



## **Current position**

University Lecturer in Religious Education: start of employment relation 01/01/2001

Part-time lecturer: 01/01/2014 – 31/07/2014

Full-time lecturer: 01/08/2012 – 31/07/2012, 01/08/2013 – 31/12/2013

Part-time lecturer: 01/09/2011 – 31/05/2012

Full-time lecturer: 01/01/2011 – 31/06/2011

Permanent full-time position: 01/08/2014 à (position including teaching, research and administrative duties)

Working in the Research Centre for Religious Education, Ethics and Philosophy of Education: <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/katsomusaineet/in-english/>

Employer: University of Helsinki: Faculty of Behavioral Sciences, Department of Teacher Education, Siltavuorenpenger 5, Helsinki, Finland

Research career phase: post-doctoral researcher

## **Previous work experience**

Part-time Lecturer in early childhood pedagogy: Helsinki Open University, summer 2013, 2014, 2015

Teaching in several in-service training courses and lecturing in multicultural education, pedagogy of religion, civic education in the different levels of education.

PhD student: University of Tampere: Department of Teacher Education: 1/09/2007–31/05/2013

Primary-school teacher:

01/08/2007 – 31/12/2007: The City of Espoo, Finland

05/03/2006 – 05/06/2006: The City of Hämeenlinna, Finland

Years 2004 – 2006: Several short-term teaching duties in different Finnish primary schools

## **Research funding as well as leadership and supervision**

Research funding: University of Tampere

09/2007 – 12/2007 Research grant for doctoral studies

08/2008 – 07/2009 Research grant for doctoral studies

09/2009 – 02/2010 Research grant for doctoral studies

02/2012 – 07/2012 Research grant for doctoral studies

Research funding: Alfred Kordelin Foundation

08/2011 – 01/2012 Research grant for doctoral studies

01/2014 – 12/2014 Research grant for doctoral studies, later transferred to post doc research

Supervision of PhD thesis (currently working):

MA. Gabriel Omotosho Adebayo

Th.M. Vesa Åhs: University of Helsinki

M.A. Raili Keränen-Pantsu: University of Eastern Finland

Th.M. Kaarina Lyhykäinen: University of Finland

Th.M. Jaakko Liljeblad, University of Helsinki

Th.M. Jussi Ikkala, University of Helsinki

### **Merits in teaching and pedagogical competence**

Qualifications:

Primary school teacher: University of Tampere 2006

Subject teacher (Religious education): University of Helsinki 2008

Extensive knowledge in planning and implementing various courses in university relating to religious and worldview education, educational science, multicultural studies, preschool education, teaching in bachelor's seminar and tutoring student-teachers' work practice. Several pedagogical projects with teacher students to develop the educational competence and ethics of education.

### **International academic experience**

Visiting lecturer. "Epistemologies of Intercultural Education". University of Luxembourg: Institute of Education and Society. 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2016. Luxembourg.

Children and Citizenship in Europe (CiCe) Jean Monnet -project 2015 – 2017. Taking actively part in seminar working and conferences in different countries in Europe.

Erasmus Teacher exchange program: University of Malta, May 2013.

Research visit. Australian Catholic University, Melbourne and University of Newcastle, Sydney (Australia). 1/12 – 5/12/2013

Visiting lecturer. Professionshøjskolen UCC. Blaagaard Statsseminarium. Copenhagen, Denmark.

23/1 -24/1/2012.

### **Projects**

Principal Investigator of the Research Project: "Learning Through Diverse Worldviews: Worldview Studies as a Framework for Integrative Education" 2014 à

<https://worldviewedu.net>

### **Awards, prizes and honours**

The article of the year 2014. "Religion in the public sphere. School as a Civic Arena". Kasvatus (A1 referred Finnish educational journal)

Excellent research in subject didactics 2015: "Citizenship in Secular Age" (Diss.). Finnish Subject Didactic Association.

### **Served as a referee for the following scientific journals and other publications:**

Nordidactica

Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education

Portman, A., Tilli, J. & Nelson, R. On the Legacy of the Reformation: Societal Perspectives. Studia Fennica Historica. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura.

