



# **SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences  
and Humanities**

February 28, 2025



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities (HSSH) is an interfaculty initiative in the University of Helsinki (UH). The institute was established in 2019 to support the faculties and research community in social sciences and humanities to better meet contemporary scientific and societal challenges which demand for more interdisciplinary approaches, stronger research infrastructures, enhanced capacity for methodological development, and success in acquiring external, competitive funding. This assessment report presents evidence and assessments of HSSH's performance in 2021–2024. The report is a part of the external assessment of HSSH underway during the academic year of 2024–25, conducted for the forthcoming UH research assessment exercise (RAUH).

The report at hand consists of five element elements. Chapter 2 describes the background and mission of the institute. This provides the criteria for the evaluation. The mission of the institute combines active research with support for development of methods and practices. While these activities are intertwined in our daily work we describe and report them in two chapters. Chapter 3 presents the core staff and reports their research output and activity. Chapter 4 highlights the key functions the institute has developed and launched. We also incorporate quantitative user survey feedback from the SSH research community to each activity. Chapter 5 collects qualitative feedback and critique from the City Centre Campus (from HSSH Board, from campus faculty Research Committees, from the HSSH Scientific Board and partners from the University Services). It also reports feedback (on management and leadership) from the institute staff. Chapter 6 offers preliminary reflections and reactions of the institute staff to the accumulated evidence of this report, highlighting lessons and drafting suggestions for developing the institute.

## 2. MISSION, RESOURCES, ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### 2.1. Background and mission of HSSH

HSSH was founded in 2019 on the initiative of seven academic units at the City Centre campus: Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Educational Sciences, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Theology, Swedish School of Social Sciences and the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.<sup>1</sup> The founding documents and dialogue with representatives of the founding faculties defined a wide range of tasks for the institute.<sup>2</sup> They can be captured by five interlinked but somewhat distinct missions.

- (i) Enhancement of **interdisciplinary research** for addressing contemporary challenges of social sciences and humanities by supporting cooperation between researchers from different units on the City Centre campus. This mission was also tied to a commitment to strengthen the emerging **group-based research culture** in social sciences and humanities.
- (ii) Coordination and development of **shared research infrastructures** on the campus. This mission was shaped by a broad and **inclusive definition** of research infrastructure, stretching from physical spaces and research equipment to applications, software, and datasets, and to supporting personnel and their capacities.
- (iii) Strengthening of the **methodological capacity and innovation** across the campus research groups, disciplines and units. A core aim was to promote cutting edge methodological dialogue inside the campus and to combine resources for **methodological support** that would serve the needs of research groups.
- (iv) Activating and mobilizing **research funding** applications (particularly interdisciplinary and international).
- (v) Strengthening **scientific and societal impact** of the UH-based social sciences and humanities research.

These five interlinked goals provided the strategic orientation for the founding of HSSH. The strategic emphasis in the mission has been to **develop cooperation** inside the campus and by doing so, support the capacity of the SSH community of the UH to tackle the contemporary opportunities and challenges. The three first missions (i-iii) (interdisciplinary research, shared infrastructures, methodological support) can be seen as key missions that enhance the capacity to achieve the more

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<sup>1</sup> We refer to these founding institutions as “faculties” for the sake of brevity. They are all independent budgetary units, and except for the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies they all provide basic higher education programmes.

<sup>2</sup> See additional documents in the assessment material folder: University of Helsinki *Rector’s decision* on the establishment of the institute, and the initial *Rules of procedure for the Institute*.

general goals (iv-v). Together, these 5 goals have served as a framework for building the everyday operations and functions of HSSH from 2020 onwards (see Chapter 4).

The original founding decision and the mission of HSSH was based on a strategic decision made by the 7 founding faculties and the university leadership. However, independently of the founding decision, the current shape and activities of the institute were also influenced by a major successful external funding decision. For the period of 2021–2026, the institute has been strongly supported by the Research Council of Finland strategic profiling action (PROFI6) grant<sup>3</sup>. While there is no contradiction between the successful grant application and the original mission, the PROFI-funding underscores and specifies two things.

- (vi) HSSH has had a specific commitment to focus on the recent, rapid process of **datafication**. This refers to two interlinked aspects. First, datafication has been understood as a specific challenge to the field of SSH-research (new, data-intensive, computational methods, affordances and challenges), which underscores the three first mission goals (multidisciplinary research, infrastructures, methodological capacity). Datafication in this sense poses demands and opens opportunities for **academic knowledge production**. Second, datafication has been looked at as a transformative **social and cultural process** that shapes and alters social institutions, power relations and everyday life in profound ways. This transformation poses an obligation for SSH-research to analyze the changes in societal and institutional practices. ([HSSH Datafication Initiative](#)).
- (vii) The PROFI-funding project also launched a more concrete plan to set up the **methodological unit** providing resources and a recruitment structure for the unit. As the funding was directed to a strategic *profiling* of the UH social sciences and humanities, the unit's work has aimed at methodological development and support, towards intensive sharing of methodological capacities, keeping track on emerging methodological opportunities and innovations, encouraging experimental designs and enhancing critical reflection on the changing epistemological landscape of SSH-research.

These specifications have provided a specific flavor for the work of the institute staff. While datafication was taken as a major challenge for the methodology and capacity building, the grant also designated considerable staff resources for research on societal and cultural aspects of datafication (see the info box in section 3.1 for more specific profiles of the staff)

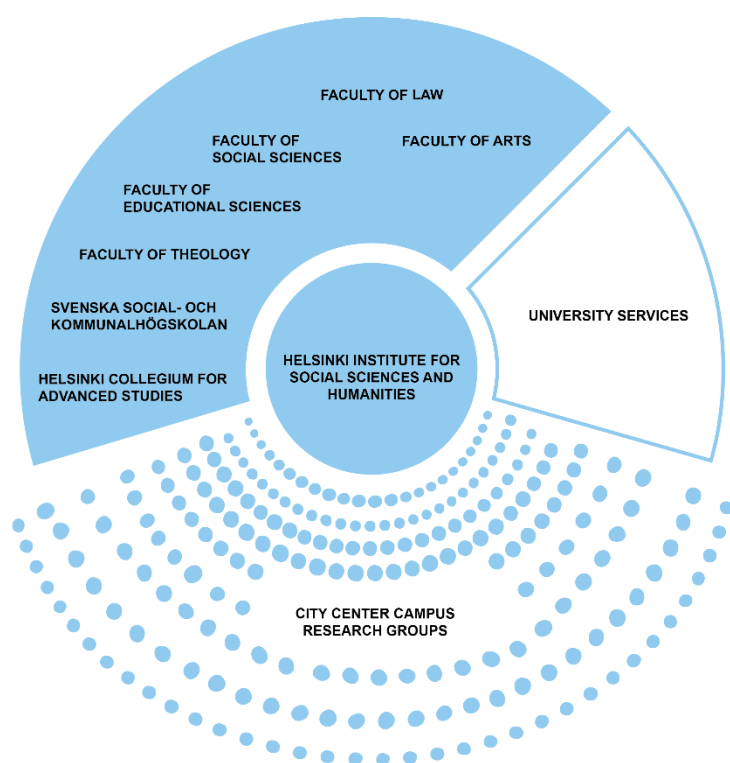
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<sup>3</sup> For more information on this instrument, see <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/programmes-and-other-funding-schemes/university-profiling/>

Taken together the founding mission and the PROFI-grant goals provide the core academic assessment criteria for this evaluation and assessment project. Parallel to this academic side, HSSH can also be seen as an organizational development initiative. The field of social sciences and humanities at the UH is organized into seven independent faculties with different academic traditions and research cultures – and also their own structures of strategic planning, prioritizing, and performance assessments. In addition to bridging the boundaries between faculties, HSSH has also aimed to develop co-operational practices with the University Services and campus research community.

- (viii) As an **organizational development** project, HSSH has been tasked in two ways. First, we have also helped build more intensive, campus wide interfaces between the UH administrative services on research funding, data management and the research community. Second, the institute has also been responsible for representing the campus viewpoints in several UH-level boards and working groups. All the tasks of the institute have organizational implications.

Above we have identified and briefly defined **eight** overlapping but analytically distinct elements against which this assessment evaluate the work of HSSH during 2020-2024. These tasks build three interfaces for the institute as it is situated in the intersection between **faculties units** (with their strategic, academic goals), **campus research community** (researchers and research groups with concrete projects, disciplinary traditions and networks) and **university services** (providing support for the whole campus/university). Figure 2.1. provides a simplified illustration of this.



**Figure 2.1.** Illustration of the institutional environment of HSSH

## 2.2. HSSH and University of Helsinki Strategy (2021-2030)

The University of Helsinki, established in 1640, is Finland's largest, oldest and internationally most esteemed research university. Consistently ranked among the world's top 100 universities, it holds notable positions in global rankings such as 99<sup>th</sup> in the Shanghai Rankings (2024), 107<sup>th</sup> in the Taiwan Rankings (2023), and 107<sup>th</sup> in the Times Higher Education Rankings (2024). As one of the leading multidisciplinary universities in the Nordic region, it frequently ranks as the top 5 in its category. With a vibrant international academic community of over 40,000 members, the UH is a founding member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU).

Nationally, the UH holds a prominent role in the academic field. A 2023 analysis of the Research Council of Finland (RCF) showed the UH receiving 23–30% of all competitive RCF's Academy project funding in 2020–2023. The UH scientific excellence is corroborated by its success in the most prestigious national calls, leading seven of the 12 Centres of Excellence selected by the Research Council of Finland for 2018–2025 and four of the 11 centres of excellence selected for 2022–2029. In 2024 the UH had 12 Academy Professors, or 60% of all Academy Professors appointed. Its scientific quality and impact are further evidenced with total more than 100 ERC grants, which is nearly half of all the ERC funding granted to Finland.

