

## **Max Torvald Ryyänen**

Curriculum Vitae 8.10.2020

Male, Helsinki, Born 1972

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### **EDUCATION, DEGREES AND HONORARY DEGREES**

2015 Title of Docent / Adjunct Professor in Aesthetics (University of Helsinki)

2009 PhD, University of Helsinki, Aesthetics; topic of thesis: aesthetics and urban studies of Venice

2003 Licentiate, University of Helsinki, Aesthetics; topic of thesis: the pragmatist aesthetics of Richard Shusterman

1999 BA & MA<sup>1</sup>, University of Helsinki, Aesthetics (Semiotics & Philosophy (in Swedish) as minors); topic of thesis: the aesthetic turn in popular culture studies

#### Exchange Studies, Study Visits, Trainee Periods, Later Studies

2002 Richard Shusterman (Temple University Philadelphia USA) (Academy of Finland Grant, Spring Term)

1999 Trainee at the Finnish Cultural Institute of Lond (Summer)

1998-1999 University of Pisa, Philosophy (Erasmus, Fall/Winter Term)

1997 University of Uppsala, Aesthetics (Nordplus, Spring Term)

2016 Pedagogy (Teacher qualification, 60 cr), Aalto University / University of Tampere

2009 Museology and Material Culture (basic studies; 25 cr), Open University of Turku

2008 Art University Pedagogy (basic studies; Taikopeda, 25 cr), University of Art and Design Helsinki

### **LANGUAGES**

Mother tongues

Finnish

Swedish

Other competences

English: Reading + Writing + Talking

Italian: Reading + Talking (quite sufficient)

Spanish: Reading

French: Reading

Danish: Reading

Norwegian: Reading

Estonian: Reading (needs a small brush up)

German: Reading (needs a small brush up)

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<sup>1</sup> At the time BA and MA were not as clearly separated in Finland as they are now, and one could study both in the same package.

I have also studied basics of Chinese (3 yrs), Japanese (1 yr), Hindi (1,5 yr) and Russian (2 yrs).

## **CURRENT JOB**

Senior Lecturer of Theory of Visual Culture at Aalto University, School of ARTS,  
Department of Art

Starting date: 1 February 2006 (lecturer), Permanent Job since 2009 January, turned into Senior Lecturer when the system changed 2015.

*(Most scholars in Finland work on project bases as researchers. There are then two tracks, when one (if lucky) manages to nail a teaching position: lecturer and professor, and one cannot upgrade from L to P.)*

My current work has included teaching MA and doctoral students the following courses: academic writing, philosophy and theory of art (aesthetics), introduction to visual culture, museum and gallery studies, festival studies, film studies, and a variety of other courses with varying topics + visits on courses in design, fashion, etc. I have taken part in selecting students for the MA programs Visual Culture, Creative Business Management and Contemporary Art, Curating, and Visual Culture (2006-2018), and to the doctoral programs of the Aalto departments of Art and Media (2008-2009) and Art (2010-2018). I ran the doctoral seminar (with community) in the Department of Art and Media 2009-2011.

Administration-wise I have been head of the MA program Visual Culture, Curating, and Contemporary Art (ViCCA) 2017-2019 (2,5 years), vice head of department 2010-2011, and head of MA program Visual Culture (2006-2009), with a maximum of 8 people I have supervised

## **EARLIER WORK EXPERIENCE**

### Researcher (Grants)

2014 Aaltonen Foundation

1.5.2003-31.1.2006 Academy of Finland, Project Researcher (University of Art and Design Helsinki / Helsinki University)

2003 Oskar Öflunds Stiftelse

2002 Niilo Helander Foundation

2001 Helsinki University Science Foundation

### Academic Job Appointments

2011/7 (back to) Lecturer, Theory of Visual Culture, Aalto University

2010/1-2011/6 Professor Deputy (VT), Theory of Visual Culture, Aalto University

2006/2 Lecturer, Visual Culture, University of Art and Design Helsinki (permanent 2009)

