

Centre for Social Data Science (CSDS)

Annual report 2021

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Figure 1: Summary of abstracts from the papers published by CSDS staff in 2021.

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Executive Summary

The **Centre for Social Data Science (CSDS)** originated in 2019 as an emergent, situated and self-organized activity by staff from the disciplines of social statistics, computational methods and big data at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. Officially CSDS was established in October 2019 by a decree from the Faculty of Social Sciences. The year 2021 was our second full year of operation.

Social Data Science is a globally emerging field of research and teaching that formulates and begins to answer relevant questions concerning data, society, and digitalization. It deals with openness of social data, its methods of analysis, the bridging of quantitative and qualitative approaches, making use of, visualizing and interpreting data, applications in society, and the discovery of healthy societal and collaborative processes related to data and its use. Potential questions include: How can data science methods be used in planning better social and health services? What types of data do social media generate and how can we make use of them? What new services could we create with the help of data science? How can data science support evidence-based decision-making for the government, organizations and private companies? What ethical challenges are machine learning and artificial intelligence developers facing and how are they being handled? How can we foster open collaboration in solving questions about society with the help of data?

Year 2021 represents growth for the CSDS in terms of Master's and PhD students, research staff, and teaching. The first cohort of Social Data Science study track Master level students was recruited in 2021 to the COS (Contemporary Societies) Master's Programme, and CSDS Senior University Lecturer Kimmo Vehkalahti became the director of COS. We have participated in infrastructure development on a national level in FIN-CLARIAH, acquired research funding from the Strategic Research Council and other sources, and we are involved in the development of the new HSSH. Joint activities such as open Friday consulting and coffee have been established with the HSSH, and new activities are being planned. We have extended CSDS community activities involving specifically our PhD students and by establishing a research discussion forum. We have been active in building structural alliances through human-level engagement with our network of societal organizations.

Year 2021 was the 2nd Pandemic year that continued to challenge traditional ways of research and teaching. We have met these challenges by becoming early adopters of new technology and good practices for virtual meetings as well as by opening faculty-level discussion among methodology teachers on good and emerging practices in digital teaching.

In 2021 we established a new leadership model for the CSDS. Within this model, the director and vice director positions are both held on a rotating basis by the faculty of the CSDS. The rotating model is blind to traditional academic hierarchies and all teaching faculty of the CSDS can expect and look forward to holding the leadership positions. This model is designed to help to spread both the responsibility of and rewards to leadership to all CSDS faculty. In the fall the former director Krista Lagus and vice-Director Mikko Myrskylä passed the torch to incoming director Matti Nelimarkka and vice-director Maria Valaste. Our

ambition is to implement this rotation also to other administrative, teaching, and research leadership positions within the Centre.

Our core strengths include *world-class research excellence* in key fields of social data science, which attracts also foreign students and postdoctoral scientists, our *teaching excellence* including being forerunners in online teaching, MOOCs and some very large courses, our *open innovative mindset and future orientation*, as well as a *heartful and friendly culture* that we have been able to establish and maintain. Regarding the community, we have built and intend to extend our strengths, and the good spirit and the relaxed and joyful atmosphere continue to support us through all the challenges from external factors.

For the future, we foresee that the COVID-19 pandemic and the distance work will continue and least in the first half of the year 2022, and having good digital practices will therefore continue to be central. The war in Ukraine and increasing limitations to basic rights in Russia are resulting in people fleeing from both countries. The CSDS welcomes scientists from Ukraine and Russia and works to help them to integrate into our professional community and to the communities of our networks.

Locally, we continue to be affected by the Faculty building renovations that challenge current space allocations of disciplines and research centers. We hope to maintain our current physical location, where we have established a shared office block for our staff, and we hope to continue to develop its interior design and furniture towards an actual meeting place for students and staff, for a time when the pandemic lifts and we can all meet again in person.

During 2022 and 2023, we focus our attention on five core areas. First, our teaching continues to spearhead quantitative and data-intensive methods for social sciences and datafication and digitalisation of the society. We collaborate within the faculty, for example with the consumer society research center in our teaching. We are also further developing the social data science and data & society tracks in Contemporary Societies master program and will take a more active role in their quantitative methods teaching. We continue to expand our teaching: more classes will be opened to faculty and staff to help the methodological renewal; also our classes both in quantitative and qualitative methods are offered to PhD students.

Second, our research is forming around research groups hosted at the Centre for Social Data Science, focusing on topics such as population dynamics, social inequalities in health, crowdsourcing and textual data analysis, politics of technology and practices of data science. Following University of Helsinki strategic goals, we seek to involve graduate students heavily in research projects.

Third, the Centre for Social Data Science also hosts various services and infrastructures for the faculty. CSDS develops infrastructures for textual analysis of digital data (DARIAH infrastructure project) and image analysis (C. V. Åkerlund funded project). We also support faculty work in the area of crowdsourcing and text analysis in them and host an advanced survey platform (LimeSurvey) for researchers at the University of Helsinki. In the academic

year 2022-2023 we will expand materials to help research projects to benefit from CSC services. We will continue the free-of-charge support and methodological discussion through Friday Coffees where we partner with HSSH.

Fourth, in the Faculty action plan CSDS is given the responsibility to support the Faculty in hybrid and distant teaching. To gain experience in these, we continue to organize hybrid and distant courses in 2022-2023. Social Statistics MOOC will be moved to DigiCampus platform to gain first-hand experience of it, and Introduction to Open Data Science and Qualitative Research and Computers remain as hybrid and online courses. We organize events in the start of the semesters to support teachers' competences in hybrid teaching arrangements and develop Faculty relations with other key stakeholders such as the MOOC center. We also continue to research student and teacher experiences about hybrid and distant learning and expand our expertise to cover not only teaching but work practices. During 2022, we will develop a way to disseminate our experiences and findings to the faculty.

Fifth, we seek to continue to thrive as a community. After COVID we need to engage our community, including integration of students and PhD researchers. We develop our operational model and ways of working during 2022. We also acknowledge the need to ensure we collaborate with Helsinki Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (HSSH) in a way which produces the most value to the Faculty of Social Science.

The online window to our activities is the **new** (2021 revised and renamed) **CSDS website** at <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/networks/centre-social-data-science>

Overall, we consider our second full year of operation to have been an excellent continuation to the great start of our newly established research center. The need for social data science is growing, and there is enormous potential in extending to new areas in society. Our leadership, initiative and open development orientation can also help the overall progress in the context of collaboration in the midst of challenging times.

The CSDS agenda: What we aim for

The Centre for Social Data Science (CSDS) advocates the use of data science methods and data-driven inquiry within the social sciences. The CSDS conducts both (1) methodologically oriented basic research about research methods and (2) applied research within the social sciences when advanced methods are required.

The CSDS strongly promotes open data and open science practices; it develops and maintains infrastructure for data collection, preparation, analysis, and validation; and it aims to foster and increase the collaboration between researchers and methodology experts inside and outside academia. These initiatives are meant to improve both basic research and applied research on research methods; also with the intention to provide data analysis tools that are suitable for addressing challenges that may increasingly arise due to continuing transformation processes such as the datafication and digitalization of the society.

The CSDS has identified the clear need to consolidate, advance, and connect research and teaching in digital, computational, and data-driven social sciences in order to equip contemporary and future generations with the methodological skills necessary to understand new social phenomena proactively. The CSDS core team and its broader network aim to meet this identified need with many activities and innovative initiatives as part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. Many of the more important implications of the datafication and digitalization of society are best understood using the intellectual frameworks that are based on social science research. Therefore, the need to thoroughly integrate digital, computational, and data science with the social sciences is both evident and urgent.

