

THE
News
FULBRIGHT FINLAND

ISSUE 71 VOL. 30
SPRING 2020

Daniel Libeskind:

**“Architecture
Communicates
to the World”**

**Seeking Solutions for
Global Challenges**

**New Fulbright-
University of Jyväskylä
Graduate Award**

**Advocating for the
Rights of People
With Disabilities**

**Navigating COVID-19
in International
Exchanges**





Future of International Exchanges

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reshapes higher education worldwide, and significantly impacts international exchanges. As I envision the potential long-term impacts, three fundamental arguments immediately emerge.

First, investing in science and education is essential. Only science can provide solutions out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Foundation’s newest grant, Seeking Solutions for Global Challenges Award, was created specifically to support research that focuses on challenges of current and global importance (p. 13). Our Foundation’s recent move to partner with the Academy of Finland is also an effort to increase our opportunities for collaboration in support of high-quality research (p. 7). In this magazine issue, our alumni share their impact.

Second, along with science, international collaboration is equally imperative both in finding solutions and managing global crises. The current pandemic powerfully demonstrates how interconnected we all are and further underlines the importance of international collaboration. This is not the

time to shift our focus only inwards; instead it’s time to increasingly collaborate across borders and to think of entirely new ways to develop and enhance these opportunities (p. 12-13).

Third, person-to-person interaction and exchanges are vital. Whether in education or research, diplomacy, peace mediation, or human interaction in general, there is no substitute for meeting face-to-face. The lockdown showed us that no digital platform, regardless of how advanced, can ever equal real in-person human connection. The need and urge to meet and dialogue in person to build understanding and find solutions to challenges remains at the core of our field.

In her column (p. 3), the Finnish Minister of Science and Culture **Hanna Kosonen** argues that in the midst of the current challenges we have all the reason for optimism, if we choose the path of international collaboration. I could not agree more.

Terhi Mölsä
Chief Executive Officer
Fulbright Finland Foundation

IN THIS ISSUE

7 FULBRIGHT FINLAND MOVES

11 HATCHED IN FINLAND
Finnish approaches and inspiration through inquiry to U.S. students.

20 FINNISH-LITHUANIAN ALUMNI COLLABORATION FOR MEANINGFUL IMPACT

21 ALUMNI ENRICHMENT AWARD
Fulbrighters Return to Finland



14 ADVENTURES OF A FAR-ROVING MIND
Stephen Kuusisto
Poet and Disability Advocate

4 News 14 Alumni 18 Alumni in Focus: Daniel Libeskind

Cover photo: Stefan Ruiz

There is Reason to Maintain International Research Cooperation



Fulbright Finland Foundation is a world-renowned, flexible, continually renewing international community of students and researchers that is strongly anchored in the surrounding society.

With coronavirus, it seems that nation states are moving inwards. Partners are sought closer to hand and production is relocated within national borders. This can be a risky trend if it favors protectionism rather than international cooperation.

As the pandemic brings with it the possibility of an economic crisis, international university and research cooperation may be viewed secondary to national research, development and innovation (RDI) interests. However, it is difficult to carry out ambitious RDI activities without international cooperation. At the grassroots level, the internationalisation of research is not coming to a halt; quite the contrary. Research-intensive companies carry out RDI with global knowledge and expertise. Although mobility is now at a standstill, the labour market for researchers continues to be international. Knowledge travels rapidly across national boundaries, as researchers continue to cooperate with their international colleagues and advance open science.

The coronavirus crisis has led to numerous opportunities for international cooperation. For example, universities and companies joined forces to find a vaccine and the best modes of treatment. Citizens participated in discussions on how to manage the pandemic, sought knowledge and applied it in protecting themselves against the virus.

Researchers submitted their findings for public discussion and evaluation as quickly as possible, leading to new networks and publishing practices. At the same time, researchers did not hide the uncertainty inherent in science, the arduous and complex journey towards understanding the world and truth through open discussion.

The world of academia and research, governments, companies and individual citizens have shown determination and a willingness to work together during the global pandemic. The same determination and pooling of resources are needed to address equally urgent issues such as climate change. Research plays a crucial role in creating a safer, healthier, fairer and more sustainable planet for everyone.

Finland wants to contribute to solving the great problems of humanity and to be bigger in science than her own size. That can only be the reality through open cooperation. The United States is Finland's most important trading partner in terms of value creation. The same is true of science, when scientific joint publications and citations are considered. At the governmental level, it has been said that we have common research agendas. Many research areas that Finland excels in are also strategic areas for the United States. These common research areas include artificial intelligence, next-generation mobile technologies, personalised medicine, robotics, quantum computing and Arctic research.

Strengthening university and research cooperation between Finland and the United States is essential. Organizations such as Fulbright are important to this mission. Fulbright Finland Foundation is a world-renowned, flexible, continually renewing international community of students and researchers strongly anchored in the surrounding society. Fulbright Finland's alumni activities can serve as a model and flagship for the entire Finnish higher education institution.

At the end of the Second World War, **Vannevar Bush**, the first scientific adviser to the President of the United States, wrote a report entitled *Science, the Endless Frontier: A report to the President* outlining the direction of research towards new peacetime goals. In the foreword to the report, President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** infuses confidence in the post-crisis rise: "New frontiers of the mind are before us, and if they are pioneered with the same vision, boldness, and drive with which we have waged this war we can create a fuller and more fruitful employment and a fuller and more fruitful life."

Optimism is courage, but there is reason for optimism. I believe that we have good times ahead of us if we dare to choose the path of international cooperation.

Hanna Kosonen
Minister of Science and Culture

”Fulbright Finland will help you broaden your research and cultural awareness, make a difference in the world, make lifetime friends, and develop a lifetime of conversation starters at get-togethers.”

2019–2020 U.S. Fulbright grantee, University of Jyväskylä

New Fulbright-University of Jyväskylä Graduate Award

The Fulbright Finland Foundation is pleased to announce its first cooperation agreement with the University of Jyväskylä.

Text KAROLIINA KOKKO *Photo* UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

University of Jyväskylä

University of Jyväskylä (JYU) was established in 1862 as the first Finnish Teacher Training College. Today JYU is an international research university and one of the largest and most popular multidisciplinary universities in Finland. JYU's community consists of 2600 experts and 14700 students. They offer 14 research-based two-year master's degree programs in English.

For further information please visit www.jyu.fi/en

Signed in February 2020, the agreement establishes a dedicated Fulbright award for U.S. graduate students to study at the University of Jyväskylä.

The Fulbright-University of Jyväskylä Graduate Award provides U.S. students an opportunity to enroll in any of the international master's degree programs at the University of Jyväskylä. The award package includes a full two-year tuition scholarship, grants for living and travel expenses as well as an option for summer school in Finland on Finnish language and culture before starting studies at the University of Jyväskylä. The first award will be granted for the academic year 2021–2022.

The award supports the recruitment of U.S. students to the University of Jyväskylä and improves the university's visibility in the U.S.

“The joint award is important for us as it supports the internationalization of education at our university. Together with the Fulbright Finland Foundation, it strengthens our education and research

collaboration with the United States,” says the University of Jyväskylä Rector **Keijo Hämäläinen**.

The Foundation and the University of Jyväskylä have been active collaborators over the years, for example in organizing joint seminars that have brought U.S. Fulbright grantees from different parts of Finland to Jyväskylä to present their projects.

“We are very pleased about our first joint award with the University of Jyväskylä,” says **Terhi Mölsä**, CEO of the Fulbright Finland Foundation. “The university has hosted over 120 U.S. Fulbright grantees over the years, primarily scholars and teacher exchange participants. The new award will now bring U.S. students to the campus and provide them a valuable opportunity to complete a full master's degree in any of the university's international programs.”

Find out more and apply:

www.fulbright.fi/scholarships-to-study-finland/fulbright-university-jyvaskyla-graduate-award

Fulbright-KAUTE Foundation Award in Economics and Technology

In partnership since 2016, the Fulbright Finland Foundation and KAUTE Foundation collaboration is a great example of how partnerships evolve through time. In fall 2019, the partners created a new joint award, the Fulbright-KAUTE Foundation Award that supports Finnish researchers and professionals pursuing research or projects in the fields of Economics and Technology in the U.S.

Tuomas Olkku, the KAUTE Foundation Executive Director explains the significance and reciprocity of this collaboration: “For KAUTE, supporting internationalization of Finnish scholars is one of the key ways for fulfilling our mission of supporting sustainable renewal of Finnish business and society. Sponsoring the Fulbright-KAUTE Award is an effective way of doing this. By working with established and well-known organization like the Fulbright Finland Foundation, we can be sure that we reach quality candidates and that processes are right, fair and efficient. I find it very valuable that besides funding, the Fulbright Finland Foundation also provides other kind of support for the grantees.”

