

Curriculum vitae

Elina Salmela, PhD

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Contact information

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Education and degrees awarded

Doctor of Philosophy: University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine, major subject Medical Genetics
Master of Science: University of Turku, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, major subject Genetics, minor subjects animal ecology, biochemistry, and mathematics

Current position

Postdoctoral researcher SUGRIGE project of Professor Päivi Onkamo, University of Turku / University of Helsinki and visiting postdoctoral researcher at Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany
1 October 2016 onwards

Research funding

Postdoctoral grant from Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, October 2017, 12 months, 28000 euros; "Suomalainen muinais-DNA: Suomi tuhat vuotta sitten" [Ancient DNA from Finland: Finland AD 1000]

Postdoctoral grant from Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation, June 2017, 6 months, 14000 euros; "Suomi tuhat vuotta sitten: suomalainen muinais-DNA ja geneettinen esihistoriamme" [Finland AD 1000: ancient DNA and our genetic past]

Postdoctoral grant from Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation, October 2014, 12 months, 28000 euros; "Kokoon vaikuttavien geenien paikannus jättikoiraroduilla" [Mapping genes regulating body size in giant dog breeds]

Grant from Biocentrum Helsinki, October 2011, 3 months, 5000 euros; "Aivovasteiden geneettinen perusta" [Genetic underpinnings of brain responses]

Supervision of academic theses

Supervision of doctoral studies of M.Sc. Sanni Peltola, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences; January 2020 onwards

Supervision of B.Sc. thesis of Sannimari Suhonen, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences; November 2019 onwards

Supervision of Master's thesis of B.Sc. Ambra d'Aurelio, "Preliminary genetic analyses of ancient individuals from the archeological site of Luistari in South-Western Finland", University of Rome Tor Vergata, School of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences; January 2018 - March 2019

Supervision of doctoral studies of M.Sc. Kirsi Järvi, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine; January - December 2014, co-supervisor prof. Hannes Lohi

Merits in teaching

Lecturer in the course "Gene Mapping", University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, January - February 2019

Lecturer in the course "Human Evolution and Cultural Change in Multidisciplinary Context", University of Turku, Faculty of Science and Engineering, October - December 2018

Lecturer in the course "Tieteellisen laskennan perustaidot" [Basic skills in academic computing], University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, October - December 2018

Lecturer in the course "Tieteellisen laskennan perustaidot" [Basic skills in academic computing], University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, April - May 2018

Lecturer in the course "Informaali oppiminen ja opettajankoulutus" [Informal learning and pedagogical studies], on lecture "Historia, kieli, DNA" [History, language, and DNA], University of Helsinki, Faculty of Educational Sciences, 11 April 2018

Lecturer in the course "Tieteellisen laskennan perustaidot" [Basic skills in academic computing], University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, November - December 2017

Lecturer in the course "Gene Mapping", University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, February - March 2017

Assistant teacher in the course "Bioinformatiikka 2017" [Bioinformatics 2017], University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, 10 February 2017

Organizer and lecturer in the course "Tieteellisen laskennan perustaidot" [Basic skills in academic computing], University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, October - December 2016

Coordinator of the course "Sequence analysis and R" organized by Molecular Neurology Research Program, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with CSC, August - November 2015

Visiting lecturer in the course "Biology for Methodological Scientists: Medical Genetics", University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine, 10 February 2010

Visiting lecturer in the course "Introduction to human molecular genetics", University of Helsinki, Faculty of Medicine, 15 December 2008

Other academic merits

Co-organizing the symposium "The interdisciplinary past of the Uralic linguistic area" at CIFU XIII (Congressus XIII Internationalis Fenno-Ugristarum), 16-21 August 2020 in Vienna, Austria

Co-organizing the Workshop on Contacts and Dispersal in the Uralic area, 26-28 August 2019 in Seili, Finland

Co-organizing the symposium "Tracing evolution through time using ancient DNA" at the 2019 Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB2019), 19-24 August 2019 in Turku, Finland

Co-organizing the seminar Human Evolution and Cultural Change, 1-2 November 2018 in Turku, Finland

Co-organizing the 1st Archeogenetics in the Archipelago Workshop, 1-5 August 2016 in Seili, Finland

Member of the Academy Club for Young Scientists of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, 2015-2016

Scientific and societal impact of research

Publications:

29 peer-reviewed publications and 2 academic theses (see full list at www.iki.fi/elsa/publications); Hirsch index 12.