The UH has 11 faculties, several research-focused institutes as well as units attending to the duties of a national authority. The budget is approximately €770 million, 60% of which is core, public funding. The University of Helsinki receives roughly 24,000 international and 14,000 domestic media hits per year. It drives innovation with over 100 invention disclosures annually, and its research-based startups have generated over €400 million in value and created more than 250 jobs. Additionally, the university's incubators have supported the creation of 65 businesses and enhanced entrepreneurial skills in over 700 individuals. Helsinki University Hospital (HUS) contributes significantly with 1–2 clinical innovations weekly. Business collaboration at the university reached a value of nearly €26 million in 2023.

The overall mission of the HSSH institute (see section 2.1.) are integrally linked to the *values* expressed in the [University of Helsinki Strategic plan 2021-2030](#). Enhancing the capacity of SSH-research (interdisciplinary culture, functional infrastructures, methodological rigor) provides ground for seeking *truth* through free critical thinking and open minded, creative growth (*bildung*), supporting a strong, autonomous, responsible and *inclusive* university. The strategic choices of the university also emphasize knowledge based learning and open science that aims for a more sustainable world. Inside the university, HSSH is committed to working towards a collaborative culture that helps to create democratic, emphatic and diverse work community and make the UH an attractive employer. While these abstract key commitments describe the ethos of HSSH as part of the whole university's strategy,

a more concrete list of targets for 2030 underscores the relevance of the work at HSSH. The work of the institute ***directly contributes*** to all the research-based targets in the strategy, supporting:

- the UH as a ***scientific partner in multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research***,
- updated ***research infrastructures*** that are extensively **shared**,
- data practices that enhance ***open science and learning***,
- increase ***competence in the analysis of large and open datasets*** and further developed related infrastructures,
- our ability to produce ***research-based knowledge*** for ***societal decision-making***.

By contributing to the research capacity, HSSH also supports the educational goals of the UH and the ability of the university to serve society better.

## 2.3. Organization of HSSH

In the university context, HSSH not an independent unit. The Institute works on resources located in the budgets of the seven faculties, and the staff of the institute is also contractually situated in the faculties. However, as work community, all HSSH-scholars and staff are located in on premises, and their work is led by the Institute.

The founding faculties provide the strategic leadership of the institute. The **Board of the institute** consists of the Deans/Directors/Rectos of the faculties. The board accepts the financial planning, recruitment processes and discusses any campus wide initiatives. It has also delegated campus wide development and coordination tasks to HSSH (such as shared policy documents on data management, campus wide infrastructure planning and campus representation is several UH-level steering and working groups). The board convenes 6 times a year.

HSSH has a **Scientific Board** where the Institute has invited representatives from all faculties, aiming at convening campus expertise. This board meets 2-4 times a year, discussing emerging issues and providing feedback to the staff. It also serves as the City Centre Campus Research Infrastructure Group, assessing and prioritizing national infrastructure funding applications in the UH internal vetting process.

The **Director** of the institute organizes and runs the day-to-day operations, funding decision, recruitment and staff issues and represents the Institute. The institute runs a **Weekly staff meeting** for running issues and internal communication and a bi-weekly **Administrational meeting** with the key people form university services (HR, research support, finance, etc).



## 2.4. Resources

After its initial founding, the build-up on HSSH began with a planning and building networks in the campus research community. This work also produced a basic resource commitment from the seven founding faculties, at the level of roughly 450 000 € (including both direct funding and in-kind commitments). However, the institute as it has been built was only made possible by the PROFI6 -grant, designating more than 9,1 M€ for a period of six years (2021-26).

The PROFI-funding has enabled the founding faculties to secure a strong resource investment to the institute. In addition to the Director and Vice-Director, the methodological unit consists of eight full time scholars and the datafication research initiative (2022-2025) employs 4,5 full time researchers. (see text box on page 10, Chapter 3 for full staff profiles). In addition to personnel and basic running costs, the grant funding has enabled the HSSH to develop and fund a set of key actions (see Chapter 4) that provide incentives and opportunities for the campus research community to build networks, kick of new initiatives and invest on data gathering and new equipment. Financially, these resources on the institute are situated in the bookkeeping of the seven founding units.

As the current PROFI-funding will end in 2026, one important function of this assessment is to support the university and the faculties in designing and deciding the future resource base of HSSH. Practically the institute is almost fully dependent on the grant. The whole methodological unit staff is now hired on temporary contracts that come to an end in 2026. The datafication initiative begins to thin out already during 2025. Operationally, the key campus functions and instruments are also enabled by the current funding model.

## **2.5. Assessment criteria**

Against this background of the UH strategy, the initial founding decision of the institute and the specifications provided by the PROFI-grant (2021–2026), this evaluation exercise seeks answers to two guiding questions:

- 1) How has HSSH succeeded in fulfilling its mission?**
- 2) What changes, new developments, or reorientations would help the institute fulfil its mission better?**

## 3. STAFF ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION

### 3.1. Staff work profiles

A key principle in building the unit has been that the personnel at HSSH have advanced knowledge of contemporary methodological trends and innovations in a rapidly developing and diverse field. The core staff of the institute consists of scholars from different academic disciplines, they cover a range of thematic and methodological expertise and are currently in different stages on their academic career. As the staff has been recruited through open, international and competitive calls, they all brought with them an active track record in their respective fields of inquiry. Building a community with such a background has been a strategic choice in our attempt to secure a staff that can respond to new, interdisciplinary challenges, combine perspectives, and seek further insights from diverse academic and other networks (within the UH and internationally). This is how we have created and sustained an innovative, critical and open institute where new ideas can be tested but where research is – at the same time – securely anchored in validated practices and principles in different disciplines and methodological strands. Short bios of the staff are collected in the info box at the end of this section.

The core principle in our work has been that institute staff has aimed at working as one unit where all staff work members contribute to the mission of the institute (see Chapter 2) with their own skills and competences. While all members contribute to the overall scientific goals, those working in leadership, coordination and methodological support have designated more of their time to the providing service and support to the research community at the campus. The datafication research initiative, also funded through the PROFI-grant, has enabled us to recruit (through an in-house open call and an international review) three senior team leaders as research directors, and support each of their teams with a 3-year post doc position. Furthermore, the UH dedicated three PhD student positions for this thematic emphasis. The distinction between “datafication” and “methods support” is, however very flexible: the work of our (50%) research directors, for instance, has been very methods-intensive and included considerable infrastructural components.

A specific organizational feature of the institute is that all staff members of HSSH also belong to the staff of different hosting faculties. Thus, their research contribution – publications, funding applications, awarded grants – add to the performance and output of their home faculties. However, as HSSH works as one, integrated unit – and because this assessment is focused on HSSH’s performance, this report presents the collective output of the academic staff from 2021–2024. We present common standardized average output numbers of HSSH that are in principle comparable to other research units’ scientific performance.

### Institute leadership and coordination

**Director Risto Kunelius** is a professor of media and communication. He works on media, journalism, politics, and social theory. He is responsible for the overall leadership of the institute (finance, HR, strategic planning) and represents the institute in multiple university level organs. He co-coordinates HSSH *Academic Career Building and Leadership* (ACLA) course for campus post-docs.

**Coordinator and vice-director Pekka Mäkelä** is a philosopher whose work focuses on social responsibility and collective trust, social robotics and emerging algorithmic systems. He coordinates international *Visiting Professor* programme for the institute and co-teaches the ACLA-course.

### Methodological support

**University researcher Sointu Leikas** is a social psychologist who develops methods for studying human interaction. She has expertise both on methods studying behavioral dynamics and survey methods. In HSSH, she coordinates the *Methods Clinic*, plans methodological workshops, and supports the *UH Citizen Barometer* (survey platform).

**University researcher Matti Pohjonen** is an anthropologist working on digital politics and information repression with a global comparative perspective. His methodological responsibility in the institute is focused on social media and emerging AI-driven methods. At the institute he coordinates the weekly *Methodological Brown Bag seminar*.

**University researcher Jouni Tuominen** is a computer scientist with a long experience in the field of digital humanities. His work concentrates on different cultural heritage contents and building complex linked semantic data solutions. In HSSH he coordinates the *Catalyst Grant* programme and other open infrastructures.

**Project planner Visajaani Salonen** has background in mathematics and has specialized in physiological data collection, human experience sampling, and research software management. He is in charge of HSSH *Research Equipment Library* and provides consultation on statistical analysis.

**Project planner Pentti Henttonen** is a cognitive scientist specialized in psychophysiological methods, experimental designs, and statistical methods. He is in charge of the *Interlab*, a flexible research space dedicated to experimental research and analyzing human interaction.

**Project planner Juho Pääkkönen** is a sociologist of science specialized in diverse methods on digital data analysis, particularly social media data and computational textual analysis. At the institute he has also focused on developing the interface to national computational resources at the CSC (IT Center for Science).

**Post doctoral researcher Anton Berg** is a cognitive scientist and digital humanist whose expertise covers a range of experimental designs and computational methods. His work has focused on AI technologies, image recognition, and human perception.

**Research coordinator Mari Siirainen** has a background in linguistics and specializes in research data and infrastructure issues of the faculties at the City Centre Campus.

### Datafication research

**Professor, research director (50%) Katja Valaskivi** (Religious Studies and Media Research) specializes in datafication and mediatization of religions and belief systems and has developed multi-method approaches for the study of disruptive, hybrid media events such as terror attacks and natural disasters. She also heads the Helsinki Research Hub on Religion, Media and Social Change (Heremes).

**Professor, research director (50%) Eetu Mäkelä** (Digital Humanities) leads a research group (Human Sciences–Computing Interaction) that seeks to figure out the technological, processual, and theoretical underpinnings of successful computational research in the humanities and social sciences. He is also technological director at the national DARIAH-FI infrastructure for computational humanities.

**Associate Professor, research director (50%) Emilia Palonen** (Political Science) is a political scientist working on interpretive and discursive approaches in comparative contexts. She heads the Helsinki Hub on Emotions, Populism and Polarisation (HEPP) and works and coordinates with several EU-funded consortiums, particularly focusing on comparative analyses on political discourses in social media.