“The Fulbright Finland Foundation highly values the collaboration with the KAUTE Foundation. Working together we are able to offer more opportunities in these important fields,” says **Terhi Mölsä**, CEO of the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

www.fulbright.fi/grants-doctoral-studies-and-research/fulbright-kaute-foundation-award

SUSTAINABLE RENEWAL OF FINNISH BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

KAUTE Foundation’s objective is to promote the sustainable renewal of Finnish business and society. Its particular goal is to strengthen scientific business and engineering research, with focus on emerging research areas such as cleantech, fintech, sustainable energy, e-health, e-learning and AI.

KAUTE Foundation was founded in 1956 to reflect a renewed cooperation between Finnish business and engineering graduates in the post-war era. In November 2016, to mark its jubilee year, the Foundation started an appeal for funds, with an emphasis on digital economy. The main goal is to strengthen scientific business and engineering research focusing on digitalization.

www.kaute.fi

Tampere University and Fulbright Finland Renew Their Partnership

The Fulbright Finland Foundation is pleased to continue its collaboration with Tampere University to bring more U.S. scholars to conduct research and teach in Tampere. The Foundation had earlier collaboration agreements with both the University of Tampere and the Tampere University of Technology. After the merger of these two universities, the two sponsored grant programs were also merged into the new Fulbright-Tampere University Scholar Award.

“Tampere University fosters the internationalization of research, education and recruitment. U.S. scholars will help the university further strengthen its international ties,” emphasizes **Mari Walls**, President of the Tampere University.

Tampere is a popular destination among U.S. Fulbright scholars and the university hosted seven Fulbright professors during the past academic year. Three of them received the Fulbright-Tampere University Scholar Award: **Karl Haapala** from Oregon State University (Mechanical Engineering), **Benjamin Lear** from Pennsylvania State University (Chemistry), and **Lois Presser** from the University of Tennessee (Criminology).

The new agreement was signed in Helsinki in January 2020 by Mari Walls, President of Tampere University, and **Terhi Mölsä**, CEO of the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

Text: Emmi Jelekäinen

www.fulbright.fi/tuni-scholar

Fulbright Arctic Initiative

APPLY NOW
www.fulbright.fi/fin-fai



2020-2021 Fulbright Finland Awards Announced

Text EMMI JELEKÄINEN

2020-2021 Fulbright Finland Foundation Grantees

www.fulbright.fi/about-us/grantees

Travel Grants

www.fulbright.fi/grant-programs-to-us/short-term-travel-grants-to-us

The first Foundation grants for the academic year 2020-2021 have been awarded.

Nearly 30 scholars, teachers, students and professionals from Finland have been selected to travel to the United States to study, lecture, or to conduct research or professional projects. Additional awards will be made later in the year. The awards to the United States are supported by the KAUTE Foundation, University of Turku, University of Eastern Finland, University of Helsinki, University of Jyväskylä, the Technology Industries of Finland Centennial Foundation, the Finland-America Educational Trust Fund, and the Finnish and U.S. governments.

The evolving COVID-19 situation continues to create uncertainties for the grantees' preparations for the upcoming program in the United States, and the Foundation is working closely with all of its awardees to assist them with their individual situations. The Foundation strives to create as much flexibility as possible for the awardees in view of the timing and other details of their grant terms.

Respectively, 45 U.S. scholars, students, and professionals have at this point been selected to come to Finland during the academic year 2020-2021. Additional awards are expected to be made later, primarily in the short-term Fulbright Specialist Program and the Inter-Country Travel Grant Program. The majority of the U.S. Fulbright grantees will start their grant terms in January 2021. The awards for U.S. Fulbright grantees are made possible by funding from

Finnish universities and research institutions, private Finnish foundations, the Finland-America Educational Trust Fund, Finnish and U.S. governments as well as individual alumni and private donors.

Travel Grantees Create New and Strengthen Existing Collaborations

The Foundation offers short-term travel grants for research collaboration and institutional partnership building. Among the 2020-2021 awardees there are five travel grant recipients, and this year's cohort represents a variety of fields ranging from Research Development to Micro- and Nanosciences and Multidisciplinary Arctic Global Change Research.

Nelson Totah is Assistant Professor of Neurophysiology and Pharmacology at the University of Helsinki. He will use his travel grant to visit Rice University in the United States.

"Our collaboration will create ties between my host, Rice University, and my home institution Helsinki Institute of Life Science, and strengthen U.S.-Finnish interaction in state-of-the-art brain research," Totah says.

Doctoral Candidate **Ismo Heikkinen** will visit Fulbright Finland alum **Joshua Pearce's** research group at the Michigan Technological University to continue the collaboration that began when Pearce worked in Finland as the 2017-2018 Fulbright-Aalto University Distinguished Chair (see more on page 16).



Anna Bogdan



Kayleigh Anderson

Roth-Thomson Awards to Bogdan and Anderson

Fulbright-University of Helsinki Graduate awardee **Anna Bogdan** and Fulbright-University of Turku Graduate awardee **Kayleigh Anderson** received the 2020 Roth-Thomson Awards.

Anna Bogdan uses the Roth-Thomson Award to support her research project on the spread of misinformation in the discussion of politics online. Anna is currently completing her master's degree on Global Politics and Communication at the University of Helsinki.

Kayleigh Anderson uses the award to expand her research to include questions of cultural appropriation and the Sami people. Kayleigh is researching how colonization impacts modern indigenous

women in the Sami tribe through the lens of feminist and indigenous research at the Department of Gender Studies master's program at the University of Turku.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, both Bogdan and Anderson decided to stay in Finland and continue their projects as planned.

ROTH ENDOWMENT AWARDS are granted annually to U.S. Fulbright students in Finland focusing on the arts, humanities and social sciences. Fulbright Finland Foundation has worked with the Lois Roth Endowment since 1991.

Fulbright Finland Renewal Grantees in Spotlight

Iida Tikka, Tuomas Lihr, and Inka Rusi are all recipients of the 2019–2020 Fulbright Finland Renewal Grants.

Iida Tikka, 2018–2019 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee starts as U.S. correspondent for Finland’s national public broadcasting company YLE in September. Iida graduated in May with a master’s degree in Security Studies at Georgetown University. She has previously worked as YLE’s foreign news reporter and Moscow correspondent for MTV3 and Finnish News Agency (STT).

Tuomas Lihr, 2018–2019 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee graduated from the Yale University’s Jackson Institute and was recognized with the Award for Academic Excellence in Global Affairs.

Inka Rusi, 2017–2018 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee received an internship



Iida Tikka



Tuomas Lihr



Inka Rusi

after finishing her film directing studies at California School of the Arts this spring. Inka is working as Creative Producer on *Brainwashed*, a documentary film by director **Nina Menkes**. She is also currently working on her first feature script.

The Fulbright Finland Foundation awards usually 5–8 renewal grants for the Foundation’s grantees continuing their studies in the U.S. after their initial grant year.

The Renewal grants are funded by the Finland–America Educational Trust Fund. The next cohort of Fulbright Finland Renewal grantees will be selected again in June.

www.fulbright.fi/grant-programs-to-us/fulbright-finland-renewal-grant

Fulbright Finland Moves to Partner with the Academy of Finland

The Fulbright Finland Foundation has moved to a new location in the Hakaniemenranta 6 building in Helsinki. The Foundation now shares the floor with the Academy of Finland.

The Academy of Finland is a governmental agency that provides expertise in science and science policy and funds high-quality research with over 420 million euros annually. The Academy also works to contribute to the renewal, diversification and increasing internationalization of Finnish research.

“We are very pleased about this new partnership. The move creates opportunities to increase the collaboration and to work more closely with the Academy of Finland,” says the Foundation’s CEO **Terhi Mölsä**.

The President of the Academy of Finland **Heikki Mannila** says that the Academy is happy to now have the Foundation on the same floor, as a tenant and neighbor. “Fulbright Finland Foundation has continuously had a very strong positive influence in the development of Finnish science; the list of the people who have received Fulbright grants shows this very clearly,” he says.

“The development of Finnish–U.S. relations in the area of science is important for us. When looking at statistics of scientific publications, I have been happy to see that the number of U.S.–Finnish joint publications is increasing and that the quality of those publications is very high. The Academy of Finland is currently discussing joint research programs with NSF and NIH. I hope this will lead to a further increase in the volume and quality of U.S.–Finnish scientific cooperation. Simultaneously, I hope that the cooperation between the Fulbright Finland Foundation and Academy of Finland will increase as well,” Mannila concludes.