Academic talks:

"Overview of the genetic history of human populations in the Finnic area", Workshop on Contacts and Dispersal in the Uralic area, Nauvo, Finland, 26 August 2019

"Population genetics and past human populations", Seminar on Human Evolution and Cultural Change, Turku, Finland, 1 November 2018

"A 1400-year transect of ancient DNA reveals recent genetic changes in the Finnish population", 8th International Symposium on Biomolecular Archaeology ISBA 2018, Jena, Germany, 18-21 September 2018

"Se toimii sittenkin! Muinais-DNA:n analyysit arkeologian apuna" ["Albeit it does work! Utilizing analyses of ancient DNA in archaeology"], Annual symposium of the National Board of Antiquities, National Museum, Helsinki, Finland, 2 February 2018

"Muinais-DNA-tutkimusta Suomessa SUGRIGE-projektissa" [Ancient-DNA research in Finland by the SUGRIGE project], Arkeologian iltapäivä [Annual seminar of Archaeology research at University of Helsinki], Helsinki, Finland, 11 December 2017

"Finland 1000 years: a genetic view into the population history of Finns", Linguistics, Archaeology & Genetics Workshop - The origin and expansions of Uralic speaking populations, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany, 30 November 2017

"Population genetic analysis of ancient DNA data: tools, limitations, and interpretation of results", Domestic Animals in the Viking Age Workshop, Turku, Finland, 15 November 2017

"What ancient DNA can tell about the history of Uralic populations", Inaugural symposium of the Collegium for Transdisciplinary Studies in Archeology, Genetics and Linguistics, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia, 10 November 2017

"Population genetics and genetic peculiarities in the Nordic countries", 4th Nordic Skeletal Dysplasia Workshop, Helsinki, Finland, 10 March 2017

"East Fennoscandian prehistory told from a genetic perspective", Symposium on Seeking the Human Landscape: Archaeology, Anthropology and Indigenous Studies, Helsinki, Finland, 3 March 2017

"Suomen väestöhistoriaa geenien kertomana" ["Finnish population history as told by genes"], Academy Club for Young Scientists of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Helsinki, Finland, 18 April 2016; video available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4vax1i1Xvw>

"Human population genetics of Fennoscandia", The Fennoscandian and Finno-Ugric past in the light of genes, languages and cultures, Turku, Finland, 10 February 2016

"Selective sweeps in the woods and garden: Genome-wide scanning for positive selection in wolves and dogs", Seminars in Ecology and Evolution, University of Turku, Finland, 13 October 2015

"Something old, something new, something borrowed: Glances into the genetic landscape in and around Finland", Symposium on Archaeology, Genetics, and Linguistics of [Finns and] Uralic Peoples / (BEDLAN goes Argeopop), Forssa, Finland, 11-13 November 2013

"Finns, Swedes, and genes: genome-wide insights into population structure and history", Seminars in Ecology and Evolution, University of Turku, Finland, 5 February 2013

"Genetic structure in Finland and Sweden - aspects of population history and gene mapping", Seminar on Biological Evolution and the Diversification of Languages (BEDLAN2012), Nauvo, Finland, 19-21 September 2012

"The (mis)interpretation of population genetics results", Seminar on Biological Evolution and the Diversification of Languages (BEDLAN2011), Nauvo, Finland, 21-23 September 2011

"Genetiikan mahdollisuudet (tai mahdottomuudet) väestön menneisyyden tutkimisessä" ["The (im)possibilities of genetics in studying the past of populations"], Suomen viikinkiajan määrittely eri tieteenalojen lähestymistapojen valossa – The Viking Age in Finland Defined in the Light of the Approaches of Different Disciplines, Helsinki, Finland, 28-29 April 2011

"Genetic structure of the Finnish population", Seminar on Biological Evolution and the Diversification of Languages (BEDLAN2010), Nauvo, Finland, 22-24 September 2010

"Swedish population structure illuminated by genome-wide SNPs", Seminars at the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, 23 April 2010

[Poster presentations in international conferences:](#)

"A major genetic turnover in the Finnish population since the Iron Age", EMBO | EMBL Symposium "Reconstructing the Human Past - Using Ancient and Modern Genomics", 31 March - 3 April 2019, Heidelberg, Germany

"Selective sweep mapping for tail shape suggests reinterpretation of a canine brachycephaly locus", 8th International Conference on Advances in Canine and Feline Genomics and Inherited Disease, 22-26 June 2015, Cambridge, UK

"Genome-wide linkage analysis suggests oligogenic regulation of the human parieto-occipital 10-Hz rhythmic activity", 63rd American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting, 22-26 October 2013, Boston, U.S.A.

