

RIINA HANNUKSELA (May 5, 1979)

is a doctoral researcher in dance at Tutke, the Centre for Performing Arts Research at the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki. She has over fifteen years of experience working in the field of dance art with diverse individuals and communities. In her artistic research, she examines the manifestation of embodied knowledge within the context of inclusive dance.



CONTACT

Vuorenpaikontie 3 B 64, 00820 Helsinki, Finland
riina.hannuksela@uniarts.fi
+ 358 40 517 9185
www.riinahannuksela.com
Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-8844-7898>
[Uniarts Cris](#) (database)

DEGREES

- 1.8.2023– Doctoral Researcher (full-time) in dance at the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki
- 15.12.2010 BA in Dance Education || Savonia University of Applied Sciences
- 11.5.2006 MA in Cultural History || Faculty of Arts, University of Turku and Alexander Institute – Master School of Russian and East European Studies, coordinated by the University of Helsinki
- 16.10.2003 BA in Cultural History || Faculty of Arts, University of Turku
- 1.9.1999– MA studies (German Language and Culture) || Faculty of Arts, University of Helsinki

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDIES

- 29.5.2010 Live Art Supplement Studies, 30 cr || Savonia University of Applied Sciences
- 17.12.2010 Vocational Teacher Qualification 60 cr || JAMK University of Applied Sciences

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Finnish: first language
English: fluent
Russian, German and Swedish: good

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Doctoral Researcher (Funded by Kone Foundation)
Salaried Doctoral Researcher 1.8.2023–31.7.2025
The Performing Arts Research Centre Tutke at the Theatre Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki

CAREER BREAKS

- 2015–2016 Partial Parental Leave (1,5 years)
- 2011–2013 Partial Parental Leave (2,5 years)

RECENT FUNDING AND GRANTS (ART + RESEARCH)

- 2024–2027 *On the Emergence of Embodied Knowledge: A Feminist and New Materialist Perspective on Diverse Bodily Knowing and Artistic Collaboration* || Doctoral Researcher Hannuksela: Kone Foundation, Science and arts, 180 000 € (awarded in 2023)
- 2022–2023 *Gen Z Dance Film Trilogy* – Films that aim at diversifying the representation of one generation || Hannuksela and work group: Finnish Cultural Foundation Uusimaa Regional Fund 20 000 €, Top Project Grand in 2022

- 2021–2024 *ELLA – Embodied Language Learning Through the Arts*, PI || Doctor of Arts, Professor in Dance Pedagogy
Eeva Anttila: Kone Foundation, 396 000 €, Science and Arts (awarded 2020)
- 2021–2022 *Working Class Background Embodied* || Master of Dance, Laura Lehtinen and work group: Kone
Foundation, 120 900 €, Science and Arts (awarded 2020)
- 2013–2016 TALK – Art and Movement in Language Learning|| Zodiak – Centre for New Dance: Katja Kirsi and work
group: Kone Foundation, science and arts, 170 000 €, Multilingualism and art grant (awarded 2013)

ARTISTIC AND ARTIST-PEDAGOGICAL WORK RELATED TO THE RECEIVED GRANTS

- 2025 Ihanat Company: 2 X 2 || Choreography and direction; Cultural Centre Caisa & X Dance Festival, Helsinki,
Finland
- 2023 *Gen Z Dance Film Trilogy: Sininen (The Blue), Musta (Black) and Pinkki* || A dancer (dir. Kati Kallio,
choreography: dancers)
- 2023 *I, water– Traces of me in the city* || A community artist and director: a collaborative walking performance
together with pupils and teachers of a preparatory class as part of ELLA research project
- 2021, 2022 *Class picture Sketch V – The Working-Class Background Embodied Project* || A performer (choreography +
dance); Jojo – Oulun Dance Centre and Viirus Theatre, Helsinki
- 2021 *Class Pictures Sketch III –The Working-Class Background Embodied Project* || A performer (choreography + dance);
SideStep Festival, Zodiak–Centre for New Dance, Helsinki, Finland
- 2020 *Class pictures Sketch I – The Working Class Background Embodied Project* || A performer (choreography + dance);
Akseli Toivonen Park, Helsinki, Finland
- 2017 Zodiak–Centre for New Dance. *TALK – Art and Movement in Language Learning*. Video Guide.