Showcasing Artwork by Alumna

The Foundation’s new office space was created to function as a meeting point for the Foundation’s partners, grantees, alumni, and friends. In the new office, visitors also have an opportunity to explore and learn about alumni impact through art. The office will display Fulbright Finland alumna **Lotta Lemetti’s** artwork from her award-winning photographic project *Kekta*.

“Photos from *Kekta* explore in a visual

form what cultural blending between Finnish and American looks like, so they are a good choice for the Foundation’s new office,” Lemetti says.

The office opens for the public after the summer. Come meet us then at our new premises!



LOTTA LEMETTI

Navigating the Pandemic in International Exchanges

The COVID-19 pandemic deeply impacted the spring 2020 Fulbright Finland Foundation programs and grantees on both sides of the Atlantic.

From the onset of the pandemic, the Foundation team worked hard to support the grantees on both sides of the Atlantic, helping them navigate the situation as they decided whether to shelter in place in their host country or return home early. Simultaneously, the Foundation worked with all of its funding partners and the grantees' host institutions, and their flexibility and understanding in the situation was exceptional and deeply appreciated.

Almost all of the Finnish and American students and scholars continued their collaborative teaching, research and projects virtually. In an effort to continue to engage with grantees whose grant term was interrupted by the pandemic, the Foundation also launched several initiatives. From April through June, a series of virtual talks took place where grantees shared their Fulbright

projects with the Fulbright Finland community, bringing together fellow grantees, hosts, alumni, and the Foundation staff and Board members.

In addition, a special narratives project, COVID-19 Chronicles: Stories from Fulbright Finland Grantees, aimed at chronicling and preserving this excep-

tional moment in history, captures the narratives of grantees who experienced an interruption in their grant term. The voices and stories serve as an important archive that will allow our community to look back on and remember the impact that this global pandemic had on our Fulbright Finland Foundation community.



Interruption of Face-to-Face Instruction Does Not Stop Collaboration



John Donnellan



David Dorman

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic some U.S. grantees decided to leave earlier than planned, but the collaboration with their Finnish host institutions continues online.

Fulbright-TUAS Scholar Dr. **John Donnellan**, Associate Professor from New Jersey City University and 2017-2018 Fulbright Specialist, arrived in Finland in January as the first Fulbright-TUAS Scholar awardee. During his five-month

stay, he was going to teach at Turku University of Applied Sciences Master School of the Faculty of Engineering and Business, and also research possibilities for cooperative education between Finland and the U.S.

The pandemic interrupted his visit, but leaving Finland did not mean saying goodbye to his teaching and collaboration with TUAS. What started face-to-face now continues online.

The next step is to establish a collaborative teaching program with TUAS and NJCU. "I would also hope to visit Fulbright Finland and TUAS when we are able to travel since this is a long-term relationship," Donnellan says.

Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation grantee in Health and Environmental Sciences Dr. **David Dorman** was also among

those who returned to the U.S. earlier than planned. However, he continues to teach toxicology courses and counsel master's students with their thesis work online. Dorman's expertise was a welcome addition to the University of Eastern Finland's toxicology program, and his course materials and recordings will be used also in the future.

"Saastamoinen Foundation and Fulbright Finland Foundation are important players in promoting international collaboration. It's a trying time for them as well, with so many long-planned grantee periods interrupted or postponed," Dorman says.

Read more about John Donnellan's visit at TUAS website: <https://bit.ly/3eTsCG1>

Read more about David Dorman's visit at University of Eastern Finland at: <https://bit.ly/3cCrogX>

Sleep becomes a faint memory as I find comfort in airport food
Kiitos, I would say one last time in a country I was not yet done with
 Cancelled flights, border closures, and excessive hand washing was my new normal
 Oh, how I wished to once again stand on a frozen lake in Rovaniemi chasing the northern lights
 Or hike a national park in Jyväskylä as the snow painted the town white
 Or get lost in one of the many tiny islands of Oulu as I found solace in colorful street art
 How I wished exploring a culture that is so far from mine was my normal
 But there were different plans for us

...

My bare skin no longer feels the bitter cold of a Nordic winter
 The back of my closet has since met my bulky winter coat
 The front of my mind stores the lessons I learned while in Finland
 And my eyes foresee what I hope to one day come
 A global togetherness that binds us
 Less competition
 More collaboration

And as many lives are put on pause
 The Earth keeps rotating
 Reminding me of an opportunity shortened
 But never an opportunity lost.

Excerpts from the poem *An Opportunity Lost*
 by **Maedeh Pourrabi**,
 2019-2020 U.S. Fulbright grantee in Finland.

For the full poem as well as other
 COVID-19 Chronicles, see: www.fulbright.fi/covid-19-chronicles-stories-fulbright-finland-grantees



Thought Leaders Convene to Envision the Future of Exchanges

As COVID-19 reshapes higher education worldwide, the internationalization of higher education and research, study abroad mobility, exchanges, and international research collaboration are dramatically impacted. The immediate effects are likely to lead to permanent changes in the field. In analyzing the present situation, what will the “new normal” look like? How can we put these experiences and scenarios into a wider perspective that informs our strategic planning and helps us navigate the future?

Under its Fulbright Transatlantic Roundtable series, the Fulbright Finland Foundation convened thought leaders from both sides of the Atlantic for an online roundtable to discuss the immediate and

long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on international higher education and more specifically international exchanges.

The roundtable included introductions to the theme by an expert panel: Dr. **Allan E. Goodman**, CEO and President of Institute of International Education IIE; Dr. **John Lucas**, President and CEO, ISEP; Dr. **Julie E. Taylor**, Director of Academic Relations for Fulbright, IIE; and **Birgitta Vuorinen**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland.

Thank you to the panelists and all the roundtable participants for a thought provoking discussion on this imperative topic.

Watch the recording of the Roundtable:
<https://bit.ly/3gYfLUY>

Virtual Talks by Fulbrighters

In an effort to bring the Fulbright Finland community together during the unprecedented time of social distancing, the Foundation organized a series of virtual talks.

Text MAIJA KETTUNEN

Stay Tuned!

After a successful launch, the Virtual Talks by Fulbrighters series will continue in the fall 2020. To receive information about the upcoming talks, subscribe to the monthly *Fulbright Finland Update* at uutiskirje.fulbright.fi

The annual Fulbright Forum seminar was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. grantees, however, came up with the idea to replace the Forum with virtual talks. Whether they were able to complete their project or not before the onset of the pandemic, they all came across some valuable takeaways, ideas or practices that were interesting for others to learn about.

The annual Fulbright Forum seminar provides an opportunity for the U.S. Fulbright grantees in Finland to present on their research to their fellow Fulbrighters and a wider audience, but it serves also as a mid-semester networking event for the cohort. To bring the Fulbright Finland community together and engage the grantees in the virtual environment, the Foundation organized a series of virtual talks over April, May and June for the U.S. and Finnish teachers, scholars, and students to share their takeaways and innovative projects.

During the Fulbright Teachers' Online Edu-

cation Extravaganza in April, Finnish and U.S. teachers shared their unique inquiry projects and preliminary findings with their colleagues, alumni, and the Foundation's program partners from IREX, ECA and host universities. The webinar participants learned about teachers' autonomy, global citizenship competence education, flipped learning, and many other current phenomena in education.

In May and June, the Virtual Talks by Fulbrighters series explored 2019-2020 U.S. and Finnish student and scholar projects, experiences and takeaways. The topics varied from Finnish baby box and molecule world to virtual fashion, greenhouse gas emissions and visualizing data about peat structure. The virtual talks reached a wide group of people and enabled the Foundation to share the impact of the Fulbright programs with partners, sponsors, hosts, alumni and wider audiences on both sides of the Atlantic.



Anne Yoncha

2019-2020 Fulbright-EDUFI Fellow
Natural Resources
Institute Finland
LUKE, Oulu

Re:Peat

Layers of Peat in Northern Finland, a Look and Listen

Fulbright-EDUFI Fellow Anne Yoncha's
exhibition Re:Peat at Galleria MABD in Oulu
July 8-27, 2020

Artist Anne Yoncha combines art with science. Based on her Fulbright project, Re:Peat visualizes and materializes data about peat structure in Northern Ostrobothnia. Her practice combines digital sensing technology, such as bio-data sonification, and analog, traditional processes including painting with ink she makes from locally-sourced tannins.