## **FUNDING EXPERIENCE**

Individual Research Funding:

\* Helsinki University Science Foundation (1 year)  
2000-2001

\* Aaltonen Foundation (10 months) 2001-2002

- \* Oskar Öflund Foundation (3 months) 2002
- \* The Academy of Finland, 3 month visit to US 2002
- \* Aaltonen Foundation (6 months) 2010

Member of Working Groups that have acquired funding

-Aesthetics of Mobility (leader: Ossi Naukkarinen: Academy of Finland 2003-2006)  
 -National Doctoral School of Artistic Research (leader: Esa Kirkkopelto: Academy of Finland 2011-2015)

Culture/Arts

- \* Short Film funding for Karate here, not here (experimental movie with working group, 1991; Uusimaa cultural funds)
- \* Working Group “Max Ryynänen & työryhmä”, 8000 euros for ROR gallery (2002-2004) by Taiteen Keskustoimikunta, Nordisk Kulturfond and Suomen Kulttuurirahasto
- \* Producer for the academic journal *Popular Inquiry: The Journal of the Aesthetics of Kitsch, Camp and Mass Culture* (Svenska kulturfonden, Aalto University)

*Due to University/School regulations, I have not in Aalto been allowed to build and lead my own scholarly research programs (one needs to nail a professor's post in Aalto ARTS to do it), so I am very much looking forward to be able to do this in my next job.*

## **TEACHING MERITS AND EXPERIENCE**

### **Pedagogical Studies (and Teacher Competence)**

2001, Intensive pedagogical course at Tartu University (Nordplus, 3 cr)  
 2005-2007 Basic Studies 25 cr TaiKoPeda (a program of pedagogy for art university teachers; University of Art and Design Helsinki)  
 2013-2015 Pedagogical Studies for Aalto ARTS, 60 cr, Official Teacher Competence accepted by University of Tampere (“opettajapätevyys”, i.e. legal rights to be teacher in Finland)

### **Curriculum Planning Experience**

2006-2008 Visual Culture MA program (Aalto University; used as a base until 2015)  
 2010-2012 Doctoral Studies of the Department of Art and Media in Aalto University (in the group planning the doctoral studies program in the department and deciding the content)  
 2013-2014 Visual Culture and Contemporary Art MA program (Aalto University; working group)

### **Supervision/Advicing**

Supervisor/Advisor of 5 PhD theses (1 ready where main supervisor)

Henriikka Huunan-Seppälä (def. Dec 2018), Aalto University  
Paco Barragan, University of Salamanca (fc. 2020, mentorship for international PhD in Spain)  
Vesa Kuula, Aalto University (main supervisor: Kevin Tavin)  
Anni Venäläinen, Aalto University (main supervisor: Harri Laakso)  
Pinja Mustajoki (film), Aalto University (main supervisor: Harri Laakso)

Member of Committee of PhD work Jenni Nurmenniemi (University of Helsinki)

87 MA theses, most in Aalto University (Visual Culture and Contemporary Art, Fashion, Design, Art Education; 2 in Bratislava Academy of Art and Design); 81 finished

## Awards

Edward Richter (Finnish Art Association) travel grant for critics, Venice biennial 2003  
Edward Richter (Finnish Art Association) travel grant for critics, Arco Madrid, 2010  
Estetiikan kannustus-palkinto HY (Encouragement prize in aesthetics, Helsinki Univ.), 2010  
Quality price 10 000 euros for cultural journal *Esitys*, i.e. *Performance* (Ministry for Education), 2016 (on the board and 2 issues edited that year)  
Edward Richter (Finnish Art Association) travel grant for critics, Kochi biennial 2019

## Teaching Experience

2000- I have taught over 80 courses and done dozens of visiting lectures on courses in 9 countries and 18 universities (see list in the end) in aesthetics, art education, visual culture, semiotics, history of art, critique, philosophy, art theory, academic writing, film theory, fashion studies, political philosophy and idea history

