussions on Arctic sustainability and development.

KEY WORDS:

Arctic, Infrastructure, Environmental Change, Comparative Research

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Oulu, Department of Education and Psychology, Oulu

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of History and Arctic & Northern Studies Program, Fairbanks, Alaska

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Dr. Tyler C. Kirk and Dr. Brandon M. Boylan

GRANT PERIOD:

March 2027

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [BLUESKY: @annaniia.bsky.social](#)

>> [WEBSITE](#)

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ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- PhD in Environmental Sciences and Policy, 2019, Central European University, Hungary

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Oulu, Finland, since 2023
- Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Finland, 2020-23
- Lecturer, School of Advanced Studies, Tyumen, Russia, 2019-20

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Varfolomeeva, A. (in press). More-than-human impacts of energy transition in Finland. In R. Toivanen, V. Vladimirova & C.-G. Ojala (Eds). *Decolonizing the Sustainable Development Goals: Community Perspectives, Social Justice and the Challenges of Pluralism*. Palgrave McMillan.
- Varfolomeeva, A. (2025) Resurssien kierto: Oulujoen vesivoima ihmisten ja maiseman suhteissa [Resource Cycles: Hydropower on the Oulujoki River in Human–Landscape Relations]. In: R. Norum, V. Kinnunen & N. Hämäläinen (Eds.). *Kalevalaseuran vuosikirja 104. Käänteet ja kierrot: Kulttuuriset ympäristömuutokset pohjoisessa*. (pp. 89-107). SKS.
- Varfolomeeva, A. (2025). Resourcified Bodies: Women Miners' Narratives of Limits, Resistance, and Creativity. *Laboratorium*, 17(1), 93-115.
- Varfolomeeva, A. (2023). Indigenous connections with the resourcescape in the Russian North and Siberia. *Globalizations*. doi: 10.1080/14747731.2023.2171221
- Varfolomeeva, A. (2023). The nothingness myth: Creation and collapse of a Soviet industrial settlement. *Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology*, 96.
- Varfolomeeva, A. (2021). Destructive care: emotional engagements in mining narratives. *Nordic Journal of Science and Technology Studies*, 9 (1), 13-25.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026: VisitANTS Fellowship for a research stay at the University of Cambridge, UK
- 2025: FRONT ROAM mobility fellowship, University of Pécs, Hungary
- 2020: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship – Seal of Excellence, European Commission
- 2019: European Society for Environmental History Award
- 2017: Central European University Award for advanced doctoral students
- 2013/14: The Sverker Åström foundation's fellowship, Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRES), Uppsala University, Sweden



Juulia Heikkinen

SOCIOLOGY

The Fulbright Finland Foundation Fellowship for Pre-Doctoral Research
Cost-shared with the University of Helsinki

SPECIALIZATION:

Sociology of Digital Culture and Democracy

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Formats of Valuation on Social Media

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My project studies two different social media sites – Instagram images and dating applications – to understand how people use the visual and intimate formats of digital media to articulate what is important for them. The project bridges European and North American traditions of sociological valuation studies, as well as qualitative and quantitative methods, to provide insight into the social, political, and cultural implications of US-based platforms in European societies.

KEY WORDS:

Social Media, Democracy, Visual Studies, Digital Intimacies

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Helsinki, Faculty of Social Sciences, Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of California Berkeley, Sociology Department, Berkeley, California

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Marion Fourcade

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – January 2027

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Master of Social Sciences, European and Nordic Studies, 2022, University of Helsinki
- Bachelor of Social Sciences, Global Politics, 2018

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Finland, since 2023
- Project Researcher, ImagiDem -European Youth Becoming Citizens by Visual Participation, University of Helsinki, 2023-24
- Trainee, science, technology, and education policy, Embassy of Finland in the United States, Washington D.C., 2022-23
- Research Assistant, Centre for Sociology of Democracy, University of Helsinki, 2021-22
- Project planner, Aleksanteri Institute, Educational Programmes and International Affairs, University of Helsinki, 2021
- Analyst, iloom oy, LDA-based platform for analyzing big qualitative data, Helsinki, 2020-22
- Research Assistant, Aleksanteri Institute, Digital Russia Studies, University of Helsinki, 2019-20

