

Researcher's Curriculum Vitae

1. Personal details

Surname: Poulter (née Kemppainen)

Given names: Saila Maria

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4687-7313>

Date of the CV: 20th May 2024

2. Degrees

Title of Docent: Citizenship and Worldview Education, 01/01/2018 University of Jyväskylä, Finland:
Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology

PhD (Education) 21/08/2013

Doctoral dissertation: Kansalaisena maallistuneessa maailmassa. Koulun uskonnonopetuksen yhteiskunnallisen tehtävän tarkastelua [Citizenship in Secular Age. The Civic Task of Religious Education] University of Tampere, Finland: School of Education

Major subject: Education, Minor subject: Religious Studies

Master of Education 31/05/2006

Major subject: Education, Minor subject: Theology and Religious Studies

University of Tampere, Finland: Faculty of Education

3. Other education and expertise

Degree in Administration of Education 24/10/2008, Finnish National Board of Education

4. Language skills

Finnish: Mother tongue

English: Excellent speaking and writing

Swedish: Fluent speaking and writing

French: Basics

5. Current employment

University researcher and co-PI in the research project “Children’s grief and grieving in institutional early childhood education” (Funded by the Research Council of Finland), University of Helsinki

1.8.2023–31.7.2025

Career stage 3: University of Helsinki, Finland: Faculty of Educational Sciences

Senior University Lecturer (Religious Education): University of Helsinki, Finland: Faculty of Educational Sciences

01/08/2014 – (ongoing)

6. Previous work experience

Senior University Lecturer (Religious Education): University of Helsinki, Finland: Faculty of Educational Sciences: Permanent full-time position, 1/7/2022 → ongoing (250 teaching hours/ year)

Full-time university lecturer: 01/08/2014 – 31/6/2022 (230–320 teaching hours/ year)

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

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

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

Full-time university teacher: 01/01/2011 – 31/06/2011

Part-time Lecturer in early childhood education: Helsinki Open University: August 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Visiting Research Fellow. 1/11–31/12/2017, The University of New Brunswick, Canada.

7. Career breaks

Family leaves (three children):

5.1.2008 – 31.12.2008, 1.5.2010 – 1.2.2010, 15.2.2016 – 31.7.2017

8. Research funding and grants

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture: “*Creating Spaces for Diversity of Worldviews in Early Childhood Education*” (2018–2022, [link](#)). I was the PI in the project, and I was the only person to prepare the funding application. The amount funded: 300 000euros.

Research Council of Finland: “*Child in Time: Existential Resilience in Early Childhood Education and Care*”(2023-2027, [link](#)), and I will gather my data for the longitudinal sub-study between 2024–2026 from daycare centres with a particular worldview basis. The amount funded: 487 318 €. My role in the preparation of funding application: I was one of the two co-writers of the application. PI: Arniika Kuusisto.

Other granted research funding:

09/2007 – 12/2007 Research grant for doctoral studies, University of Tampere

08/2008 – 07/2009 Research grant for doctoral studies, University of Tampere
09/2009 – 02/2010 Research grant for doctoral studies, University of Tampere
02/2012 – 07/2012 Research grant for doctoral studies, University of Tampere
08/2011 – 01/2012 Research grant for doctoral studies, Alfred Kordelin Foundation
01/2014 – 12/2014 Research grant for post doc research, Alfred Kordelin Foundation

I have been active in applying research funding from Research Council of Finland (Post-doc research 2014 and 2015) and I have also been involved in international funding applications (NordForsk, 2019). Furthermore, I have applied funding for developing my own research group from private research foundations (e.g. A.Kordelin Foundation, The Finnish Cultural Foundation). In 2022 I took actively part in grant writing with the multidisciplinary research group applying from the following funding instruments: Research Council of Finland/ Strategic Research Programme Call (PI Pirjo Hiidenmaa), and Koneen säätiö (PI Mikko Puustinen). In 2022 and in 2023 I applied funding for the two-year science education project from the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

9. Research output

Total number of publications: 83

See all research publications and activity (University of Helsinki Research Database):
<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/fi/persons/saila-poulter>

The ten most important publications:

Pursi, A., Lipponen, L., Poulter, S., & Kurenlahti, E. A. (accepted/in press). Emotional Configurations of Grief: Narratives from Childhood. *Culture & Psychology*.

Poulter, S., & Kavonius, M. (2023). Katsomusreflektiivisyys opettajan professionaalisuuden ulottuvuutena [Worldview reflection as a dimension of teacher professionalism]. *Kasvatus & Aika*, 17(1), 74-92. <https://doi.org/10.33350/ka.119383>

Poulter, S., & Kylliäinen, A. (2023). Hyvekasvatus varhaiskasvatushenkilöstön kokemana. *Journal of Early Childhood Education Research*, 12(3), 119-144. <https://doi.org/10.58955/jecer.126904>

Poulter, S. & Kuusisto, A. & Lamminmäki-Vartia, S. (2022) Developing Praxeological Understanding in Teacher Education: A Case of Worldview Education in Finnish ECEC. In Harju-Luukkainen, H., Kangas, J. & Garvis, S. (eds.) *Finnish Early Childhood Education and Care*. Springer, 55-68.

