

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DATA

Full name Ruth Gunhild ILLMAN
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Date of CV 10 June 2021

DEGREES

Titles of Docent

- **Docent** (Associate Professor) of History of Religions, Uppsala University, Sweden (appointed 29.5 2018)
- **Docent** (Associate Professor) of the Study of Religions, Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU), Finland (appointed 11.8 2006)

Degrees

- **Doctor of Theology** in Jewish Studies at Åbo Akademi University, Finland. Dissertation: 30.11 2018. Grade: *Passed with honours*
- **Master of Theology** at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2015. Major subject: Jewish Studies. Grade: *Laudatur (excellent)*
- **Bachelor of Theology** at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2013. Major subject: Jewish Studies; minor subject: information studies. Grade: *Laudatur (excellent)*
- **Doctor of Philosophy** in the Study of Religions at Åbo Akademi University, Finland. Dissertation: 18.6 2004. Grade: *Laudatur (excellent)*
- **Master of Arts** at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2000. Major subject: study of religions; minor subjects: philosophy, history. Grade: *Eximia cum laude approbatur (very good)*
- **Matriculation examination** at Finnish higher secondary school (Katedralskolan i Åbo), 1995.

Other Studies (at Åbo Akademi University):

- Leadership training programme FRAM (2013–14), Kelonia Ab
- Information studies (60 credits), qualification for library service (2010–12)
- Training courses in computer skills (2001, 2011)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

- **Director**, the Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture, Finland. Start: 1.4 2013. Research and library leadership, budget and planning responsibility, own research, arranging of conferences and networks, awarding scholarships, academic open access publishing.

- **Head of Research** and member of Steering Committee, Åbo Akademi University Foundation, Finland. Start: 1.10 2019. Responsible for the cooperation between the foundation and Åbo Akademi University on research funding, strategies and societal impact.
- Stage of academic research career: Professorship (equivalent).

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic positions

- **Postdoctoral Researcher**, the Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture, Finland (1.4 2010–31.3 2013). The position comprised 80 % research, 20 % arranging of conferences and creating scientific networks.
- **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Academy of Finland (1.3 2007–31.3 2010). Research work on creative interreligious dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims, location: Åbo Akademi University, Finland.
- **Senior Lecturer, the Study of Religions**, Åbo Akademi University, Finland (1.8 2008–31.7 2009). Teaching and supervising students on Bachelor, Master and Post-graduate level in the study of religions, research work.
- **Research Fellow**, Tampere Peace Research Institute, University of Tampere, Finland (1.8 2005–31.3 2010, leave of absence due to Academy of Finland project). Research work on interreligious dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims in Finland.
- **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Åbo Akademi University, Finland (1.6 2005–31.7 2005). Research work on interreligious dialogue.
- **Doctoral Candidate**, Åbo Akademi University, Finland (1.8 2000–31.12 2004). Research work for doctoral thesis on cultural encounters and dialogue. Funded by scholarships 2000–2, Graduate School of Cultural Interpretations, Academy of Finland, 2003–4.
- **Co-operating Researcher**, Research Institute for Project Based Industry (PBI), Finland. Participating in the research carried out by the institute, responsible for scientific seminars 2002–4. Supervising doctoral students.

Visiting Research Fellowships and International Mobility

- **Visiting Research Fellow**, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, USA (January 2011)
- **Visiting Research Fellow**, Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem, Israel (March 2010)
- **Visiting Research Fellow**, Universität Basel, Departement Religionswissenschaft, Switzerland (Nov–Dec 2009)
- **Co-operating Researcher**, Göteborg University, Gothenburg, Sweden. Several visits during 2001–3 for seminars and academic co-operation with the research group LEO (“Managing Diversity”) at the Institute of Work Science.
- **Visiting Doctoral Student**, Uppsala University, Sweden (Aug–Dec 2002). Doctoral studies at the Faculty of Theology (funded by Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi, NorFa)

CAREER BREAKS

- Family leaves: 20.8 2004–31.5 2005, 1.11 2006–31.12 2007, 8.6 2012–10.6 2013 (=34 months).