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Heikkinen, J. (2026). Spiders of Democracy: the local (para)democratic elite. *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*.
- Niska, T., Eranti, V., & Heikkinen, J. (2024). Interlocking institutions and elite networks in democratic organizations. *Social network analysis of elected representatives in massive membership organizations in the greater Helsinki region. Acta Sociologica*.
- Heikkinen, J. & Meriluoto, T. (2022). Grievable images: the war in Ukraine in visual social media, Ilmiö.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: Fulbright Finland Fellow
- 2026: Research Fellow, International Psychoanalytic University Berlin
- 2025: Participant, Oxford Internet Institute – UC Berkeley School of Information Summer Doctoral Program, UC Berkeley, USA
- 2023-27: Kone Foundation grant for PhD thesis “Ecologies of valuation in algorithmic cultures”
- 2022: Award for best master’s thesis, European and Nordic studies, University of Helsinki
- 2022: Award for best master’s thesis, Finnish Society for Russian and East European Studies



Milla Tarpola

ECONOMICS

Fulbright-KAUTE Foundation Award

SPECIALIZATION:

Economics

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Selling the Future: Why Breakthrough Firms Choose Acquisition Over Growth?

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My research studies what happens when a small company makes an important technological breakthrough and is then bought by a larger firm. I examine when these deals help new technologies spread faster and when they reduce competition and slow progress. The goal is to provide evidence that can guide innovation and merger policy.

KEY WORDS:

Innovation, Mergers and Acquisitions, Competition Policy

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT:

Paris School of Economics, Paris, France

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut;
Stanford University, Stanford, California

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Michael Peters (Yale University)
Pete Klenow (Stanford University)

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026 – May 2027

>> X: @millatarpola

>> LINKEDIN: @tarpola

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Doctoral degree, 2024—ongoing, Paris School of Economics, France
- Master's degree, 2022-24, Paris School of Economics, France
- Bachelor's degree, 2019-22, Economics, University of Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Teaching Assistant, Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, Paris, France, 2025
- Research Assistant, Paris School of Economics, Paris, France, 2024
- Research Intern, VATT Institute of Economic Research, Helsinki, Finland, 2023
- Course Assistant, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Tarpola, Milla. Limits to Growth: the Impact of Firm Size Regulation on Mergers. Pro gradu -tutkielma, Paris School of Economics, 2024.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2024-26: The Osk. Huttunen Foundation. Grant awarded for completing the first two years of a PhD program. Total amount 57 700 euros.



Haiying Lu

FINANCE

The Fulbright Finland Foundation and Idman Foundation Graduate Fellowship

SPECIALIZATION:

Finance

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Completing a master's degree in Finance in the U.S.

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Pursuing a master's degree in finance with a particular interest in deepening my understanding of corporate finance and asset pricing, including topics such as firm valuation and determining the fair value of assets.

KEY WORDS:

Corporate Finance, Investment Banking, Private Equity, Asset Pricing

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Graduate of Aalto University, School of Business, Espoo

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT, School of Management, Cambridge, Massachusetts

GRANT PERIOD:

July 2025 – December 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [TELEGRAM @haiyingblu](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- B.Sc. in Economics and Business Administration (Major: Finance), 2024, Aalto University School of Business, Finland
- High School Diploma (Orientation: Natural Sciences), 2021, Tampere Classical Upper Secondary School (*Tampereen klassillinen lukio*), Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Fellow Intern, McKinsey & Company, Helsinki, Finland, 09/2024 – 11/2024
- Strategy Trainee, Hiab, Helsinki, Finland, 05/2024 – 07/2024
- Research Assistant, Aalto University – Department of Finance, Espoo, Finland, 11/2022 – 08/2023

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2025-26: The Fulbright Finland Foundation and Idman Foundation Graduate Fellowship
- 2025: MIT Sloan Merit-Based Fellowship
- 2024: Aalto University Dean's List
- 2023: McKinsey Women Leadership Program
- 2023: Aalto University Student of the Year in French
- 2022: #1 student in Investments Course at Aalto University School of Business
- 2021: Technology Industries of Finland Centennial Foundation Scholarship for top 1% (176 out of 14,895) in advanced mathematics examination
- 2020: Top 5 Speaker in Finnish National Schools Debating Championship
- 2019: Runner-up in National English Essay Writing Competition
- 2018: Aamulehti Newspaper Scholarship



Marja Saleva

FINE ARTS

Fulbright-Idman Grant

SPECIALIZATION:

Photo-Based Visual Art

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Completing a master's degree in Fine Arts in the U.S.

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

I will research two interconnected areas: the concept of reality and the subjectivity of seeing. What is reality, and how can it be found and depicted? I will study these questions from philosophical, biological, psychological, and neuroscientific perspectives. Aesthetically, I aim to find new ways to express the complexity of reality and seeing. In pursuit of this, I will use collage technique to challenge the one-eyed perspective of the camera.

