

Curriculum Vitae for Heli Aaltonen

Name	Heli Hannele Aaltonen
Current Position	Associate Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies ¹
Department	Department of Art and Media Studies
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Mobile	+47-40143177
e-post	Heli.aaltonen@ntnu.no
Employment time at NTNU	August 2008 -
Citizenship	Finnish/Norwegian
Academic profile	https://www.ntnu.edu/employees/heli.aaltonen
Language skills	Mother tongue Finnish. Fluent in written and spoken English. Fluent in written and spoken Norwegian and Swedish. Basic skills in Danish.

Higher Education

- 2003 – 2006 PhD, Department of Education, Åbo Akademi University, Vaasa, Finland.
Thesis: *Intercultural Bridges in Teenagers' Theatrical Events: Performing Self and Constructing Cultural Identity through a Creative Drama Process*, supervisor Anna-Lena Østern.
- 1994 – 1996 Master of Arts, Department of Comparative Literature, The School of History, Culture and Art Studies, University of Turku, Finland
Master thesis: *Sky Arch Variety Performance: The Path of the Children's Theatre Performance from an Idea to Performance (Taivaankaarivaritee: lapsiteatteriesityksen tie ideasta esitykseksi)*. Subsidiary areas of study: Philosophy, folkloristics, art history, journalistic

Other relevant education

- 1.8.1995 – 26.1.1996 Special studies in child and youth theatre, Continuing Education at the Theatre Academy, Helsinki, Finland
- 1.10.1986-30.5.1987 Puppet actor training at the Puppet Department of the Solski National School of Dramatic Art, Wroclaw, Poland
- 1.9.1979-2.6.1980 Basic and Continuation Study Module in Dramatic (40 cr.)
Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden

Short courses in different theatre techniques

- 1981-1997 Different practical short courses in different acting techniques, voice work, mime, Commedia dell Arte, juggling, mime, acrobatics, clowning, unicycling, child dance, Alexander technique dramaturgy, shadow theatre and community theatre in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

¹ Førsteamanuensis i drama og teater

Refereed publications

- Forthcoming Exploring human and more-than-human representation in play text and applied drama workshop. *Moving Forward and Looking Back with Drama/Theatre and Education* (working title). IDEA 2024 Congress 10 Book in Partnership with IDEAC, 28 p.
- 2023 Re-storying SDG14: life below water. *Nordic Journal of Art & Research*. Volume 12, Nr (2). 28p.
- 2021 Celebrating neighbourhood birds: Performing equality in avian-human performance. In P. Janse van Vuuren, B. Rasmussen & A. Khala (Eds.), *Theatre and democracy: Building democracy in post-war and post-democratic contexts* Cappelen Damm Akademisk, 217-237. <https://doi.org/10.23865/noasp.135.ch11>
- 2018 Experimenting with the actor-role relationship in animation theatre acting. I V. Aune & C. Haagenen (Eds.). *Teaterproduksjon: ti produksjonestetiske innganger*. Cappelen Damm Akademisk. NOASP: Nordic Open Access Scholarly Publishing, 97-126.
- 2015 Voice of the forest: post-humanism and applied theatre practice, *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, 20:3, 417-421, DOI: 10.1080/13569783.2015.1059263
- 2014 Practice as Research in Drama and Theatre: Introducing Narrative Supervision Methodology. *Information: Nordic Journal of Art and Research*, 52-68. Co-authored with Ellen Foy Bruun.
- 2014 The applications of theatre as pedagogical and research methodologies: scenes and waves of investigative dialogues across the Nordsjøen (North Sea). I K. Dawson & D. A. Keln II (Eds.) *Reflexive teaching artist: Collected wisdom from drama and theatre field*. Intellect Ltd, 183 – 190. Co-authored with Stephanie Knight.
- 2012 Research as a dialogue: how to design a reflexive study in an intensive youth theatre festival context. In B. Rasmussen & R. Gürgens (Eds.). *Forskningsmetodologi i anvendt teaterforskning*. Tapir-forlag, 123-143.
- 2011 Selkie stories as an example of ecosophical storytelling. I S. Schonmann (ed.) *Key concepts in theatre / drama education*. Sense publishers, 153-159.
- 2011 Golden Merganser Story Promenade: A case study of oral multilingual storytelling strategies. *Journal of Arts & Communities*. Volume 3 Number 2, 193-206.
- 2010 Intercultural bridges through physical theatre. In A-L Østern & H. Kaihovirta-Rosvik (Eds.). *Arts education and beyond*. Report 28/2010. Faculty of Education, Åbo Akademi University, 119-141.
- 2008 Physical Theatre as a Communicative Practice for Meaning Making in the Multilingual Youth Encounter Context. *Bin Norden 2007 Børn og kultur – det æstetiskes betydning i børnekultur og børns kultur*, 13 p.
- 2004 The Metaphor Bridges – a Collective Devising Process in an Intercultural Children's Theatre Workshop. In A-L Østern (Ed.) *Dramatic cultures*. Report 10/2004. Faculty of Education, Åbo Akademi University, 39-66.