List of universities (and other institutions where I have taught): Lancaster University (Great Britain), University of Technology Trondheim (Norway), Royal Academy of Art Stockholm, University of Helsinki (+ Open University of Helsinki), Theatre Academy, University Business School Helsinki, Academy of Fine Art and Design Bratislava, Art Academy Tallinn, University of Uppsala Sweden, Academy of Culture Riga Latvia, Metropolia University College Helsinki, Turku University College, Satakunta University College, Tampere University College, Kuopio University College, University of Turku, University of Lapland, and University College of Sharjah; Theater and Dance Festivals in Riga, Rezekne, Cesis (Latvia) and Ljubljana (Slovenia)

## OTHER ACADEMIC MERITS

## **Expert in Funding Decisions**

2016 FRAME, Travel Funds for Contemporary Artists Artists

2020 Estonian Research Council, Philosophy

## **Opponent / board of PhD defenses**

1. Virpi Kaukio, Environmental Aesthetics, University of Eastern Finland, evaluator + opponent 2013
2. Susanne Ylönen, Art Education, University of Jyväskylä, evaluator + opponent 2014
3. Sini Mononen, Musicology, University of Turku, evaluator 2018
4. Mari Vergara, Art History, University of Complutense Madrid, committee 2019
5. Aura Seikkula, Cultural Policy, University of Jyväskylä (topic: curating), evaluator

## Assessment of Docentship

1. Sanna Lehtinen (Aesthetics, University of Helsinki), fall 2020

## Assessment of MA theses:

Helsinki University, Aesthetics: 2

Bratislava Academy of Fine Art and Design: 1

Aalto University, fashion: 2

Aalto University, design: 1

Aalto University, media: 1

Aalto University, art education: 3

Aalto University, visual culture: 2

Aalto University: visual culture, curating and contemporary art: 25

All in all: 37 theses

## **Scholarly Communities**

2000-2001 Secretary, Finnish Society for Semiotics

2001-2011 Founding Member & Secretary, Finnish Society for Popular Culture Studies (until it moved to be a part of Popular Culture Association Europe, a move which I took part in initiating)

2001-2003 Vice Chair, International Institute for Applied Aesthetics, Lahti

2003-2005 Board Member, Nordic Society for Aesthetics

2013-2015 Vice Chair, Finnish Society for Aesthetics

2013-2018 Board Member, International Association for Aesthetics (IAA)

2015-2018 Chair, Finnish Society for Aesthetics

## **Nordic Summer University**

2015 Coordinator (with Epp Anus) for the Study Circle Heterologies of the Everyday (seminar in Druskininkai Lithuania)

2015-2016 Coordinator (with Carsten Friberg) for the Study Circle Heterologies of the Everyday (seminars in Riga Latvia, Wroclaw Poland)

### **Advisory/Editorial Boards of Journals and Book Series**

2002-2005 Advisory Board Member, *The Nordic Journal of Aesthetics*

2017- Board Member, *The Journal of Somaesthetics*

2017- Advisory Board Member, *Aesthetica Universalis*

2017- Founder & Editor in Chief (with Jozef Kovalcik), *Popular Inquiry: The Journal of the Aesthetics of Kitsch, Camp and Mass Culture*

2018-2019 Board Member, *RUUKKU* (the Finnish Journal for Artistic Research)

2019- Advisory Board Member, *Terra Aesthetica*

2019- Editor in Chief (with Richard Shusterman and Falk Heinrich), *The Journal of Somaesthetics*

2020- Member of the Advisory Board of the Cape Comorin Publisher's book series *Environmental Humanities*

2020- Member of the Advisory Board for the *ESPEs*

2021- Member of the Advisory Board of *Journal of Global Pop Cultures*

### **Advisory Boards of Research Projects**

2008-2012 Creative Business Management Program MA (EU funding, University of Art and Design Helsinki)

2015- History of Pori Jazz Festival (University of Turku)