The CSDS aims to advance the integration of data science and the social sciences; it is strongly committed to a data-driven approach that transcends the question of whether research is qualitative or quantitative; and it strives for strong collaboration with public and private organizations in both teaching and research related to Social Data Science. The CSDS acknowledges societal interaction as one of its core tasks and participates actively in various societal processes that are relevant to understanding and steering the datafication and digitalization of the society. This also involves interacting closely and frequently with the general public, media, policy makers, and stakeholders.

CSDS personnel: Who we are

As of December 2021, the CSDS consists of six core staff members. Its broader network includes Fellows, PhD students, Research and Teaching Assistants, Visiting lecturers, and Professors Emeriti.

Core staff

[Matti Nelimarkka](#), University Lecturer in Computational Social Science, Director of CSDS starting 1.1.2022

[Maria Valaste](#), University Lecturer in Social Data Science, Deputy Director of CSDS starting 1.1.2022

[Krista Lagus](#), Professor of Digital Social Science, Director of CSDS until 31.12.2021

[Mikko Myrskylä](#), Professor of Social Data Science, Deputy Director of CSDS until 31.12.2021

[Kimmo Vehkalahti](#), Senior University Lecturer in Social Data Science

[Joni Oksanen](#), Doctoral Researcher

[Christina Bohk-Ewald](#), University Lecturer in Applied Data Science and Demography, who played a vitally important role in establishing the CSDS in 2020 and 2021, resigned from her position in the fall 2021 in order to develop and lead a data science team in a private company focused on the analysis of biomarker data.

Fellows

- [Catarina Ahlvik](#), Affiliated Researcher (Hanken School of Economics)
- [Michele Cantarella](#), Postdoctoral Researcher (Economics and Political Science)
- [Daria Gritsenko](#), Assistant Professor (Russian Big Data Methodology)
- [Ilja Kavonius](#), University Researcher (Economic and Social History)
- [Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen](#), Associate Professor (Sociology, Social Policy)
- [Hanna Konttinen](#), University Lecturer (Sociology)
- [Riikka Koulou](#), Assistant Professor (Law and Digitalisation)
- [Salla-Maaria Laaksonen](#), Postdoctoral Researcher (Media and Comm. Studies)
- [Krister Lindén](#), Research Director (Language Technology)
- [Eetu Mäkelä](#), Associate Professor (Human Sciences–Computing Interaction)
- [Minna Ruckenstein](#), Associate Professor (Digital Innovations & Consumer Society)
- [Reijo Sund](#), Professor (Register Studies, University of Eastern Finland)
- [Mikko Tolonen](#), Assistant Professor (Digital Humanities)
- [Julia Velkova](#), Assistant Professor (Technology and Social Change, Linköping)
- [Laszlo Vincze](#), University Lecturer (Quantitative Methods)

Doctoral Students

Anton Berg, Ricarda Duerst, Leila Gharavi, Titi Gävert, Julia Hellstrand, Riia Järvenpää, Siva Krishnan, Markus Petteri Laine, Riku Laine, Vassilis Maltezos, Miika Mäki, Joni Oksanen, Viivi Pentikäinen, Maria Ponkilainen, Santeri Räisänen, Riina-Julia Solman, Donata Stonkute, Anastasiia Volkova, Marjoriikka Ylisiurua, Marcella Zoccoli

Professors Emeriti

[Juha Alho](#) (Social Statistics), [Risto Lehtonen](#) (Social Statistics), [Seppo Mustonen](#) (Statistics), [Hannu Niemi](#) (Statistics), [Lauri Tarkkonen](#) (Statistics)

CSDS activities in 2021

The manifold activities of the CSDS have (i) integrated data science and the social sciences in teaching and research and (ii) promoted social data science in and out the academic world.



Matti Nelimarkka, director of CSDS starting from 2022, reflects on 2021: I continued to work with external stakeholders and renewed my teaching and research through these engagements. My collaboration with Long Play led to an article on TikTok's recommendation systems not working as strongly in Finland - a contribution to the wider discussion of algorithmic systems and its problems. My work with Futurice has helped me to bring more practitioner oriented data science themes to my teaching.

Teaching in the academic year 2020-2021

The CSDS core staff, fellows, and teaching assistants have offered a wide variety of courses related to Social Data Science, in English and Finnish, for students undertaking bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and post-doctoral programmes, mostly as part of the Master's Programme in Contemporary Societies (COS) and the Doctoral Programme of the Social Sciences (SOST). Some courses have belonged to the Bachelor's Programme in Social Sciences (SOSK) or have been common to most bachelor's programmes in the Faculty or have been available as MOOCs in the Open University.

A key teaching-related event for the CSDS in 2021 was our full integration to the COS (Contemporary Societies) Master's Programme. This integration is underscored by us recruiting the first cohort of Social Data Science Master level students to the COS program, and by CSDS Senior University Lecturer Kimmo Vehkalahti becoming the director of COS.

Many students of the Faculty of Social Sciences and other faculties at the University of Helsinki have taken one or more courses organized by the CSDS core staff during the 2020-21 academic year. Almost all courses were taught in English.

Teaching in the 2020-2021 academic year by CSDS core staff:

Period 1 (Sep-Oct 2020)

- [COS-D402 Co-creative Methods of Collaboration in Societal Challenges](#) (Krista Lagus)
- [SOST-930 Introduction to Computational Social Science](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)
- [SOST-930a Introduction to Programming for Social Scientists](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)
- [SOST-9151 Social Data Science PhD Seminar I+II](#) (CSDS)
- [VALT-103 Johdatus yhteiskuntatilastotieteeseen, osa 1](#) (Kimmo Vehkalahti)

Period 2 (Nov-Dec 2020)

- [COS-D407 Scientific Modeling and Model Validation 1](#) (Christina Bohk-Ewald)
- [COS-D422 Scientific Modeling and Model Validation 2](#) (Christina Bohk-Ewald)
- [COS-D411 Data Wrangling and Analysis](#) (Maria Valaste)
- [COS-D413 Register Based Research and Data Analysis](#) (Maria Valaste & Krista Lagus)
- [COS-D421 The Political in Human-Computer Interaction](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)
- [SOST-930 Introduction to Computational Social Science](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)
- [SOST-930a Introduction to Programming for Social Scientists](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)
- [SOST-9151 Social Data Science PhD Seminar I+II](#) (CSDS)
- [VALT-104 Johdatus yhteiskuntatilastotieteeseen, osa 2](#) (Kimmo Vehkalahti)
- [PHD-302 Introduction to Open Data Science](#) (Kimmo Vehkalahti)

Intensive period (Jan 2021)

- [SOST-932c Network Analysis](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)

Period 3 (Jan-Feb 2021)

- [COS-D415 Survey Methodology](#) (Maria Valaste)
- [COS-D418 Exploratory Methods of Multivariate Data Analysis](#) (Kimmo Vehkalahti)
- [SOST-932a Digital Constructive and Experimental Methods for Social Sciences](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)
- [SOST-9151 Social Data Science PhD Seminar I+II](#) (CSDS)
- [SOSK-403 Sosiaalitutkimuksen tilastolliset menetelmät](#) (Maria Valaste & Kimmo Vehkalahti et al)
- [KIK-417 Johdatus digitaalisiin ihmistieteisiin](#) (CSDS in collaboration with [HELDIG](#))

