

University of Helsinki
Faculty of Philosophy
23 February 2010

University of Helsinki: Honorary doctors of the Faculty of Philosophy

The Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Helsinki is organising a conferment ceremony on 27-29 May 2010. Twelve distinguished persons from science, culture and society will be conferred the degree of honorary doctor. One of the honorary doctors is the President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen.

All honorary doctors of the Faculty of Philosophy:

Jacobus Jan Boomsma (b. 1951) is the Director of the Centre for Social Evolution at the University of Copenhagen. He is an internationally acclaimed, versatile evolutionary biologist focusing on social evolution. Professor Boomsma has been a forerunner in developing theory for his field, which he skilfully combines with empirical testing of hypotheses derived from these theories.

Anne Edwards (b. 1946) is a significant figure in the application of action theory and socio-cultural approaches to educational science. Her theories on relational agency and her expertise in particular have had an impact on Finnish research. Professor Edwards is the head of the Department of Education at the University of Oxford. She has been involved in successful cooperation with researchers of education at the University of Helsinki for more than a decade.

Philip L. Gibbard (b. 1949) from the University of Cambridge is one of the most widely known researchers of ice-age geology, and in recent years he has had particular success in developing a geological timescale. Professor Gibbard has exceptionally wide professional networks and a profound command of his field. He has been involved in close cooperation with the University of Helsinki, and has been a significant background figure in the Finnish community of quaternary researchers for over thirty years.

Tarja Kaarina Halonen (b. 1943) is a Master of Laws and the President of the Republic of Finland. President Halonen is a pioneering female politician and has become well known for her advocacy of human rights, humane, ecological values and her promotion of ecologically sustainable development. In her public office, she has highlighted issues of international equality and human rights. As the President of Finland, Halonen has had a significant impact on the development of Finnish society and the labour market, and has brought a softer perspective on globalisation.

Kim D. Janda (b. 1957) is a professor of chemical biology and immunology at the Scripps Research Institute and the Director of the Worm Institute of Research and Medicine in La Jolla, California in the United States. Janda combines pharmacy, biology and chemistry in his research. His research topics include bacterial cell-cell communication, immunopharmacotherapy and its applications, the development of methods of drug discovery, and the metabolomics of worms which cause tropical diseases.

Rainer Knapas (b. 1946) has served in many central Finnish cultural institutions and has earned high esteem as a researcher and teacher as well as an author and editor of several written works. He has also held editorial leadership positions. Licentiate of Philosophy Knapas has shared his

comprehensive and profound understanding of cultural history generously and in innovative ways. He has instructed, supported and inspired several generations of students of the arts at the University of Helsinki on their educational paths and future careers.

Matti Morottaja (b. 1942) is a lecturer of Inari Sami and the primus motor of its revitalisation project, which has had exceptional international significance. Thanks to his life's work, Inari Sami (one of the few aboriginal languages in Finland) has been rescued from the brink of extinction. Morottaja has participated in the foundation of all systems supporting the revitalisation of the language. The first and most important of these is the language nest founded in 1997, which has become a model for revitalising endangered languages among several Finno-Ugrian peoples in particular.

Albert De Roeck is a research physicist at the European particle research centre (CERN), a professor at the University of Antwerp, and a visiting professor at the IPPP research centre in Durham and at the University of California, Davis. De Roeck is among the foremost experimental particle physicists and holds a key position at a recently launched project at CERN, analysing the physics produced by the Large Hadron Collider. He is a member of the steering group of the CMS experiment, and was among the founders of the FP420 project, which aims to create a new type of experiment system to research elementary matter in extreme conditions.

Karl Sigmund (b. 1945) is a professor of mathematics at the University of Vienna, and is among the leading researchers of applied analysis in the world. His research has been revolutionary in the fields of ergodic theory, dynamic systems, mathematical biology, chemical kinetics and dynamic game theory. He has also published written works on the history of science, and on the histories of mathematics and logic in particular.

David I. Stuart (b. 1953) is an MRC research professor at the University of Oxford. He is the Director of the Division of Structural Biology of the University and Director of Life Sciences at the Diamond Synchrotron. Stuart is a pioneer of biological structural research, and has accumulated incomparable achievements in deciphering the atomic structures of complex biological molecules, such as viruses. His cooperation with the University of Helsinki has led to the understanding of the origin and evolution of viruses based on the three-dimensional comparison of their atomic structures.

Elizabeth Closs Traugott is Professor Emerita of Linguistics and English at the University of California, Berkeley, and is among the most internationally significant researchers in her field. Her research focuses on historical syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociohistorical linguistics and literature. She has modelled change in language, particularly grammaticalisation and lexicalisation, primarily from the perspectives of meaning and language use.

David L. Woods (b. 1947) is an esteemed researcher of brain functions and related malfunctions of cognitive processes. In addition to his research work at the University of California, Davis, Professor Woods has had a significant impact on experimental psychological and neuroscientific research through his development of Presentation software. Presentation software, designed for the presentation of stimuli and control of experiments, is in wide use at research laboratories around the world.

The Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Helsinki has the longest tradition of conferment ceremonies in Finland. The first conferment ceremony at the Faculty was held in 1643 at the Royal Academy of Turku, in accordance with European university tradition. The Faculty of Philosophy, a remnant of the Royal Academy, includes the faculties of arts, science, pharmacy, biological and environmental sciences and behavioural sciences.

Professor Carl G. Gahmberg of the Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences will be the Conferrer in the spring of 2010, the Master of Ceremonies will be Sari Lindblom-Yläne of the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, and the Head Marshal will be Docent Tuomas Heikkilä of the Faculty of Arts.

More information is available from Conferment Secretary Sari Aalto, tel. 0405806931, sari.aalto@helsinki.fi.

Official website of the conferment ceremony (in Finnish): <http://www.helsinki.fi/filtstkpromootio2010>