KEY WORDS:

Photography, Collage, Installation, Book Art

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Graduate of Turku University of Applied Sciences

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Pratt Institute, Fine Arts Department, Brooklyn, New York

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Mark Gens, Assistant Chairperson of Fine Arts

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2025 – May 2027

>> [INSTAGRAM @marjasaleva](#)

>> [WEBSITE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Bachelor of Culture and Arts, 2013, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Master of Social Sciences, 2001, University of Turku, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

Art:

- Working grant (12 months), Arts Promotion Centre Finland, 2023
- Working grant (6 months), Alfred Kordelin Foundation, 2022
- Working grant (6 months), Arts Promotion Centre Finland, 2020

Media:

- Layout designer, editor (part-time), Iltalehti, Helsinki, Finland, since 2016
- Layout designer (part-time), Helsingin Sanomat, Helsinki, Finland, 2013–2015
- Layout designer, editor, photo editor (part-time), Turun Sanomat, Turku, Finland, 2008–2013
- News reporter (full-time), Turun Sanomat, Turku, Finland, 2001–2008

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- There was no other way to tell this, Gallery Pimento, Oulu, Finland, 2025
- ROOOOM, Gallery Fikka, Porvoo, Finland, 2023
- Papersnake rock (Family Album), Ryniker-Morrison Gallery, Billings, MT, USA, 2023
- Look me in the eye and repeat:, School of Visual Arts, Summer Residency Programs Open Studios, New York, NY, USA, 2023
- as real as any room that moves, screams for the narrator, Hippolyte Studio, Helsinki, Finland, 2022
- Medium Sweet Yellow Cocktail With Flirting Flowers And Solid Expectations, Gallery Rajatila, Tampere, Finland, 2021
- Surprise Paradise Disco With King Size Flowers And A Black Swan, Gallery Huuto, Helsinki, Finland, 2021
- Playing Like A Flower In A Red Sea While Building A Long New Dress (Family Album), Northern Photographic Centre, Oulu, Finland, 2020

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Marja Saleva, Family Album, 2018, 2019 & 2023, zine, self-published, page count varies
- Marja Saleva, He is so obsessed with me, 2017, online-work, www.heissoobsessedwithme.com
- Marja Saleva, He is so obsessed with me, 2013, photobook, self-published, 350 p.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2025-26: Fulbright-Idman Grant Awardee



Eveliina Viitasalo

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Fulbright-Idman Grant

SPECIALIZATION:

Chemistry

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Completing a master's degree in Forensic Chemistry

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My goal is to become a forensic scientist who uses chemistry for solving crimes. Through a master's program in the U.S., I will learn advanced techniques for analysing physical evidence. This knowledge will allow me to bring better analytical practices to criminal investigations and support justice through science.

KEY WORDS:

Forensic Science, Analytical Chemistry, Evidence Analysis, Criminal Justice

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Graduate of University of Jyväskylä, Department of Chemistry, Jyväskylä

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Central Oklahoma, Forensic Science Institute, Edmond, Oklahoma

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – May 2028

>> INSTAGRAM: @evsquuu

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Master of Science in Chemistry, Expected 2026, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- Forensic Science Studies (Exchange), 2023, Youngstown State University, United States
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, 2022, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Laboratory Assistant, Veolia Services Suomi Oy, Äänekoski, Finland, since 2025

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: Fulbright-Idman Grant Awardee
- 2023: Bilateral Student Exchange Travel Scholarship, University of Jyväskylä



Fredrik Hellman

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Fulbright-Technology Industries of Finland Grant (Graduate)

SPECIALIZATION:

Data Management

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Data Management for Automated Life Cycle Assessment

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

My research explores automated, data-driven approaches to Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) by integrating sustainability data from industrial systems into scalable environmental impact models. It examines how operational data can be linked with LCA methods to enable more consistent and transparent product-level assessments, and investigates challenges related to data quality, mapping, and auditability in complex manufacturing environments.

KEY WORDS:

Life Cycle Assessment, Data Engineering, Sustainable Manufacturing, Industrial AI

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Åbo Akademi University, Information Technology, Vaasa

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Columbia University, Columbia Climate School, Research Program on Sustainability Policy and Management, New York

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Jochebed Louis-Jean

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – May 2027

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- MSc Computer Engineering, 2023, Åbo Akademi University, Finland
- MSc Financial Economics, 2021, Hanken School of Economics, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- PhD Student, Åbo Akademi University, Vaasa, Finland, since 2024

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Berger, K., Hellman, F., Lundell, A., Björkqvist, J., Baumgartner, R. J. (2026), *Data lakehouses for enabling Digital Product Passport orchestration*, 33rd CIRP Conference on Life Cycle Engineering (LCE 2026)
- Hellman, F., Hakala, J., Antus, W., Norrback, A., Lundell, A., Björkqvist, J. (2025), *Automated Life Cycle Assessment in Scalable and Flexible Manufacturing*, Automaatiopäivät 2025, Suomen automaatioseura



Rose Laaksonen

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grant

SPECIALIZATION:

Environmental Strategy and Management

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Completing a master's degree in Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

I aim to specialize in climate impact assessment and sustainable infrastructure, focusing on how environmental considerations can be better integrated into decision-making and urban development.

