

Curriculum Vitae

MAX RYYNÄNEN

PERSONAL DATA

Born 09 Oct 1972
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EDUCATION, DEGREES AND HONORARY DEGREES

1999 BA & MA¹, University of Helsinki, Aesthetics (Semiotics & Philosophy as minors)
2003 Licentiate, University of Helsinki, Aesthetics
2009 PhD, University of Helsinki, Aesthetics
2015 Docent / Adjunct Professor in Aesthetics (University of Helsinki)

Exchange Studies, Study Visits, and Trainee Periods

1997 University of Uppsala, Aesthetics (Nordplus, Spring Term)
1998-1999 University of Pisa, Philosophy (Erasmus, Fall/Winter Term)
1999 Trainee at the Finnish Cultural Institute of Lond (Summer)
2002 Temple University Philadelphia USA (Academy of Finland Grant, Spring Term)

Later studies

2008 Art University Pedagogy (Taikopeda, 25 cr), University of Art and Design Helsinki
2009 Museology and Material Culture (25 cr), Open University of Turku
2016 Pedagogy (Teacher qualification, 60 cr), Aalto University

Previous Positions and Mobility

Researcher (Grants)

2001 Helsinki University Science Foundation
2002 Niilo Helander Foundation
2003 Oskar Öflunds Stiftelse
1.5.2003-31.1.2006 Academy of Finland, Project Researcher (University of Art and Design Helsinki / Helsinki University)

¹ At the time BA and MA were not as clearly separated in Finland and one could study both in a row before graduating.

2014 Aaltonen Foundation (4 months leave)

Appointments

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

2010/1-2011/6 Professor Deputy (VT), Theory of Visual Culture, Aalto University (Ex University of Art and Design Helsinki)

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

2015/11 Senior Lecturer, Theory of Visual Culture, Aalto University

Personal Activities and Achievements

Academic Leadership & Society Activities

2006-2009 Head of MA program for Visual Culture, University of Art and Design Helsinki (Pori Campus)

2010-2011 Vice Director of the Department of Art and Media (Pori Campus)

2014-2017 Head of Major Studies, MA Visual Culture and Contemporary Art, Aalto University

2017/1-2019/6 Director of MA program Visual Culture and Contemporary Art, Aalto University (since fall 2018: Visual Culture, Curating, and Contemporary Art)

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

2013-2015 Vice Chair, Finnish Society for Aesthetics

2015-2018 Chair, Finnish Society for Aesthetics

Other central roles in academic organizations

2000-2001 Secretary, Finnish Society for Semiotics

2001-2011 Founding Member & Secretary, Finnish Society for Popular Culture Studies

2003-2005 Board Member, Nordic Society for Aesthetics

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

2015 Coordinator (with Epp Annus) for Study Circles Heterologies of the Everyday, Nordic Summer University

2015-2018 Coordinator, Circles Heterologies of the Everyday & Appearances of the Political, Nordic Summer University

Journals

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 (together 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

Areas of Specialization and Competence

Academic:	Popular Culture Studies, Kitsch and Camp Studies, Art Theory, Film Theory, American Pragmatist Philosophy, Critical Theory, German and Italian Philosophy of Art (Continental), Aesthetics and Politics, Pop Art, Aesthetics of Sport, Political Art, Somaesthetics and the Philosophy of the Body, Medieval Indian and Middle-Eastern Philosophy on the rise
Other:	Performance, Curating, Gallery Management, Art Writing

Keynotes Speeches, Panels, Jurys (Just Invited Talks, A Selection)

- Forthcoming, October 23-25, 2019, Keynote Speaker in the Annual Conference of the Slovakian Society for Aesthetics, **Bratislava Slovakia**
- “Cute, Ugly and Beautiful Kitsch”, December 6-7, 2018, Invited Guest Speaker at the conference Aesthetics Unlimited, **Universities of Copenhagen/Roskilde** (Denmark), <http://www.eurosa.org/event/beauty/>
- “Phenomenology of Robot Cars.” July 2018, Invited Guest Speaker at the conference Phenomenology of Changing Life-Worlds: Exploring Human-Machine Interactions in the **University of Konstanz** (Germany).
- May 11, 2018, “The Anarchist Banker. Activism, Politics and Visibility.” *Appearances of the Political*. **University of Palermo** (Italy). Invited Speaker. Day colloquium with Elisabetta di Stefano, Tonino Griffero, Carsten Friberg, Mateusz Salwa, Margus Vihalem, Rita Messori and Francesca Zanella.
- March 23, 2018, “The Rasa Industry: Notes on Classical Indian Aesthetics 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.
- 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
- March 21, 2017, “Hegel’s Pipe: Magritte, memes and weak thinking”, Dank Contemporarities (on Post Internet Art), Dept of Art at **Aalto University**. Talk and 2 panel discussions.
- Keynote, Sept 29, 2016, “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 (site: **National Library of Latvia**, Riga
- 2016 November, In the JURY for the dance film competitions [60secondsdance](#) (Helsinki).
- 2015, May 27-29. In the **Jury** for the **Köler Prize** of contemporary art at [EKKM](#), **Tallinn Estonia**