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

- 2024 Hannuksela, Aldebs and Lilja: "Frictions and blessings of doing community art in school with multilingual
pupils". Apples–Journal of Applied Language Studies, Vol. 18, No. 4, pp. 52–78.
DOI: [10.47862/apples.143070](https://doi.org/10.47862/apples.143070)
- 2024 Jusslin, Korpinen, Hannuksela and Svendler Nielsen: "Embodied and arts-integrated languages and literacies
education in primary teacher education" Apples–Journal of Applied Language Studies, Vol. 18, No. 4, pp. 125–152.
DOI: [10.47862/apples.142928](https://doi.org/10.47862/apples.142928)
- 2024 Hannuksela, Erlikh and Acton: "Choreographing the disabled spectator: Disrupting audience expectations in Dancer
and rampa landscape". Choreographic practices, Vol. 15, Issue: Differing Bodyminds: Crippling choreography, pp.
157–180. DOI: [10.1386/chor_00074_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/chor_00074_1)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Hannuksela: "By the Brook – walking methodologies as a creative inquiry in the language learning
context", Walking Art and Relational Geographies 2024, Girona, Spain.
- 2024 Hannuksela, Erlikh and Uotila-Kraatz: "Transforming the dancer through Imagining accessible, culturally
relevant dance education", Nordic Forum for Dance, Oslo, Norway.
- 2024 Anttila, Jusslin, Korpinen and Hannuksela: "Spaces, bodies and stuff as partners in thinking and writing",
European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Helsinki, Finland.
- 2023 Jusslin, Svendler Nielsen, Korpinen, Hannuksela and Bentsen: "Empowering student teachers in class
teacher education to implement arts-integrated language pedagogies" conference presentation,
LinguaPeda 2023, Jyväskylä, Finland.
- 2022 "Artist@school", seminar presentation, ELLA – Embodied Language Learning through the Arts , Åbo
Akademi Vaasa, Finland.
- 2022 Lilja, Hannuksela and Aldebs: "In and Out – Resisting Participation in Arts-based project" conference
presentation, AFinLa Autumn Symposium, Helsinki, Finland.

2019 *Who includes and who is included? Towards Active Agency through Movement and Dance* -conference presentation, International Children's Culture Forum, Tampere, Finland.

TEACHING AT HIGHER EDUCATION

2025 *Dance as an art form* (10 cr) || Co-teacher and mentor: Dance Pedagogy Students (MA), Uniarts Helsinki, Finland

2022/-23 *Applied and social choreography*, supplementary studies of choreography (20 cr) || Visiting lecturer: Open University studies, Uniarts Helsinki

2023 *Embodied and arts-integrated languages and literacies education in primary teacher education* || Visiting lecturer: Primary school, classroom and language immersion teacher students (BA), Åbo Akademi, Vaasa, Finland

2018/-20/-22/-24 *The dance artist in society* (3cr): Seminar week and practical course (6-7 weeks) || Co-teacher: Dance performance students (BA and MA), Uniarts Helsinki, Finland

2019 *Art in interaction and encounters* || Guest lecturer: Contemporary Contexts for Arts (MA), Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland

2012, 2014 *Specialisation Studies in Dance Pedagogy* || Visiting lecturer: Helsinki Summer University

OTHER ACADEMIC MERITS

2025 External supervisor for the Dance Pedagogy (MA) internship, Theatre Academy, Uniarts Helsinki

2024 External examiner for the Dance Pedagogy Master's thesis, Theatre Academy, Uniarts Helsinki

2023- Research Council of the Theatre Academy, Uniarts Helsinki, student member

ARTISTIC WORK, i.e.