### **Referee**

I have been asked to blind review articles for *Journal of Aesthetics and Phenomenology*, *The Journal of Artistic Research (JAR)*, *The Nordic Journal of Aesthetics*, *Terra Aestheticae*, *Artifact*, *RUUKKU*, *Wider Screen*, *Alue ja Ympäristö*, *Lähikuva*, *Studies in Art and Architecture*, *Polish Journal of Aesthetics*, book publisher Wydawnictwo Przystypis (Warsaw)

### **INVITED TALKS AND PRIZE JURYS (A SELECTION)**

#### **Keynotes and Invited Plenary Talks in Conferences**

- October 23-25, 2019, Keynote: Sending Chills Up My Spine: Somatic Film and Care of the Self, Annual Conference of the Slovakian and Czech Societies for Aesthetics, Bratislava Slovakia.
- December 6-7, 2018, Keynote: Cute, Ugly and Beautiful Kitsch, Conference Aesthetics Unlimited, Universities of Copenhagen/Roskilde (Denmark),
- July 23-24, 2018, Plenary: "Phenomenology of Robot Cars", Conference Phenomenology of Changing Life-Worlds: Exploring Human-Machine Interactions in the University of Konstanz (Germany).
- May 11, 2018, Plenary: "The Anarchist Banker. Activism, Politics and Visibility." Conference *Appearances of the Political*, University of Palermo (Italy)
- Sept 29, 2016, Keynote: Rock me Amadeus. On the highbrow appropriation of lowbrow culture, Fin-de-siecle Popular Culture in the Baltics, Institute of Folklore of the University of Latvia, Riga

- March 19-21, 2012, Keynote: The Producers: On advising MA and PhD theses in art schools, Conference Art \* Eros \* Education at Aalto University Finland.
- 2010, October 22-23, Keynote: No wipeouts, no real reward? Against (mainstream) camp. Or camp against the professional, Conference KUPÉ 6: Qualitative criteria of design in the centre and on the periphery, Zilina, Slovakia

### **A Selection of Other Invited Talks in International Conferences and Colloquiums**

- March 23, 2018, “The Rasa Industry: Notes on Classical Indian Art Theory and Popular Culture,” in The Sanskrit Text Conference, organized by the department of world cultures at Helsinki University and the Indian Embassy in Finland and Estonia, at the House of Sciences 23-24.3.2018.
- March 21, 2017, “Hegel’s Pipe: Magritte, memes and weak thinking”, Dank Contemporarities (on Post Internet Art), Dept of Art at Aalto University
- 2014 May 13, “Philosophical Notes on the Role of Dramaturgy Today.” New Dramaturgy, New Dramaturg, Nova Drama Festival, Theatre Institute Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2002, November. ”Aesthetics of Terrorism”. Charlottenburg Art Museum, Copenhagen. Art and Terrorism colloquium. Org. Charlottenburg & NIFCA, coordinator Khaled Ramadan. Panel with Khaled Ramadan, Sarat Maharaj & Anders Michelsen.

### **Invited International Open Talks in Universities (no teaching visits)**

- Invited Guest Speaker, Department of Philosophy, University of Tallinn, March 2020
- 2015, May 11-12, 2 invited talks at the University of Warsaw (Poland): “Margins of Modern Aesthetics” and “New Laokoon”
- 2011, November 29, “Art Museums as Mass Culture.” Academy of Fine Arts and Design Bratislava (Slovakia).
- 2008, March 11. ”Estetiska debatter i ishockeyvärlden” (Aesthetic debates in the world of ice hockey.) University of Uppsala, Department of Philosophy / Aesthetics