RESEARCH FUNDING AND GRANTS

Project Funding

- Inez and Julius Polin Institute for Theological Research (ÅAU): for a research project on vernacular Judaism (“Minhag Finland”), 210 000 € (70 000 €/year 2019–21). Main applicant.
- Waldemar von Frenckell’s Foundation, for a research project on vernacular Judaism (“Minhag Finland”) 3 500 € (2019). Main applicant.
- Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation: for a publication project on vernacular Judaism (“Minhag Finland”), 31 000 € (2018). Main applicant.
- ÅAU Foundation: for the Centre of Excellence in Research “Young Adults and Religion in a Global Perspective”, 1 000 000 € (2015–18). My role: CoPI. PI: Peter Nynäs.
- Kone Foundation: for the arts and sciences project *Aboagora*, 20 000 € (2011–12), 200 000 € (2019–22). Main applicant for working group.
- Svenska kulturfonden: for *Aboagora*, 10 000 € (2011), 40 000 € (8 000 €/year 2016–20). Main applicant for working group.
- ÅAU Foundation: for the Centre of Excellence in Research “Post-Secular Culture and a Changing Religious Landscape in Finland”, 1 250 000 € (2010–14). My role: CoPI. PI: Peter Nynäs.

Publication grants

- Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOP-HS), publication grants for *Nordisk judaistik/Scandinavian Jewish Studies*: 72 000 SEK (2016), 60 000 SEK (2017), 180 000 SEK (2018–20), 11 200 EUR (2021–22); For *Temenos. Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion* 200 000 NOK (2012–14), 165 000 NOK (2015–17). Main applicant in all applications.

Personal grants

- Research Doctor, Academy of Finland 2008–2010, 180 000 €.
- NorFa (Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi), mobility grant, Uppsala University, 25 300 NOK (2002)
- Naisten Tiedesäätiö (Research Foundation for Women), 3 000 € (2006)
- Oskar Öflund Foundation, 3 000 € (2005)
- Otto A. Malm Donation Fund, 5 300 € (2002)
- Research Institute of Åbo Akademi University Foundation, 78 000 FIM (2001)
- The Olin Research Grant (Åbo Akademi Student Union), 78 000 FIM (2001)

RESEARCH SUPERVISION AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Supervision of Doctoral Theses

- Completed (2): Nora Repo, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University, PhD 2012; JP Jakonen, study of religion at the University of Turku, PhD 2020
- In progress (4): Laura Wickström, Mercedesz Czimbalmos, Milena Parland, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University; Sagy Waternberg Israeli, cotutelle agreement, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University & study of law at Bar Ilan University, Israel.

Supervision of Master’s Theses

- The study of religions at Åbo Akademi University (8)

Project Leadership

- **PI**, “Minhag Finland: Boundaries of Jewish Identities in Contemporary Finland” research project at Åbo Akademi University, 2018–
- **CoPI**, Argumenta-project “Uskontolukutaito moniarvoisessa yhteiskunnassa” [Religious Literacy in Multicultural Societies], funded by Suomen kulttuurirahasto, University of Helsinki (2019–20). PI: Tuula Sakaranaho.
- **CoPI**, “Young Adults and Religion in a Global Perspective” Centre of Excellence at Åbo Akademi University, 2015–18. PI: Peter Nynäs
- **CoPI**, “Post-Secular Culture and a Changing Religious Landscape in Finland” Centre of Excellence at Åbo Akademi University, 2010–14. PI: Peter Nynäs.

TEACHING MERITS

Pedagogical Training

- University pedagogy (25 credits) completed in 2009, Åbo Akademi University and University of Turku, Finland. Includes an Ope.fi-portfolio (2 credits) documenting the knowledge of and abilities of academic teachers to use digital teaching approaches. Overall grade: 4/5.
- Teaching skills assessed by pedagogical board three times (2006, 2008, 2009) at Åbo Akademi University. Grade for each assessment: *excellent teaching skills*.