KEY WORDS:

Climate Change, Sustainability, Environmental Policy

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – July 2027

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- M.Sc.), Creative Sustainability, 2025–(ongoing), Aalto University, Finland
- (B. Eng), Environmental Engineering, 2024, Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Sustainability Specialist, WSP, Finland, since 2025
- Project Engineer, Proxion (WSP), Finland, 2023-25
- Environmental and Laboratory Technician, UPM, Finland, 2022

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: ASLA-Fulbright Graduate Grant Awardee
- 2025: Finland's Young Consultant of the Year (SKOL)
- 2024: Fulbright Finland, Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders from Europe Awardee



Sara Hanski

CLASS TEACHER EDUCATION

Fulbright Finnish Language and Culture Teaching Assistant

SPECIALIZATION:

Class Teacher Education and Physical Education

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Finnish Language Teaching Assistant

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Working as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Washington

KEY WORDS:

FLTA, Finnish Language, Finland, Finnish as a Second and Foreign Language

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Washington, Department of Scandinavian Studies, Seattle, Washington

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Andrew Nestingen

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026 – June 2027

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Master of education, 2023, University of Turku, Finland
- Bachelor of Education, 2022, University of Turku, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Elementary School Teacher, Pakila Comprehensive School, Helsinki, Finland, since 2024
- Elementary School Teacher, Hiidenkivi Comprehensive School, Helsinki, Finland, 2023-24

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: Fulbright Finnish Language and Culture Teaching Assistant Program, University of Washington



Matteus Einiö

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Program

SPECIALIZATION:

Finance

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Exchange studies in the U.S.

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Undergraduate level studies in the U.S.

KEY WORDS:

Venture Capital, Startup,
Entrepreneurship, Innovation

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Aalto University School of Business,
Department of Finance, Espoo

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Southern California,
Marshall School of Business, Los Angeles,
California

GRANT PERIOD:

January 2027 – May 2027

>> LINKEDIN: [@matteuseinio](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Graduate of International Baccalaureate at Mattilidens gymnasium, 2023
- Bachelor of Science (Economics and Business Administration), since 2024, Aalto University, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Partnership Manager, Slush, Helsinki, Finland, since 2026
- Venture Scout, node.vc, Helsinki, Finland, 2025-26

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Program Awardee
- 2026: Ilkka Kontula Foundation Scholarship for Academic Excellence



Aaro Kares

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Program

SPECIALIZATION:

Product Design

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Student Exchange at the University of Oregon Studying Product Design

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

I will complete undergraduate level courses in product design. The courses include design drawing by hand, 3D modelling of complex shapes, and the overall design process of new products.

KEY WORDS:

Design Thinking, Industrial Engineering and Management, Technical sales

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Tampere University, Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Tampere

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University Of Oregon, Department of Product Design, Eugene, Oregon

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Krista Farris

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026 – December 2026

INSTAGRAM: @aarokares

LINKEDIN: Aaro Kares

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- High School, 2022, Kaleva High School, Tampere, Finland
- BSME, since August 2024, Tampere University, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Trainee, Customer Sales Support, Sandvik, Nokia, Finland, starting May 2026
- Spare Parts Salesperson, Motonet, Tampere, Finland, December 2025

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026-27: Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Program Awardee
- 2026: Promoter for Tampereen Opiskelijapuolikas (Road running event)
- 2025: Surf Trip Organizer for Tampereen Teekkarien Hiihto ja Purjehdusseura



Albin Shala

FINANCE

Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Program

SPECIALIZATION:

Finance

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Undergraduate exchange in finance at Miami University's Farmer School of Business

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

I will study finance and business at Miami University's Farmer School of Business. My coursework focuses on international finance, real estate, and commercial banking. Through studying in an American academic environment, I aim to deepen my understanding of global financial markets and investment decision-making while developing cross-cultural communication skills. This experience will support my goal of building a career in international finance.