"Genome-wide linkage analysis suggests oligogenic regulation of brain auditory responses", 12th International Congress of Human Genetics / 61st American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting, 11-15 October 2011, Montreal, Canada

"A genome-wide analysis of population structure in Sweden", The Biology of Genomes, 11-15 May 2010, Cold Spring Harbor, U.S.A.

"A genome-wide analysis of population structure in Sweden", The 11th International Meeting on Human Genome Variation and Complex Genome Analysis (HGV2009), 11-13 September 2009, Tallinn, Estonia

"Genome-wide analysis of population structure in Northern Europe", The Biology of Genomes, 6-10 May 2008, Cold Spring Harbor, U.S.A.

Interviews in the media and other popularisation of science:

Publications for lay audience

Science blog *Akateeminen ilonpilaaja [The Academic Spoilsport]* at www.iki.fi/elsa/blogi: 29 blog posts (mostly in Finnish) since August 2016

"Onko suomalaisten perimä lähimpänä Euroopan alkuperäisväestöä?" [Answer to a reader's question whether Finns are genetically closest to ancient Europeans], *Kalmistopiiri* blog (ISSN 2489-9305), 4 December 2019

Finnish translation of the colouring book *Adventures in Archaeological Science*, July 2019

Presentations aimed at the general public

Lecturer at Espoo City Museum, Espoo, Finland, 2 October 2019

Visiting (remote) lecturer at Lyseo upper secondary school, Jyväskylä, Finland via the "Tutkija tavattavissa" [Skype a Scientist] initiative, 26 March 2019

Lecturer at the "Luistari 50 vuotta – uusia tutkimuksia ja tuloksia" seminar [50 years of Luistari - new studies and results], Eura, Finland, 9 March 2019

Visiting lecturer at Sveitsi upper secondary school, Hyvinkää, Finland, 28 February 2019

Lecturer at the seminar "Muinaissuomalaisten DNA:ta metsästämissä" [Hunting for ancient Finnish DNA], Museum Centre Vapriikki, Tampere, Finland, 19 January 2019

Lecturer at Fresh from Campus lecture series in Tiedekulma, Helsinki, Finland, 24 October 2018

Lecturer at The Night of the Museums, Museum Centre Vapriikki, Tampere, Finland, 19 May 2018

Visiting lecturer, Annual meeting of the Finnish society of amateur archaeologists Ango, Helsinki, Finland, 1 April 2017

Participant in panel discussion "Suomalaisuuden alkuperä" [The origin of Finns] at Kirjamessut [Annual Book Fair], Helsinki, Finland, 26 October 2017

Visiting lecturer, Kotkan kritiikkpäivät, Kotka, Finland, 1 February 2014

Visiting lecturer, Summer university of Central Ostrobothnia, Kokkola, Finland, 30 November 2011

Visiting lecturer, Lääketiede tänään [Medicine today] seminar series, Espoo, Finland, 9 November 2011

Visiting lecturer, Seminar of Eurooppanuoret, Porvoo, Finland, 27 August 2011

Interviews in the media

Interview in Helsingin Sanomat, 2 October 2019

Visiting debater in "Ruben Stiller" live broadcast, Finnish Broadcasting Company, 25 February 2019

Interview in Helsingin Sanomat, 13 February 2019

Interview in Yle Tampere radio, 19 January 2019

Interview in Helsingin Sanomat, 1 December 2018

Interview in Lännen Media, 15 April 2018

Background interview and data analysis for visualizations for feature article "Keitä me olemme?" [Who are we] in Helsingin Sanomat Kuukausiliite, 3 March 2018

Interview in Vasabladet, 3 September 2016

Comment in Uusi Suomi, 24 August 2016

Interview in Karjalainen, 16 April 2016

Interview in Ilta-Sanomat, 15 May 2015

Interview in Finnish popular science magazine "Tiede", April 2015

Interview in Yliopisto magazine, October 2012

Interview in radio news, Finnish Broadcasting Company, 5 October 2012

Visiting debater (with professor of linguistics Janne Saarikivi) in "Ajankohtainen Ykkönen" live broadcast, Finnish Broadcasting Company, 4 October 2012

Interview for Finnish news agency STT, 2 October 2012

Interview in TV and radio news, Finnish Broadcasting Company, 24 October 2008