Teaching Experience

- As university lecturer in the study of religions at Åbo Akademi University (2008–9) I have had comprehensive educational responsibility regarding implementation of the course programme and examination on Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level together with other teachers. I have independently developed syllabus for, lectured and administrated grades (in Swedish and English) for several courses since 2001.
- I have lectured at the following universities (selection): Leo Baeck College, UK; Uppsala University, Sweden; Florida Southern College, USA; University of Lapland, Finland; University of Turku, Finland; Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.
- I have lectured at a wide range of organisations and societies (see below, societal impact).

Production of Teaching Material:

- The course book *Kultur, människa, möte. Ett humanistiskt perspektiv* (Lund: Studentlitteratur, 2005; Second Edition 2016) co-authored with Peter Nynäs. Used as course book in comparative religion and intercultural communication at ÅAU and several universities in Sweden.
- The bilingual (Fin/Swe) open access book *Monien uskontojen ja katsomusten Suomi* [The many religions and worldviews of Finland], edited together with K. Ketola, R. Latvio and J. Sohlberg (2017), presenting all major religions and their activities in Finland, is used for courses in many Finnish universities and high schools.
- The course book *Metodkompassen. Kulturvetarens metodhandbok* (Åbo Akademi: 2004), co-edited together with Lena Marander-Eklund and Blanka Henriksson. Used as course book by several departments at ÅAU.

Assessment of Master's Theses

- The study of religions at Åbo Akademi University (6) and pedagogy at the University of Eastern Finland (1).

AWARDS & HONOURS

- Humanities Deed of the Year 2017 (Vuoden humanistiteko), for Aboagora, University of Turku
- Docent of the Year (selected by the Association for docents at the Universities in Turku), 2016
- Selected to Oxford Round Table, sessions on religion and interreligious encounters, University of Oxford, 2008 and 2012
- Per Brahe Research Award, Åbo Akademi University Foundation (12 000 €), 2004
- Captain Kurt Wallenius' Friendship Award, Student Union at Åbo Akademi University, 2001
- Brahe Wings nr. 399 (honorary medal), Student Union at Åbo Akademi University, 1999

OTHER KEY ACADEMIC MERITS

Expert Commissions

- **Member of Steering Group**, *Institutum Judaicum Aboense*, Åbo Akademi University (2021–24).
- **Expert Member of Review Panel**, religious studies and theology, Research Council of Norway (2021).
- **Chair of Advisory Board** for the research project *Lived Religion in Medieval Finland* (University of Tampere, Finland), Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (2021–23).
- **Member of Panel Advisory Group**, Assessment of Research Quality (RQ20), Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University (2020).
- **Member of Review Panel**, Publication Forum of Finland (JuFo), philosophy and theology (2018–21)
- **Deputy Member of Board**, The Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME), representative of ÅAU (2020–22)
- **Member of Academic Board**, The Research Institute of Åbo Akademi University Foundation (2020)
- **Member of Advisory Board**, Academy of Finland funded research project *The Impact of Religious Values on Chinese Social Life*, PI: Miikka Ruokanen (2018–22).
- **Collaborator**, Academy of Finland funded research project *Learning from New Religion and Spirituality*, PI: Terhi Utriainen (2020–24).
- **Member of Academic Board**, The Inez and Julius Polin Institute for Theological Research, Åbo Akademi University (2018–21).
- **Member of Scholarly Board**, Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (2017–22)
- **Chair of Review Panel**, HS-K (study of religions, theology, ancient studies, ethnology, gender studies), the Swedish Research Council (2017–19).
- **Member of Drafting Committee** for University Strategy 2020–25, Åbo Akademi University (2019)
- **Expert Reviewer** for the Research Council of Norway, call for research on national minorities in Norway (2017)

- **Member of Review Panel**, HS-K (study of religions, theology, ancient studies, ethnology, non-European languages), the Swedish Research Council, The Swedish Research Council (2016)
- **Affiliated Researcher**, Center for the Study of Jewish Thought in Modern Culture, University of Copenhagen, since 2015