**Post-doctoral researcher Narges Azizi Fard's** work focuses on solving social issues with applying data-driven approaches on large-scale behavioral data.

**Post-doctoral researcher Dayei Oh** works on the intersection of digital technologies, public spheres, and democratic discourse, using mixed methods research including computational social science.

**Post-doctoral researcher Feeza Vasudeva's** research interests include contemporary political theories, the study of violence, discourse theory, media studies, and the intersection of populism(s) and nationalism.

**Kirsikka Grön** (Faculty of Social Sciences) works on a PhD focusing on everyday effects of algorithmic systems and digital platforms.

Other staff	
<b>Project Planner Anna Jarske-Fransas</b> works with communications, events, website & other miscellaneous tasks. She is doing her PhD at the UH Doctoral Programme in Theology and Religious Studies.	<b>Administration specialist Kustaa Multamäki's</b> main responsibilities are preparation of administrative matters, strategic support for the Institute director, and coordination of on-site support.
<b>Research assistant Samuel Sipola</b> helps with a wide variety of tasks in the institute's ongoing activities and projects.	

### 3.2. Staff publications

Table and Figure 3.2.1. present a summary of academic publications of HSSH staff 2021–2024). The performance numbers show that the average volume of HSSH staff publication ranks slightly above the average at the campus level (peer reviewed publications: HSSH 2,3; the City Centre Campus 1,9). In addition to these publications, two HSSH staff members finished their dissertations during 2024.

Table 3.2.1. Publications by HSSH contributors' home faculties

Faculty	All publications	Peer reviewed
Arts	40	36
Educational Sciences	13	12
Social Sciences	48	34
Theology	22	17
SocKom	16	13
Law	5	5
HCAS	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Total/FTP</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>2,3</b>

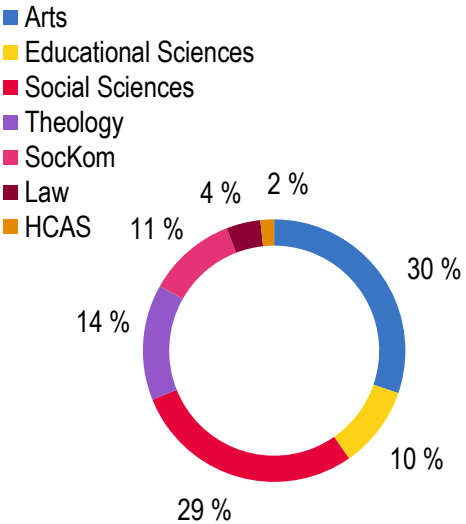


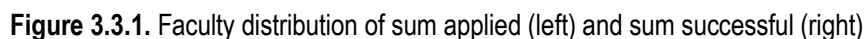
Figure 3.2.1. Peer-reviewed publications by UH Faculty

Figure 3.2.2. shows a word cloud image made with the keywords of HSSH core staff publications where the size of a keyword illustrates the number of times it has been used in the publications (keywords chosen by authors). Not surprisingly, this suggestive overview points to a relatively strong methodological emphasis (methods, analysis tools, and characterizations of data provide overlapping hits most easily; also HSSH staff has a strong methodological focus). Some stronger thematic streams are also visible, such as studying politics, climate change issues, law and mental health questions. Appendix 1 provides a list of titles from staff publications for further details and sense of research thematics.



As part of their own research interests, our staff members have also actively submitted funding applications to competitive funding instruments. Table 3.3.1. shows the amount of these applications and the external funding awarded to different units (as our staff is contracted in the faculties, the funding accumulates to the performance of faculties). Figure 3.3.1 shows the faculty distribution of the funding awarded.

Faculty	N applications	Sum applied (€)	N successful	Sum successful (€)
Arts	12	3 015 338	5	513 334
Social Sciences	18	9 737 096	7	1 525 507
Theology	3	555 000	1	140 000
Law	4	912 355	2	528 582
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14 219 789</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2 707 423</b>



There is a noteworthy discrepancy between faculties, particularly in terms of applications. This is mostly a consequence of the fact that the Institute director and the vice-director are located in the Faculty of Social Sciences. We also recognize the fact we have not been able to produce applications in the Faculty of Educational Sciences. However, on balance, our methodological expertise has provided strong support there.

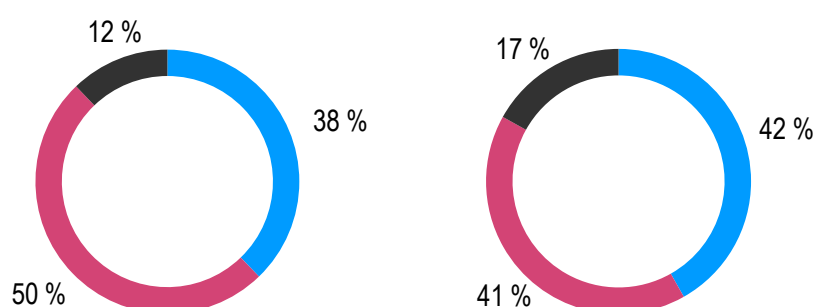
Table 3.3.2. and Figure 3.3.2. show how our staff led applications, and their successful funding, is distributed across different funding instruments. Most of the applications and the awarded funding comes from Research Council of Finland. Here HSSH staff funding success in relation to personnel is somewhat higher than in the City Centre Campus faculties overall. For EU funding, the relation is more mildly reverse. Other funding sources here refers mostly to a few Finnish private foundations. We believe the *overall success* rates of our external funding initiatives have been, given the current flood of applications in many instruments, satisfactory.

(For the full list of all staff funding applications see Appendix 2.)

**Table 3.3.2.** Core staff funding applications by source of the funding

Source of the funding	N applications	Sum applied (€)	N successful	Sum successful (€)
Research Council of Finland	17	5 372 938	6	1 131 750
EU	11	7 117 064	5	1 118 021
Others	9	1 729 787	4	457 652
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14 219 789</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2 707 423</b>

■ Research Council of Finland  
■ EU  
■ Others



**Figure 3.3.2.** Source distribution of sum applied (left) and sum successful (right)

### 3.4. International networks

The PROFI-grant application designates an ambitious target for HSSH in the international field of interdisciplinary and methodological development: our aspired level is to become “one of the top five European research environments focusing on interdisciplinary SSH research and methodology by 2030”. In order to build capacities towards this target, we have built and strengthened many international networks and partnerships. Figure 3.4.1 illustrates the **active international connections** of HSSH (2021–2024) on a map. It shows the connections based on different activities (including also project cooperation and grant applications of HSSH core staff – see section 3.2.). The networks built through Visiting Professor -instrument are highlighted in blue and red. (See Appendix 3 for the full list of the international connections.)