### **Other academic merits**

Member in the Head Committee organizing international conference: Nordic Conference of Religious Education (NCRE) 2017 in Joensuu, Helsinki

Member in the Head Committee organizing international conference: Nordic Conference of Religious Education (NCRE) 2015 in Tartu, Estonia

Member in the Committee organizing international conference: International Seminar on Religious Education and Values (ISREV) 2013 in Turku, Finland

Member in the Head Committee organizing conference: Religious Education in Early Childhood Education. Helsinki 2014.

### **Scientific and societal impact of research**

University of Helsinki Research Database: [https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/saila-poulter\(052b41be-4ba8-4e5a-bd45-4800cd39178e\).html](https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/saila-poulter(052b41be-4ba8-4e5a-bd45-4800cd39178e).html)

Most important publications:

Poulter, S. 2016. From citizenship of God's Kingdom to liberal individualism? A critical historical analysis of Finnish religious education. *British Journal of Religious Education* 38: 2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01416200.2015.1110113>

Åhs, V., Poulter, S. & Kallioniemi, A. 2015. Encountering worldviews: Pupil perspectives on integrated worldview education in a Finnish secondary school context. *Religion and Education*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15507394.2015.1128311>

Kuusisto, A., Poulter, S. & Kallioniemi, A. 2016. Finnish Pupils' Views on the Place of Religion in School. *Religious Education*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00344087.2016.1085237>

Poulter, S. & Kallioniemi, A. 2014. Uskonto, kansalaisuus ja kansalaiseksi kasvaminen. Kohti katsomustietoista kansalaiskasvatusta. [Religion, citizenship and civic education. Towards worldview civic education]. *Kansalaisyhteiskunta* 1, 29–48.

Poulter, S., Riitaoja, A-L. & Kuusisto, A. 2015. Thinking multicultural education 'otherwise' – from a secularist construction towards a plurality of epistemologies and worldviews. *Globalization, Societies, Education*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14767724.2014.989964>

Ubani, M., Kallioniemi, A. & Poulter, S. 2015. Finnish Class Student Teachers' Perceptions of Religious Education. *Nordidactica* 2, 74-93.

Poulter, S., Sutinen, A. & Kallioniemi, A. 2015. Uskonnonopetus julkisessa koulussa: Pedagoginen transaktio kasvatusfilosofisena lähtökohtana. [Religious Education in the school. Pedagogical Transaction as a philosophical point of reflection] *Teologinen Aikakauskirja* 119, 5-6, 403-415.

Poulter, S., Kuusisto, A., Matilainen, M. & Kallioniemi, A. (forthcoming) Examining Religious Education in Finland from a Human Rights Perspective. *Religion, human rights and education*.

Poulter, S. 2012. From Secular Epistemology towards the Pedagogy of 'Inter-Knowledges'. *Muslim Education Quarterly*. 25: 384, 19–30.

Poulter, S. 2013. Kansalaisena maallistuneessa maailmassa. Koulun uskonnonopetuksen yhteiskunnallinen tehtävä. [Citizenship in a Secular Age. Finnish Religious Education as a Place for Civic Education] *Academic Dissertation*. Suomen ainedidaktisen tutkimusseuran julkaisuja, 5. Helsinki: Suomen ainedidaktinen tutkimusseura.

Poulter, S. 2013. Uskonto julkisessa tilassa: koulu yhteiskunnallisuuden näyttämönä. [Religion in the Public Sphere: School as a Societal Arena] *Kasvatus* 44 (2) 162–17.

Poulter, Saila. 2011. Jumalan valtakunnan kansalaisista vastuullisten maailmankansalaisten kasvattamiseen. Yleissivistävän koulun uskonnonopetuksen yhteiskunnallinen tehtävä 1900-luvun alusta 2000-luvun alkuun. [From the Citizenship of God's Kingdom to the Responsible World Citizens] *Kasvatus & Aika* 4, 69–85.

### **Most important scientific presentations**

Poulter, S. & Åhs, V. 2015. Integrative Religion and Worldview Education in the Finnish Context: Student Perspective. Symposium: New research on integrative practices in Finnish RE. NCRE-conference, Tartu, Estonia. 15.-18.6.2015

Poulter, S. 2015. Religion in the Framework of Finnish Intercultural Education: Epistemological Reflections. ECER-conference. Symposium: The dimension of Religious Education in Intercultural education; policies, practices and research in Europe today, Budapest, Hungary. 8.-11.9.2015

Åhs, V. & Poulter, S. 2015. Integrative Religion and Worldview Education in the Finnish Context: Student Perspective. NOFA-conference, Helsinki, Finland. 26. – 29.5.2015

Poulter, S. 2014. Integrative Religious Education as a Safe Place for Thinking 'Otherwise'. EARLI SIG meeting, Helsinki, Finland. 4. – 7-8.2014.