- 2015, May 11-12. [2 invited talks at the Department of Philosophy](#) at the **University of Warsaw**: “Margins of Modern Aesthetics” and “New Laokoon”
- 2014 May 13, “Philosophical Notes on the Role of Dramaturgy Today.” New Dramaturgy, New Dramaturg, Nova Drama Festival, **Theatre Institute Bratislava**, Slovakia



(Pic: New Dramaturgy, 2014, Bratislava, with Patrice Pavis)

- 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
- 2014, October 30, “Elävä/kuollut: Venetsian zombie-estetiikkaa” (Living/Dead: The Zombie Aesthetics of Venice), **Lahti** / International Institute of Applied Aesthetics
- 2012, March 19-21. “The Producers” (On advising MA and PhD theses in art schools.) Keynote. Art * Eros * Education at Aalto University, School of Art, Design, and Architecture. **Helsinki**, Finland.
- 2011, November 29, “Art Museums as Mass Culture.” **Academy of Fine Arts and Design Bratislava** (Slovakia).
- 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.” Panel with Paco Barragán (Artpulse), Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger (Finnish Museum of Photography), GILFER, etc. New Rules of Art Policy and Other Fantasies. **FRAME Fund, Helsinki**, Finland.

- 2010, October 22-23 “No wipeouts, no real reward? Against (mainstream) camp. Or camp against the professional.” Keynote. 2 panels including Ondrej Herec, Ewa Golebiowska, Marek Brieska, Veronika Burian, Petr Skala, and Johanna Bilak. KUPÉ 6. Qualitative criteria of design in the centre and on the periphery. **Stanica, Zilina, Slovakia.**
- 2010, April 28-29. ”Art vs. mass culture. The lost case of the yellow press.” Panel with Åsa Nacking (Kunsthalle Lund), Joan Müller (Kunstverein Düsseldorf) & Marianne Heier. Mod. Jonas Ekeberg. Siting the Position of the Kunsthalle. **Kunstnernes hus, Oslo, Norway.**
- 2009, April 5. “Contemporary networking, contemporary self-management – or contemporary art?” **IHME 2009, Helsinki**, Session “What is good art? What is expertise?”. Panel with Bartomeu Marí (MACBA Barcelona), Olle Granath (Royal Swedish Academy of Arts), Maija Tanninen-Mattila (Ateneum) and Otso Kantokorpi.
- 2008, March 11. ”Estetiska debatter i ishockeyvärlden” (Aesthetic debates in the world of ice hockey.) **University of Uppsala**, Department of Philosophy / Aesthetics
- 2008, March 7. “Pinkkiä posliinia. Huonon maun historiaa ja nykypäivää (Pink Porcelaine: A History of Bas Taste and Contemporary Kitsch)”. Studia Generalia, Kuka mistäkin tykkää, **University of Eastern Finland.**
- 2008, March 5 “Taideteos kuratoinnin ja verkostoitumisen aikakaudella (Works of Art in the Age of Curatorship and Networking)” Überkuraattori, seremoniamestari, makutuomari. Kuratoinnin ammatin monet kasvot. **Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki, SKY** (Suomen Kuraattorien Yhdistys).
- 2007 November 19 & 24. 2 Panels at **Baltic Circle Theatre Festival** with Malla Silde, Outi Lahtinen and Pilvi Porkola. Transliterated and Published in Dramagora (“Loose Your Control and Take a Trip”, “Trends, Fads, and Camp”): http://www.q-teatteri.fi/baltic_circle/dramagora/
- 2007, November 23. ”Terrorismin estetiikkaa” (Aesthetics of terrorism.) **Tampere Main Library**, Philosophy Evening.
- October 8 “Jääkiekon estetiikkaa.” Jääkiekkoa uusin silmin -seminaari. Tampereen avoin yliopisto / **Tampere Open University.**
- 2006 May 24. ”Kitsch ja camp -näkökulma ARS:iin.” (A kitsch and camp gaze on ARS.) **ARS 2006. Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki.**
- 2005, April 20. ”Koons, readymade ja kitsch.” (Koons, readymade, and kitsch.) **Helsinki City Art Museum**, Jeff Koons Retrospective.
- 2005, May. Panel with Johanna Hammarberg & Malla Silde. **Baltic Circle Theatre Festival**, Helsinki. http://www.q-teatteri.fi/baltic_circle/dramagora/BALTICCIRCLE/alternative.php
- 2002, May. ”Kansanhuvista taiteeksi – eli miten leikkisistä teoksista tulee vakavaa huviä. (From Folk Entertainment to Art – or how you make fun out of serious works of art)”, **Pori Art Museum**, Play and Control exhibition.
- 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.
- 2000, ”Korkea ja matala” (High and Low), **Lahden muotoiluinstituutti**, Katukuva – seminaari sarjakuvan estetiikasta ja kaupunkikulttuurista.