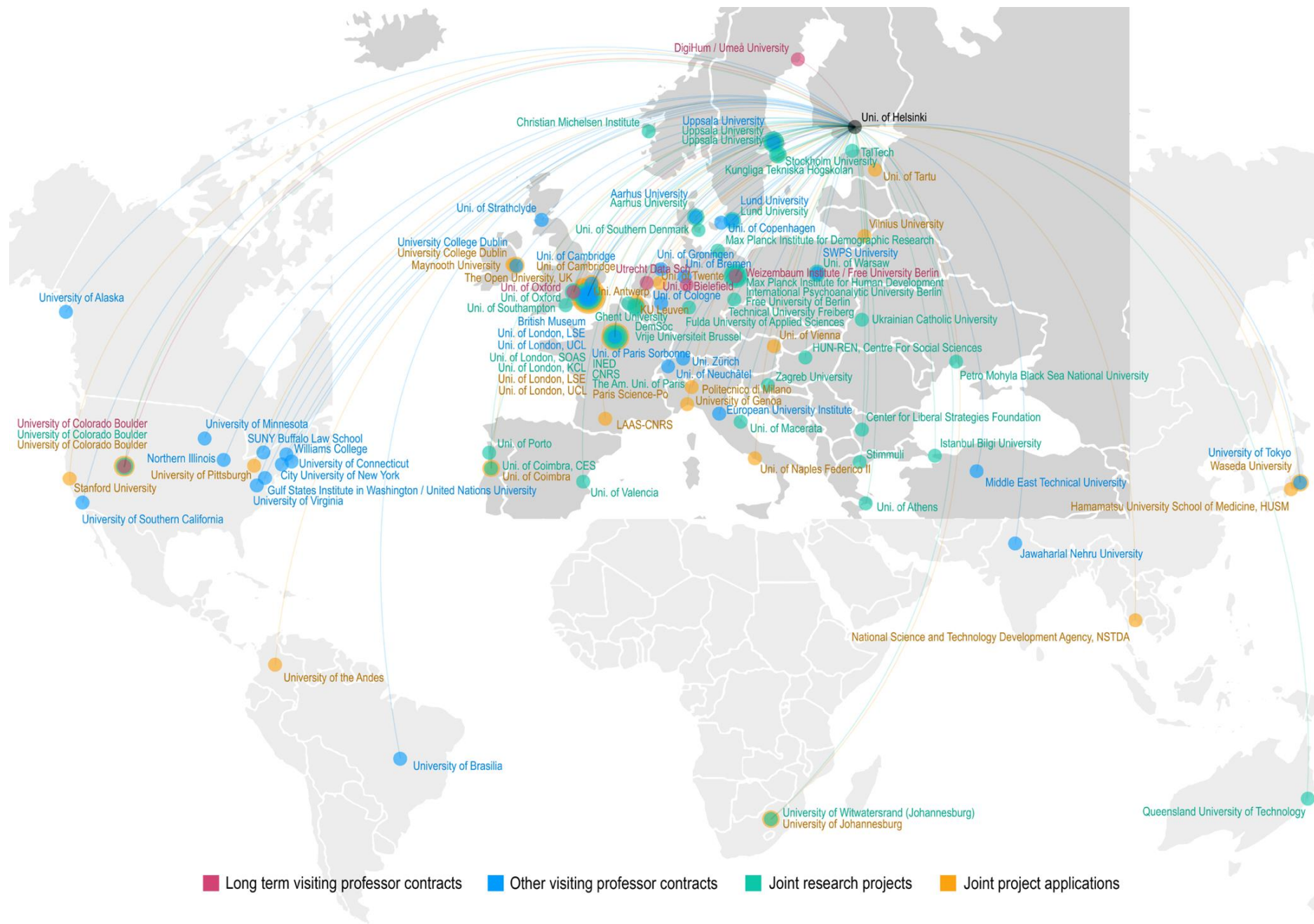


Figure 3.4.1. International connections of HSSH, for a list see Appendix 3

## 4. KEY SERVICE FUNCTIONS: PERFORMANCE AND FEEDBACK

HSSH works as an academic, interdisciplinary community that aims to be easily and flexibly accessible for all researchers and research groups at the campus (and, if interdisciplinary ideas so demand, beyond the campus). We are open for discussions, consultation and equipment lending – every day. We strive to help all scholars, offer feedback on methodological questions, help with data-management challenges, consultation in practical research arrangements and equipment use, and inspiring dialogues on ideas and initiatives. The [expertise of our staff](#) is highlighted on the institute's web pages, and our links to the [events](#), [consultation](#), and [study resource listings](#) offer multiple interfaces through which scholars can approach the institute. Serving more than 1400 potential scholars at the campus with a staff of 14 (ratio of 100:1) relies largely on the initiative of the people in need. When successful, this interaction based on demand has the potential benefit of offering help at that moment when it is most relevant for the users.

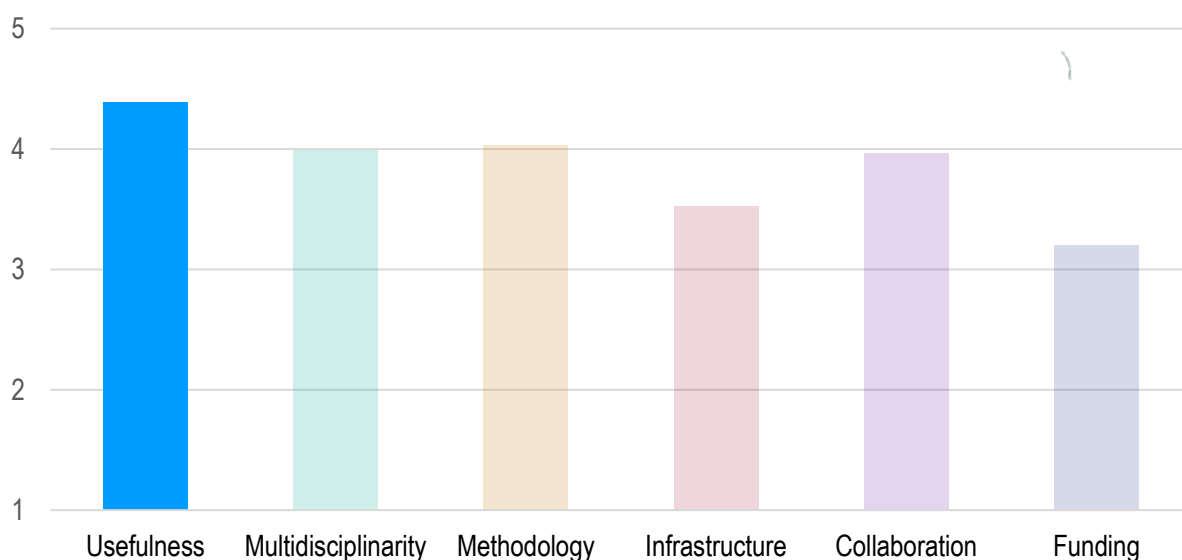
A demand-based approach like this calls for effective communication (which we need to work on more, see chapter 5). But importantly, we have also developed a set of key service functions and practices that aim to reach researchers and enhance our impact. This chapter introduces the functions launched during 2021–2024, reports on their activities, and provides data from a feedback survey of researchers experienced with these instruments. We present HSSH **key functions** in three categories:

**Open call campus funding instruments for research groups (4.1.)** provide financial support, directed to research groups on the City Centre campus. **Catalyst Grant** offers seed funding to new scientific openings (networks, equipment, datasets, etc). **Visiting Professor program** supports work visits that benefit multiple groups. We have also piloted a **Horizon Europe application support** package.

**Events, seminars, workshops and methodological advice (4.2.)** are organized as sustained practices. **Weekly Methodological Seminar (Brown Bag)** sessions on methods keep up continuous forum and dialogue on new practices. Dedicated **Keynote Talks** tackle more general SSH themes and topical challenges. Focused **Methods workshops** concentrate on specific methods and techniques, and a weekly **Methods clinic** serves researchers at the City Centre Campus on an on-demand basis. In addition, we have designed a new, interdisciplinary course on **Academic leadership and career building** (ACLA) for post-doc scholars who aim to build their own research group.

**Infrastructure development work (4.3.)** includes a variety of initiatives. **Equipment library** facilitates shared usage of basic appliances as well as more advanced tools for City Centre Campus research needs. **Interlab** is a facility built by HSSH for high quality data gathering and analysis of social interaction. **The UH Citizen Barometer** is a panel survey platform with pre-recruited samples of respondents available for opinion research. The HSSH staff also actively supports the existing national UH research infrastructures (**CLARIAH-FI**, **FIRE**), and has coordinated several national and international applications and initiatives to pool more resources for this sector. In addition, HSSH has a coordinating and planning role in building shared, strategic principles and practices for the campus infrastructure and research environment.

Below, we will highlight and briefly elaborate each activity. We will also draw on data from the **user feedback survey** directed to all members of the campus research community that have participated in some of the HSSH activities in 2021–2024. The survey requested feedback on the key functions with respect to their *general usefulness* and the central dimension of the institute’s *core mission*. Figure 4.1 shows the respondents’ overall evaluation of the usefulness of the HSSH actions and overall assessment on how the actions have helped them with regard to the five dimensions. We offer detailed data on each function below when discussing them more specifically.



**Figure 4.1.** User survey results: Mean supportiveness ratings over all core activities for each evaluation dimension by the HSSH partners and collaborators. The supportiveness ratings were made on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much). For details, see Appendix 4.

We targeted the survey by collecting all individual emails addresses of scholars we had had direct interaction with (through the key functions presented above). This target list consisted of more than 800 colleagues, suggesting that the institute had directly reached more than roughly half of the 1400+ scholars at the campus. While

we consider this population reach as a positive achievement in general and take the response rate (137 respondents) as good, it should be noted that the survey respondents' answers probably reflect more the experiences of people who felt they had benefitted from our work. In addition to numerical assessments, the survey also collected open feedback, and received 47 responses, 25 of which contained positive feedback, 13 contained criticism, and 27 contained suggestions for future developments. Recurring themes in suggestions and criticisms included improving *communication* about activities and events, improving the *feedback and transparency* of Catalyst Grant decisions, and improvements with *regards to organizing* activities. Desire for events and information in Finnish was also mentioned.

Generally, the positive feedback suggested that HSSH's activities provide users with substantial help and support in most of our core task domains. Flexible and competent methodological support was mentioned several times, as was our contribution to nourishing multi- and interdisciplinary atmosphere on the City Centre Campus. Furthermore, several tangible outcomes of the received Catalyst Grants were mentioned, and the Visiting professor program and ACLA course also received praise.

We now turn to presenting the key functions and the feedback they received.

## 4.1. Open call campus funding instruments

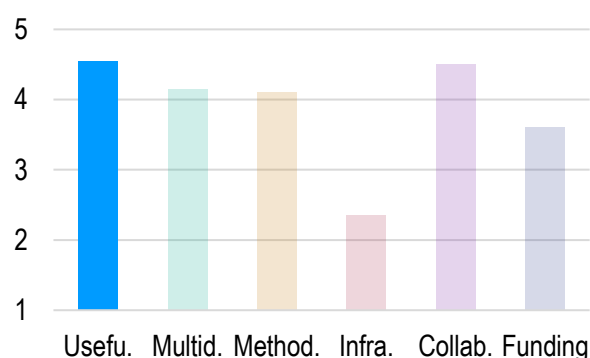
### Visiting Professor program

HSSH Visiting Professor program enhances international research networks on the City Centre Campus. All HSSH-affiliated **research groups** can propose candidates. In practice, two local researchers representing different disciplines, typically different faculties, make a joint suggestion for an invitee. The program aims to support invitees that will catalyse research group cooperation within the UH by serving more than one research group, and to open interdisciplinary debates and connections between research groups.

In this instrument, a strong research relevance of the visitors is emphasized.

The application for a Visiting Professor must be submitted by a PI at the UH and supported by another PI on the City Centre Campus. After the selection process (with external reviewers and HSSH

reviewers) HSSH formally invites the accepted Visiting Professor to the UH. Figure 4.1.1 shows users' feedback on the Visiting Professor instrument.

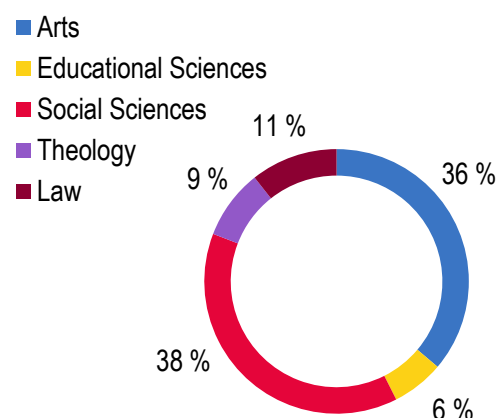


**Figure 4.1.1.** Mean supportiveness ratings of Visiting Professor programme from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)

In the program, the invitee must spend at least two weeks per year in Helsinki. HSSH will cover travel and accommodation costs and pays an honorarium at the end of the year. The PIs at the UH have an important role in hosting and acting as the point of contact between the Visiting Professor and the research group. Table 4.1.1. shows how the instrument has become increasingly competitive and that we have tried to increase the number of funded applications. Figure 4.1.2. shows the distribution of home faculties of nominated applicants.