Read more about the exhibition:
<https://mabd.fi/hayttely/anne-yoncha-repeat>
<https://anneyoncha.com>



Re:Peat: Layer
18x24", ink, gouache, watercolor, conte, graphite on paper



HatchEd in Finland

Text and photo KELSEA TURNER

Kelsea Turner

2019-2020 Fulbright
Distinguished Award in
Teaching
University of Jyväskylä

Kelsea Turner's Fulbright project HatchEd brings Finnish approaches and inspiration through inquiry to American students. HatchEd was first introduced during the Fulbright Teachers' Online Education Extravaganza.

www.fulbright.fi/us-teacher



I never made it past the honeymoon phase during my time in Finland. I developed instant affection for the people, the culture, and the environment, both natural and human-made. **Alvar Aalto's** buildings provided warm, inspiring spaces in which to write and think, but I also came to see him as an educational philosopher finding wisdom for my teaching in his words like, "Beauty is the harmony of purpose and form" and "Don't forget to play."

Like the Finnish lakeland where I lived, my Fulbright path was full of beautiful twists and turns. My inquiry into the role that teachers play in cultivating agency and purpose in early adolescence quickly revealed that student ownership of their learning (and their lives) was built into the fabric of Finnish educational culture from the beginning. While Finnish teachers approach their craft in vastly different ways, a few common threads emerged in the form of **FATE**: flexibility, autonomy, trust, and equity.

My research path took an organic turn when I stumbled upon an approach that brought **FATE** into focus: personalized learning paths. As I traveled around Finland to see expert teachers using them to build students' skills in self-regulation and learning-to-learn, I drew an interesting parallel: *Fulbrighting is a personalized learning path!* I thought about how this was the first time in my learning life that I felt so inspired, but this inspiration didn't just appear. It was cultivated through the freedom that the learning path provided and it started with a question I really cared about. So, in addition to answering my original research question, my Fulbright inquiry had led me to a question I didn't know I had: *What kind of teacher do I want to be?*

Finland taught me that I want to be a teacher who shines a light on paths to inspiration. I wondered, "Is it possible to develop a set of personal practices that can give us greater access to inspiration?" and "How can we offer students the chance to experience learning that they find inspiring now?"

The answer is *HatchEd*, a program that brings Finnish approaches and inspiration to American students. HatchEd aims to increase student agency through inquiry and is rooted in elements I observed in Finnish classrooms, so it should feel like Finland. I am thrilled to be designing the program with a Finnish teacher and expert in personalized learning whose perspective will lend authenticity and insight. I hope HatchEd will give students what Fulbrighting gave me, including the opportunity to: learn how to find inspiration through inquiry, solve problems in the world, develop intercultural understanding, and build skills that promote thriving, regardless of circumstance.

Fulbright programs worldwide were suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic and while leaving Finland early felt like an abrupt and crushing end to a dream I had worked toward for many years, being there during these times gave me a window into Finnish education that I couldn't have accessed any other way. I hold out hope that my Fulbright path will lead me back one day to deepen my learning and contributions, but HatchEd means that the journey can continue despite geographic barriers. Many questions remain, but with a clearer sense of educational purpose, newfound inspiration, cross-cultural collaboration, and a little bit of Finnish *sisu*, I am confident that Finland's educational gifts will be palpable for American students this fall.



Piia Björn (right) chairs the Fulbright Finland Foundation Board that together with the CEO provide the strategic leadership for the Foundation. Pictured here with CEO **Terhi Mölsä** at the 2019 SuomiAreena in Pori.

Seeking Solutions for Global Challenges

Fulbright Finland Foundation CEO Terhi Mölsä and Board Chair Piia Björn talk about the Foundation’s brand promise, the launch of the new flagship grant Seeking Solutions for Global Challenges, and the changing outlook for international exchanges and collaboration in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Text LOUISA GAIRN

Every year, around a hundred Finns and Americans from all walks of life participate in Fulbright Finland Foundation programs, strengthening their academic or professional knowledge, developing their leadership skills and building lifelong networks. As alumni, they continue to share their experience and skills, creating meaningful change.

“Our alumni contribute to society across all fields and professions. They participate in academic debate and public discussion, create new opportunities, and strive to solve local and global challenges,” says Fulbright Finland Foundation CEO **Terhi Mölsä**. “You can see our alumni everywhere. For instance, just recently our government appointed an expert group of four top economists to chart Finland’s path to economic recovery

after the COVID-19 pandemic. Three of the four economists are our alumni, including the Nobel Prize winner **Bengt Holmström**.”

In 2018, the Foundation unveiled its brand promise, *Together Shaping the Future*, articulating its vision and mission, and redesigning its visual branding to symbolize its core values and approach. This process, Terhi says, helped the Foundation Board, staff team and stakeholders in affirming the value of the Foundation’s day-to-day activities and in focusing the Foundation’s ongoing strategic thinking for the future.

In support of this ambition, the Foundation created a new flagship grant program late last year, *Seeking Solutions for Global Challenges*. The scope of the grant is highly ambitious, and broadly aligned

with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with priority areas including global health, climate change, artificial intelligence, equity, human rights and inclusive societies, among others. While the grants were first launched for U.S. scholars to Finland, the Foundation is now working to expand the program to additional key groups.

“This grant embodies our vision, mission, and brand promise. We wanted to create a flagship grant that communicates to the field we really are serious about this,” says **Piia Björn**, Vice Rector of the University of Turku and the current Chair of the Board of the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

One of the crucial global challenges is the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath. “We launched this grant last year with global health as one of its priority areas, before COVID-19 came along. The current pandemic only underlines the importance of this initiative and the importance of our vision. Science is the only solution out of the COVID-19 pandemic. International collaboration is equally imperative both in finding solutions and managing the global crisis. The pandemic dramatically demonstrates how interconnected we all are and underlines the importance of international collaboration and exchanges,” Terhi says.

From Cultural Diplomacy to Knowledge Diplomacy

The Foundation’s programs fulfil a number of complementary roles, Terhi explains. “Academic or professional exchanges enable the flow of knowledge and ideas and contribute to the internationalization of higher education and research. Simultaneously they are cultural and public diplomacy programs, where grantees are citizen diplomats, sharing their own diverse backgrounds and culture. Many of our programs are also characterized by science diplomacy or knowledge diplomacy, with a distinct focus on helping solve global challenges.”

“All of our programs are also leadership programs. We cannot give grants to everyone who deserves it, because our funding is limited. But we can work with grantees and encourage them to think

bigger. We help them to recognise that their individual choices and actions matter and that they can make a difference by sharing with others what they personally gain from the programs, and influence the world around them,” says Piia. “For us, leadership is not about titles. It is an attitude, a personal choice that anyone can make to own the responsibility to create meaningful change,” Terhi adds.

Exchanges Post COVID-19

COVID-19 will reshape higher education worldwide, predicts Terhi, with dramatic impacts on the internationalization of higher education and research, study abroad mobility, exchanges, and international research collaboration.

“The immediate effects are likely to lead to significant and permanent changes in our field. In analyzing the present situation, we need to rethink international exchanges and internationalization in general, and envision how we can best navigate the future.”

To help in this process, the Foundation is convening thought leaders from around the world for an online Roundtable discussion under the title “Reimagining Strategy: While COVID-19 Reshapes Higher Education, How Should International Exchanges Navigate the New Normal?” This discussion, in preparation for the Foundation’s Board meeting in June, will take a critical look at the present situation and the short and long-term impacts of the pandemic, how institutions and countries are responding, and finally at envisioning sustainable scenarios for the future.

Among the many issues under serious consideration are mobility and sustain-

ability. “In view of climate change, we cannot support short term travel without planning for a long term impact. The perspective in our programs, however, is always significantly longer than the exchange period itself. We typically start to work with grantees a full year prior to their departure, with network creation, training, and preparation,” says Terhi. “And after their return, grantees engage as alumni for the rest of their lives,” Piia adds. “The impact is always envisaged as long-term, regardless of the length of the grant.”

“Moving physically from one place to another is obviously not the only way for ideas and knowledge to move,” Terhi points out. “Right now we are looking at how to increase online programming to enhance the in-person experience, and how to optimize the hybrid models that we have been experimenting with. We would like to make them permanent opportunities and to offer them also for those who do not participate in our in-person exchange programs. We want to see this as an opportunity to expand equity and access.”

“Another important area is ‘internationalization-at-home’, offering access to

The current pandemic dramatically demonstrates how interconnected we all are, and further underlines the importance of international collaboration and exchanges.”

international experiences without leaving the home campus. This is an area where we have invested more recently with significant help from our grantees and alumni,” says Terhi.

