

Hannele Niemi - Biography

Hannele Niemi is Professor, Research Director at the University of Helsinki and been she has nominated as UNESCO Chair on Educational Ecosystems for Equity and Quality of Learning 2018-2021 and 2022-2026.

Hannele Niemi was the Professor of Education (1998-2016) at the University of Helsinki. She started as the Research Director in 2017. Her experience at the University of Helsinki also includes her roles as the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs (2003–2009), the Dean of the Faculty of Education (2001–2003), the Head of the Department of Education (1998–2000), and the Vice Dean (1998–2000) of the Faculty of Education. Before working at the University of Helsinki, Niemi served as a Professor of Education in the Teacher Education Departments of Oulu, Turku, and Tampere Universities in Finland (1987–1998). She also served as a Visiting Professor at Michigan State University (1989) and as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University (2010, 2013, and 2015, 7 months in total). She is also the Chair of The University Board at the University of Lapland (2018-2020, 2021-2023).

Professor Niemi has been nominated as UNESCO Chair (Professor) on Educational Ecosystems for Equity and Quality of Learning 2018-2022 and 2023-2026.

Niemi has been a scientific leader for several large national research projects in Finland, including DAIA (Digital Academies in Africa) 2022-2025, AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Learning (2019-2021) and the Finnacle 2020 research program for advancing educational technology and 21st century skills in schools (2012–2015). She also served as Director of the national research program "Life as Learning", which was supported by the Academy of Finland (2002–2006). She has been a member of a Steering Committee of the British National Research Programme (the Teaching and Learning Research Programme [TLRP]), 2003–2008. She currently serves as an advisor and reviewer for several scientific journals. She was an establishing member of CICERO Learning Network of several Finnish universities for promoting multidisciplinary research on learning, brain research and technology, chaired it 2005-2010, and has been a Board member until 2020. She was an establishing board member the international network of Teacher Education Policy in Europe [TEPE] 2005-2020 and Chair of the board 2014-2015. She is a member of the advisory board (2018-) in educational sciences at the University of People that is totally on-line university offering BA and MA programs without tuition fees for HE students in vulnerable living contexts.

Niemi has worked as a reviewer for research councils in many countries, including Norway, Portugal, Estonia, and Singapore. She has served as a member of several scientific councils, including the European Science Foundation, the Academy of Finland, and the University of Helsinki. She has been invited to act as a panel member and Chair of the Research Evaluation of Educational Sciences at the University of Gothenburg (2010–2011) and the University of Jyväskylä (2006). She has been a member of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (2004–2009), and has served as Chair of the Finnish Education Evaluation Council (2012–2014). She has been invited to serve as an expert and steering committee member of the Institutional Evaluation Programme held by the European University Association. She has also been invited to act as a panel member for the evaluations of the quality and effectiveness over ten universities in Europe (2005–2015) and reviewer of 4 Higher Education Evaluation Councils in Europe.

Niemi has been given the honor of Doctor or Professor Honoris Causa at the University of Bucharest in Romania (2010), the J.C. Koh Professorship at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore (2010), the honor of Doctor at the University of Lapland (2012) and the National Defense University in Finland (2013). She was selected as the most influential person in education in 2013 by the Finnish Teacher's Union and was invited to become a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters in Academia (Scientiarum Fennica) in 2004.

Niemi has contributed to many European Union [EU] and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] projects as an expert or researcher and served as a keynote lecturer at several international forums, e.g., in Singapore, Thailand, China, Malaysia, USA, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, England, France, and Estonia. Her main research interest areas are teachers' professional development, quality of teacher education, moral education, and technology-based learning environments.

She has published several articles and books on education in Finland on Finnish teacher education (The Miracle of Education: The Principles and Practices of Teaching and Learning in Finnish Schools, 2016 (Revised ed.); Finnish Innovations and Technologies in Schools: Towards New Ecosystems of Learning; 2014; Research-Based Teacher Education in Finland, 2006; and Education as a Societal Contributor, 2007). Niemi has contributed to many international education research publications and has published books in more than ten languages. She has published over 400 peer-reviewed international journal articles or book chapters.

Professor Niemi graduated as a Master of Philosophy 1974, a Master of Theology in 1977, and finally as a Doctor of Philosophy in 1978 at the University of Helsinki. Her main research interest areas are teachers' professional development, quality of teaching and learning, and teacher education, moral education, and technology-based learning environments.

Read more about Professor Niemi's recent work:

<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/persons/hannele-niemi>

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/networks/educational-ecosystems-for-equity-and-quality-of-learning/unesco-chair-hannele-niemi>