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- 2001 Julia Kristeva ja intertekstuaalisuus². In A-L. Østern (Ed.). *Laatu ja merkitys draamaopetuksessa – draamakasvatuksen teorian perusteita*³. Jyväskylän yliopistopaino, 109–115.

Conferences

Invited Keynote Speaker

- 2019 “Participating and creating hope in open ensembles: drama education in a changing world”
Event title: 3rd ELTE Workshop for Arts Education, Budapest, Hungary, 20-21 June.

Invited Lectures, Workshops and Panels⁴

2026	Event: Artistic research-lab – last methodology seminar ⁵ Organizer: Artistic research working group, Department of Art and Media Studies Place of the event: Dragvoll, Trondheim Paper presentation: <i>Applied theatre that celebrates: methodological steps of Sjøfuglsangen</i> (Seabird song), 2 June.
2024	Event: IDEA2024, 10 th International Drama/Theatre and Education Association Congress Organizers: IDEA, IDEAC and China Foundation for the Development of Social Culture Place of the event: Beijing, People's Republic of China Workshop: <i>Seagulls, humans and performance: exploring human and more-than-human otherness</i> , 15 – 20 July.
2023	Event: Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies (ENSCAN) Organizer: Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies (ENSCAN) Place of the event: Helsinki, Finland Paper presentation: <i>Oral storytelling performance: Being Human, Being Salmon</i> , 13 – 14 June.
2022	Event: Propellen's professional day: the site-specific performing arts and the future, motivation ⁶ Organizer: Propellen theatre Place of the event: Rosendal theatre, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Forest bathing and storytelling: Reconnecting with sensory presence and storytelling to the forest and its inhabitants</i> ⁷ , 3 November.
2022	Event: Conference of the Birds project meeting Organizers: Eva Bakkeslett & author Place of the event: Engeløya, Norway. Paper presentation: <i>Presenting “Conference of the Birds” plan</i> , 8 – 12 June.
2019	Event: Animal Ethics for Sustainability: ‘Clean’ Food, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Organizer: Program for Applied Ethics, Department of Philosophy, NTNU Place of the event: Trondheim, Trondheims kunstforening (TKF), Norway Workshop: <i>Avian Culture Storytelling Workshop: Becoming Seagull</i> , 29 November.
2019	Event: Where will the bumblebee buzz? Interdisciplinary professional day on disappearing nature ⁸ Organizer: Environmental Humanities Research, Art and Media Studies and author Place of the event: DOKK-huset, Trondheim, Norway

² Julia Kristeva and intertextuality

³ *Quality and significance in drama education – fundamentals of drama education theory*

⁴ In Teaching and Educational CV are mentioned conference presentations, which are teaching-related.

⁵ Kunstnerisk forskningslab – siste metodeseminar

⁶ Propellens fagdag: den stedsspesifikke scenekunsten og fremtiden, motivasjon

⁷ Skogsbadning og historiefortelling: Å gjenopprette forbindelse med sanselig nærvær og fortellinger til skogen og dens innbyggere

