

CURRICULUM VITAE

1. Personal Details

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Date of CV 6 Feb 2024

2. 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.

3. Other Education and Expertise

- Training course for journal editors (2021–22), Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing.
- Leadership training programme FRAM (2013–14), Kelonia Ab
- Information studies (60 credits), qualification for library service (2010–12), ÅAU
- Training courses in computer skills (2001, 2011), ÅAU

4. Language Skills

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

5. Current Employment

- **Research 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.
- **Research Director**, 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.

- **Visiting Researcher**, University of Helsinki, Finland, within the research project *Exploring the Contested Constructions of Sense of Safety in Religious Spaces* (PI: Anne Birgitta Pessi), funded by the Research Council of Finland. 1.2 2024–31.7 2027.
- Stage of academic research career: Professorship (equivalent).

6. 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 forming 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 (1/2011)
- **Visiting Research Fellow**, Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem, Israel (3/2010)
- **Visiting Research Fellow**, Universität Basel, Departement Religionswissenschaft, Switzerland (11–12/2009)
- **Co-operating Researcher**, Gothenburg University, 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 (8–12/2002). Doctoral studies at the Faculty of Theology (funded by Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi, NorFa)

7. Career Breaks

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

8. Research Funding and Grants

Project Funding

- Inez and Julius **Polin Institute** for Theological Research (ÅAU): for the research project *Recovira: Religious Communities in the Virtual Age*, 93 000 € (2024–25). Main applicant for research group.
- **EU-CHANSE** (Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe): for the international research project *Recovira: Religious Communities in the Virtual Age*, 192 010 € (2022–24). Co-applicant for Finnish team, PI: Joshua Edelman, Manchester Metropolitan University.
- **The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters**: for initiating a research project on contemporary antisemitism and conspiracy thinking at Institutum Judaicum Aboense (ÅAU), 22 703 € (2022). Main applicant for working group.

- 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: P. 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 2016–22). 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: P. Nynäs.

Publication grants

- **Swedish Research Council** (VR), scientific journal grant for *Nordisk judaistik/Scandinavian Jewish Studies*: 352 079 SEK (2024–26). Main applicant.
- 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), 16 800 EUR (2021–23); For *Temenos. Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion* 200 000 NOK (2012–14), 165 000 NOK (2015–17). Main applicant.

Personal grants

- Research Doctor, **Academy of Finland** 2008–10, 180 000 €.
- **NorFa** (Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi), mobility grant, Uppsala University, 25 300 NOK (2002)
- **Naisten Tiedesäätiö** (Finnish Cultural Foundation), 3 000 € (2006)
- **Oskar Öflund** Foundation, 3 000 € (2005)
- **Otto A. Malm** Donation Fund, 5 300 € (2002)
- **ÅAU Foundation**, 78 000 FIM (2001)
- The **Olin** Research Grant (Åbo Akademi Student Union), 78 000 FIM (2001)

9. Research Output

- Total number of publications: 47 peer reviewed articles; 45 other articles; 8 monographs; edited volumes 12.
- Full list of publications: <https://www.donnerinstitute.fi/en/ruth-illmans-research/>

10. Research Supervision and Leadership Experience

Supervision of Doctoral Theses

- Completed (3): Nora Repo, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University (2012); JP Jakonen, study of religion at the University of Turku (2020); Mercédesz Czimbalmos, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University (2021).
- In progress (6): Laura Wickström, Milena Parland, Ada Elgabsi, study of religions at Åbo Akademi University; Jonah Bogle, Jewish studies at Åbo Akademi University; Hanna Nir, sociology of religion at Uppsala University; Sagy Watemberg Izraeli, 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)

Mentorship

- Mentor in Åbo Akademi University's mentorship programme 2022–3 (mentor for coordinator in societal collaboration).

Project Leadership

- **CoPI**, “Religious Communities in the Virtual Age”, PI for Team Finland, research project funded by EU-CHANSE, Åbo Akademi University, 2022–4. PI: Josh Edelman, Manchester Metropolitan University.
- **PI**, “Minhag Finland: Boundaries of Jewish Identities in Contemporary Finland” research project at Åbo Akademi University, 2018–22.
- **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.