Period 4 (Mar-Apr 2021)

- [COS-D409 Forecasting II: Applied Research Project part A](#) (Christina Bohk-Ewald)
- [COS-D423 Forecasting II: Applied Research Project part B](#) (Christina Bohk-Ewald)
- [COS-D416 Survey Sampling](#) (Maria Valaste)
- [SOST-9151 Social Data Science PhD Seminar I+II](#) (CSDS)

- [KUKA-501 Introduction to Digital Humanities and Social Sciences](#) (CSDS in collaboration with [HELDIG](#))
- [SOST-943 Qualitative Research and Computers](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)

Intensive period (May 2021)

- [COS-D401 Introduction to the Framework of Economic Statistics](#) (Ilja Kavonius et al)
- [SOST-943 Qualitative Research and Computers](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)

Summer 2021

- [SICSS: Summer Institute in Computational Social Science](#) (Matti Nelimarkka)

Research in 2021

The core personnel of the CSDS carried out, presented, published, and disseminated research in a range of fields of Social Data Science. The research projects integrated topics such as machine learning, computational science, digital science / humanities, and statistical demography. The CSDS has also successfully received funding and submitted applications for additional funding in order to establish new and extend ongoing research activities related to Social Data Science.

The front page figure shows the most typical words in the abstracts from the papers published by CSDS staff in 2021.

Publications

Facebook is not a silver bullet for teachers' professional development: Anatomy of an eight-year-old social-media community. **Nelimarkka, M.**, Leinonen, T., Durall, E. & Dean, P., Nov 2021, In: Computers & Education. 173, 13 p., 104269.

Affective visual rhetoric of the far-right across social media. Laaksonen, S-M., Hokka, J., **Nelimarkka, M.** & Nikunen, K., 7 Sep 2021, (Accepted/In press) The far-right discourse of multiculturalism in everyday talk: Reproduction and contestation in the Nordic region. Pettersson, K. (ed.). Palgrave Macmillan, (Studies in Discursive Psychology).

Exploring Norm Violations and Norm Management in Collocated Synchronous Communication: Dual-Channel Communication as Hybrid Space with Spillover and Asymmetries. **Nelimarkka, M.**, Salovaara, A. & Jacucci, G., 1 Jul 2021, In: Proceedings of the ACM on human-computer interaction. 5, GROUP, 24 p.

Remediation in the hybrid media environment: Understanding countermedia in context. Toivanen, P., **Nelimarkka, M.** & Valaskivi, K., 25 Feb 2021, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *New Media & Society*. 26 p., 1461444821992701.

Affective Practice of Soldiering: How Sharing Images Is Used to Spread Extremist and Racist Ethos on Soldiers of Odin Facebook Site. Nikunen, K., Hokka, J. & **Nelimarkka, M.**, Feb 2021, In: *Television & New Media*. 22, 2, p. 166-185 20 p.

Refugee debate and networked framing in the hybrid media environment. Pöyhtäri, R., **Nelimarkka, M.**, Nikunen, K., Ojala, M., Pantti, M. & Pääkkönen, J., 1 Feb 2021, In: *International Communication Gazette*. 83, 1, p. 81–102 22 p., 1748048519883520.

Data Collection Mode and Nonresponse: Practical Experiences. **Valaste, M.** & Wass, H., 2021, p. 94. 1 p. Research output: Conference materials › Abstract

Age-related variation in volume and content of restorative private dental care for adults in Finland in 2012-2017: a nationwide register-based observation. Vehkalahti, M. M., Palotie, U. & **Valaste, M.**, Jan 2021, In: *Journal of Dentistry*. 104, 5 p., 103537.

Enhancing Students' Well-Being with Psychological Flexibility and Organized Study Skills Training. Räihä, K., Asikainen, H., **Vehkalahti, K.** & Katajavuori, N., Jun 2021. Research output: Conference materials › Poster

Promoting university students' well-being and studying with an acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT)-based intervention. Katajavuori, N., **Vehkalahti, K.** & Asikainen, H., 14 May 2021, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Current Psychology (New York)*. 13 p.

From the brand logo to brand associations and the corporate identity: visual and identity-based logo associations in a university merger. Erjansola, A-M., Lipponen, J., **Vehkalahti, K.**, Aula, H-M. & Pirttilä-Backman, A-M., May 2021, In: *Journal of Brand Management*. 28, 3, p. 241-253 13 p.

Exploring Climate Change Data with R. Guimarães, N., **Vehkalahti, K.**, Campos, P. & Engel, J., 2021, (Submitted) *Statistics for Empowerment and Social Engagement: Teaching civic statistics to develop informed citizens*. Ridgway, J. (ed.). Springer, 28 p.

Years of life lost to COVID-19 in 81 countries. Arolas, H. P. I., Acosta, E., López-Casasnovas, G., Lo, A., Nicodemo, C., Riffe, T. & **Myrskylä, M.**, Dec 2021, In: *Scientific Reports*. 11, 1, 6 p., 3504.

The growing rural–urban divide in US life expectancy: contribution of cardiovascular disease and other major causes of death. Abrams, L. R., **Myrskylä, M.** & Mehta, N. K., Dec 2021, In: *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 50, 6, p. 1970-1978 9 p.

Well-being of children born after medically assisted reproduction. Goisis, A. & **Myrskylä, M.**, Dec 2021, In: *Gynäkologe : Fortbildungsorgan der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe*. 54, 12, p. 917–921 5 p.

Health of immigrant children: The role of immigrant generation, exogamous family setting, and family material and social resources. Loi, S., Pitkänen, J., Moustgaard, H., **Myrskylä, M.** & Martikainen, P., Oct 2021, In: *Demography*. 58, 5, p. 1655-1685 31 p.

Rejoinder to “The Prevalence of Cognitive Impairment Is Not Increasing in the United States: A Critique of Hale et al. (2020)” Hale, J. M., Schneider, D. C., Gampe, J., Mehta, N. K. & **Myrskylä, M.**, Sep 2021, In: *Epidemiology*. 32, 5, p. 717-720 4 p.

Not Just Later, but Fewer: Novel Trends in Cohort Fertility in the Nordic Countries. Hellstrand, J. I. S., Nisén, J., Miranda, V., Fallesen, P., Dommermuth, L. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 1 Aug 2021, In: *Demography*. 58, 4, p. 1373-1399 27 p.

Optimal vaccination age varies across countries. Arolas, H. P. I., Acosta, E. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 20 Jul 2021, In: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 118, 29, 3 p., e2105987118.

Data Resource Profile: COVerAGE-DB: a global demographic database of COVID-19 cases and deaths. COVerAGE-DB team, Riffe, T., Acosta, E. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 15 May 2021, In: *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 50, 2, p. 390–390f 7 p.

Less partnering, less children, or both? Analysis of the drivers of first-birth decline in Finland since 2010. Hellstrand, J. I. S., Nisén, J. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 4 May 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, p. 57, (MPIDR Working Paper ; no. WP-2021-008).

Life-long body mass index trajectories and mortality in two generations. Zheng, H., Echave, P., Mehta, N. & **Myrskylä, M.**, Apr 2021, In: *Annals of Epidemiology*. 56, p. 18-25 8 p.