⁸ Hvor skal humla suse? Tverrfaglig fagdag om forsvinnende natur

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	Opening speech: <i>Where will the bumblebee buzz?</i> , 5 September.
2016	Event: PSi#22 - Performance Climates Organizer: Performance Studies International, Arts House and University of Melbourne Place of the event: Melbourne, Australia Paper presentation: <i>Performing Encounters with Climate Zone Taiga</i> , 6 – 9 July.
2016	Event: POPUP-feminist house ⁹ Organizer: 8. mars-komitee Place of the event: Olavshallen, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Ecofeminism</i> ¹⁰ 11 March.
2015	Event: Drama/theatre and democracy Organizer: Drama- and theatre studies, Department of Art and Media Studies Place of the event: Scandic Lerkendal, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Stories about trees and birds: the consequences of new materialism in building up performance</i> , 4 – 6 November.
2013	Event: Questions of Aesthetics and Participation, RiDe-journal Organizer: University of Hull, School of Drama and Screen Place of the event: Hull. UK Paper presentation: <i>City under construction: accounting for aesthetic strategies of participation in a Live Art walking performance</i> , 18 September.
2013	Event: Cristin celebrations Organizer: Department of Art and Media Studies, NTNU Place of the event: Dragvoll, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Ecocriticism: how humans relate to nonhuman nature or the environment in literature or generally in arts</i> , 29 – 30 August.
2013	Event: Ritual act Organizer: Rituaalimuseo Place of the event: Linnavuori, Salo. Finland Artistic research presentation: Story Promenade , 3 – 4 August.
2013	Event: Performance Studies International Conference Psl#19 Now and Then: Performance and Temporality Organizer: Stanford University, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies Place of the event: Palo Alto, California, USA Panel together with Margarida Rauén and Fabio Salvatti : <i>On participation degrees and their appraisal</i> , 26 – 30 June.
2013	Event: Performance Studies International Conference Psl#19 Now and Then: Performance and Temporality Organizer: Stanford University, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies Place of the event: Palo Alto, California, USA Paper presentation: <i>Participatory Live Art Performance: an Arena for Creating Temporary Autonomous Communities</i> , 26 – 30 June.
2013	Event: Art and Media Studies Day ¹¹ Organizer: Department of Art and Media Studies, NTNU Place for event: Dragvoll, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Useful eco-art</i> ¹² , 5 March.
2012	Event: Network gathering for higher education drama and theatre studies ¹³

⁹ POPUP Feministhus

¹⁰ Økofeminisme

¹¹ IKM-dagen

¹² Nyttig økokunst

¹³ Nettverkssamling for drama og teater i UH sektoren

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	Organizers: NTNU and DMMH Place of the event: DMMH, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Why and how. international co-operation in the field of drama and theatre</i> , 4 – 6 November.
2012	Event: PSI#18 - Performance Studies International Conference Organizer: School of Performance and Cultural Industries, University of Leeds Place of the event: Leeds, UK Paper presentation: <i>The Golden Merganser: performing Nordic multilingual identities</i> , 27 – 30 June.
2011	Event: Practice as Research and the Issue of Methodology Organizer: Performance Studies Working Group, Drama and Theatre Studies, NTNU. Place of the event: Dragvoll, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Nordic Storytelling as Intercultural Bridge in Celebrating Life and Transformation: Artistic Research in Practice</i> , 14 April.
2011	Event: MetLab Organizer: Performance Studies Working Group, Drama and Theatre Studies, NTNU Place of the event: Dragvoll, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Performative Research Paradigm</i> , 18 March.
2010	Event: Laboratory for performativity ¹⁴ Organizer: Department of Art and Media Studies Place of the event: Dragvoll, Trondheim, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Performativity and Nature, Agency of non-human actors in the performances of Annette Arlander and Tuija Kokkonen</i> , 21 October.
2010	Event: Theatre Applications Organizer: Central School of Speech and Drama Place of the event: London, UK Paper presentation: <i>Performing Right and Wrong: comparative analysis of three youth theatre performances in the light of identity construction</i> , 22 April.
2008	Event: International Storytelling Conference Organizer: Oslo University of Applied Sciences ¹⁵ , Heidi Dahlsveen Place of the event: Oslo University of Applied Sciences, Oslo, Norway Paper presentation: <i>Nordic Voices</i> , 14 – 18 August
2008	Event: Grassroots – Green Art / Art and Ecology Organizers: Halikonlahti Green Art Trilogy (HGAT), Environmental Department of Salo City & Salo Contemporary Art Museum Place of the event: KIASMA Contemporary Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland Paper presentation: <i>Storytelling and Forum Theatre: a way to get messages to the hearts of people</i> , 16 – 17 April.

Honorary University Fellow

2005 – 2006 School of Performance Arts, Department of Drama, University of Exeter. From the fall 2005 to the spring 2006.