11. 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 e.g. 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; 2nd ed. 2016) co-authored with P. Nynäs. Used as course book in the study of 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 L. Marander-Eklund and B. Henriksson. Used as course book by several departments at ÅAU: <https://edition.fi/donnerinstitute/catalog/book/417> (open access)
- I have acted as expert reviewer of the translations into Swedish of course books for courses of religion (upper secondary school, 2023–4).

Assessment of Master's Theses

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

12. Awards and Honours

- *Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters*, member, Humanities section (by invitation) 2021
- *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* and *Brahe Wings with Lyre* (honorary medals), Student Union at Åbo Akademi University, 1999 & 2024

13. Other Key Academic Merits

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

- Anne Sörman, theology at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, 2022
- 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

Expert Commissions

- **Expert Advisor**, the Government Offices of Sweden, Investigation of a National Strategy to Support Jewish Life in Sweden – Research and Higher Education (2023).
- **Chair of Assessment Committee**, the Swedish Higher Education Authority, Application for Accreditation Rights, master's degree in Jewish Studies, *Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden* (2021–22).
- **Member of Panel Advisory Group**, Assessment of Research Quality (RQ20), Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University (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).
- **Member of Advisory Board**, Academy of Finland funded research project *Learning from New Religion and Spirituality*, PI: Terhi Utriainen (2020–24).

Academic Recruitment

- Expert, assessment of nomination for the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Australia, 2022.
- 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.

Positions of Trust in Academic Societies

- **Chair of Steering Group**, *Institutum Judaicum Aboense*, Åbo Akademi University (2021–24).
- **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).
- **Deputy Member of Board**, The Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME), representative of ÅAU (2020–25)
- **Member of Academic Board**, The Research Institute of Åbo Akademi University Foundation (2020)
- **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 (2017–25)
- **Affiliated Researcher**, Center for the Study of Jewish Thought in Modern Culture, University of Copenhagen, since 2015

Peer Review of Funding Applications

- **Expert Member of Review Panel**, religious studies and theology, Research Council of Norway (2021).
- **Member and Vice-Chair of Review Panel**, Publication Forum of Finland (JuFo), philosophy and theology (2018–21 member, 2022–24 vice-chair).
- **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)

Editorial Assignments

- **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 peer-reviewed journal *Approaching Religion*, since 2011.

- **Editor-in-Chief** (one of three) of the portal *Katsomukset.fi* for societal research communication on religions and worldviews, 2019–23.
- **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 Editorial Boards:** *Kosmopolis* (peer-review journal, published by the Finnish Society for Peace Research), since 2022; *Uppsala Jewish Studies* (book series), Forum for Jewish Studies, Uppsala University, since 2020; *Music, Spirituality and Wellbeing International* (book series), Peter Lang, since 2019.
- **Peer-Reviewer** (publishers): Edinburgh University Press (scholarly publisher), 2022; *Gaudeamus* (scholarly publisher), 2022
- **Peer-Reviewer** (academic journals), *Numen* (since 2021), *Social Inclusion* (since 2020); *Religion* (since 2018); *Contemporary Jewry* (since 2018); *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society* (since 2018); *Temenos – Nordic Journal of the Study of Religion* (since 2015); *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (since 2015); *Forum on Public Policy* (since 2009); *Co-operation and Conflict. Journal of the Nordic International Studies Association* (since 2009); *Journal of Intercultural Communication* (since 2006).

Significant invited international lectures (recent top 3)

- “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, 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

Organising Academic Conferences

I have carried responsibility for arranging international academic conferences (50–150 participants/event):

- *Religion, Memory and Innovation: 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 2023.
- *Religion and Spirituality as Sites of Learning*. The Donner Institute & Academy of Finland research project LeNeRe (University of Helsinki), Turku, Finland, May 2023.
- *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, 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)

- *Digital Transformations: Rituals, Death and Religion*, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, 2024.
- *Funerals in the North of Europe*, the Donners Institute, Turku, Finland, 2022.
- *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.

14. Scientific and 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](#), leading its Swedish-language editorial team 2019–24, 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 the 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.).
- 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 Gothenburg Book Fair (2023), Culture Campus Turku, 2022, 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).
- Association of Finnish Foundations (2022), Svenska Tekniska vetenskapsakademin (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

15. Other Merits

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)
- Finnish Peace Research Association
- 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)