Educational Differences in Cohort Fertility Across Sub-national Regions in Europe. Nisen, J., Klüsener, S., Dahlberg, J., Dommermuth, L., Jasilioniene, A., Kreyenfeld, M., Lappegard, T., Li, P., Martikainen, P., Neels, K., Riederer, B., te Riele, S., Szabó, L., Trimarchi, A., Viciano, F., Wilson, B. & **Myrskylä, M.**, Mar 2021, In: *European Journal of Population*. 37, 1, p. 263–295 33 p.

Leaders and laggards in life expectancy among European scholars from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century. Stelter, R., de la Croix, D. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 1 Feb 2021, In: *Demography*. 58, 1, p. 111-135 25 p.

The contribution of health behaviors to depression risk across birth cohorts. Gültzow, M., Bijlsma, M. J., van Lenthe, F. J. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, p. 26, (MPIDR Working Paper ; no. WP-2021-017).

The extension of late working life in Germany: trends, inequalities, and the East-West divide. Dudel, C., Loichinger, E., Klüsener, S., Sulak, H. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, p. 33, (MPIDR Working Paper ; no. WP-2021-018).

Work-family typologies and mental health among women in early working ages. van Hedel, K., Moustgaard, H., **Myrskylä, M.** & Martikainen, P., 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, 38 p. (MPIDR Working Paper WP ; no. WP-2021-015).

MCWR: Stata module to compute Markov chain with rewards calculations. Schneider, D., **Myrskylä, M.** & van Raalte, A. A., 2021 Research output: Non-textual form › Software › Scientific › peer-review

Exposure-adjusted racial/ethnic disparities in mortality in the U.S. Arolas, H. P. I., Acosta, E., Dudel, C., Hale, J. M. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, 15 p. (MPIDR Working Paper ; no. WP-2021-023).

Flexible transition timing in discrete-time multistate life tables using Markov chains with rewards. Schneider, D. C., **Myrskylä, M.** & van Raalte, A. A., 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, p. 42, (MPIDR Working Paper; no. WP-2021-002).

Forecasting of cohort fertility by educational level in countries with limited data availability: the case of Brazil. Batyra, E., Leone, T. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, p. 33, (MPIDR Working Paper ; no. WP-2021-011).

Magnitude, global variation, and temporal development of the COVID-19 infection fatality burden. Bohk-Ewald, C., Acosta, E., Riffe, T., Dudel, C. & **Myrskylä, M.**, 2021, Rostock: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, p. 21, (MPIDR Working Paper; no. WP-2021-024).

Funding

- **Applications in 2021 from which funding was awarded:**

- Strategic Research Council: Family Formation in Flux (co-PI Mikko Myrskylä)
- Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation: Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health (co-PI Mikko Myrskylä)
- HSSH development grant for Technology Design and Interaction Lab (PI: Matti Nelimarkka)
- HSSH grant for Varusmiesdata acquisition (PI: Krista Lagus)
- DARIAH infrastructure grant from Academy of Finland (co-PI: Krista Lagus)

- **Applications submitted in 2021:**

- ERC Synergy Grant: Entangling biological and social causes of low fertility (PI: Mikko Myrskylä)
- Nordplus Higher Education 2022. Project: NPHE-2022/10309 - Baltic-Nordic Network on Education in Survey Statistics/2022 (Maria Valaste)
- ERC Starting Grant 2021: Digital Ideologies (PI: Nelimarkka)
- Suomen Akatemia ICT 2021: Tools, practices and workflows towards explainable, comprehensible and robust AI (PI: Nelimarkka)
- Liikesivistysrahasto: Paremmilla työvälineillä kohti luotettavampaa datan hyödyntämistä liiketoiminnassa (PI: Nelimarkka)

Organizational network activities

The CSDS has actively established and fostered connections to scientific institutions and research units in public and private sector organizations (such as Statistics Finland, THL, TTL and Kela), which have resulted in a range of mutually beneficial activities. These included:

- providing paid positions for CSDS students for writing their master's thesis in those connected institutions,
- presentations in CSDS courses and attendance of external visitors and guests from those connected institutions,
- envisioning and preparing joint research projects and events of CSDS and connected institutions, and
- holding board memberships of research projects by connected institutions.

Public engagement activities

The CSDS team was strongly committed to public engagement during 2021, including the regular and extended *Friday Coffee* meetings and other social interaction activities to make the public aware of the benefits of Social Data Science.

Regular and extended *Friday Coffee* meetings

The core staff of the CSDS has been meeting on Friday mornings to discuss and develop joint ideas related to Social Data Science. In the beginning of the academic year 2020-2021, every second *Friday Coffee* was extended by including our year-round *Social Data Science PhD Seminar*. These regular and extended *Friday Coffee* meetings have served a dual purpose.

First, regular and extended meetings have been crucial in helping us to develop a shared vision and agenda to which we commit and that we consider to be of high importance not only to the faculty and the university, but also for the broader community.

Second, the regular and extended meetings have been open to everyone, and we have actively distributed information about us being available to discuss data science with anyone who wants to show up on Friday mornings. This has been highly successful and has created a hub for planning and networking beyond our core faculty.

The *Friday Coffee* meetings have been a platform that has brought to the CSDS a network of CSDS Fellows (currently 13 scholars from University of Helsinki, other Finnish and Swedish universities, as well as Eurostat) who contribute to our teaching and supervision of students, and potentially to our research activities.

These *Friday Coffee* meetings are also an open forum for exchange with undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students, as well as with the staff of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and even external people from startup companies, research institutions etc. This action of “Connecting People” has proved to be an effective, low-threshold approach to providing the community a data and methods service that is in high demand. Since March 2020, *Friday Coffee* has been successfully operated virtually via Zoom.

The *Friday Coffee* meetings have now become an institution within the CSDS. Every Friday we meet for the regular *Friday Coffee* with our doors wide open for everyone; every second Friday these weekly meetings smoothly transition into our extended *Friday Coffee* in the form of our year-round *Social Data Science PhD Seminar*. The only exception is that the last Friday of the month is reserved for internal planning.

Societal interaction

During 2021, the core staff of the CSDS disseminated their research findings, announced teaching activities, and provided expertise on methodological know-how in Social Data Science in various societal areas through:

- Maintaining an active media presence, providing interviews and expert commentary to national and international media (e.g., Helsingin Sanomat, The Economist, New York Times)
- Participating as researchers and experts in several multidisciplinary consortia outside of academia; such as the Prime Minister’s task force on developing demographic policy guidelines for the 21st century
- Publishing interviews to promote study programmes and press releases about papers on the online platforms of the University of Helsinki
- The Society of Scientists and Parliament Members TUTKAS: research godfather (tutkijakummi) for an MP

Activities in the academic community

The core personnel of the CSDS have been active in the academic community in and outside the University of Helsinki.