Editorial Assignments

- **Member of Editorial Board**, *Uppsala Jewish Studies* (book series), Forum for Jewish Studies, Uppsala University, since 2020
- **Editor-in-Chief** of the peer-reviewed journal *Nordisk judaistik/Scandinavian Jewish Studies* together with Dr Svante Lundgren (Lund University), since 2016.
- **Editor-in-Chief** of the portal *Katsomukset.fi* for societal research communication on religions and worldviews, together with Prof. Tuula Sakaranaho and PhD Johanna Konttori, since 2019.
- **Editor-in-Chief** of the peer-reviewed journal *Temenos – Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion* together with Dr. Tiina Mahlamäki (published by the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion), from Vol. 47/1 (2011–14).
- **Member of Scientific Committee** for the publication series *Music, Spirituality and Wellbeing International* (Peter Lang), since 2019
- **Reviewer**, *Numen*, (peer-review journal), since 2021
- **Reviewer**, *Social Inclusion* (peer-review journal), since 2020
- **Reviewer**, *Religion* (peer-review journal), since 2018
- **Reviewer**, *Contemporary Jewry* (peer-review journal), since 2018
- **Reviewer**, *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society* (peer-review journal), since 2018
- **Reviewer**, *Temenos – Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion* (peer-review journal), since 2015
- **Reviewer**, *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (peer-review journal), since 2015
- **Reviewer** and member of Editorial Advisory Board, *Forum on Public Policy* (peer-review journal of the Oxford Round Table), since 2009
- **Reviewer**, *Co-operation and Conflict. Journal of the Nordic International Studies Association* (peer-review journal), since 2009
- **Reviewer**, *Journal of Intercultural Communication* (peer-review e-journal), since 2006

Academic Opponent at Doctoral Dissertations

- Janieke Bruin-Mollenhorst, PhD committee and opponent, dissertation in the study of religion, Tilburg University, the Netherlands, 20.10 2021
- Nina Kokkinen, dissertation in the study of religion, University of Turku, Finland, 4.5 2019
- Jari Portaankorva, dissertation in the study of religions, University of Helsinki, Finland, 12.5 2018
- Lieke Wijnia, PhD committee and opponent, dissertation in the study of religion, Tilburg University, the Netherlands, 12.9 2016

Member of assessment boards at Doctoral Dissertations

- Jennifer Nyström, Biblical studies at Lund University, Sweden, 2021
- Johnny Långstedt, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2021
- Dafna Dori, musicology at Uppsala University, Sweden, 2021

- Mia Anderssén-Löf, Jewish studies at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2017
- Niklas Holmefur, theology at Uppsala University, Sweden, 2016
- Fredrik Portin, theology at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2016
- Janne Kontala, the study of religions at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2016
- Anna Ortner, theology at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2015
- Kenneth Berger, the study of religions at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2014
- Per-Erik Nilsson, history of religions at Uppsala University, Sweden, 2012
- Marie-Thérèse Charpentier, the study of religions at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2010

Reviewer of manuscripts for doctoral dissertation

- Janieke Bruin-Mollenhorst, study of religion at Tilburg University, the Netherlands, 2021.
- Madeleine Guillo, psychology of religion at Uppsala University, Sweden, 2019.
- Jari Portaankorva, the study of religions at the University of Helsinki, 2018.
- Nina Kokkinen, the study of religion at the University of Turku, 2018.
- Lieke Wijnia, study of religion at Tilburg University, the Netherlands, 2016.
- Helena Kupari, the study of religions at the University of Helsinki, 2014.
- Marjo Lorenz, the study of religions at the University of Helsinki, 2010.