KEY WORDS:

Finance, International Business, Entrepreneurship, Asset Management

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Hanken School of Economics, Department of Finance, Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Miami University, Farmer School of Business, Oxford, Ohio

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Kathy Youngkin

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – December 2026

INSTAGRAM: [Albinshala04](#)

LINKEDIN: [Albin Shala](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- High School Diploma, 2023, Espoon yhteislyseon lukio, Espoo, Finland
- BSc in Economics and Business Administration, starting 2025, Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Customer Advisor, Nordea, Helsinki, Finland, since May 2026
- Customer Advisor, Nordea, Vaasa, Finland, January 2025 to February 2025
- Co-Executive Director, Hanken Basketball Club, Helsinki, Finland, since December 2025

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- Fulbright Finland Undergraduate Program



Anna Aaltonen

SCIENCE AND LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching

SPECIALIZATION:

Biology, Earth Science and Geography

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Supporting Language Acquisition and Teaching Communication Skills in the Science Classroom

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The science classroom is enhanced by integrating language support and scientific argumentation. Methods are developed to help learners navigate scientific vocabulary and articulate and mediate their questions and findings confidently. Additionally, pedagogical practices are refined to promote global citizenship. By aligning language support with studies of natural phenomena, students are empowered to engage with science as members of a global society.

KEY WORDS:

Science Education, Language Support, Communication, Global Skills

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Lauttasaari Secondary School, Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

TBC

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – December 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- MSc (Biosciences), 2007, University of Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Biology and Geography Teacher, Lauttasaaren yhteiskoulu, Helsinki, Finland, since 2007
- Coordinator and Head Teacher of Bilingual Education, Lauttasaaren yhteiskoulu, Helsinki, Finland, since 2020
- Author of Textbooks and Educational Materials, Otava, Finland, since 2020

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Aaltonen, A., Kujansuu, E., Seppälä, J., Suontausta, T. & Tuominen, P., 2021, *Biomi 1: Elämä ja evoluutio "Life and Evolution"*, Otava, ISBN 978-951-1-35305-8
- Aaltonen, A., Kujansuu, E., Merilä, J., Seppälä, J., Suontausta, T. & Tuominen, P., 2021, *Biomi 2–3: Ekologian perusteet, Ihmisen vaikutukset ekosysteemeihin "Basic Ecology and the Human Impact on Ecosystems"*, Otava, ISBN 978-951-1-38387-1
- Aaltonen, A. et al., 2022, *Biomi 4: Solu ja perinnöllisyys "The Cell and Heredity"*, ISBN 978-951-1-38388-8
- Aaltonen, A. et al., 2022, *Biomi 5: Ihmisen biologia "Human Biology"*, ISBN 978-951-1-40258-9
- Aaltonen, A. et al., 2023, *Biomi 6: Biotekniikka ja sen sovellukset "Biotechnology and its Applications"*, ISBN 978-951-1-40259-6
- Aaltonen, A., Hiekka, S., Mikkonen, H. & Tuominen, P., 2025, *Kasvu: Elämä "Life"*, Otava, ISBN 978-951-1-48468-4

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026: Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Awardee
- 2019: LPS 2019 Climate Detectives School Award by the European Space Agency



Eveliina Paunonen

BUSINESS AND MARKETING EDUCATION

Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching

SPECIALIZATION:

Marketing Communications, Digital Commerce, Service Design, Customer Relationship Management

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Experiential Learning and Storytelling in Marketing Education

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project explores how experiential learning and storytelling can improve the teaching of marketing. It examines how these approaches are used in the United States to create more engaging and practical learning experiences. The goal is to identify effective methods that support students' skill development and motivation in vocational business education.

KEY WORDS:

Marketing, Storytelling, Experiential Learning, Vocational Education

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Mercuria Business College, Marketing, Vantaa

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

TBC

GRANT PERIOD:

August 2026 – December 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Vocational Teacher Qualification, 2024, Haaga-Helia, Finland
- MSc in Economics and Business Administration (major Marketing), 2020, Turku School of Economics, Finland
- BSc in Economics and Business Administration (major Marketing), 2016, Turku School of Economics, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Vocational Teacher (Business and Marketing), Mercuria Business College, Vantaa, Finland, since 2022
- Account Manager, Markkinointitoimisto Kuulu Oy, Helsinki, Finland, 2021-22
- Consultant, Kiva Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, 2019-21
- Online Marketing Executive, Mahon Digital Marketing, Turku, Finland, 2017-19

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2026: Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Awardee



Sari Lindblom

LAPLAND UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Institutional Partnership Building

SPECIALIZATION:

Strategic Development and Profiling of University Research; Quality Assurance and Promotion of Responsibility in Science and Research; Innovation Management; Strengthening Societal Interaction (Research Institute and Business Cooperation and International Partnerships); Leading the Research Development Working Group and the Doctoral School

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Continuation Interinstitutional Academic Partnership between Stanford University and University of Lapland

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

University of Lapland's strategic goal is to develop international partnership networks to promote our Arctic education and research around strategic themes.