2014- Ihanat Company || Company for dancers with intellectual disabilities

* Previous works: *Demo* (2021), *Dance Gift* (2016-2017), *Where are my boundaries?* (2017-2019), *The last class of the Spring term*- short film (2017)

* Sari Palmgren's Fenced Dreams Walking Performance 2017-2018

2018-2023 *Walk Me Talk Me* - Performative Walking Project

* *Acts of Daring*: performed in Kehä Festival 2019, Dance Current Tampere 2019, VanDance Festival 2019, ITÄ Festival 2018, Festival of Instant Choreography 2018

* *Sharing*: performed in Paikallismaisemia Festival 2019 (Zodiak-Centre for New Dance), Malakta Art Factory 2019, Kokkola Winter Dances Festival 2019, Porin juhlaiviikot Festival 2018

* *Walk me Talk Me @Savo*, A Step to Dance Community Dance Festival 2023, Savonlinna, Finland

2020 *Hundred Days Project* - In collaboration with Pia Lindy || A performative writing process of a hundred days

2019-2020 *Slow paths* - Improvised movement sessions for the elderly || In collaboration with Helsinki Finnish Adult Education Centre and Roihuvuori Senior Centre

2019 *Star-Crushers in the Chaos of Galaxies* - Dance performance in collaboration with an inclusion class at the Käpylä Comprehensive School and Dancer of Ihanat Company || Zodiak-Centre for New Dance, Helsinki Finland

2018-2019 *The Agency for Caring Acts* - Community Art Project in the suburbs || Roihuvuori, Helsinki 2018 and Stoa Itäkeskus, Helsinki 2019, Finland

2018 *I Love Me Lunch Play* - Participatory Mobile Game || Anti Contemporary Art Festival, Kuopio, Finland

2018 *Towards* - Walking Project || Roihuvuori Village Party, Helsinki, Finland

2010 Arts into Care Units Project - Movement sessions for the elderly and a performance addressed to the residents of the unit || Nursing Home Simonkylä, Vantaa, Finland

OTHER MERITS, lectures, keynotes, teachings...

2025	<i>Making the invisible visible – Breaking down the barriers to vocational/professional training for dancers with intellectual/learning disabilities</i> – Panel discussion Moderator; X Dance Festival 2025
2025	Dance workshop for dancers with intellectual disabilities and their communities Ws-leader; X Dance Festival 2025
2025	Bilingual workshop for dancers with intellectual disabilities (FIN/ENG) – workshop and demo performance ws-leader + choreographer; X Dance Festival 2025
2024	<i>Dancing Together: Exploring and changing how we collaborate and include everyone in Dance (Ihanat Company Case Study)-keynote lecture</i> INCLUD Seminar, Vocational school Live, Espoo, Finland.
2024	<i>Digital possibilities in inclusive dance</i> panel discussion Panelist; ADDN JOMBA Ability Dance Festival Colloquium, Durban, South Africa.
2023	<i>Artist and Society. Ethical questions and negotiation at the centre of an artistic practices</i> Keynote lecture, Kiertoliike Forum for Dance Professionals, Jyväskylä, Finland 6.10.2023.
2023	<i>On self-determined movement and choreography</i> Invited lecturer; Seminar on Disabilities, 3.3.2023 Vantaa vocational school Varia, Finland
2021	Intensive Dive into Inclusive Criticism" workshop for art critics Lecturer; Finnish Critics' Association
2021	Community Dance Festival Curator and producer
2019–2020	<i>Huuma – Future Skills for Youth</i> – Movement and dance film workshops with youth in vulnerable situations Workshop leader; The Children and Youth Foundation
2019	Inclusivity and accessibility in art and art education paner Panelist; DiDa – Disability Day Art & Action
2018	Panel on inclusive choreography Moderator; X Dance Festival 2018
2018	Where are my boundaries -workshop for families Co-facilitation with Ihanat dancers, X Dance Festival, Helsinki, Finland
2018	X Dance Festival KIDS Producer; X Dance Festival
2018	Dance and Movement-based for musicians working with children and young people with special needs Co-facilitation with Ihanat Dancers Music Centre Resonaari
2018	Pretalks Lecturer; Zodiak – Centre for New Dance
2017	The development of integrated dance Panelis; X Dance Festival 2017
2017–2022	Arts-based methods in supporting language learning – supplementary training for language and classroom teachers Educator; Zodiak–Centre for New Dance: e.g. University of Turku, cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Oulu, Rovaniemi and Lempäälä
2014–2020	Dance Classes for pupils with special needs Workshop leader, Zodiak–Centre for New Dance, in collaboration with Käpylä comprehensive school and after-school club
2013–2018	TALK – Art and movement in Language Learning -workshop Artist instructor (Russian language and Finnish as a second language); Zodiak–Centre for New Dance
2016–	Inclusive dance workshops, e.g., in international festivals
2014–2016	Kinesthetic language workshops Workshop leader; Zodiak–Centre for New Dance and Finnish Institute in Estonia, in various schools in Estonia
2007–2015	Dance Teacher multiple employers: e.g., contemporary dance, ballet, jazz, children's creative dance, dance history and dancers with special needs
2007–2010	Critic (freelance) Dance, circus and live art; Savon Sanomat