Poulter, S. 2014. From citizenship of God's Kingdom to liberal individualism? A critical historical analysis of Finnish religious education. *International Seminar on Religious Education and Values*. 27.7. – 1.8.2014. UK: York.

Poulter, S. 2013. From Secular Epistemology towards the Pedagogy of 'Inter-Knowledges'. *Nordic Conference of Religious Education*. 6.-10.6.2013. Iceland: Reykjavik.

Poulter, S. 2012. Secular Education and Other Ways of Knowing the Reality. Religion, Education and Critical Realism - Conference. 7.-8.9.2012 Oxford Brookes University, UK.

Poulter, S. 2011. Tradition-Based Teaching as a Basis for Global Citizenship? Religions and Culture – Children of Abraham. Seminar in Turku, Finland. 12.-13.10.2011.

Poulter, Saila. 2010. Citizenship and Religious Education in Finland: A Historical Analysis of a Current Political Theme. Nordic Conference of Religious Education 6.-9. 8.2011. Århus: Denmark.

Riitaoja, A-L., Poulter, S. & Kuusisto, A. 2010. VII ETMU days in Oulu, 21-22 October 2010. Negotiating the Local and Global: Values, Citizenship and Education. "Worldviews in Multicultural Education in the Finnish Context – A Critical Philosophical Approach on Theory and Practices".

Poulter, S. 2010. The Exclusive Nature of Secularist Worldview - Implications for Education. Also: Citizenship as a Matter of Ethics and Worldview. European Educational Research Association. Conference 25. – 27.8.2010. Education and Cultural Change. ECER, Helsinki, Finland.

Poulter, Saila. 2009. Religious Education as a Place of Ethical and Political in Post-Secular Society, EARLI 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference: Fostering Communities of Learners. 25. – 29.8.2009. Amsterdam, Holland.

Poulter, Saila. 2009. The possibility of moral and political education in post-secularized context."Changing Societies – Values, Religions, and Education. Konferenssi 9. – 13-6.2009 Umeå, Sweden.

Innanen, Tapani & Kemppainen, Saila. 2007 Religion, Secularization and the Challenge of Constructing Identity - a Finnish Perspective. Abstract. NERA's 35th Congress. Nordic Perspectives of Lifelong Learning in the New Europe.

## **Positions of trust in society and other societal merits**

### Memberships in scientific associations:

FERA (2010 -), EERA (2014 -), ISREV (2015 -, associate member)

Finnish Subject Didactic Association (2013 -)

Finnish Educational History Association (2011–2013)

Finnish Ecumenical Council: Member in the Committee of Education 2012 –

## **Writings and interviews in the local media**

Writing in the newspaper. Katsomusopetuksen oltava aidosti moniarvoista. Mielipide. Helsingin Sanomat 2.8.2015.

Interview. Radio Suomi: Ajantasa: Uskonnonopetus kouluissa. 9.6.2015

Column in the magazine. Tutkittu juttu. Uskonto – linssi todellisuuteen. Opettaja 2013: 35, 7.

Interview. Yle Radio Suomi. Ajantasa: Miten uskontotunnit meihin vaikuttivat. 29.5.2013

Interview on the dissertation. Radio Moreeni 31.5.2013.

Newspaper article. [Tutkija puolustaa väitöskirjassaan uskonnonopetusta](#). Kotimaa24. 31.05.2013.

Newspaper article. Uskonnonopetusta tarvitaan enemmän kuin koskaan. Uusi tie 20.6.2013, Ajankohtaista, 2–3.

Writing in the newspaper. Uskonnolla on suuri merkitys kansalaiseksi kasvamiselle. Aamulehti, Puheenaihe 28.6.2012.

Newspaper article. Uskontotuntien karsiminen saa kritiikkiä tutkijoilta. Helsingin sanomat 26.6.2012, A7.