Academic service at the University of Helsinki:

- Doctoral programme in Social Sciences, board membership
- Master's programme in Contemporary Societies, directorship
- Master's programme in Contemporary Societies, steering group membership
- Discipline committee membership
- HIData Board membership
- Vice-board member of Helsinki Institute for Information Technology HIIT
- FCAI Society membership

- UH Digital development board membership
- Regular and extended *Friday Coffee* meetings for interacting with and advising students, interested faculty members, and other interested external parties on methodological issues related to Social Data Science

Academic service outside of the University of Helsinki:

- Reviewers for submissions to journals and funding applications to institutions
- Serving as reviewer of PhD theses
- Serving as a PhD thesis committee member
- Serving as evaluator for professor and associate professor appointments at other faculties or universities
- Serving as associate editors for journals or conferences
- Participating in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) advisory board
- Serving as member of the steering committee of Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network on Survey Statistics
- Responsibility of the EMOS (European Master in Official Statistics) certificate
- National board membership in *Yksityisen kopioinnin tutkimuksen neuvottelukunta*, led by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Board member of a research consortium led by Työterveyslaitos (Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, FIOH)
- Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) organisation
- FIN-CLARIAH, national research infrastructure, board membership
- BNU network: Organizing and hosting a virtual Summer School on Survey Statistics, <https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BNU/Summer+School+on+Survey+Statistics+2021>
- IASE (International Association for Statistical Education): Chair of the International Program Committee of the [IASE2021 Virtual Satellite Conference](https://www.iase-gstat.org/2021/VirtualSatelliteConference/)

CSDS development: Where we come from, how we will move ahead

History

The Centre for Social Data Science (CSDS) was founded in October 2019. It is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. The CSDS represents the *discipline* Social Data Science and has the administrative structure of a research *centre* at the University of Helsinki. The founding members of the CSDS are Krista Lagus, Mikko Myrskylä, Kimmo Vehkalahti, Maria Valaste, and Matti Nelimarkka. The video of the Opening event (made by Unigrafia) is available in Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/373919329>. It includes the talks given by two distinguished professors: *Teuvo Kohonen* (Academic and Emeritus Professor of the Academy of Finland) and *Seppo Mustonen* (Emeritus Professor of Statistics).

Some of the founding members of the CSDS were previously affiliated with the former discipline of Social Statistics or with the former Centre for Research Methods at the University of Helsinki. The CSDS team has brought some of the most successful modes of work and activities of those former units into the portfolio of the CSDS.

Building a team and planning next actions

The CSDS has joined for regular internal events on the last Friday of the month in 2021 to strengthen relationships of the team members and to plan next actions related to teaching, research, public engagement, and academic service.

We have been active participants in the architectural meetings related to the changes concerning the renovation plans of the Faculty of Social Sciences. We have also come up with a new way to share space and have been able to negotiate a “joint room block with shared keys” on the 3rd floor of U35. This is a new practice that we will experiment with. Its results will be seen in the future when the distance work situation becomes less prominent. This joint room block activity and its actualization has been quite important to our shared spirit as a center. As a colleague, Timo Honkela passed away in 2020, we offered to host his academic library for posterity. We have obtained the books and have begun to set up the “Timo Honkela Memorial Library”, located in the CSDS premises.

CSDS contact: How to get in touch

There are plenty of ways to get in touch with the CSDS:

- Usually, you can find the CSDS team in its UH premises located on the third floor of Unioninkatu 35 in Helsinki, Finland
- You can visit our open *Friday Coffee* meetings held together with HSSH each week (so far via Zoom, see above).
- You can get information about our regular and upcoming events at the [CSDS website](#).
- You can also contact us via email:

Krista Lagus: krista.lagus@helsinki.fi

Mikko Myrskylä: mikko.myrskylä@helsinki.fi

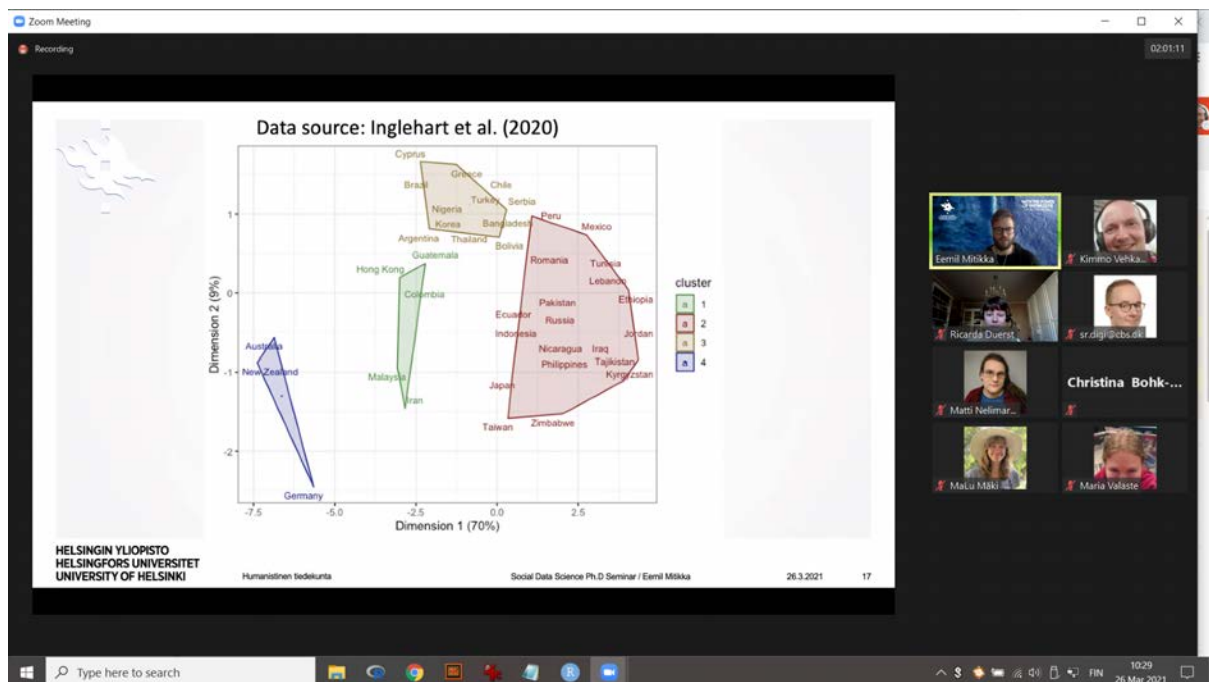
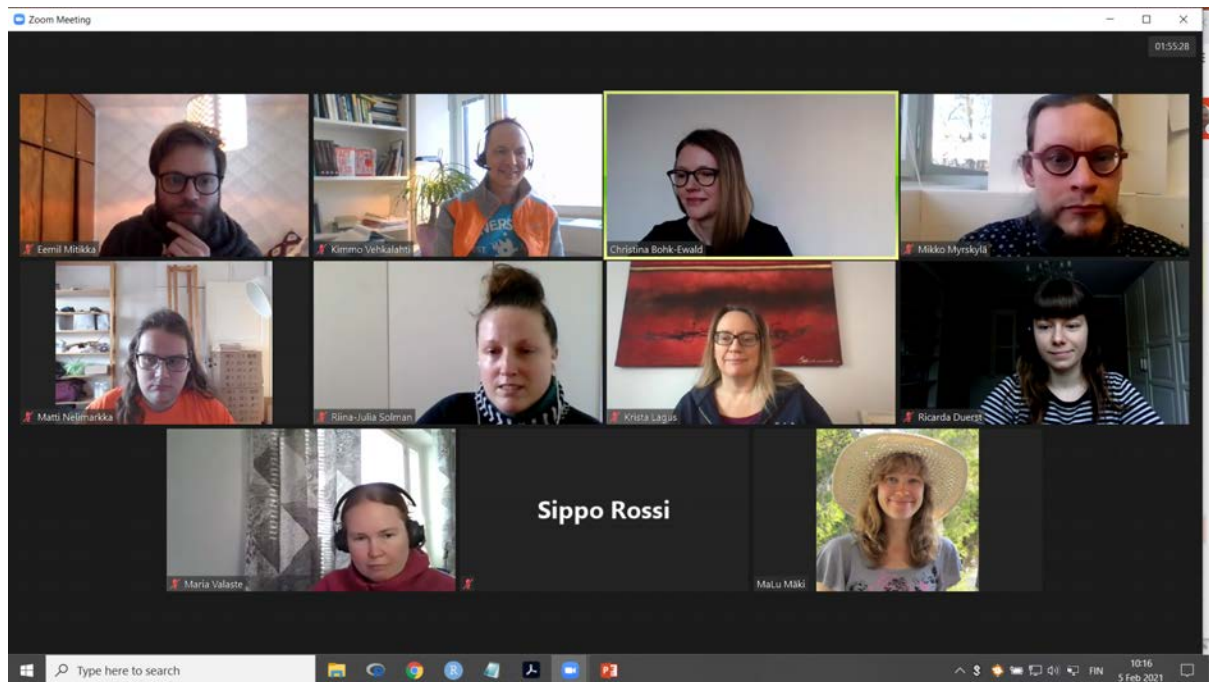
Matti Nelimarkka: matti.nelimarkka@helsinki.fi