**Table 4.1.1.** Visiting professor programme statistics:

Year	N applications	N accepted	% accepted
2022	9	8	89
2023	15	7	47
2024	19	10	53
2025	30	12	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>51</b>

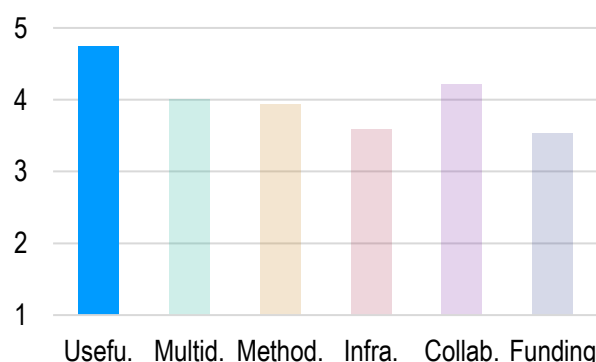


**Figure 4.1.2.** Visiting professor distribution

Overall, the VP-instrument has brought existing research groups on the City Centre Campus together and offered scholars in different career stages an opportunity to build and consolidate emerging international working connections. For the institute, the VP-instrument has provided a good avenue to build and strengthen international institutional networks (see also Figure 3.4.1 in Chapter 3.4).<sup>4</sup>

## Catalyst Grant

Catalyst Grant is a seed funding scheme for **research groups** on the City Centre Campus. It supports the mission of HSSH to enhance methodological development and build new research infrastructures, as well as support multidisciplinary research networks. The aim of the Catalyst Grant is to provide relatively small but effective support for launching new initiatives, collecting and sharing new data, acquiring and sharing research equipment, and building contacts and networks between research groups and with international partners. In the grant call and evaluation process, particular attention



**Figure 4.1.3.** Mean supportiveness ratings of Catalyst Grant from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)

<sup>4</sup> See the HSSH website for a full list of [Visiting Professors](#) (2021–2025).



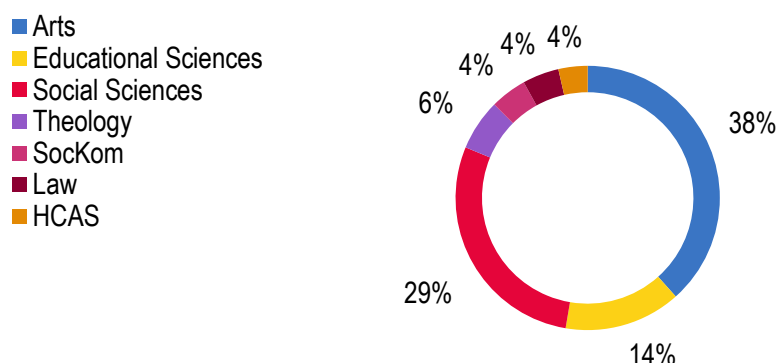
has been paid to the following criteria: testing and developing new ideas, aiming for multidisciplinary, and the feasibility of suggested actions. In particular, we have sought for a promise of added value for other researchers in the SSH field (beyond the applying research group). Figure 4.1.3 shows users' evaluations on the grant instrument. So far, HSSH has run five annual rounds of application periods (2021–2025), with the maximum amount of a single grant being 15 000 €. In total, 112 out of 273 applications have been funded.

Table 4.1.2 shows the funding applications and funded projects by faculties/units for the first 5 years of Catalyst Grants.

**Table 4.1.2.** Catalyst Grant statistics: basic data by faculties/units across 2021-2025

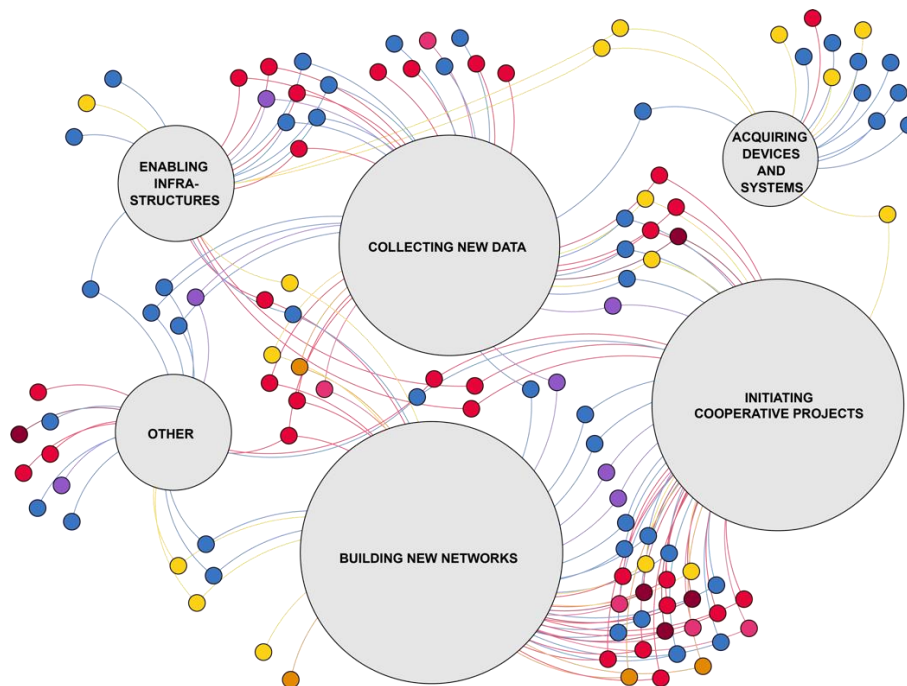
Unit	N applications	N funded	% funded	Sum applied (€)	Sum funded (€)	% funded
Arts	107	43	40	1 258 266	357 160	28
Educational Sciences	40	16	40	490 471	153 655	31
Social	77	32	42	963 727	330 200	34
Theology	20	7	35	263 093	54 400	21
SocKom	12	5	42	165 751	43 590	26
Law	10	5	50	129 160	45 000	35
HCAS	7	4	57	97 870	42 500	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3 368 337</b>	<b>1 026 505</b>	<b>30</b>

Figure 4.1.4 shows the distribution of the funding directed to research in different units in (2021–2025, according to the main PI's institutional home). The amount of money awarded over 5 years accumulates to considerable sum of 1 M€. As this is a major input of HSSH to the campus, we elaborate this more below.



**Figure 4.1.4.** Catalyst Grant statistics: faculty/unit distribution of funded projects across years 2021-2025.

Figure 4.1.5 shows a network graph depicting the purpose of use of the Catalyst Grant funds by the funded projects in 2021–2025. In the picture, the lines connect individual funded projects (the small circles) to the main purposes of use (the big circles) declared in the applications. The projects are colored by the PI's faculty color. The size of the circles depicting purposes of use vary according to the number of projects that have mentioned the respective purpose in their application. The figure shows that building new networks and collecting new data have been supported most, with considerable support to equipment and infrastructures as well. This aligns well with the institute's mission.



**Figure 4.1.5.** The purpose of use of the funded Catalyst Grant projects, linked to research groups in different faculties and units

The figure indicates that generically campus research groups have often received funding for cultivating new cooperative networks and pushing forward new cooperative project ideas. The Grant has also facilitated new data gathering and investments on cutting edge equipment. Table 4.1.3 complements this picture with information collected from PI-reports of the first 4 grant years (2021–24)

**Table 4.1.3.** Catalyst Grant outcomes 2021–2024 (first 4 rounds)

Type of outcome	Nr of outcomes
Workshop/seminar/symposium/other event	41
Opened data/created a database/improved existing open data/database	19
Article/book in preparation	17
Conducted studies/pilots/collected data	17
Acquired equipment or software	12
Funding application submitted	12
Developed and/or tested new methodology	9
Article/book submitted	8
Analyzed/coded existing data	6
Funding application in preparation	5
Created a portal/search engine/online interface	5
Created a website	2

Overall, the Catalyst Grant has pushed forward the key goals set for HSSH. It has helped the institute to build a network of roughly 100 research groups on the City Centre Campus, and it has helped to initiate new projects and publications (some of which have also led to success in acquiring major funding). As a yearly instrument, it has also offered a target and a tool for groups to plan for new initiatives. (See Appendix 5 for a list of core ideas of funded projects 2022-25).

### **Horizon Europe funding support pilot**

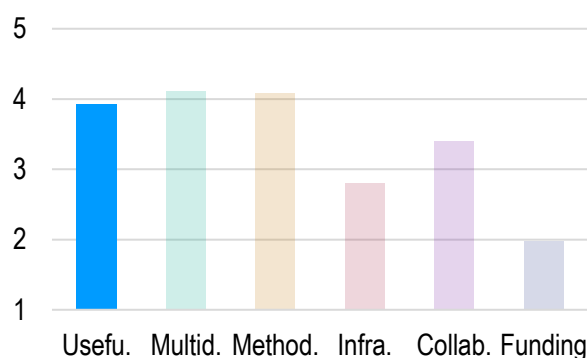
In 2022–23, together with the UH Research Funding support, HSSH organized a funding application support pilot project for PIs of Horizon Europe consortium applications. Four projects were supported with networking resources, supporting post-doc -funding, and intensive workshops on details of EU funding. This support led to one successful project. Given sufficient funding, this function could be turned into a permanent one. Now the University research services offer a similar package and support, with faculties supporting the applicants.