KEY WORDS:

Arctic Studies, Comprehensive Security, Trust, Leadership, Research Impact, Scientific Impact

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Lapland University, Management and Decision-Making; Vice Rector, Rovaniemi

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Stanford University, California

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor and Dean Daniel L. Schwartz

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Doctor of Science (econ.), Business Economics, Management, 2012, University of Eastern Finland; Headline of the dissertation "Towards a trust-based model of leadership within the leader-member exchange theory framework: a qualitative study of leaders' trustworthiness in the SME context"
- Master of Science in Economics and Business Administration, Business Administration, 2007, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Vice-Rector; Research, University of Lapland, since 01/2025-
- Chief Officer; Science & Impact, LUT University, 2022-12/2024
- Research Manager; Head of Research and Information Services, Ministry of Interior; The Finnish Border Guard, 2017-22
- External Expert of Education Development and Research, Member of the Research and Innovation External Board, Frontex, 2017-23
- First doctoral (2007-2009) and after doctoral degree Post Doctoral Researcher & Part-time Lecturer (responsible for teaching leadership theory and trust courses for doctoral and master students), University of Eastern Finland, 2007-21

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Lindblom, S. & Castrèn, J. (2021): "Implementation of European Union Security Strategies in the context of Integrated Border Management - Initial modelling of European Commission security strategic process and actions against the threats toward Europe". In: Remapping Security on Europe's Northern Borders. Edited by: Laine, J. P., I. Liikanen & J. W. Scott. Routledge, London. 2020.
- Lindblom-Häkkinen, S. & Anttila, M. (2018). Asylum seeker or seeker of a better life? - What makes a difference within categorization? VIIth International Scientific and Practical Conference Border Security and Management. Scientific Journal of Internal Security and Civil Defence, No 2 (7) 15-16.5.2018, 82-91. 2018.
- Lindblom-Häkkinen, S. & Heinikoski, S., Anttila, M. (2018). Border check training in Finland - Comparison of e-learning tools for practical and legal studies. Society.Integration.Education. Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference. Volume V, May 25th-26th, 2018, 327-337.
- Lindblom, S., (2018). Suomen rajahallinnon muutosten tarkastelua EU:n aikana. Poliitikasta.fi. 11.10.2018. <https://politiikasta.fi/suomen-rajahallinnon-muutokset-eu-aikana/>
- Anttila, M. & Lindblom, S. (2018). Korreloiko menestys opiskelijavalinnassa työmotivaation ja sitoutumisen kanssa? Tarkastelussa rajavartijan peruskurssin opiskelijavalinta. Anttila, Maisa, Lindblom, Sari. Psykologia 53(4).

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2016-19: Responsible research director behalf of the Finnish Border Guard at the research project GLASE (Multilayered Borders of Global Security), funded by the Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland.
- Since 2009: Nordic Trust Research Network & Association-member
- Since 2010: FINT, First International Trust Association-member
- Since 2010: ILA, International Leadership Association-member



Mikko Moilanen

ENGLISH

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Institutional Partnership Building

SPECIALIZATION:

Exchange Administration

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Renewing Cooperation with University of Hawaii at Manoa and Finding Fulbright Scholar Candidates

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

I work with student exchanges and international partnerships for the University of Helsinki, specifically with North America and Oceania, and plan to visit the University of Hawaii at Manoa to renew our exchange cooperation and find Fulbright candidates.

KEY WORDS:

Student Exchange, International Partnerships

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of Helsinki, Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Manoa, Hawaii

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Vinnie Burns

GRANT PERIOD:

Early 2027

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- MA, English, 2008, University of Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Teacher, English department, University of Helsinki, fall 2009
- Amanuensis, English department, University of Helsinki, 2012-13
- Educational coordinator, Suomen Diakoniaopisto (Diakonia College of Finland), 2013
- Study secretary, Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, University of Helsinki, 2014-16
- Amanuensis, Special Pedagogy, Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, spring 2016
- Specialist for International Exchange Services, University of Helsinki, since 2016. In charge of the university's mobility partnerships with North America and Oceania (university-level) as well as European mobilities for the Faculty of Educational Sciences



Tuulikki Laes

MUSIC EDUCATION

Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Institutional Partnership Building

SPECIALIZATION:

Music Education

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Building and Extending Research Partnerships, Policy and Curricular Development

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

During the visit, I will exchange ideas with faculty at the host institution about music education policy and the public role of higher music education. I will share my research, learn more about U.S. higher education through seminars and meetings, and explore common interests with colleagues. The aim is to build a strong basis for future collaboration, such as joint research, co-written publications, and longer-term academic exchange between our institutions.