2019, Appearances of the Political Day Seminar, Aalto University, 8.5.2019. 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 (Co Petteri Enroth, Harri Mäcklin, 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. 30 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 guests.

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

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

12.2.2010 With the Finnish Society for Aesthetics and Aalto University: Kaupunkiluonto talvella (Urban Nature in the Winter). Day Seminar organized together 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. 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 (head organizer: Pauline von Bonsdorff). 50 participants.

EVENTS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION

I have been taking part in organizing the anti-racist event Stop Hatred Now together with Ruskeat Tytöt (Brown Girls media Finland), choreographer Sonya Lindfors, Kulttuurikaikille, Interkult, and other agents of change in Helsinki (2017 & 2018 & 2019). The Aalto (curated by me) guest 2018 was Native American activist and thinker Charlene Teters, who, as a Spokane Tribe member and a pioneer of the “we are not your mascots movement”, came to educate us both at Aalto and at Ateneum (Museum of Classical Art Helsinki). Other years I have been in charge of some panel discussions.



Languages

FINNISH: My mother tongue and the main language of my everyday.

SWEDISH: My mother is a native Swedish speaker, and my father is from a Finnish/Finland-Swedish family. I partly grew up in Sweden (Rinkeby Stockholm, Upplands Väsby, Haparanda) and I studied one term in Uppsala (1997), but still the language is and is not mine. It warms up my world but I make some mistakes in it. It is my weaker native language, one could say.

ENGLISH: I work 90% in English, I did my MA trainee period in London (Finnish-Institute) and studied one term in Philadelphia (Temple, PhD studies) – and ViCCCA works totally in English – so I am used to work with the language. All my current scholarly publishing activity is in English.

ITALIAN: I am partly specialized in Italian philosophy (Eco, Vattimo, Perniola) and I studied one term in Pisa. I manage life in Italian quite okay verbally and I read philosophy without any problems.

FRENCH: I lived one winter in Paris (2000-2001) but I cannot speak French. I read it, though, partly following my ability to read Italian. I cannot interpret the poetical details and language-games in Kristeva or Derrida, but I manage *Liberation*, basic scholarly discourse and for example simple novels.

SPANISH: Studied Spanish in the early 2010s to the level that I was able to read Ortega y Gasset and Unamuno (two classical Spanish philosophers), although it was hard work. American Airline's customer magazine was easy in the end of my studies.

ESTONIAN: In the early 2000s I studied Estonian to the level that I could read a research article and a detective book in Estonian.

GERMAN: I have studied German a bit, and with the help of Swedish I manage to read philosophical or simple fictional texts, although it takes time. I can't discuss, but I manage in shops, restaurants and cafes, at least after 2-3 days in Germany.

DANISH: It is easy to learn to read Norwegian and Danish if you speak Swedish. I trained myself to do that at some point and I have read books in both languages.

NORWEGIAN: The same as with Danish...

LATIN: I am currently studying latin (since fall 2017) and I am slowly coming to a point when I can start reading Pseudo-Longinos in the original language (maybe during the spring term). Pseudo-Longinos is one root for later Western popular culture theories in ancient Rome.

OTHER: I have studied Chinese (3 years), Japanese (intensive basics for Japanologists) and Russian (2 years), then done basic self-studies in Romanian, Slovakian and Sanskrit, to get some basic understanding of the languages, but I don't speak and I am not able to read in any of these (I am still working on Sanskrit, so maybe one day).

MY DREAM would be that I learned to read (ancient) Greek, Arabic and Hebrew at some point, but this might be retirement stuff. In June I am going for a basic course in Somali language.