Academic Appointments

- Expert, recruitment for the appointment of a university lecturer in the history of religions, Umeå University, Sweden, 2021.
- Expert, recruitment committee for the appointment of a head of research at the Polin Institute for Theological Research, Åbo Akademi University, 2021.
- Expert, recruitment committee for the appointment of a university teacher in theological ethics at Åbo Akademi University, 2020.
- Expert, recruitment committee for the appointment of an associate professor in leadership, dialog and care in plural contexts, University of Oslo, Norway, 2020.
- Expert, recruitment committee for the appointment of a director for Kalevalaseura, Helsinki, 2019.
- Expert, recruitment committee for the appointment of a university researcher in the study of religions at Åbo Akademi University, 2015.
- Assessor of application for the title of Docent, the study of religions at the University of Helsinki, Mulki Al-Sharmani, 2015,
- Expert, recruitment for the appointment of a research coordinator, Åbo Akademi University Foundation, 2014.
- Expert, recruitment for the appointment of a university lecturer in comparative religion at Linköping University, Sweden, 2011.

ARRANGING OF CONFERENCES

Has carried responsibility for arranging the following international academic conferences (50–150 participants/event):

- *Religion and Cultural Change: Nordic Conference & Summer School for Doctoral Students*. The Donner Institute & Polin Institute (Åbo Akademi University), Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures (University of Turku), Turku, Finland, forthcoming June 2021
- *Feminism & Hospitality: Religious and Critical Perspectives*. The Donner Institute & Nordic Summer University, Turku, Finland, 2020.
- *Religion in Contemporary Society – What Do We Need to Know to Manage Complexity?* Argumenta project conference, Turku, Finland, 2019.
- *Approaching Esotericism and Mysticism: Cultural Perspectives*. The Donner Institute & the research group Seekers of the New, Turku, Finland, 2019
- *The Ethnic and Religious Future of Europe*. The Donner Institute & the Migration Institute, Turku, Finland, 2018.
- *Religion and Food*, The Donner Institute, Turku, Finland, 2015.
- *Third Finnish Colloquium of Middle East and North African Studies*. The Donner Institute & the Finnish Institute in the Middle East, Turku, Finland, 2014.

Academic Roundtable Conferences (20–30 participants/event)

- *Contemporary Jewry in the Nordic Countries: History, Identities and Practice*. Åbo Akademi University, forthcoming May 2021.
- *Jewish Studies in the Nordic Countries Today*, The Donner Institute, Turku, Finland, 2016.
- *The New Visibility of Atheism in Europe*. The Donner Institute, Turku, Finland, 2012.
- *Interreligious Dialogue. Contemporary Challenges in Research, Public Discourse and Practice*, The Donner Institute, Turku, Finland, 2010.

Arts and Science Events:

- *Viisas taide, avoin mieli? Taiteen ja esoteerisuuden kohtaamisia / Klarsynt konst, öppet sinne? Möten mellan konst och esoterism*. Gyllenberg Foundation, Helsinki, 2020.
- *Art Approaching Religion and Science*. The Donner Institute & AmosLAB, Turku, Finland, 2016.
- *Aboagora – Between Arts and Sciences*, Turku, Finland. The Donner Institute, Åbo Akademi University, University of Turku, Turku University of Applied Sciences. Yearly since 2011.

Has taken part in the organising committees of the following large-scale international conferences:

- EASR (European Association for the Study of Religions) conference, Helsinki, Finland, 2015.
- ISSR (International Society for the Sociology of Religion) conference, Turku, Finland, 2013.

KEYNOTE LECTURES AND INVITED ADDRESSES (SELECTION)

Keynote lectures at international academic conferences

- “Varieties of Vernacular Jewishness. Ethnographic Research in Nordic Contexts.” *Resilient Religion*. 18th annual conference of the *European Association for the Study of Religions*, Pisa, Italy (forthcoming Aug. 2021)
- “Music and Religious Change. Jewish Perspectives”. *Musica Sacra Maastricht*, Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2019
- “Art as Dialogue: Exploring sonically aware spaces for interreligious encounters”. *Fuller Seminary Missiology Lectures 2018*, Pasadena, USA, 2018