KEY WORDS:

Music Education, Policy, Professionalism, Public Pedagogy

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

University of the Arts Helsinki, Research Institute, Helsinki

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Columbia University, Teachers College, New York

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Professor Patrick Schmidt

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026

>> [LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY ONLINE PROFILE](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Doctor of Music, 2017, University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- University Researcher, University of the Arts Helsinki, since 2019

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Laes, T., Saether, E. & Koivisto, T.-A. (2025). Higher music education as a site of public pedagogy: Identifying institutional change in the Nordic countries. *Research Studies in Music Education*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1321103X251361805>
- Laes, T., Biesta, G., & Westerlund, H. (Eds.) (2025). *The Transformative Politics of Music Education*. Routledge.
- Laes, T. (2025). Towards an anti-ableist music education: Reconsidering the complex politics of inclusion. In L. de Bruin, A. Skinner, & J. Southcott (Eds.) *Guerilla Music: Disability and Musicking: Resistance, Defiance, and Innovation* (pp. 297–316). Lexington. [10.5040/9798216198512.0021](https://doi.org/10.5040/9798216198512.0021)
- Laes, T., Treacy, D. & Westerlund, H. (2024). Beyond 'democracy': Making space for the educational and political in school music. In J. Aróstegui, K. Matsunobu, J. Nichols & C. Christophersen (Eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of School Music Education* (pp. 457–472). Sage.
- Laes, T., Westerlund, H., Treacy, D. & Thomson, K. (2024). Towards the 'swampy lowlands' of professional practice: Higher music education teachers reflecting on arts-science integration in the Artists for a Sustainable Future course. *Diskussion Musikpädagogik 102*. <https://www.junker-verlag.com/dmp-102>

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2025: Title of Docent, Musicology, University of Helsinki
- 2023: Academy Research Fellowship, Research Council of Finland
- 2019: Post Doctoral Research Post, Research Council of Finland
- 2018: Primus Doctor, Conferment Ceremony, University of the Arts Helsinki



Jouni Lounasmaa

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT

ASLA-Fulbright Mid-Career Professional Development Grant
Cost-shared with the New Children's Hospital Foundation

SPECIALIZATION:

Innovations in Healthcare

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Fostering Innovations at Children's Hospitals, Innovation Practices for the 21st Century Pediatrics

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This Fulbright Mid-Career Professional Development Project, centers on learning from Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School to advance paediatric innovation and impactful fundraising in Finland. By studying US models in healthcare technology, innovation practices, and donor engagement, this initiative aims to empower Finnish children's hospitals and foundations with new strategies, ethical governance, and international collaboration, ultimately improving child centered care and research.

KEY WORDS:

Innovation, Paediatrics, Children's Hospital

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

New Children's Hospital Foundation, Helsinki; Aalto University, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Espoo

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Shea Asfaw, Executive Director, CEO, Strategic Support

GRANT PERIOD:

September 2026 – December 2026

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- MBA, 2021, Henley Business School, University of Reading, UK
- M.Sc. (Eng), 2000, Aalto University, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

- EIR, Teacher, Aalto University, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Espoo, Finland, since 2025
- Executive Director, Biomedicum Helsinki Foundation, Espoo, Finland, since 2024
- Executive Director, New Children's Hospital Foundation, Helsinki, Finland, since 2022
- Executive Director, The Finnish Medical Foundation, Helsinki, Finland, since 2023



Heidi Rosenström

EDUCATION

ASLA-Fulbright Mid-Career Professional Development Grant
Cost-shared with Heureka, the Finnish Science Center

SPECIALIZATION:

Non-Formal Education

FULBRIGHT PROJECT TITLE:

Designing Futures for Science
Engagement: Co-Creation as a Tool for
Empowering Audiences and Preparing
Organizations for Change

FULBRIGHT PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

During my grant period I will explore how science centers can involve visitors in co-creating exhibitions and experiences. The goal is to give people a stronger voice, make exhibitions more meaningful, and support organizational growth. I aim to bring back practical ideas that benefit Heureka while helping science centers in create more engaging and relevant science centre experiences for a broad range of audiences.