Research Management in the External Funded Projects

2025 – 2028 CoastARTS (<https://www.ntnu.edu/ikm/research/coastarts>; <https://chanse.org/coastarts/>) is a comparative, multi-sited study proceeding in three broad phases (research and creative design, community-based practice, reflection and analysis), each lasting a year. Consortium partners of the research project represent universities in the UK, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The main joint outputs of the project are co-authored book on methods, digital anthology,

¹⁴ Laboratorium for performativitet

¹⁵ Oslo høyskole

digital archive. Environmental arts professor Helen Gilbert, from the Royal Holloway University, leads the project. Total budget of the project is 1 367 507 €.

Role in the project: Principal Investigator (PI) in the Norwegian part of European research project. During the spring 2026 have six international artists visited and collaborated with coastal schools and kindergartens in Trondheim, Nesna and Herøy. The work in the project has included designing the project together with the artists and community actors, practical arrangements, and economical supervision. The project analysis and reflection are actual tasks now. Total costs of the Norwegian project are 420 568,28 € and requested contribution of this from the Norwegian Research Council is 333 532,24 €.

2017 – 2023 Theatre and Democracy Project with South-Africa funded by Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. Project grant was 1 892 429 €. More about the project and my contribution to it will be found in Teaching and Educational CV.

Artistic Leadership and Festival Direction

2008 - 2011 International oral storytelling project *Pohjoismaisia ääniä – Nordiska roster – Nordic Voices*. During the project, two international multilingual storytelling festivals were performed: *Celebrating Life 2010* (27.9. - 5.10.2010) and *Celebrating Transformation 2011* (24.9.- 4.10.2011). In addition to the performances, the international storytellers implemented the art education project Juttutalkoot - Berättelsejakten - Story Harvest in five Finnish and five Swedish-speaking schools with teachers and students. There were invited storytellers from Greenland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Germany, Scotland and Finland to participate in the project. The financial support from Turku 2011 European Culture Capital Foundation was 128 20 €.

Roles with the project: Project initiator and designer, artistic director, performer and researcher.

27.6.-6.7.2000 st.age 2000 Event in Turku 27.6. – 6.7.2000
The st.age 2000 project was an international and intercultural children's and young people's theatre development project connecting Baltic and Nordic countries with Russia. Youth theatre groups from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Russia and Finland performed to each other and local audience in the festival. Afterwards they created intercultural performances and at the end of the event, they performed in an outdoor performance. The event gathered youth theatre practitioners and researchers to Educational theatre network.

Roles in the event: initiator, project designer and manager, international networking, EU-funded Interreg cooperation, cultural export.

Other professional service work

Current Membership of Professional Associations

2016	SIRENE: Interdisciplinary Network of Environmental and Sustainability Research
1997	International Drama Education Association (IDEA)
2011	Performance Studies International
2005	Finnish Youth Research Association ¹⁶

¹⁶ Nuorisotutkimusseura

Research Groups at Department of Art and Media Studies

2022	SEAR – Socially Engaged Research group
2019	Environmental Humanities Research (author has started together with film researcher Julia Leyda from Art and Media Studies)
2022	Artistic Research Group
2008 – 2022	Art-based Research ¹⁷

Journal Manuscript Assessment

Agder University
Urban Culture
Drama: nordisk dramapedagogisk tidskrift

Book Manuscript Assessment

Routledge

PhD Dissertation Preliminary Examiner

Valtonen, Virpi (2022). *Kanssakuljeskelua: monilajisen kasvatuksen teoreettisia ja pedagogisia lähtökohtia*. Helsingin yliopisto. Kasvatustieteellinen tiedekunta.

Stolp, Marleena (2011) *Taidetta, vastustusta, leikkiä ja työtä? Lasten toimijuus 6-vuotiaiden teatteriprojektissa*. Jyväskylän yliopisto. Humanistinen tiedekunta.

PhD Dissertation Coordinator with Extern Examiners

Ulvund, Marit (2013). *Echo Theatre. From experience to performance*. NTNU. Trondheim.