Poulter, S. & Castillo, K. 2022. Subjectification as an Educational Goal in Religious and Worldview Education in Early Childhood Education and Care. In A. Kuusisto (ed.) *The Routledge International Handbook of the Place of Religion in Early Childhood Education and Care*. Routledge, 47-60.

Poulter, S., & Tosun, A. 2020. Finnish and Turkish Student Teachers' Views on Virtual Worldview Dialogue. *Religion & Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15507394.2020.1815934>

Poulter, S., Kuusisto, A., Matilainen, M. & Kallioniemi, A. (2017). Examining Religious Education in Finland from a Human Rights Perspective. In Sjöborg, A. & Ziebertz, H-G. (eds.). *Religion, human rights and education. Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives*. Cham: Springer International Publishing AG, 49–61.

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* 39: 2,187–206.
DOI:10.1080/01416200.2015.1110113

Poulter, S., Riitaaja, 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>

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

10. Research supervision and leadership experience

Supervision of Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral Theses:

I have supervised and evaluated 13 Bachelor’s thesis and several Master’s theses (7 as the main supervisor, 15 as the second supervisor).

I have supervised three completed doctoral theses as the second supervisor (completed in 2020, 2023 and 2024). Currently I am supervising four doctoral students as the first supervisor and three doctoral students as the second supervisor.

Leadership experience:

PI in the project “*Creating Spaces for Diversity of Worldviews in Early Childhood Education*” (2018–2022, [link](#)). Funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

- To coordinate and plan research and development of teacher education in three universities (University of Oulu, University of Eastern Finland and University of Helsinki). Supervision of doctoral students and planning the pedagogical outputs of the project.

Co-PI in the project “*Children’s grief and grieving in institutional early childhood education*” (2021–2025, [link](#)) funded by the Research Council of Finland, University of Helsinki

- In the project, I am responsible for the research concerning death-related grief of young children.

Co-PI in the research project “*Developing Partly Integrative Religious and Worldview Education*” (2022 – ongoing, ODYSSEUS), which aims at identifying the core integrative elements in worldview education in collaboration with university teacher training schools.

- My role is to steer the teacher-researcher-practitioners in their curriculum work, help in data gathering and writing the research reports.

I took part in one year training organized by Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities (2021–2022): Academic leadership and career planning.

11. Teaching merits

Pedagogical training and other demonstrated pedagogical expertise:

- Title of the Senior University Lecturer, University of Helsinki 1/7/2022
- Demonstration lesson for Docent: good skills, University of Jyväskylä 14/12/2017
- Qualification of primary school teacher 7/6/2006, University of Tampere: School of Education

- Qualification of subject teacher in Religious Education 17/10/2008

I have experience in teaching approximately 250 hours every year in Bachelor and Master degree programs. I teach in three different teacher qualification programs: early childhood education teacher, primary school teacher, and subject education teacher programs. I am a teacher in charge for several courses yearly. I also supervise teacher training students at the university teacher training schools. Topics of teaching cover values education, societal and cultural aspects of diversity, social justice, pedagogy and didactics of religious and worldview education. I also teach research methodologies and educational research. Furthermore, I teach in Master seminar and PhD-seminars, and I have experience in organizing post-graduate courses for doctoral students.

I also have a lot of experience in planning, teaching and assessment in-service training at different educational levels. The most recent ones:

- HY+ University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education. Three courses during the years 2020–2021: Diversity of worldview in early childhood education and care
- 1000+Monimuoto: National training program for early childhood education teachers 01/10 – 31/12/2021: Pedagogy of Ethics and worldview education

I have published extensively pedagogical materials such as videos and pedagogical manuals for teachers, which are all publicly available in [the Library of Open Educational Resources](#), of which this is one example: [Tutkimusmatkoja katsomusten maailmaan](#).

I wish to maintain contact with people and organizations from different sectors of society and develop the pedagogical materials for the academic teacher training. I collaborate closely for example with [Step in-service training](#) centre for religious and worldview education to test and discuss about the use of technology in teaching.

A few related roles in the academia related to teaching:

- A member of *assessment committee of teaching skills* (2018–2021), University of Helsinki; Faculty of Educational Sciences, which plays an important role in staff recruiting process.
- A member of *the peer-mentoring group for teacher educators* (2019–2020), University of Helsinki; Faculty of Educational Sciences.

I am the founder and the leader of the children's university, *Pöllö-academy*, [link](#) at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki. The academy was established in 2020 and offers virtual lectures for hundreds of children all around the country.

12. Awards and honours

2014: Kasvatus (A1 refereed Finnish educational journal): Article of the year, 2014. Uskonto julkisessa tilassa: koulu yhteiskunnallisuuden näyttämönä. [Religion in the Public Sphere: School as a Societal Arena]

2013: Distinguished Education dissertation award 2013. Finnish Subject Didactic Association.

13. Other key academic merits

I am a Thesis Committee member for two doctoral students, University of Helsinki.