“We also have over six hundred active alumni on the U.S. side, in our Friends of Fulbright Finland Network,” Piia adds. “They continue collaborations with Finnish higher education and research institutions, and help find new partners, both for us and for Finnish researchers and professionals.”

Finnish Minister of Science and Culture, **Hanna Kosonen**, has described Fulbright Finland Foundation as “a world-renowned, flexible, continually renewing international community of students and researchers that is strongly anchored in the surrounding society.”

“This really captures the essence,” says Piia. “Legally we are a private foundation registered in Finland, but the essence of the Foundation is all of the individuals and institutions engaged in its network across borders,” Terhi adds. “It is a community owned by everyone — grantees, alumni, universities, partner institutions, donors. It is this network that creates the impact.”

New Award Focusing on Topics of Current and Global Importance

Through the Seeking Solutions for Global Challenges Award, the Fulbright Finland Foundation aims to attract more scholars and professionals who want to impact the future and make a difference, seeking solutions to current and global challenges through their research, teaching or professional projects.

The Award is available for any field for visits from two to six months at any Finnish institution. The project focus areas can include topics such as global health, climate change, Arctic cooperation, cybersecurity, human rights, peace mediation, or any other timely topic with global importance.

The new award was created to support the Foundation’s motto “Together Shaping the Future” and its vision to “empower the minds that will find global solutions to tomorrow’s challenges by fostering academic and professional expertise and excellence in leadership”. It is the newest of the 15 awards under the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program to Finland.

Application round for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards to Finland for the academic year 2021-2022 closes on September 15, 2020.

www.fulbright.fi/seeking-solutions-global-challenges-award



“It’s important to communicate the idea that disability is not a defect or disadvantage, but a fully dynamic part of the human experience, a matter of imagination.”

Stephen Kuusisto

1981-1982
U.S. Fulbright Scholar
University of Helsinki

Professor **Stephen Kuusisto** was a Fulbright scholar in Helsinki in 1981, and also spent a year in the Finnish capital as a child. A poet, author, university professor and disability advocate, he has been blind since birth, and writes about his experiences in *Eavesdropping: A Memoir of Blindness and Listening* (2006). Speaking on December 3, 2019, International Day of Disabled Persons, he reflects on Finland’s special place in his memory and imagination, the need to recognize disability as a dynamic part of human experience, and the value of intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange in making a better world.

“In many places disabled people are considered outliers in culture, but that’s changing. December 3 is the International Day for Disabled Persons as declared by the UN in 2006. It is modeled on the Americans with Disabilities Act, and well over 100 countries have signed it. Globally, countries are recognizing that disabled people belong in society and have rights and opportunities. It’s important to communicate the idea that disability is not a

Adventures of a Far-Roving Mind

Text LOUISA GAIRN

defect or disadvantage, but a fully dynamic part of the human experience, a matter of imagination,” Stephen says.

Finland has always been a vivid presence in Stephen Kuusisto’s life and creative work. Growing up in a Finnish-American family, some of his earliest memories are of the year he spent in Helsinki as a young child. Stephen embarked on his own journey to Finland in 1980, funded by the Finnish bridge program, which brings Finnish Americans to Finland, and the following year was granted a Fulbright scholarship to pursue a research master’s degree at the University of Helsinki, focusing on international outlooks in postwar U.S. and Finnish poetry. Finland remains an important touchstone in his writing. The author of seven books, including autobiographical essays, short stories and poetry collections, Stephen says his Finnish experiences continue to inspire him. He has recently returned to the Finnish capital, reconnecting with the city and exploring new possibilities for exchange and dialogue. “This was my first visit to Finland since the early 2000s, and my sixth overall. I have pledged to be more connected and I’m looking into some projects I can do with the Fulbright Finland Foundation and its partners.”

Peace and Shared Understanding

Such international and intercultural connections are at the core of Stephen’s work as a disability advocate and educator. “Over the past eight years I’ve traveled around the world with the U.S. State Department doing what they call cultural diplomacy. I’ve traveled with poets, dancers and composers to different countries – China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan. The aim is to engage

with young disabled people, to introduce them to disability as a way of knowing, a way of thinking, an inclusive matter of human experience.”

For Stephen, intercultural exchanges are fundamental to peace and shared understanding. “The Fulbright program was, as far as I know, the first effort by the U.S. to create what we now call cultural diplomacy. So, Senator **J. William Fulbright** understood that allowing scholars to travel the world and know other scholars was essentially the most important and fundamental aspect of freedom. That of course came out of the early cold war, but it represented a visionary understanding that when people can exchange ideas and research, then freedom flourishes.”

Open and Free Exchange

“I would argue that right now, in an era when propaganda is being spread by the internet, that it’s actually even more important to have open and free exchanges with scholars and artists. Because the internet is not a real place. A real place is when you are together in a room and you’re talking about the value of ideas and what ideas can do.”

Stephen explains how advocating for the rights of people with disabilities forms a key part of the movement for environmental and human rights around the world. “If we’re going to build a sustainable and healthy world, it’s important to understand that disability is dynamically connected to efforts to create greater understanding and better opportunities for peace. Countries that are either at war or engaged in violent colonial activity create lots of disabled people. They call it ‘collateral damage’, but if you go to the Human Rights Watch website and visit their disability pages, you discover that it is the express plan to create disabled people in many instances. The military will use rubber bullets to blind people who are protesting. Governments disable people as a method of oppression. And when war crimes are committed, often large numbers of civilians and children wind up being disabled.”

‘Intersectional thinker’

“The process of imagining a better, more livable planet, requires really profound intersectional thinking at this point in human history. We know that a peaceful planet is also a cleaner planet – the largest polluter in the world is the global military. We need a world where human beings are not being tortured, injured or disabled by policy. It’s also true that a sustainable planet is one where everybody gets to use their town or city, where there is a sustainable and inclusive urban architecture that works no matter who you are.”

As University Professor at Syracuse University, New York, ‘intersectional thinker’ is an apt job description. “It’s a unique role, as it allows me to teach in any area I wish. There are only eight of us on the faculty – we’re considered people with far-roving minds!” Stephen has also recently been appointed Director of Interdisciplinary Research at

“I would argue that right now, in an era when propaganda is being spread by the internet, that it’s actually even more important to have open and free exchanges with scholars and artists.”

Syracuse’s Burton Blatt Institute, dedicated to the advancement of disability rights. “Right now I’m involved in a global research project involving six cities in Africa, Europe, and North America, looking at how we can make them better for people with disabilities.”

This new role allows Stephen to explore complex interdisciplinary questions in which disabled people have an important stake, including climate change, genetic engineering, and artificial intelligence technologies. The division between the different fields, Stephen argues, is a cultural divide that urgently needs to be bridged. “It’s a product of the history of universities and history of industries. You think of **Henry Ford** and his assembly line, everybody with his little job to do. But right now we need more people engaging across disciplines if we’re going to solve the problems that face us. During my Fulbright year in the early 80s, I remember attending an interdisciplinary workshop where urban planners and engineers were talking about the future of Helsinki. One might ask, what’s a poet doing talking to engineers? But that kind of dialogue is important.”

This approach continues to inspire Stephen, who is planning an interdisciplinary peace studies course, bringing together students from the U.S. and Finland. “The emphasis is on how peace studies can positively impact the lives of historically marginalized people. If we’re talking about planting trees, cleaning up rivers, and educating girls in developing countries, all of those things are tied to peace. It’s called a ‘peace dividend’. It creates a dynamic and imaginative space where we can tackle problems. We can repair historical wrongs. In the U.S. we talk about reparations for slavery. I consider that to be a peace dividend. **Martin Luther King** spoke about peace as a path to inclusion, prosperity, and dignity for everybody.”

“If you go out and volunteer, travel, engage, you’re not sitting on your chair tweeting. I believe a lot of social media reflects a fundamental lack of curiosity about other cultures and peoples. It’s designed to echo what you already believe; it disincentivizes you from understanding the world. So we need cultural diplomacy more than ever. The important thing is that it’s not scripted. When you meet people face to face, you discover they too want better lives, they too want the dignity of imagination and hope.”

Read the full article
www.fulbright.fi/news-magazine/adventures-far-roving-mind

Finland's Research Dollars Stretch Further with Open Source

In many ways Finland is the birth place of the open source movement as the software operating system Linux, which drives the Internet, was born in a university student apartment in Helsinki. Today the open source has spread beyond software to free and open-source hardware (FOSH).