Applied arts, community-based projects

Public Outreach, Engagement & Cultural Sector Collaborations

2019	Where shall Bumblebee buzz? An interdisciplinary professional day about disappearing nature¹⁸. The event was a meeting point for artists, scientists, politicians, Trondheim International School pupils, Department of Art and Media students and staff, and audience from Trondheim. The event was organized at DOKK-huset, a place for concerts in Trondheim. It was invited seven interdisciplinary researchers from natural sciences and seven artists representing different art fields. The event was organized just before the municipality election in Trondheim and it was invited also politicians who got questions from the pupils of Trondheim International school to answer. The date of the event was 5.9.2019, and it was the first event that Environmental Humanities Research Group organized. Roles: Designer and practical organizer of the event. The event collaborated with Environmental Humanities Research Group and got producent support. The event got economical funding from NTNU Sustainability Project around 10 000€. Total budget of the event was around 14 000 €.
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¹⁷ Kunstbasert forskning

¹⁸ Hvor skal humle suse? Tverrfaglig fagdag om forsvinnende natur.

Oral storytelling performances and participation in public art projects

These theatre-making projects have been fundamental first steps in my research on applied theatre practices, teaching in practice-theoretical courses and supervising master students. They provide opportunities to try out and assess theories about participation and performing.

- 2025 Participation as puppet animator in The Herds-performance by the Walk Productions, Olavsfest 25, Rosendal teater, Trondheim, Norway, 24 – 30 July.
- 2018 Invited storyteller performing *Bird stories for adults and children*, Verbale Internationales Erzählfestival, Potsdam, Germany, 10 – 15 September.
- 2015 Participation as performer in the project called Saunadans at Sjøbadet. Produced by Panter Produksjoner and co-operated with a choreographer Karsten Solli. 21 – 23 August.
- 2011 Multilingual (Finnish-Sami-German) storytelling performance *Golden Merganser: Story Promenade* performing together with Suse Weisse and Berit Aletta Mienna. 1 October.
- 2011 *Syöjätär – die Dunkelfrau*, multilingual Finnish-German storytelling performance with Suse Weisse. Invited to Nordic Storytelling Festival: Nordische Woche, Berlin Culture Institute Meer Märchen, 9 – 15 May.
- 2009 Site-specific interdisciplinary performance project *Immigrant Reading of a Comedy* invited artists to create scenes based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*. I created together with Anastasia Aaltonen a performance called *Violence is fun, violence is sexy*. The performance was performed at Trondheim fire station.
- I have written an article based on the performance: Aaltonen, H. (2022). 7th Zone of Hell... Let's keep it simple. Let's keep it Finnish: 20 hours site-specific performance with 100 artists, *Er dette stedsspesifikk Scenekunst?*¹⁹ Fanzine 2022, Propellen teater, 32-33, 13 June.
- 2008 Invited storyteller participating in Scottish International Storytelling Festival Edinburgh, Scotland, 25 October – 1 November.
- 2007 Invited storyteller to 4th Multilingual Storytelling Marathon, at Culture Centre Pantalone, Bruxelles, Belgium, September.
- 2006 Invited storyteller to 3rd Multilingual Storytelling Marathon, at Culture Centre Pantalone, Bruxelles, Belgium, September.
- 2006 Invited storyteller to *Fairytales before take off 2006*-project. Multilingual storytelling tour at European airports 24.5. – 18.8.06 (organized by Consortium of the National Cultural Institutes of the European Countries in Belgium [CICEB]. Performance airports: Bruxelles 24.5; Prague 17.7; Budapest 19.7; Helsinki 20.7; Frankfurt; 14.8; Dublin 16.8 and Copenhagen 17.8.
- 2005 Invited storyteller to 2nd Multilingual Storytelling Marathon, September 2007 at Culture Centre Pantalone, Bruxelles, Belgium.

¹⁹ *Is this site-specific performance art?*

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2000 Bilingual German-Finnish performance based on the text that I have authored *Aurinkohirvi*²⁰-*Sonnenelchen (Sun Elk)* together with Suse Weisse. The premier of the performance was in Finnish Embassy, Berlin 26.11.2000. After that we performed the performance six times in different venues in Berlin, 23 November – 3 December.

Art Projects for and with Children at Turku City Culture Centre

1985 – 2007 Roles with projects: work as free-lancer artist, performer, puppet animator, child theatre leader, workshop facilitator

Turku Deaf Theatre Rainbow

1991 – 2001 Roles with the events: director and dramaturg at *Turku Deaf Theatre Rainbow*.

²⁰ Sun Elk