Writing in the newspaper. Yritysten antama yksityisopetus lisää yhteiskunnallista eriarvoisuutta. Mieliopidekirjoitus, Helsingin sanomat 13.9.2010.

### **Other activities**

Chair and organizer of the seminar: VASU 2017. Toteutuuko lapsen oikeus katsomukseen? (early childhood seminar) Suomen ekumeeninen neuvosto. Helsinki, 30.9.2016.

University of Helsinki Says Welcome. Planning and implementing voluntary work among asylum seekers. 2015 – 2016.

Lecturer: Interfaith Dialogue in School. Jyväskylä: Osaava Keski-Suomi, pedagogical conference 14.11.2015

Organiser and chair: Seminar on religious education and national curriculum. Uskonnonopetus ja POPS 2016. 13.3.2015. Opetushallitus. Suomen ekumeeninen neuvosto.

Member of the head committee. Early Childhood Education seminar. University of Helsinki. Uskonto lapsuuden kulttuureissa. 23.10.2014.

Panel discussion in educational forum EDUCA. Uskonnot, osaaminen ja Suomi 2030. Paneelin puheenjohtaja. EDUCA 25.1.2014. Helsinki.

Panel discussion in educational forum KEOS. Monien uskontojen koulu. Paneelin puheenjohtaja. Jyväskylä Osaava Keski-Suomi (KEOS) 10.11, 2013.

Lecture: Religion in secular society. Finnish National Board of Education. Opetushallituksen koulutus 31.10–1.11.2012: Uskonnonopetus ja uusi opetussuunnitelma. "Uskonto sekulaarissa yhteiskunnassa" 31.10.2012.

Panel discussion: Religion in public sphere. Uskonto jaetus tilassa ja julkisessa keskustelussa – saako usko näkyä maallistuvassa maassa, kirkko jälkikristillisessä kaupungissa? Helsinki. Suomen evankelis-luterilainen kirkko. 8.11.2012

Tutoring theme group in subject didactic conference. Uskonto-teemaryhmän puheenjohtaja. Ainedidaktinen symposium. Helsingin yliopisto. 10.2.2012.

Panel discussion. Uskonnonopetus tänään, eilen ja huomenna. Opetusneuvos Veikko Pöyhösen 75-vuotisjuhlaseminaari. Helsinki 20.5.2011.

Organizing workshop as a part of Conference: Becoming a Global Citizen. Religion as a Key Competence of a Global Citizen. Religious Education as a Place for Political. 5.–7.10.2011.

Presentation in educational conference. University of Helsinki. Koulu, uskonto ja erilaiset tietämisen tavat. Kasvatustieteen päivät 22.–23.2012.

Presentation in subject didactic conference. University of Turku. Poulter Saila, Riitaoja Anna-Leena & Kuusisto Arniika. 2011. Katsomusopetus osana kriittistä monikulttuurisuuskasvatusta. 10.2.2011.

Presentation in the Educational History days. University of Jyväskylä. Uskontokasvatus yhteiskunnallista tehtävää toteuttamassa: katsomuskansalaisuuden sata vuotta. 7.–8.6.2010.

Presentation in the Subject didactic conference. Helsinki University. Uskonnonopetuksen yhteiskunnallisuuden puolustaminen: menneisyyteen takertumista vai ajan hermolla olemista? 12.2.2010.

Presentation in the Cultural Studies Forum. University of Jyväskylä. Sekularistisen maailmankatsomuksen eksklusiivisuus: Suomalainen uskonnonopetus kiistelystä keskiössä. 11. – 12.12.2009. Maailmankatsomukset tutkimuksen haasteena monikulttuuristuvassa ajassa.

Presentation in the educational Conference. University of Tampere. Kuusisto Arniika, Poulter Saila & Riitaoja Anna-Leena. 2009. Maailmankatsomuksellinen marginalisaatio yhteiskunnallisen kasvatuksen kentällä. 26. – 27. 11.2009.

Presentation in the Subject Didactic conference. University of Tampere. Eettisyyteen ja yhteiskunnan jäsenyyteen kasvamisen  
probleemi sekularisoituneessa ajassa: Tarjoaako uskonnonopetus kontribuutionsa? 13.2.2009.