Joni Oksanen: joni.oksanen@helsinki.fi

Kimmo Vehkalahti: kimmo.vehkalahti@helsinki.fi

Maria Valaste: maria.valaste@helsinki.fi

Impressions



Zoom Meeting

Recording

Conspiracy theories and COVID-19

We might be living in the golden age of conspiracy theories ^[1]

But why now?

- QAnon and Pizzagate brought conspiracy theories to the feeds of the masses and media gave visibility ^[2]
- Politicians around the world increasingly "legitimize" misinformation and fake news ^[2]
- Beliefs in COVID-19 science, facts and policies increasingly partisan

Examples of COVID-19 conspiracies

- Plandemic ^[3]
- 5G causes corona ^[4]
- The Great Reset ^[5]

CBS COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
HANDELSHØJSKOLEN

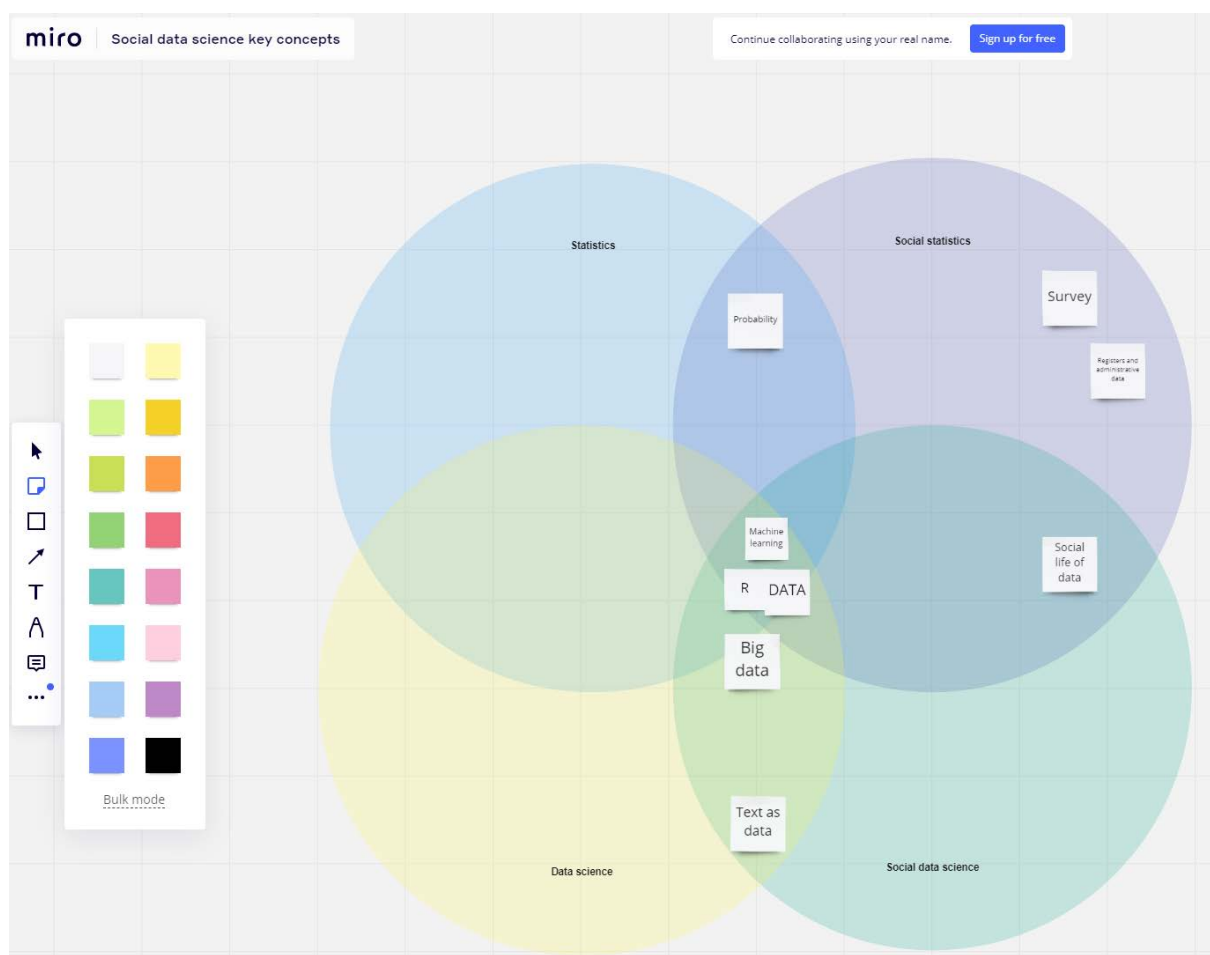
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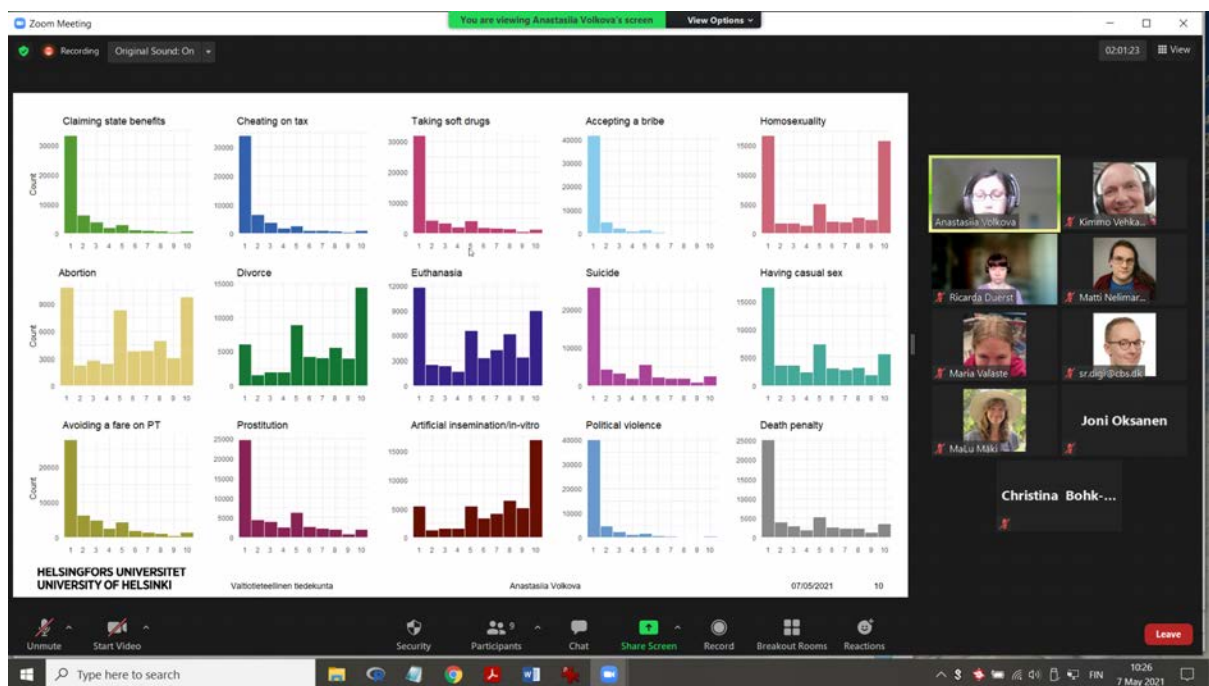
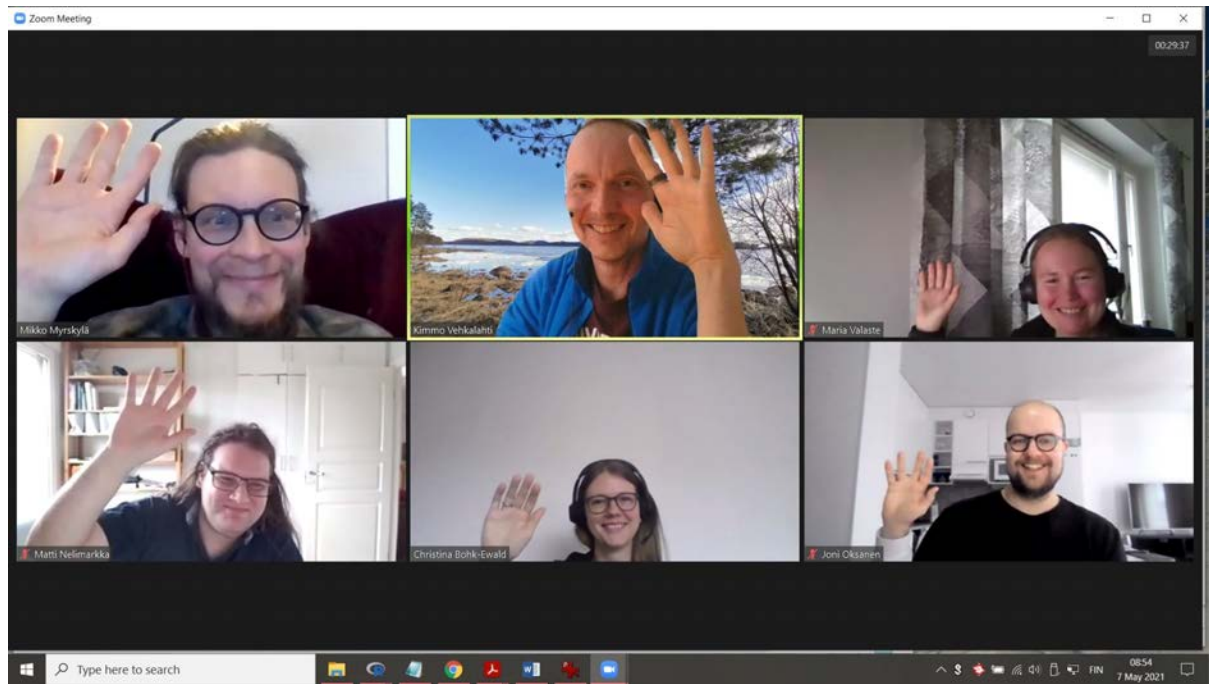
01:52:56