SOCIETAL IMPACT, writings, publications ...

- 2023 Hannuksela, Riina, Lehtinen Laura and Virva Talonen: Makuasioista – Maun yksilöllisestä ja yhteisöllisestä muotoutumisesta ja sen vaikutuksesta esittävässä taiteissa. (Eng: On taste – the individuality and shared nature of taste within performing arts) In Heikkilä, Elsa, Lahdenperä, Soile and Lehtinen Laura (eds.) 2023. *Tanssitaide, luokka ja ruumiillisuus – Kirjoituksia yhteiskuntaluokasta ja taidetyöstä*, Teatterikorkeakoulun julkaisusarja 78. Theatre Academy of The University of the Arts, Helsinki. [URN:ISBN:978-952-353-067-6](https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-353-067-6). (ENG title: On matters of taste - The individual and communal formation of taste and its influence in the performing arts)
- 2021 Hannuksela, Riina and Karhunen, Maija. 2021. Tienviittoja kohti inklusiivisempaa taidekriittikää. In Backström, Heidi (ed.) Yhteinen kritiikki näkökulmia yhteisöllisyyteen ja inklusioon. Suomen Arvostelijain liitto, Helsinki. (ENG title: Signposts towards a more inclusive art criticism)
- 2020 Hannuksela, Riina: Nykytanssin katsomoissa vain hetkittäin unohdan sen, mistä olen lähtöisin. Verkkolehti Mustekala 22.6.2020, <https://mustekala.info/nykytanssin-katsomoissa-vain-hetkittain-unohdan-sen-mista-olen-lahtoisin/> (ENG title: In contemporary dance audiences, I only occasionally forget where I come from)
- 2020 Hannuksela, Riina: Inklusiivisuudesta hyötyvät kaikki, Goethe-instituutin verkkojulkaisu, kesäkuu 2020, <https://www.goethe.de/ins/fi/fi/kul/mag/21872174.html> (ENG title: Inclusion benefits all)

POSITIONS OF TRUST AND RECOGNITIONS

- 2025– A Founding member of Uniarts Helsinkin Doctoral Researchers' Committee
- 2025– Chair of Tanssiareena Association board (Moving in November – Contemporary Dance Festival)
- 2024– Tanssiareena Association board member (Moving in November – Contemporary Dance Festival)
- 2023 The Community Dance Artist of the Year
- 2023– Member of ADDN – African Disability Dance Network
- 2021–2024 Liikekieli.com Online Magazine – Board member
- 2019–2023 Chair of the Community Dance Association Finland Board
- 2018–2019 Steering group member || Sata2- Accessible Art Education 2, Association of Children's Culture in Finland
- 2017– Community Dance Association Finland Board member