## 4.2. Events, seminars, workshops and clinics

As a part of its remit, HSSH hosts different types of events combining interdisciplinary methodological development and research excellence carried out at the UH and its network of partners (see Table 4.2.1 for basic numbers on events). The events include:

**Methodological Brown Bag seminars** are held weekly (more than 110 events so far) and they highlight novel methodological approaches in humanities and social sciences. The idea of the meetings is to introduce methodological innovations and cutting-edge research in various disciplines in an easily accessible manner and to have an interdisciplinary discussion in an easy-going atmosphere over lunch. Brown Bag seminar received an average *usefulness* rating of 3.93 (SD = 0.90) on a scale from 1 to 5 based on 69 users' ratings (Figure 4.2.1).<sup>5</sup>



**Figure 4.2.1.** Mean supportiveness ratings of Brown Bag seminar from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)



**Figure 4.2.2.** A word cloud made from past Brown Bag seminar abstracts

**The Brown Bag seminar hosts weekly discussions with diverse methodological and interdisciplinary themes and topics.** HSSH has hosted over 110 talks from researchers and research groups coming from different disciplinary backgrounds. These talks have covered a wide spectrum on research methodologies from qualitative interviews to latest developments in generative AI. The diversity of the topics discussed can be seen in the word cloud above that is made from keywords extracted from abstracts of past Brown Bag seminars. (See also a list of past Brown Bag seminar presentation titles in Appendix 6.)

<sup>5</sup> See the HSSH website for more information about the [Methodological Brown Bag seminar](#) and a full list of past seminars.

**Methodology workshops** are individual workshops and courses on methodology, data processing and data analysis in the social sciences and humanities. These are usually organized by University Researchers at the Methodological Unit (MU) and by request from research groups at the UH. These methodology workshops are either held by researchers at HSSH or through bringing in external experts.<sup>6</sup>

**New Research Culture** lectures bring senior scholars to give keynote lectures on topics that deal with the burning issues of the humanities and social sciences research as well as the possibilities of the future of research. The main theme of the lecture series is the promotion of new multidisciplinary research culture in the humanities and social sciences.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 4.2.1.** HSSH events statistics: events and participants in 2020–2024

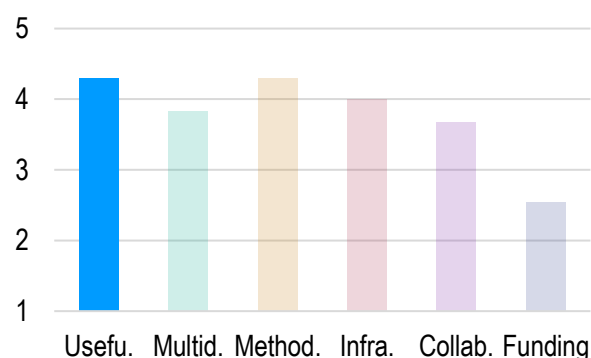
Event	N events	Average participants	Total participants
Brown Bag	110	25	2 799
New Research Culture	18	40	713
Workshops / Other	40	28	1 121
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4 632</b>

**Methods consultation** of HSSH operates flexibly. The institute strives for an open, welcoming and supportive culture where all researchers from the campus can walk in and ask for help, ideas and suggestions. In addition to routine seminars and workshops, the staff offers advice to research groups on demand, in connection with lending equipment or using HSSH-facilities (see section 3.3. also). The **Methods clinic** offers a low threshold entry point to helping individuals. It is a weekly one-hour online methodological consultation session organized jointly with the Centre for Social Data Science, tailored to serve the UH City Centre Campus researchers from PhD students to professors. The clinic was launched in January 2022. Between the launch and October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there has been a total of 96 sessions with 162 researchers asking for advice (based on clinic registration form statistics), i.e. about 1.7 clients per session on average.

<sup>6</sup> See the HSSH website for a full list of past [Methodology workshops](#).

<sup>7</sup> See the HSSH website for a full list of past [New Research Culture](#) lectures.

Methods clinic offers methodological advice on the wide spectrum of expertise reflective of the multidisciplinary background of HSSH core staff. Researchers have sought and received consultation on various topics such as scraping social media data, analyzing interview data, conducting advanced statistical analyses, and processing physiological data. In our user survey, Methods clinic received an average user rating of 4.3 ( $SD = 0.79$ ) on *usefulness* and 4.3 ( $SD = 0.88$ ) average rating of *methodological support* on a scale from 1 to 5, based on 30 users' ratings (Figure 4.2.3).<sup>8</sup>



**Figure 4.2.3.** Mean supportiveness ratings of Methods Clinic from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)

### Example cases from Methods clinic

Case 1: “A research group wanted to conduct a statistical analysis on data with both qualitative and quantitative features. Research group members knew how to conduct the analysis itself, but the data needed to be converted into a structurally uncommon format. This conversion required relatively advanced knowledge of statistical coding. The group had been stuck for several months merely due to this conversion issue prior to learning about the Methods clinic. We wrote them a small piece of code that converted the data frame and they were able to proceed in their research.”

Case 2: “A PhD researcher was anxious about the ethical and legal implications of using public social media data in her research. She had received contradictory information about this and that, because of new privacy regulations in the EU, its use could be now prohibited or at least seriously restricted. This would have made an article she was working on impossible to finish. In the methods clinic, we explained to her how social media data can be used in research, the ethical implications of using public data, what types of methods are useful for analyzing it, and shared the specifics of different regulations currently affecting this in Finland. The clinic helped clear her confusion around the use of social media data for research and help her finish her PhD article.”

Case 3: “A researcher was testing a complex structural equation model, and was facing several issues with model fit, convergence, and estimation, and also uncertainty with regards to the “meta-statistical” principles of modifying the model and using different estimation algorithms. In a couple of Methods clinic sessions, we went through these issues together and came to the conclusion that the data was solid, and together formulated a plan of testing the model with transparency and statistical rigor.”

Case 4: “A researcher was planning a research project on an analysis of early modern manuscripts, printed books and state papers. They were seeking advice on gathering the material from various non-digitized archival sources, organizing the digitization process, storing the accumulating research material in a database, deploying a user interface for data exploration and finally publishing the data and the interface openly to the research community. With our help, the researcher was able to describe the process for creating and maintaining the database and estimate the required staff and infrastructure resources in a funding application.”

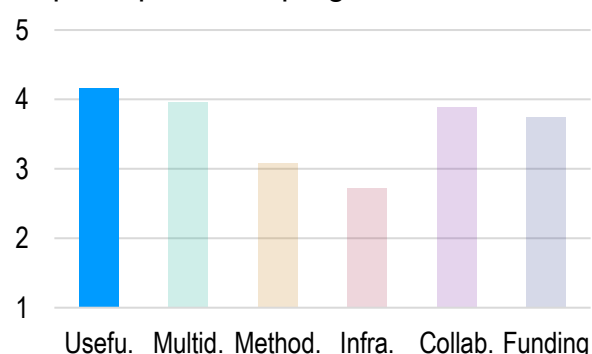
<sup>8</sup> See the HSSH website for more information about the [Methods Clinic](#).

**Academic career planning and leadership (ACLA)** is a multidisciplinary course designed for postdoctoral researchers for supporting career planning, securing project funding, and building a research group. ACLA course is targeted to post-doctoral researchers in the SSH-field (on the City Centre Campus) who are launching their independent researcher careers and are thinking about building their own research group

The core aims of the ACLA course are to provide the participants with tools and intellectual resources needed to: 1) conceptualise and develop their own career trajectories/horizons for the upcoming five years, 2) plan how to build their own research groups and learn project management and academic leadership skills, 3) map out opportunities and schedules for research funding, 4) build multidisciplinary networks inside the UH, 5) manage social impact issues and publication strategies, 6) understand the role and importance of data management and research ethics, and 7) learn to make full use of the UH research services and infrastructure.

The course is structured into six 5-hour workshops, over the academic year. The course ends with an excursion to Brussels to learn about European science policy and funding opportunities. During the five editions of ACLA the number of participants has been steadily growing from the first edition's 12 to fifth edition's 24.

ACLA provides a constructive, interdisciplinary working environment and a wide range of expertise to support the efforts of the participant. The programs of the workshops are built on guest speakers, admin people, researchers, and interesting people from the “outside world”, who will link the practical matters to the larger thematic horizons of social sciences and humanities, such as well-being, datafication, security, cultural interaction, etc. ACLA course received a mean usefulness rating of 4.16 ( $SD = 0.90$ ) on a scale from 1 to 5 based on 25 users' ratings. (See Figure 4.2.4)



**Figure 4.2.4.** Mean supportiveness ratings of ACLA form 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)

Table 4.2.5 and Figure 4.2.6. provide information on ACLA participants. The course has reached wide, multidisciplinary and interfaculty group of post-docs. Notedly, it has served the local networking of many younger scholars who have moved to Helsinki from abroad.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> See the HSSH website for more information about the [ACLA](#).

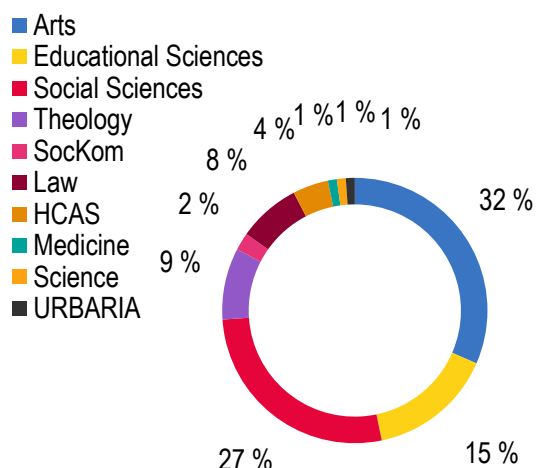


Figure 4.2.5. ACLA participant's faculties

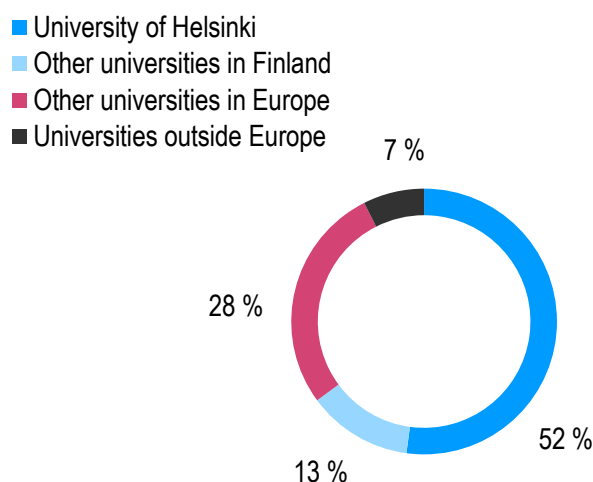


Figure 4.2.6. ACLA participant's PhD locations

HSSH's roster of events, seminars, workshops and other forms of interacting with the City Centre Campus research community are central part of our work. Through routine platforms, the institute has built connections with people across faculty and disciplinary boundaries. Serving a large community presents, of course, a constant dilemma on synchronizing time, attention and resources, but the feedback on current practices suggests that those who we have managed to reach have felt that they have benefited.