Participants: vrdigi@cbs.dk, Kimmo Vehka..., Riina-Julia Solm..., Ricardo Duggé, Christina Bohk..., Eemil Mäikkä, Maria Valaste, Matti Niemelä..., Malu Maki..., Anastasiia Volk..., Laura-Elena laur..., Andrey Indukaev

Type here to search

1021 9 Apr 2021





Course

Course organisations

- Reading groups in collaboration to prepare for each in-person class
- Weekly meeting **Thu 16-18** (from 9 Sep to 21 Oct 2021)
- Crash course in programming ("bootcamp")

Course evaluation

- Self-assessment / peer-evaluation
 - We need a good evaluation matrix for this, TBD
- HOPS content narrative / where do I want to go next kind of future thinking based on the course topics

"Social"

Digitalisation and datafication

- GDPR
- Human-computer interaction
- Design as discipline and practice
- Collaboration between disciplines / Consultation
- Politics of technology
- Internet research ethics

Artificial intelligence or algorithms

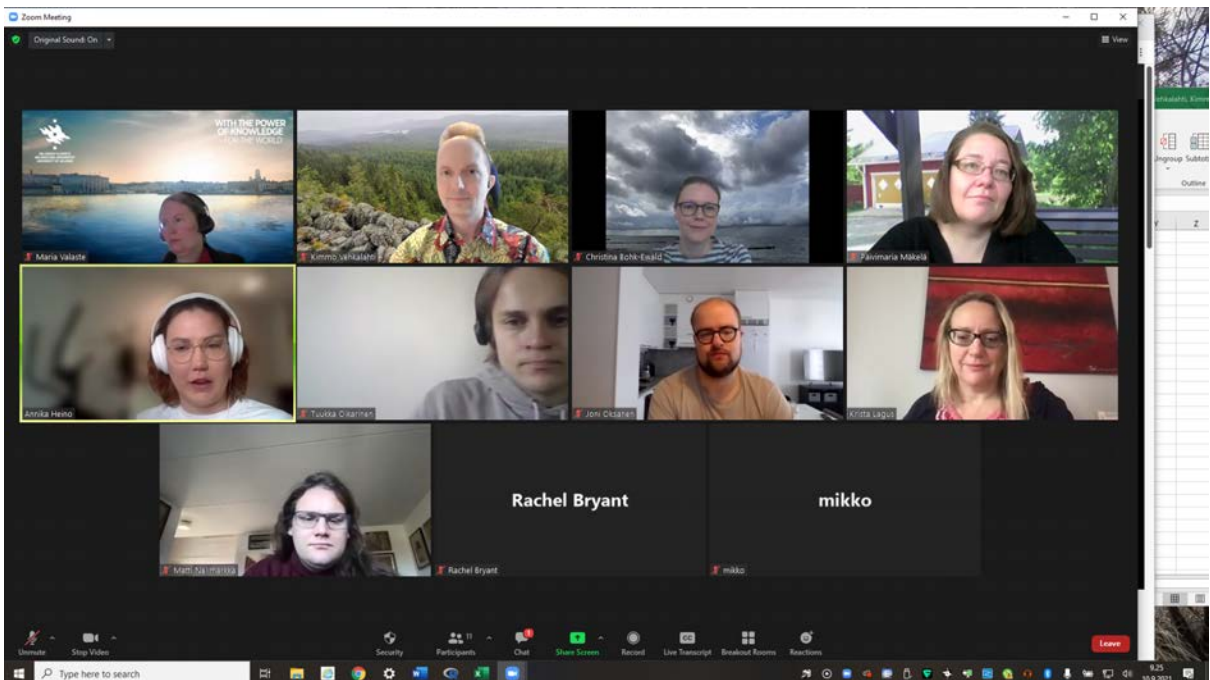
DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Doctoral Programme in Social Sciences is a collaborative effort between a number of the social sciences at the University of Helsinki that aims to create the best research environment for doctoral training. It covers the widest areas of social science research in Finland.