KEY WORDS:

Science Centers, Co-Creation, Exhibition Development, Audience Engagement

HOME INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN FINLAND:

Heureka, the Finnish Science Center,
Vantaa

HOST INSTITUTION AND DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Arizona State University, School for the
Future of Innovation in Society (SFIS),
Center for Innovation in Informal STEM
Learning (CIISL), Tempe, Arizona

HOST/CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES:

Co-director Paul Martin

GRANT PERIOD:

March 2027 – July 2027

>> [LINKEDIN](#)

ACADEMIC TRAINING:

- Master of Science, 2000, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

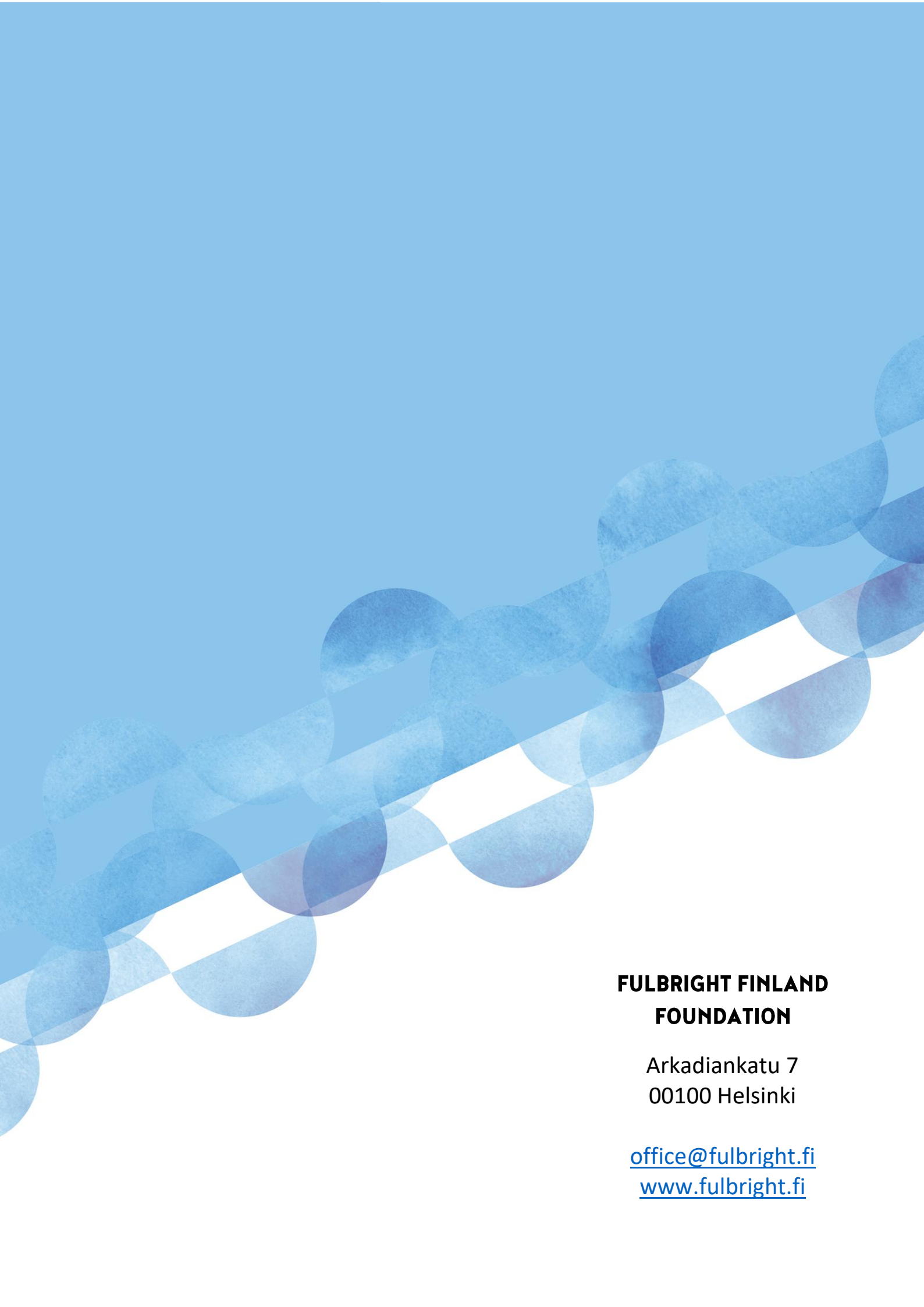
- Exhibition Producer, Heureka, the Finnish Science Center, since 2007 with exception between 2019-21
- Acting Exhibition Manager, Finnish Nature Centre Haltia, 2019-21

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- *Real Voices: Sharing Authority to Create an Exhibition on Mental Health* in the book *Welcoming Museum Visitors with Unapparent Disabilities*. (American Alliance of Museums). **Editor Beth Redmond Jones. 07/2024.**

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, ETC.:

- 2014: The exhibition *Heureka goes Crazy* (later known as *Mental Health Mind Matters*) received the Roy L. Schaefer Leading Edge Award for Best Visitor Experience by the ASTC (American Association for Science and Technology Centers) in 2014.



**FULBRIGHT FINLAND
FOUNDATION**

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