- “Nordisk judaistik/Scandinavian Jewish Studies: 40 years of Academic Dialogue”. *The Jewish Tradition: Does it Matter?*, University of Oslo, 2018
- “Music as Interreligious Dialogue: A Non-Binary Approach”. *Musik in Interreligiösen Begegnungen*, Swiss Theological Society, Basel, Switzerland, 2017
- “In the Image. Imagination and Creativity as Tools for Interreligious Dialogue”. *The Problem of Evil and Images of (In)Humanity*, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 2016.
- “Singing a Wordless Niggun. Contemporary Jewish Perspectives”. *Music, Religion and Identity*, Tilburg University, the Netherlands, 2016
- “Reframing Religion in Finnish Scholarship”. Keynote panel at *European Association for the Study of Religions*, conference in Helsinki, 2016
- “Perspektiv på interreligiös dialog” Conference on the role of interreligious organisations in crisis work and in counteracting violent extremism, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2015
- “Soft landing after turbulence?” Keynote panel at the 18:th Symposium of the *Nordic Network for Intercultural Communication*, Helsinki, 2011
- “Rajankäyntiä ja vuoropuhelua Euroopassa – kulttuurien ja uskontojen rinnakkaiselo”. *Forum for Culture and Religion 2010*, Turku, Finland, 2010
- “The Changing Faces of Dialogue. Art as an Arena for Interreligious Encounters” *Dialogue and Law as Tools of Muslim Integration into European Societies*, Utrecht University, the Netherlands, 2010
- “‘When Language Is Not Enough’: A Muslim Perspective on Music and Interreligious Dialogue” *Music and Islam*, University of Turku, Finland, 2009.
- “Interpreting Interreligious Dialogue” *Islam in Finland. Muslims and Researchers in Dialogue*, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland, 2008.

Invited lectures and seminar presentations at universities

- “Fältforskning kring kulturmöten och religionsdialog” The annual national PhD Course in the study of religions at Tvärminne, Finland, 2016
- “Music as a Driving Force for Religious Change. The Case of Niggunim”. Leo Baeck College, London, UK, 2016
- “Musiken som drivkraft för religiös förändring: en fältstudie i dagens judiska London”. Forum for Jewish Studies, Uppsala university, Sweden, 2016
- “Mera mångfald, vidgade vyer?” The Day of Comparative Religion, Finnish Society for the Study of Religion, Turku, Finland, 2016
- “Engaging Faith. Toward a Practical Theology of the Arts” Guest lecturer at *Florida Southern College*, Lakeland, USA, 20.1 2011
- “Challenges of Pluralism in the Post-Secular Age”. *Exploring the Post-Secular*, Åbo Akademi University, PCCR Centre of Excellence in Research, Turku, Finland, 2010
- “Rethinking Social Inclusion and the Web 2.0: What’s in Store for Language Education?” Webinar arranged by the EU project *Language Learning and Social Media – Six Key Dialogues*, University of Turku, Finland, 2010
- ”Forskningsetik i skrivprocessen”. Seminar on research ethics for doctoral students in the study of religions in Finland, *The Finnish Society for the Study of Religion*, Turku, Finland, 2008

- ”Promoverades tal”. Speaker (as a representative of the doctoral graduates) at the Doctoral Conferral banquet, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland, 2005

SOCIETAL IMPACT

Open Access Publishing

- I have pioneered open access publishing in the research on religion by transforming the [journals *Temenos. Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion*](#) in 2014 and [Nordisk judaistik / Scandinavian Jewish Studies](#) (NJ) in 2016 into open access e-publications (golden model of OA) and raised the academic standard of NJ to double-blind peer-review.
- I have founded the peer-reviewed open access journal [Approaching Religion](#) (AR) in 2010 as a platform for scholarly cooperation with international research groups, seminars and conferences in the broad, interdisciplinary field of religion to facilitate qualitative and open research communication and societal impact.
- I have developed AR and NJ according to international recommendations for open, responsible and fair science, e.g. by implementing CC-BY licenses, securing inclusion in databases and indexes such as DOAJ, Atla, Web of Science, Scopus and Sherpa Romeo, by developing regulations for publication ethics and data management.