### 4.3. Campus infrastructure development

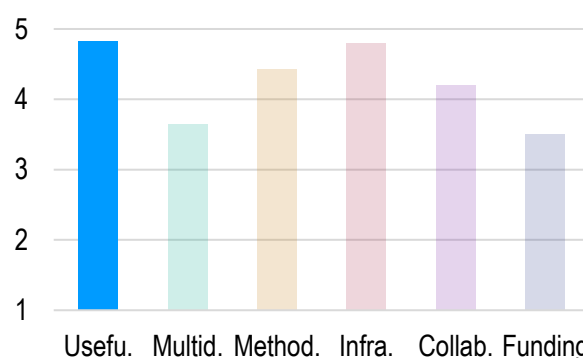
The HSSH mission is based on a broad definition of what *infrastructures* in the field of social science and humanities mean. We see them extending from actual physical spaces through research equipment and software to data management solutions, and crucially to the staff capabilities of and the organizational arrangements that support all of these. This whole range of issues has also been on the agenda of the institute. Above, we have already highlighted methodological skills and capacity building efforts.

#### Equipment library

The HSSH Equipment Library lends portable research equipment to support the needs of research groups. All City Centre Campus researchers can borrow generic equipment from sound recorders, video and still cameras, different kinds of microphones and additional equipment such as camera stands and small lights. We also host and lend more advanced equipment for EEG-, eye-tracking and other physical sensory data collection. The library is centrally located at HSSH office, and we provide hands-on guidance on using the appliances. For more demanding experimental, sensory data analysis we also consult on project designs and data analysis.

**Table 4.3.1.** Equipment library statistics 2023–2024: Estimated numbers of devices and projects that have been borrowing the devices

Devices	N devices	N projects
Camera	30–35	28–30
Sound recorder	20–25	18–22
EEG	7	5
Eye-tracking	6	4
Empatica	20	3



**Figure 4.3.1.** Mean supportiveness ratings of Equipment Library from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)

The equipment library is at its limits, as almost all devices are in use, and there are already queries in line for 2025. Equipment library received a usefulness rating of 4.83 (SD = 0.39) on a scale from 1 to 5 based on the ratings by 23 users (Figure 4.3.1). Table 4.3.1 shows estimations of device and user numbers. The figures speak for a steady demand and need to update and broaden the library's collection.<sup>10</sup>

## Interlab

Interlab is a facility built and managed by HSSH, located in the Metsätalo building. The facilities are designed for multimodal individual and interpersonal research and are available for all researchers on the City Centre Campus.

Interlab's camera equipment enables easy, synchronous recording of up to 8 video streams and 16 audio channels with automatic "one-button" recording and split screen composition. The location provides a comfortable setting for small scale audiovisual data acquisition, streaming and making stimulus or teaching material. All equipment is portable to a degree and can be loaned out for field use. Interlab has two workstations (Mac and PC) for simultaneous editing, annotation, analysis and automatic transcription of audiovisual materials with comprehensive software library. In addition to standard video formats, Interlab is equipped for acquisition and presentation of 360-degree video and virtual reality environments, with two sets of VR headsets.

Interlab opened for research use in February 2023 and has since been utilized at levels approaching maximum capacity. Users can find the available times and book the laboratory via Outlook calendar. Projects start with assessing the user needs and required training in a consultation session with the lab manager, who also provides technical support throughout the project. For long-term use, users are given key access. To supplement individual project support, topics of wider interest are addressed in specific HSSH workshops. The survey feedback from users is

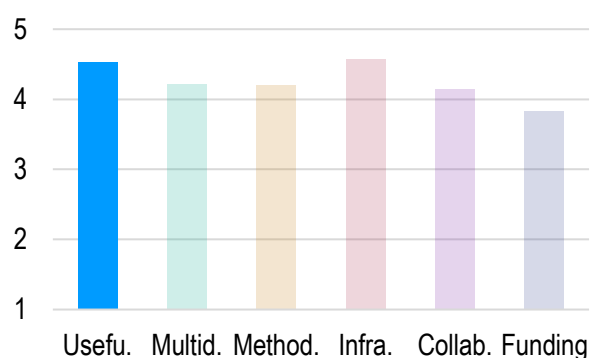
<sup>10</sup> See the HSSH website for more information about the [Equipment Library](#).

presented in Figure 4.3.2. Interlab received an average user rating of 4.53 ( $SD = 1.02$ ) on *usefulness* (rated by 19 users) and 4.20 ( $SD = 1.08$ ) average rating of *methodological support* (rated by 15 users) on a scale from 1 to 5.

Interlab has been used by researchers across several faculties on the City Centre Campus in projects ranging from small consultation visits to large-scale data collections spanning several months. For breakdown of major projects per faculty, see Table 4.3.2.<sup>11</sup>

**Table 4.3.2.** Major projects using Interlab per faculties

Faculties	N users
Arts	22
Educational Sciences	9
Social Sciences	9
SocKom	2
Law	1
Medicine	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>



**Figure 4.3.2.** Mean supportiveness ratings of Interlab from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)

### An example case of accessible and scalable HSSH method support

Automatic transcribing tool (OpenAI Whisper) was implemented in Interlab at its early stages. The language models are running on the local workstation in the lab which ensures data privacy and security according to GDPR regulations. Word has spread quickly, and the tool has seen extensive use by a large and varied group of researchers with hundreds to thousands of hours of material, resulting in significant acceleration of research and democratically introducing scholars to contemporary methods. University is slowly implementing automatic transcribing capacities, but as of 2024, no universal solution was offered for research-specific use. Until these systems are fully implemented, users will be referred to Interlab by the University library. This case exemplifies the process of agile and early adoption and proliferation of new methodologies, supplementing the existing infrastructure and boosting the efficiency and quality of research.

<sup>11</sup> See the [Interlab](#) website for more information.



## **UH Citizen Barometer**

The UH Citizen Barometer is a novel research infrastructure architecture in the UH. It is an online panel consisting of a) a near-representative sample of Finnish citizens ( $N = 2800$ ) and b) a large non-representative opt-in panel ( $N = 4700$ ). The Barometer is developing into a feasible, high-quality platform for conducting survey studies and experiments by the UH research groups. The barometer was established by professor Åsa von Schoultz (Faculty of Social Sciences, political science) and her team in collaboration with HSSH in 2022–2023. It gathers longitudinal data on the political and societal attitudes of the citizens in the representative panel biannually and additionally during election seasons. The Barometer fields question for the UH City Centre Campus research groups via application process. The first open in 2024 round was free of charge to research groups, but the goal is to integrate user fees into the Citizen barometer structure at a level that will sustain the barometer maintenance. HSSH is currently building a sustainability plan for the Barometer to develop it into a permanent feature of the City Centre Campus research environment.<sup>12</sup>

## **Data management development project**

HSSH prepared and coordinates shared Data policy implementation plan for all City Centre Campus faculties. This plan will be regularly updated, and it specifies how faculties to follow the university level data policy principles.

In addition to planning, HSSH has, together with the UH Data Support, prepared a series of handbooks that provide systematic and detailed answers to practical issues of data management. The manuals tackle data management questions with specific focus on particular kinds of datasets. Currently, five handbooks are ready, and others are being planned.<sup>13</sup>

## **The City Centre Campus infrastructure planning**

HSSH serves as a coordinating agent in the strategic planning for more effective and shared City Centre Campus research infrastructure. HSSH has already supported and submitted several large infrastructure funding projects and coordinated the internal applications evaluations in the SSH-field, as well as represented SSH-field in the UH-level planning and evaluation committee and other internal infrastructure development projects. Currently, HSSH is preparing and coordinating a shared strategic infrastructure plan for the City Centre Campus. This plan will present an inventory of existing infrastructure (facilities, equipment, support services, key partners) and a model for securing access to all centre campus researchers.

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<sup>12</sup> See the [UH Citizen Barometer](#) website for more information.

<sup>13</sup> See the HSSH website for more information about the [research data management handbooks](#).



## 5. FEEDBACK

### 5.1. HSSH staff feedback

As part of the evaluation process, core staff of HSSH organized a meeting to discuss how the management and leadership at HSSH look from the inside. 11 staff members (9/14 of the academic staff) took part in the session (Jan 9, 2025), facilitated by co-directors.

This evaluative meeting was tasked with discussing pros and cons of the leadership and management at the Institute, and to identify critical issues and practices that either need development and improved or are possibly altogether lacking as of now. The vice-director shared an agenda document with the participants in advance for the purpose of structuring and facilitating the discussion. A two-hour meeting agenda consisted of evaluating the following themes related to working at HSSH: Transparency/openness, Atmosphere, Style/structure, Delegation, Scheduling, Sensitivity to the employees' ideas, suggestions, feelings and preference, Equality, Fairness, and Efficiency. The following condensed report (for the purposes of this report) was circulated, complemented and agreed upon with all the personnel present at the meeting.