Opponent for doctoral thesis: University of Eastern Finland (2021)

Pre-examinator for two doctoral thesis: University of Eastern Finland (2021) and University of Tampere (2024).

I am a member in the *Docentship Committee* in the Faculty of Educational Sciences (2022→)

Every year I serve as the entrance examiner for different teacher education programs in the faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki.

A member of a panel for the degree of doctoral dissertation (2020, 2022).

Memberships and positions of trust in scientific communities

I belong to two research communities in the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Helsinki:

- *Humanities and Social Sciences Education Group (HuSoEd, [link](#))*
- *Learning, Culture & Interventions (LECI, [link](#))*

I work in these two research groups:

- *Religious and Worldview Education and Philosophy Education ([link](#))*
- *Cultural-historical approaches to children's learning and development ([link](#)).*

Memberships in national or international expert

I was appointed as *the Chair of the Programme Committee in International Seminar on Religious Education and Values (ISREV)* in 2022. In that position, I have a possibility to influence the scientific discussion in my field and collaborate with colleagues from all corners of the world.

Erasmus+ Jean Monnet project Citizenship Education in the Context of European Values (2021–2024, [link](#)) that I am involved with as a Finnish research partner. I have collaborated closely with colleagues from different countries, took actively part in international research conferences every year and editing a scientific publication.

Children and Citizenship in Europe (CiCe) Jean Monnet project 2015–2017. Taking actively part in scientific work with colleagues all around Europe.

Position as editor or editor-in-chief

I am the editor-in-chief in the scientific peer-review based journal *Ainedidaktiikka* [Subject Didactic, [link](#)] since 1/1/2023.

Currently I am editing a special issue in peer-reviewed journal *Citizenship, Teaching and Learning* together with the Swedish colleague. I have recently published a co-edited volume for Routledge on Worldview Education.

Referee for scientific publications

I frequently serve as a referee in several scientific journals such as *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, *Kasvatus*, *Kasvatus ja aika*, *Nordidactica*, *Diaspora*, *Indigenous*, and *Minority Education*, *British Journal of Religious Education*.

Administrative or working group positions

A member of the *Board of Ethical Review in Human Sciences in University of Helsinki* (2022 – ongoing)

A member of the University's committee of Societal Relations (2019-2022): Co-operation with university alumni, NGO's, parliamentary hearings, media work.

A member in the board of creating criteria for evaluation of worldview education in early childhood education and care (The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre, 2023 - 2024).

A member in the board of creating criteria for evaluating religious education in the classes 1–6 (Finnish National Agency for Education 2022-2023).

Active memberships in the following scientific/research associations:

- Finnish Education Research Association FERA (2010 –)
- European Educational Research Association EERA (2014 –)
- International Seminar of Religions Education and Values ISREV (2015 –)
- Finnish Subject Didactic Association (2013 –)
- The Research Society for Religion, Worldview and Education (2023 –)

Significant invited international lectures

I participate regularly to the following international conferences with a research paper: International Seminar on Religious Education and Values (ISREV), Nordic Conference on Religious Education (NCRE), European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), and European Association of Research on Learning and Instruction, SIG19 (EARLI). In addition to these conference paper and symposium presentations I have given lectures in national and international arenas such as:

- Keynote response: Prof. Gert Biesta. JYU. Wisdom Lunch Colloquium & RuusuPuisto Discusses: What is World Centred Education? 25/10/2023. University of Jyväskylä, Finland.
- Keynote: Public school, private religion? Secular school as an educational arena. Argumenta 19/11/2020, Tampere University.
- Lecture: Epistemologies of Intercultural Education. 28.9.2016 University of Luxembourg.
- Lecture: Ethics and Religious Culture Approach: The strengths and weaknesses of the cultural approach when teaching about religion. L'Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada 5/12/2017.

Organising scientific conferences

International Seminar on Religious Education and Values (ISREV). In my role as the chair of the programme committee, I am responsible for creating the scientific programme for the conferences in 2023 and 2025. Also organising the practical arrangements of the conference belong to this position as well.

Chair in the symposium programme committee: Worldview Education in Early Childhood Education symposium [Katsomuskasvatuksen symposium] 22.10.2020, University of Helsinki

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

14. Scientific and societal impact

Publications, presentations and dissemination of scientific knowledge through other means:

I am the director of the children's university Pöllö-academy in my faculty and involved in the network of children's science education.

Member of the working group of Early Childhood Education and working group of Religious Education in school, Evangelical-Lutheran Church Council. 2015 → ongoing

Finnish Ecumenical Council: Member in the Committee of Education 2012–2020.

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

Chair and organizer of the seminar: Toteutuuko lapsen oikeus katsomukseen? [Does a Child have a Right for a Worldview?] Early childhood seminar. Finnish Ecumenical Council. Helsinki, 30.9.2016

15. Other merits

Before teaching at the university level, I worked as an elementary school teacher in Finnish primary schools for a one year. I have also worked as a music teacher and been involved in different forms of voluntary work as a role of a teacher.