### **International Invited Talks (and Panels) in Museums and Art Events**

- October 2, 2020, “Vad kan vi lära oss om våra kroppar under covid-perioden?” (What can we learn about our bodies during covid?), Hangö Teaterträff
- May 8, 2020, Metropolia Applied University, panel with Pauline von Bonsdorff on what can cultural producers do in Covid-19 times
- May 17, 2019, panel discussion on perception and bodily issues on painting with artist Tiina Majabacka and Riikka Niemelä at Turku Art Museum
- August 28, 2018, “Ceci n’est pas une Musée”, at Mériam Korichi’s event Night of Philosophy 2 at Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki
- 2014, May 10, “Throwing the Body into Fight. Reflection on the Body as Instrument in Arts”, New Baltic Dance Festival / Ne[w]kritika, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2011, November 17-18 ‘House commentator’ & final roundup at Touring in Scandinavia and the Baltics – Bridging regional and international perspectives. Coordinators/moderators: Johanna Hammarberg & Martina Marti. Org.: Baltic Circle Theatre Festival, Helsinki, Finland.

- 2011, October 12-13 “Institutional Stress. Art in the age of education, networking, communication and administration – and a roadmap for emancipation.” New Rules of Art Policy and Other Fantasies. FRAME Fund, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2010, April 28-29. ”Art vs. mass culture. The lost case of the yellow press.” Siting the Position of the Kunsthalle. Kunstneres hus, Oslo, Norway.
- 2009, April 5. “Contemporary networking, contemporary self-management – or contemporary art?” IHME 2009, Helsinki

### Prize Jurys

- 2017 Finnish Society for Aesthetics: Best Article in Aesthetics jury with Zoltan Somhegyi and Peter Breznan
- 2016 November, In the JURY for the Nordic dance film competition 60 Seconds Dance
- 2015, May 27-29. In the jury for the Köler Prize of contemporary art at EKKM, Tallinn Estonia
- 2014, International Aesthetic Deed of the Year jury, Finnish Society for Aesthetics
- 2008, International Aesthetic Deed of the Year jury, Finnish Society for Aesthetics

### PUBLIC ART ACTIVITIES (selection)

1. 2018-2020 organizer of the annual Stop Hatred Now anti-racist 3 day event together with Sonya Lindfors, Ruskeat Tytöt, Kulttuurikaikille, Caisa and Interkult (Site: Caisa / Ateneum / National Theatre)
2. 2018-2019 Performance *We Know Who You Are Fucker!* with Davide Giovananza. 3 performances at the Swedish Theatre Academy, The Society of European Philosophy Conference at Winchester, Riga Performance Festival
3. Dancer / stage writer in the performance *Writing Dancing* with Tanja Illukka (dancer) and Ismo-Pekka Heikinheimo. 10 performances in La Space Helsinki, Barker Theatre Turku, Leipzig Dance Festival, Dresden Dance Festival, Jyväskylä’s Tanssin Aika festival
4. 2015 Mentor of dance performance Paper Piece at Zodiak Helsinki (by Andrius Katinas, Vera Nevanlinna & Salla Salin)
5. 2014-2016 suitcase gallerist: Gallery KLEIN was a suitcase exhibiting as a site/satellite of e.g. the 60 seconds dance Nordic dance competition, the University of Warsaw, The Bratislava Academy of Fine Art and Design, Riga Dance Festival, Saldus Dance Festival, etc. Featured in e.g. Art Pulse the gallery presented exhibitions by e.g. Jean-Francois Paquay, Elham Rahmati, Anna Korotkova, Sinem Kayacan and Melinda Abercrombie.
6. 2011-2013 founding member and gallerist at Kallio Kunsthalle (Toinen linja 31) together with Sasha Huber and Petri Saarikko (collaboration with Elokolo, an organization for substance use prevention and homelessness). Chief curator for 2 exhibitions, assistant curator for 11. Stockholm Independent Art Fair Supermarket 2012.
7. 2003 manuscript for short film *Perjantai* (with Panu Heikkilä and Ville Haapasalo). Production: Hanna Haaslahti. Fantomatico, Helsinki. AVEK / The Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE.



8. 2002-2004 gallerist with the ROR group and Eva Neklyaeva in ROR Gallery, Kallio Helsinki (Vaasankatu), production and texts (artists from Jeppe Hein to Henry Lim)
9. 1994 *Dancer, Drive or Die*, Kaapelitehdas Helsinki, Coreographer Ari Numminen, Director Kari Heiskanen. 14 performances. Production: Theatre Academy and Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE (TV1).