Joshua Pearce

2017-2018 Fulbright-Aalto University Distinguished Chair
Michigan Technological University

www.fulbright.fi/aalto-distinguished-chair

The idea behind FOSH is that designs of products are shared on the Internet freely and then digitally reproduced on manufacturing tools like 3-D printers. Scientists have been using this technique a lot to make customized research tools because they save over 90% compared to commercial offerings. The focused skill sets of researchers, however, has limited FOSH complexity. The most expensive research equipment normally requires an interdisciplinary team. To overcome this complex barrier and obtain large returns on investment for research funders by replacing the most expensive proprietary research equipment with FOSH, new development funding mechanisms are needed.

To guide such research policy, I collaborated with colleagues from Aalto University while on my sabbatical in Finland as Fulbright-Aalto University Distinguished Chair and continue to work with them today. We finished a study which was

the first analysis of the strategic national benefit of applying the FOSH approach to major research equipment for any nation.

Our results found that Finland's science funders could save between 2.84–27.7 million euros per year directly on scientific equipment purchases if research hardware is converted to FOSH and would likely garner the well-established concomitant benefits of increased research innovation within their economy. We provided a detailed generalized model for determining national research policy in hardware development so that other countries may follow Finland's open source lead.

I.T.S. Heikkinen, H. Savin, J. Partanen, J. Seppälä, and J.M. Pearce (2020)

Towards National Policy for Open Source Hardware Research: The Case of Finland, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*: <https://bit.ly/3oaiMvi>

Bioetiikan hiljainen vallankumous



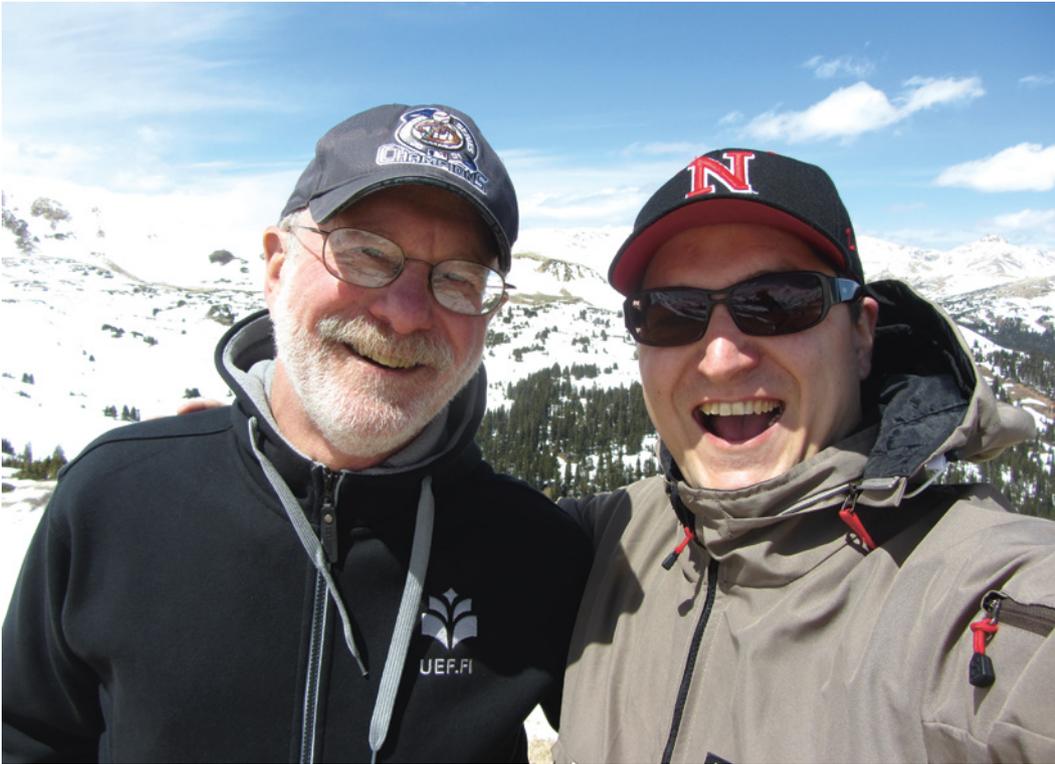
Heikki Saxén on Bioetiikan instituutin perustaja ja hallituksen puheenjohtaja. Saxén on ollut Fulbright Suomi -säätiön stipendiaattina Harvardissa kahdesti: 2014-2015 ASLA-Fulbright Pre-Doctoral Fellow -stipendiaattina ja 2019 Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration -stipendiaattina.

Tämä on tarina siitä, kuinka bioetiikan tiedonala myllertää hiljalleen maailmaa ja miten tulin itse vedetyksi mukaan sen pauloihin. Matka on ollut huima, eikä vähiten siksi, että olen saanut olla sen varrella Fulbright Suomi -säätiön stipendiaattina Harvardissa bioetiikan oppeja ammentamassa, minkä pohjalta olen sittemmin ollut mukana vakiinnuttamassa alaa Suomeen.

Bioetiikan tiedonalalla käsiteltävät teemat, kuten geenitiedon ja -teknologian käytön eettiset ulottuvuudet, terveydenhuollon priorisointi, ja monet muut tyypillisesti lääketieteelliseen tutkimukseen ja terveydenhuoltoon paikantuvat eettiset ja laajemmat yhteiskunnalliset aihepiirit, ovat esillä enenevässä määrin ja lähes päivittäin yhteiskunnan eri saroilla sekä myös mediassa käytävissä keskusteluissa.

Varsin harva kuitenkaan tietää, että nämä teemat paikantuvat usein erityisesti juuri *bioetiikkaan* – itse asiassa Suomessa vielä suhteellisen harva on edes kuullut koko bioetiikan tiedonalan olemassaolosta, vaikka maailmalla tämä ala ja siihen liittyvä käytännöllinen ja yhteiskunnallinen pohdinta on levinnyt tasaisesti viime vuosikymmeninä tehden hiljaista vallankumousta. Mistä siis on kysymys?

Lue Fulbright Suomi -säätiön alumnin Heikki Saxénin koko kirjoitus bioetiikan tiedonalan saapumisesta Suomeen: www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/bioetiikan-hiljainen-vallankumous



Fulbrighters at “the peak of the world”. **Michael H. Epstein** (left) and **Erkko Sointu** at Loveland Pass, Colorado.

Ten Years of Fulbright Finland and the Journey Continues!

Erkko Sointu from the University of Eastern Finland has engaged in the Fulbright Finland Foundation’s programs in multiple roles.

My first experience with the Fulbright Finland Foundation was almost 10 years ago, when Professor **Michael H. Epstein**, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) arrived as a Fulbright Senior Specialist to the University of Eastern Finland (UEF), where I was a new doctoral student. I was given the opportunity to host him and his wife, Professor **Alice Epstein**, during their visit. This experience allowed me to introduce Finland and engage in extended discussions, ask questions and learn about academia. I recommend supervisors invite Fulbright Specialists to visit Finland and allow your doctoral students to engage and learn from your guests.

Dr. Epstein’s first visit led to numerous international experiences and several new collaborations. During a research grant visit to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 2012, I met Dr. **Matthew Lambert**, a research methodologist and Associate Professor who also became an excellent colleague and friend. During a later visit, I met Associate Professor of the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) Dr. **Christine Cutucache**, with whom I formed a great new research partnership. In recent years,

I’ve had the pleasure to invite both Dr. Lambert and Dr. Cutucache as Fulbright Specialists to the University of Eastern Finland.

In 2015, I served as one of the first two Fulbright Finland Travel Grantees. The visit gave me new insights into the U.S. culture, research procedures, and international collaboration. Recently my colleagues at the University of Eastern Finland have also become Fulbright Finland grantees and we are creating our own international collaborative community in Eastern Finland.

I believe the international, national, and local Fulbright community has much to offer to students, teachers and researchers. The most important lessons I have learned during the past 10 years is that alongside the academic and continuous learning experiences, you should remember to interact with your international colleagues to show your Finnish personality, hospitality and friendship. Show them what Fulbright Finland is.

For me, the Fulbright Finland experience has been, and is, empowering, and the best part is that the journey continues.

Erkko Sointu

Assistant Professor, Learning and Novel Teaching Methods Development, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu

2015 Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration

Host for Fulbright Specialists in 2010, 2016 and 2020

Read full article
www.fulbright.fi/about-us/blog/ten-years-fulbright-and-journey-continues

www.fulbright.fi/travel-grant-research

www.fulbright.fi/specialist

Architect Daniel Libeskind is internationally renowned for iconic designs including the World Trade Center reconstruction in New York. A Fulbright professor in Helsinki in the mid-1980s, his creative relationship with Finland continues today with Studio Libeskind's ambitious urban renewal project in Tampere.