Research communication to the general public

- As one of the Editors-in-Chief of the science communication portal [Katsomukset.fi](#), leading its Swedish-language editorial team since 2019, I have promoted the reciprocal dialogue between academia and the general public in Finland and the Nordic countries. The portal disseminates current research-based knowledge on religion, worldviews and non-religion by publishing weekly blog posts written by researchers in the field in the Nordic vernaculars, by arranging events and sharing knowledge in social media. Katsomukset.fi has been financed by e.g. the Finnish Cultural Foundation and Kone Foundation.
- As one of the founding members of the arts and science event [Aboagora](#) (since 2011) and member of the executive committee of the yearly event, I have promoted societal dialogue by developing its boundary-breaking concept of public arts and sciences dialogue on themes that relate to the key global challenges of our time. Aboagora aims to promote dialogue between the arts, humanities and sciences, to establish new kinds of discussion forums and make this collaboration available for the benefit of a larger audience. It is a joint effort of Åbo Akademi University, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University Foundation and the Arts Academy of Turku University of Applied Sciences as well as numerous artistic partners (theatre groups, performance artists, musicians, artists etc.): <http://www.aboagora.fi>
- As a columnist in the newspaper *Åbo Underrättelser* (since 2014), I have promoted societal dialogue on the local level.

Public Lectures

- I have given open lectures in Swedish, Finnish and English on religion and the arts, Judaism, religion in Finland, interreligious dialogue etc. at a large number of public institutions, schools and museums, societies and events, including
- Public institutions such as Turku City Library, Turku (2009, 2010, 2019), Turku Philharmonic Orchestra (2017) and teachers training sessions in Helsinki (2006) and Turku (2019).

- Events such as The Finnish Science Forum, Helsinki, 2017, Mariehamns litteraturdagar, Mariehamn, Åland (2008), *Possibilities of Peace in Kashmir. Youth in Dialogue*, event in Turku (2007), Unifem seminar on the International women's day, Turku (2007), *Rum för humaniora studia generalia*, ÅAU (2005).
- Museums such as Wäino Aaltonen Art Museum, Turku (2015, 2017) Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki (2009), Villa Gyllenberg and Amos Rex Art Museums, Helsinki (2020).
- Svenska Tekniska vetenskapsakademien (Swedish Technical Academic Society of Finland), Turku (2005), the International Red Cross, Duodecim (the Finnish Medical Society)

Positions of trust in society

- **Board Member**, The Delegation for the Forum for Culture and Religion FOKUS, since 2020
- **Member of advisory board**, Together for Finland (project for inter-religious education of young people to combat xenophobia, racism and extremism), since 2017
- **Board Member**, Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation, Museum Board, since 2017
- **Board Member**, The Delegation for St. Henrik's Ecumenical Art Chapel, Turku, since 2009

OTHER MERITS

Language skills

- Swedish: native proficiency
- Finnish: full professional proficiency
- English: full professional proficiency
- German: advanced proficiency
- French: intermediate proficiency
- Biblical Hebrew: written skills basic

Additional training and work experience

- **Assistant Editor-in-Chief**, *Finsk Tidskrift* (2001–4). Editorial work at academic journal.
- **Acting Editor**, *Meddelanden från Åbo Akademi* (May, 2001). Journalistic work at the internal newspaper of Åbo Akademi University.
- **Journalist**, *Åbo Underrättelser* (1998–2001). Freelance and acting journalist at local Swedish-language newspaper.
- Certified swimming teacher

Membership in Academic Societies

- Kalevala-seura (membership by invitation only)
- Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS)
- European Association for Jewish Studies (EAJS)
- European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (ESITIS)
- International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR)
- Finnish Peace Research Association
- International Academic Network "Children of Abraham"
- Nordic Network for Intercultural Communication (NIC)
- The Finnish Society for the Study of Religion (SUS)
- The Society for the Study of Ethnic Relations and International Migration (ETMU)