## **IN THE MEDIA / SOCIETAL IMPACT**

I have been interviewed/reviewed for e.g. Helsingin Sanomat, Los Angeles Times, Dance LV Latvia, Slovenian National Radio, Finnish and Swedish language public broadcasting radio and TV, Kansan Uutiset, Satakunnan Kansa, Aamulehti, The Guardian, etc.

Even more, I have organized events (see above 1), ran galleries with philosophical ideas (5, 6, 8 in the public art activities; featured e.g. Richard Shusterman's the golden man project), but also published on current topics and problems in newspapers (HS, Hbl, Vihreä Lanka, etc) when I have felt that this has been needed. I have been in the national radio and television a couple of times when I have felt that an intervention has been useful (although I am mostly a personality that does not enjoy media attention).

As a member of the board of a variety of cultural journals, like *Kulttuurivihkot* (2002-2004), *Esitys* (2013-2016; editor in chief for 2 issues), *Mustekala* (2008-2010) and *Ice Hole* (2013-2016) I have of course had impact too, although I think it craves too much work to have that kind of 'hobbies' when you chair an academic job.

## **OTHER / APPENDIX**

### **Conference and Colloquium Organizer**

Coming up: conference organizer with Pauline von Bonsdorf, Susanne Ylönen and Heidi Kosonen: *Disgust* (Jyväskylän University, March 2020)

2019, Appearances of the Political Day Seminar, Aalto University, 8.5.2019 (org. with Tiago Silva). Speakers e.g. Carsten Friberg, Elisabetta Di Stefano, Mateusz Salwa, Margus Vihalem, Jon Irigoyen, Shubhangi Singh, Jakub Bobrowski (main organizer). 25 participants.

5-7.7.2018 The Interim Conference of the International Association for Aesthetics (IAA). Main organizer (with team Petteri Enroth, Harri Mäcklin and Sanna Lehtinen). Keynotes: Andrew Light, Jack Halberstam, Yuriko Saito, Elisabetta Di Stefano, Ossi Naukkarinen, Kevin Tavin. 70 participants.

May, 2018. In the organizational group (together with Adam Andrzejewski and Mateusz Salwa) of the conference *Aesthetics of Popular Culture* at the University of Warsaw. Keynote speakers: Tomas Kulka and David Davies. 20 participants.

24-31.7.2017 NSU, Nordic Summer University Summer Conference. In the organizatory group with Davide Giovanzana, Disa Kamula and Arja Hietanen. Keynotes: Elisabeth Povinelli and Robert Pfaller. 140 participants. Place: Orivesi Boarding School.

February 2017, Appearances of the Political: NSU Winter Symposium, main organizer with Carsten Friberg, 2 day seminarium in Wroclaw Poland, hosted by the University of Wroclaw. 30 participants.

February 2016, Appearances of the Political: NSU Winter Symposium, main organizer with Carsten Friberg, 2 day seminarium in Riga Latvia, hosted by the University of Latvia. 30 participants.

12.2.2010 With the Finnish Society for Aesthetics and Aalto University: Kaupunkiluonto talvella (Urban Nature in the Winter). Day Seminar. Main organizer with Maunu Häyrynen (Landscape Studies, University of Turku). Speakers: Arto Haapala, Petteri Kummala, Max Ryyänen, Maunu Häyrynen. 40 participants.

29-30.10.2008 Kitsch, glitter ja luksus (Kitsch, glitter and luxury). At the University Centre of Pori, with the University of Art and Design Helsinki and Pori Art Museum. Main organizer. Speakers: Kati Heljakka, Max Ryyänen, Juha Torvinen, Marjo Mäenpää, Kari Kallioniemi, Arja Elovirta and Jani Leinonen. 70 participants.

2006 in the committee for the organization of the annual conference of the Nordic Society of Aesthetics (main organizer: Pauline von Bonsdorff). 50 participants.