"Architecture Communicates to the World"

Text LOUISA GAIRN Photo STEFAN RUIZ

Daniel Libeskind
1984-1985 U.S. Fulbright
Scholar
Helsinki University of
Technology (now Aalto
University)

Architect **Daniel Libeskind** is internationally renowned for iconic designs including the World Trade Center reconstruction in New York. A Fulbright professor in Helsinki in the mid-1980s, his creative relationship with Finland continues today with Studio Libeskind's ambitious urban renewal project in Tampere. Here he reflects on his unconventional career path, his experiences of Fulbright and Finland, and his belief in architecture's ability to communicate across barriers.

Daniel Libeskind admits taking an unconventional route in his career as an architect. Born in Łódź, Poland, in 1946, he came to the U.S. as a

teenager with his family, settling in the Bronx. A gifted musician, he decided to study architecture at college, thus embarking on a journey which would see him transform from architectural theorist and teacher into one of the key international figures in architecture, winning prestigious design competitions for projects such as the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the master plan for the reconstruction for the World Trade Center in New York.

"When I was in school I was kind of a rebel, and I never designed a single building," he recalls. "I thought, what is the purpose of designing the building if you don't have a social situation, a budget,

or a political setting? So I drew something else. I didn't draw fantasy buildings that the teachers proposed, but I did my own structure of architecture, what any piece of architecture has to contain, in the sense of its ground, its geometry, its potential space, its light. You know, I never worked in an architectural office either. I tried, but I thought it was a little boring, so I took a crazy path. It's a path that led me to things that I love doing."

Unconventional Spirit

Libeskind has retained this unconventional spirit throughout his career, drawing on both his interdisciplinary background and his deeply-rooted belief in the importance of cultural memory in his designs. How does it feel to be able to translate his ideas into reality?

"It's a great feeling. It's really a wonder that I'm building on every continent in this world, and that I did it through such a risky path. My very first building was the Jewish Museum in Berlin. I had never designed even a small building before. It was my first chance to do a building, not a fantasy project, but a real building that I believed had an important social and historical mission. At that time I had my own little institute of architecture in Milan. It was just a few people, and the idea was to create a place that was not really practice and not really theory, but something in between. I called it *Architecture Intermundium*, the space between, and that's how I started."

Libeskind first traveled to Finland in 1970, as a recent graduate keen to experience architecture first hand. "I'd just graduated school at the Cooper Union in New York, and I was awarded a scholarship to study the buildings of **Alvar Aalto**. I traveled all over Finland, to the small churches, town halls, residential buildings, to see the works of the master. I think that's really the point, you have to learn from the masters. **Le Corbusier** said that to be an architect all you need to do is travel and read a couple of books. I think it's important to travel and to see architecture, to experience it."

As a Fulbright Professor in Finland

In 1985, a few years before winning the commission for the Jewish Museum in Berlin, he was made Senior Fulbright Professor of Architectural Theory at the Helsinki University of Technology (now Aalto University), during which time he also exhibited at the Museum of Finnish

Architecture in Helsinki. "I had a wonderful time. Finland is in many ways the Mecca of architecture; it has such a great tradition of modern architecture, art, and music. It was a fantastic place to be, and I met so many talented Finnish students, young architects, colleagues at

not building anything. Of the sixteen acres, I left eight acres completely free for public space, because I believe the ground for memory is more important than the ground for buildings to stand there."

At the heart of Libeskind's plan is the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, which opened

"I think Fulbright is a testament to the centrality of democracy for the practice of architecture, education, or any other field. The ability to send people all over the world to experience other societies is crucial, especially in a world where so many walls are being built today."

the university, and close friends. It was a marvellous experience. I didn't set any practical projects for my students, like designing a bus station, a harmonic hall or a museum. But I gave more experimental approaches to the creative aspect of how to make whatever it is, a building, a park, a city plan. It was more about the creative process than about a product."

"I think the creative aspect is the key to architecture. Very often universities emphasize practical experience, but I think that should be done when you're working in an architect's office or you're out in the world. The moment of education is the moment of complete freedom, that liberates you from all office routines, practices, the so-called wisdom of reality, and allows you to examine the roots of architecture."

How does this philosophy relate to his own architectural practice now? "My own approach is very practical, very functional, in order to get things built. But just making a building doesn't mean you've produced any architecture, and architecture can exist in a drawing without it ever having to be built. So architecture is a special kind of art. It is grounded deep in reality, but it also includes memory and traditions that are also very deep and not so visible."

This belief is strikingly reflected in *Memory Foundations*, Libeskind's overarching vision for rebuilding the World Trade Center site in New York. "I think the ground of architecture is not just the site; the ground is the memory that the site contains. When I started working on the Ground Zero reconstruction, I was the only one of the finalist architects who proposed

in spring 2014, and includes underground galleries revealing the slurry wall that remained standing despite the terrorist attack. "I used memory as the key to my project. Having the slurry wall foundations exposed to the public was part of the sense that beyond the visible is the invisible."

Designing the Crown Central Deck and Plaza in Tampere

In recent years, Libeskind has renewed his connection with Finland, designing the Crown Central Deck and Plaza in Tampere, comprising an ice hockey rink, housing, commercial space and offices. He explains how the design draws on the context of the site and the city as a whole. "Tampere is a beautiful historic city, and old train lines traverse the space where the arena and the plaza are being built. I thought a lot about creating a platform to make a new space, to bridge the train tracks dividing the city, connecting East and West. So again, the memory of the city, the memory of what surrounds the site, the churches, the buildings, the university, the entire landscape has been brought into it. Even though the site itself is limited, the context is much greater than the site, because it extends to the very margins of the city. And I think that has to be incorporated in the sense of space and atmosphere that the site represents, given all the functions it must possess."

"Too many buildings look like they could be placed in any city. But each site, the *genius loci*, has a unique space, a sense of light, of what has happened there, and that sense of memory that has to be addressed in a different way. It's really

about the spirit of the place. Its culture and history are key to creating something that is not just momentary but will last and be sustainable. We often think of sustainability correctly as material innovations, but I think the most sustainable things are those which are memorable. If we remember something, we take care of it. If it's forgettable, it's not sustainable. That's why we maintain ancient buildings; they are memorable and deep, and that's what makes them sustainable over millennia."

"You know, it's not by accident that in the ancient world and in the orient architecture was considered the mother of the arts, the liberal arts such as poetry, astronomy, mathematics, dance, history. What brings them together is memory. Architecture is that interdisciplinary core. Architecture is not just the art of building, it's the art of building a social

space, of building a culture. So it's inevitable that buildings done by people not concerned with the liberal arts are not good buildings. They may look nice, they may be well built, but they don't say anything meaningful, they don't tell us any story that could inspire us to be free."

Echoing Le Corbusier's views on the value of travel, Libeskind believes travel and international experience are essential for good architecture and for overcoming barriers. "Travel is important because everybody thinks they live in the center of the world. But all over people have different ideas of how to live and what is important. You have to go out and see things that might even be shocking to you. And yet people are pretty much alike, they have a body, a soul, and dreams. So I think travel educates you to the amazing wonder of the world."

This is why international exchanges such as the Fulbright program have an important role to play, he suggests. "I think Fulbright is a testament to the centrality of democracy for the practice of architecture, education, or any other field. The ability to send people all over the world to experience other societies is crucial, especially in a world where so many walls are being built today."

"Architecture is one of the few arts, like music, which doesn't depend on nationality, ethnicity, race or religion. It's open; you can simply enter a building, walk down a street, move through a space. It doesn't have a wall built into it. Language of course has, because different languages are walls. So architecture has a certain musical quality which gives the chance to communicate to the world, and not just to a limited group or situation."

Finnish-Lithuanian Alumni Collaboration for Meaningful Impact

The ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association and the US-LT Alumni Association in Lithuania are creating opportunities for international alumni collaboration to address the current challenges facing societies.

Text AUSTĖ VALINČIŪTĖ, President of the US-LT Alumni Association

The Finnish-Lithuanian initiative started at the seminar "Truth Matters: Strategies for Combating Manipulated Realities" organized by the Fulbright Finland Foundation in 2019, which was aimed at facilitating cross-national dialogue between professionals in Nordic-Baltic countries.

Alumni from Lithuania and Finland kept in touch and with great enthusiasm met once again in December 2019 in Vilnius, where they discussed specific ideas for bilateral initiatives. What seems to resonate with alumni across all backgrounds and fields is the readiness to leverage our collective experience and skills to address the current issues and challenges facing our societies.