The programme collaborates with the Centre for Social Data Science, the Centre for Consumer Society Research and Helsinki Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences.

300
A community of over 300 doctoral students from Finland and around the world





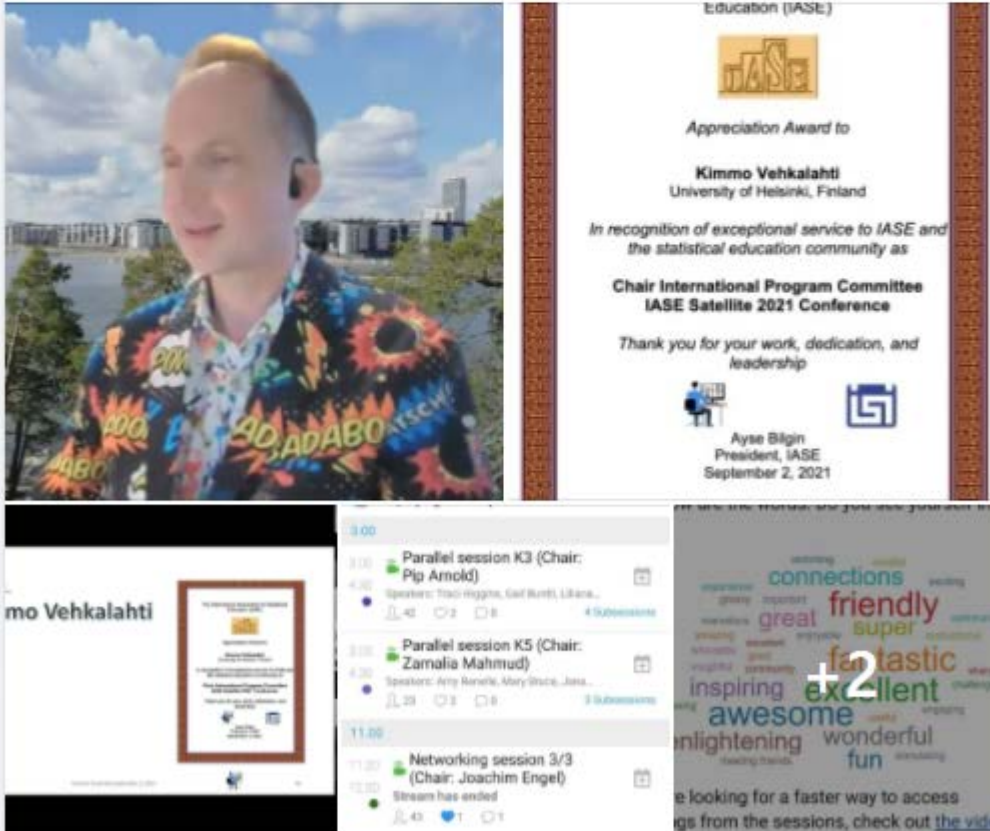
 **Kimmo Vehkalahti** on paikassa **Vuosaari, Etelä-Suomen Lääni, Finland.** ...
3. syyskuuta kello 17.03 · 🧑

Unforgettable #IASE2021 conference ended. Huge amount of virtual activities on our Whova platform 24/7. Surprisingly, I received a special Award which I am happy about. We got extremely positive feedback overall (see the word cloud!)

The nice message quoted below I got by email from a senior colleague and a former President of the association (together with the screen capture photo of me hosting one of the Zoom sessions yesterday):

"Thank you Kimmo! Excellent leadership. I wouldn't have expected anything less from someone with such confidence in clothing."

Feeling grateful, exhausted, and happy! 🙏🌹



👍❤️ 110

18 kommenttia



Markus Sovala

10+ kokousvermeistä. Oma työpukeutuminen alkaa tuntua jo konservatiiviselta ...

...



Tykkää · Vastaa · 6 pv



1



Kimmo Vehkalahti

Markus Sovala 🥳 kiitos, oli ilo kokoustaa myös sinun joukkueesi kanssa! 👍🙏

...

Tykkää · Vastaa · 6 pv · Muokattu



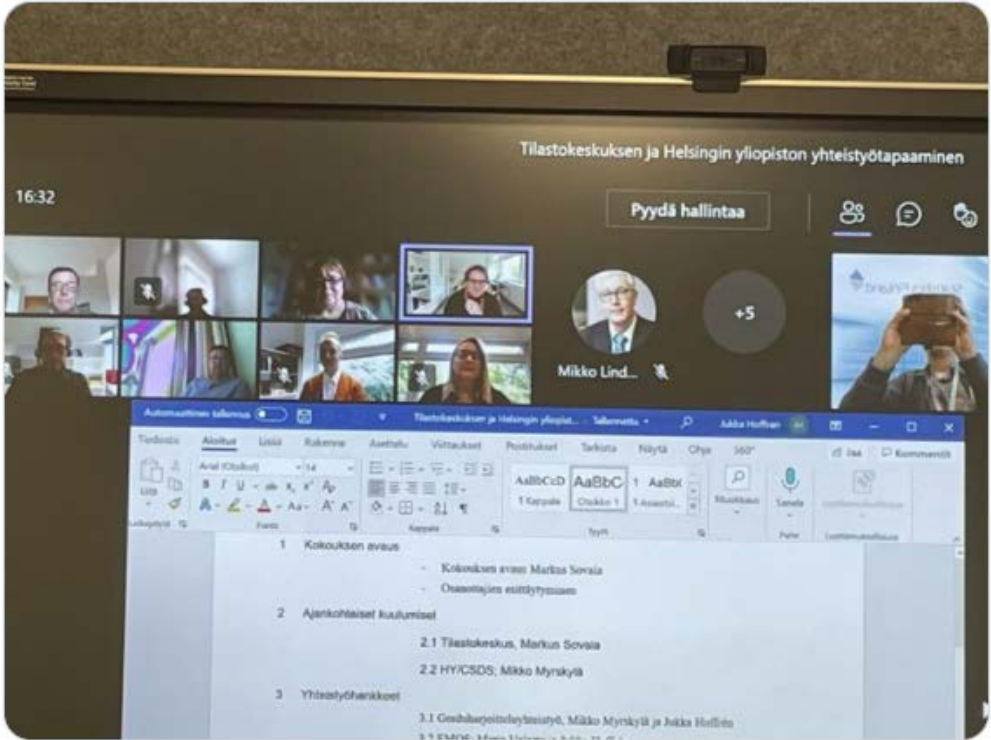
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mobile.twitter.com/MarkusSovala/status/1433706365722185760?s=20

Ketju

Markus Sovala
@MarkusSovala

Nyt viisasta väkeä koolla! @Tilastokeskus'n ja @helsinkiuni katsastamassa mitä voidaan jatkossa tehdä yhdessä. @ReijaHelenius @KimmoVehkalahti @VilleKos @matnel @laihokauranne @mariavalaste



11.20 ap. · 3. syysk. 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

1 uudelleentwiittaus 1 Twiitin lainaus 25 tykkäystä