From my own personal perspective, gained through conducting science communication research, one such challenge concerns our growingly complex communication-information environments and how we, as a society, are prepared to address it. If we want to build functioning, synergistic and mutually trustful civil societies, effective

dialogue and communication, in their many varieties and forms, are one of the most essential 21st century tools and competencies that require attention, international collaboration and development across all levels of stakeholders.

This is where Fulbright alumni have considerable know-how. Besides the invaluable professional experience that individuals gain, academic exchange programs, such as Fulbright, work to enhance participants' understanding about the role of dialogue and communication for building mutual understanding in our societies. It is a skill that all Fulbright alumni, irrespective of professions and fields, have the capacity to share, teach and transfer.

For this reason, it is truly exciting that the Finnish-Lithuanian alumni collaboration has been set in motion. Hopefully, it will become a platform where alumni can share ideas and work together to contribute to social change and we invite all alumni to join us in searching for ways to make a meaningful impact.



Austė Valinčiūtė

Read full text:

<https://bit.ly/3CJFlty>

Read also blog posts by Kirsi Cheas, board member of the ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association:

Internationalizing Alumni: Lithuanian and Finnish Fulbrighters Discuss Collaboration in Vilnius: <https://bit.ly/2BBix23>

International Exchanges Enhance Truthful Communication InnoBabble, University of Vaasa: <https://bit.ly/3h4sQfs>

Fulbrighters Return to Finland on Alumni Enrichment Awards

U.S. alumni donations fund return grants to Finland for continuing the collaboration.

Three alumni have been selected to receive the Friends of Fulbright Finland (FoFF) Alumni Enrichment Award for 2020. The awardees will spend several weeks in Finland working on a project that complements and extends their original grant purpose. Due to COVID-19, their projects can be carried out in Finland also during spring 2021.

Ramón Barthelemy's project explores the impacts of family role models and early science experiences on degree choice of physics and career goals at the University of Helsinki. **John Helling** will visit Helsinki Central Library Oodi to gain a thorough understanding of its service design process which he will plan to implement in his role as the Director of Public Services at the Indianapolis Public Library. **Natalia Magnani** returns to the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi to continue her project by focusing on the ways that Finnish Sami are reviving engagements with the land to achieve self-determination.

The extraordinary number and quality of applicants during this round led to the exceptional conclusion that the Fulbright Finland Foundation



Ramón Barthelemy
2014-2015 Fulbright-
EDUFI Fellow



John Helling
2011-2012 Fulbright
Mid-Career Professional
Development Grant



Natalia Magnani
2016-2017 Fulbright-
EDUFI Fellow

agreed to fund two of the three grants, with the third grant funded as usual by the FoFF Alumni Enrichment Fund. The Award is funded through the Friends of Fulbright Finland Alumni Enrichment Endowment, which has been under development since March 2012. All funds have been received by personal donations from alumni and friends.

The Fulbright Finland Foundation expects to open the Friends of Fulbright Finland Alumni Enrichment Award for applications again next year.

Text: Maija Kettunen

Read more about the award and previous recipients

www.fulbright.fi/friends-fulbright-finland/friends-fulbright-finland-foff-alumni-enrichment-award

In Memoriam



Kenneth Kolson

Our dear friend and notable Fulbright Finland alumnus, **Kenneth Kolson**, passed away in March 2020 following a year-long illness. Ken was a modest and thoughtful person who provided clear direction and unwavering support as the Friends of Fulbright Finland (FoFF) alumni community developed over the past decade.

Ken and his wife **Jane** opened their home to the first FoFF gathering in spring 2008, setting an example which has had great success.

He also was instrumental in establishing the Friends of Fulbright Finland Alumni Enrichment Fund, and served as a founding member of the FoFF Alumni Advisory Council.

According to Jane, “Ken’s Fulbright in Finland was one of the true highlights of his life as a teacher and scholar. It would not be wrong to say that it changed his life going forward.”

Ken’s academic career began in 1970 at Hiram College, followed by several positions at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and later as director of the Washington Academic Internship Program of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University, and Vice President for Policy at the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. Ken was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Oulu in 2006.

Text: Suzanne Louis and Terhi Mölsä

Magnus Backström to Lead the Alumni Association



Magnus Backström

The ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association's new Board was elected in June. **Magnus Backström**, Founder of MBACCESS and 1981-1982 Fulbright Graduate Student, was elected as the new Chair of the Association. **Inari Ahokas**, Program Assistant at the Fulbright Finland Foundation and 2016-2017 grantee in Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders from Europe on Social Entrepreneurship was elected as the Vice-Chair.

The board was joined by a new member, **Sohvi Huikuri** (LL.M.), Process Manager at the Finnish Tax Administration and 2017-2018 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee.

Four members continued in their roles as members of the board: **Kirsi Cheas** (Ph.D.), International Relations Specialist at Días Nórdicos, Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher at New York University and 2013-2014 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee; **Petra Kuivala** (Ph.D.), Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Helsinki, Visiting Scholar at Harvard University and 2016-2017 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee; **Antti Makkonen**,

Senior Specialist of Banking & Finance Legislation at the Finnish Ministry of Finance and 2014-2015 ASLA-Fulbright Graduate grantee; and **Heikki Saxén** (Ph.D.) Bioethics Researcher at Tampere University, Chairman of the Board at the Finnish Institute of Bioethics and 2014-2015 ASLA-Fulbright Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow and 2018-2019 Fulbright Finland Travel Grant for Research Collaboration awardee.

FOUNDED IN 1953, the ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association is one of the oldest Fulbright alumni Associations in the world. The Association builds awareness of the Fulbright Finland Foundation programs through events, meetings, visits, and lectures for the association members and current U.S. Fulbright grantees in Finland. The Association also runs the popular Fulbright Buddy Program, which provides local "buddies" for the arriving U.S. Fulbright grantees.

Text: Inari Ahokas

Do you want to invite Fulbright alumni and grantees to visit your institution?

Contact the Association if you are interested in inviting Fulbright grantees and alumni to your home organization to hear more about your work! The visits provide your organization an opportunity to create linkages and networks with the current U.S. Fulbright grantees and Finnish Fulbright alumni. alumni@fulbright.fi

Become a member

www.fulbright.fi/
asla-fulbright-alumni-association/join-association



Andrés Reséndez

Andrés Reséndez Named Carnegie Fellow

Andrés Reséndez, 2008-2009 Fulbright Bicentennial Chair in American Studies was named as one of the 2020 Carnegie Fellows with the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Each fellow will research a particular topic for their Carnegie project; Reséndez will examine how early European exploration in the Pacific subsequently transformed the region.

Since the Carnegie Fellows Program began in 2015, 30 Fulbrighters have been named fellows. Carnegie provides support for researchers in the humanities and social sciences to address important and enduring issues facing society.

www.fulbright.fi/bicentennial-chair

FULBRIGHT FINLAND NEWS

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Fulbright Finland News on Fulbright Suomi -säätiön sidosryhmälehti, joka ilmestyy kaksi kertaa vuodessa painettuna ja verkkoversiona. Artikkeleissa ilmaista mielipiteet ovat kirjoittajien omia. Aineisto vapaasti lainattavissa, lähde mainittava. // Fulbright Finland News is a biannual magazine published by the Fulbright Finland Foundation in print and online. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of Fulbright Finland. Reproduction allowed, source must be cited. // While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the material in this publication, Fulbright Finland does not accept liability for any errors or omissions.

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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.

Finland-America Educational Trust Fund

The Fulbright Finland Foundation is financially supported by the Finland-America Educational Trust Fund.

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Calendar

June

11.6.
Fulbright Transatlantic Roundtable

15.6.
Fulbright Finland hosts *Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Training Webinar for Nordic Fulbright Commissions*

16.6.
Pre-Departure Orientation for Fulbright Finland Grantees to the U.S. (part I)

23.6.
Fulbright Finland Foundation Board Meeting

July

Office Closed July 3–24, 2020

August

18.8.
Pre-Departure Orientation for Fulbright Finland Grantees to the U.S. (part II)

September

2.9.
2021-2022 Application Deadline for Finnish Applicants: Fulbright Arctic Initiative

15.9.
2021-2022 Application Deadline: Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards for Finland

Fulbright Finland Foundation Board Meeting

November

Thanksgiving and Enrichment Program for U.S. Grantees, Helsinki

December

9.–11.12.
Fulbright Finland Foundation at Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference, Helsinki

Stay tuned
for our
webinars
and other
events!