#### Concise expression of the views of the personnel:

*Director's strong presence within the organization and during stakeholder and open events (seminars etc.) contributes to a good **atmosphere**. Though the **organizational structure** in HSSH is predominantly flat, the director recognizes the inherent hierarchical dynamics at the UH and provides support on a relevant level. Director has demonstrated ongoing and consistent **sensitivity to the employees' ideas, suggestions, feelings and preferences** and helped in fostering a safe, fair, and equal culture in the whole unit.*

*Some recognized fields of improvement have to do with **delegation** and **scheduling**, evident in occasional delays in communication to the outside. These areas could be improved by supervisors delegating tasks more and in earlier stages of tasks. Also, these shortcomings could be potentially mitigated by deliberate maintenance of an **annual calendar of the HSSH activities** with clearly indicated and distributed responsibilities among the core-staff. In general, attention should be given in defining a realistic ratio between personal and group command, and by predetermining realistic time requirements for different types of tasks, such as statistical analysis, data collection, and consultation among others. **Predictability and discipline** in actions should be prioritized instead of doing things ad hoc, mirrored in **clarity of instructions** (e.g. in maintaining and updating job descriptions) and in **clarity of external communication**, explicitly defining what the institute does*

*and what it does not. An example of a good existing practice is the unit's **Monday meeting**, which is helpful in keeping up to date with everything and catching up on questions that haven't otherwise been addressed.*

***Developing meeting culture** further could come in the form of surveying periodic updates from colleagues and developments within different research fields, though care has to be taken in avoiding doing so in an intrusive manner. All in all, the institute under director has provided **a safe, friendly, pleasant, fair, respectful and inspiring atmosphere**. The datafication side of the institute seems slightly separate, perhaps on purpose. This has caused occasional issues with communication to the outside, regarding advertising events or updating the website section.*

## 5.2. Campus feedback

In addition to surveying the users (see section 4) the evaluation process also collected feedback from different campus partners and collaborators. Based on the first draft of this evaluation report, both academic partners and university service partners were asked to reflect on the benefits and shortcomings of HSSH actions.<sup>14</sup>

### 5.2.1. Academic partners' feedback

Academic partner feedback was collected from the Board of the HSSH (consisting of Deans and directors), research committees of the faculties (led by research Vice-Deans and consisting of staff representatives), and the Scientific Board HSSH. This feedback underscored some the benefits of the Institute but also raised important critical points and ideas for future developments. As these views were developed in several discussions, we synthesize contents of the feedback here thematically. Some themes include both critique and praise.

**Enhancing interdisciplinary research** was mostly evaluated rather positively, and the contribution of the Visitor programme and the Catalyst Grant was recognized. Some comments pointed to the fact that the increasingly interdisciplinary challenges call also interaction beyond the SSH-field (life sciences, natural sciences).

**Methodological development** raised more contradictory comments. Some research committees of the faculties saw the work of the HSSH methodological specialists in a very positive light, but in particular the Faculty of Art evaluated that work as "less successful", suggesting that the methodological unit should work more intensively with research groups, and that there should be "more and better" consultation. There

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<sup>14</sup> The feedback was gathered in special discussion sessions and collected on shared documents. HSSH staff were not present in these discussions. Original documents are available on demand. This synthesis of report has been circulated with the evaluators.

was also a concern about the core of HSSH shifting towards the research of “datafication” theme and to research more generally rather than service and support.

This points to a need for further discussion on how the work of the methodological unit would benefit research groups. A key factor here is to find more direct ways in which research groups could engage with the institute’s methodological unit already when they are planning projects and data gathering and thus bring methodological expertise in the groups and in the institute to a more intense interaction.

**Coordination of infrastructures** also partly divided views, with several units seeing this as a key contribution of the institute, but Faculty of Arts offering a more critical view. There is clearly more work in this sector. On the one hand, there is a need to ensure that the Institute can better take into account the specific needs of faculties and units. On the other hand, our work on building a more shared and coordinated plan for the campus wide SSH-research environment and sharing of infrastructural resources must continue. The feedback did not touch on the institute’s work on campus data management policy, and cooperation with the UH data management unit.

**The work for activating funding** was not commented at length in the feedback. More support and consultation for Horizon Europe (Pillar II) consortium calls was mentioned (we have mentioned in the report on the application support concept developed in 2022 and now offered by the Research Funding Services). However, the demand for more engagement with research groups in methodological development points to a need to open more dialogue between projects in the phase when they are planning their applications.

**Communication challenges** were mentioned several times in the feedback. Faculty representatives were somewhat concerned about how well scholars at the campus know about the HSSH activities, support and services. More outreach and targeted communication were called for, also because of new staff and new emerging research groups.

**The overlap of the HSSH activities with existing instruments and competition with Faculty staff** was mentioned. Overlap referred to some existing seed funding instruments, visiting arrangements and training.

There were also concerns raised about the HSSH **decision-making, leadership, with some organizational suggestions**. More **transparency** was called for decision-making for the HSSH funding instruments, and more clarity for how we describe the staff working profiles. **Organizational** suggestions emphasized more interaction with the research vice deans of the faculties, and also the HSSH links to university level boards and the rectorate. **Leadership** critique focused mainly on the institute director, calling for better scheduling and preparation for meetings.

### 5.2.2. University services feedback

Feedback from university services was collected in a joint meeting of representatives from research support, HR, finance services and library (data management support). The agenda here focused on identifying useful accomplishments, inter-faculty cooperation, and weaknesses and areas for development. The feedback highlighted some achievements but also raised several criticisms.

The feedback identified HSSH's contributions to inter-faculty cooperation through research data policy development, infrastructure planning, and services like the equipment loan program. These were considered positive elements in HSSHs inter-faculty roles. The ACLA course received positive feedback as providing a good opportunity for interaction and exchange of views between researchers and support services and wish to continue research support staff participating in the yearly Brussels trip was expressed.

Respondents saw that HSSH has only had a minimal impact on facilitating interactions between university support services and researchers.

Feedback also identified ***areas of further development particularly in administration, including inconsistent processes, inadequate communication, unclear responsibilities, and structural challenges***. While some of this critical feedback on structural and administrative complexities were not considered the direct responsibility of the current HSSH management (but rather due to organizational structures of university), the critique also points to need for improvement within the Institute.

Overall, the feedback saw that HSSH were ***falling somewhat short of initial expectations***. In addition, the respondents raised questions about HSSH's identity—whether it should function primarily as a research institute or a service unit—with some concerns about potential overlap with faculty activities and the relevance of the research emphasis to its core mission.

## 6. SELF-ASSESSMENT AND REFLECTIONS ON DEVELOPING HSSH

2025 marks a half-way point in the strategic plan of the whole University of Helsinki and its goals for 2030. This is the larger context in which we think about the role the Institute.

More specifically, as the funding for the HSSH institute has been covered by an external (PROFI) grant (during 2021–2025), this assessment also marks (a beginning of) a period during which the functions, tasks, and duties of the institute need to be consolidated and its resources defined in a sustainable way (when the current funding expires 2026).

In this section we briefly share the first round of reflections on the immediate responses to some concrete concerns (6.1.), on clarifying the role of the institute (6.2.), and on the strategic development of the whole campus infrastructure (6.3.).

### 6.1. Immediate responses

In the short run, the feedback we have received includes many valuable and noteworthy points of criticism that we can and will take into account.

At the level of everyday running of the institute, we obviously need to respond to the critique concerning our **administrative and leadership shortcomings**. We will develop a more systematic description of yearly scheduling, decision-making processes and organizational responsibilities. We will also update our website with and highlight this information better, and prepare a more detailed communication plan. Finalizing these responses will demand discussions with faculties and other partners, but updates will be finished during spring 2025.

More specifically, also will make some adjustments to improve the **accessibility of methods consultation**.

In addition, we will reintroduce our earlier initiative to have the HSSH **staff members participate in Faculty research committees** for better information and integration to daily agendas of the faculties.

In April 2025, we will organize a staff development workshop and assign responsibilities for changes.

### 6.2. The role of HSSH for 2026–2030

The current profile and operational shape of HSSH has been built following the initial mission and the special emphasis provided by the PROF16 funding. As 2026 sees the end the current external funding, there is an obvious need to assess and streamline parts of the institutes mission.

**Staff profiles.** The core mission of the institute (before the PROF1-funding) centered around research infrastructures, methodological development and support, and facilitating multidisciplinary research. We strongly believe that an institute where the **staff is actively involved in research** is the best way to secure the quality of service, support, and innovative development for the campus. We believe we have built a multidisciplinary, open, low threshold institute of engaged academics who are networked to different faculties. While there is always room for progress, this basic concept and institutional design is a good idea and an achievement on which we should continue to build.

In our feedback discussions, some faculty representatives have expressed concerns that HSSH staff is **competing** with faculty staff on external research funding.

While we understand this concern, we believe this is not a strategically serious problem, bearing in mind at least the following: all funding awarded to HSSH-staff members is located in the faculties, HSSH-staff actively searching research funding is a small fraction of campus community, and the success rate of all external funding applications is small overall.

When we weigh this against the competence updating building (grant writing, methodological innovation, updated data management know-how, etc) that staff research activity supports, we believe the benefits outweigh the concerns. HSSH staff has continuously commented and helped with individual and groups at the campus with grant application writing. We have not faced any competitive tensions in these contexts, and believe that collegial critique of emerging application is part of healthy academic culture.

**Staff size.** At the moment, HSSH has an academic staff (see Table x.x) that consists of roughly 14 positions (with some administrative support). At this scale, HSSH represents roughly a 1% joint investment on a key strategic emphasis of the university at the City Centre Campus. Given the strong trends of multidisciplinary cooperation, fast change in data and methods landscapes and research infrastructures and the growing complexity of societal challenges for SSH-research, this investment to coordination and shared capacity building does not seem oversized. We recognize, of course, that different faculties and units have different research profiles which might make the relevance of HSSH and its added value assessment vary. However, these trends are shaping not only research but also the society at large and their impact will eventually be felt in all fields on research and higher education. Against this background, a sustained marginal investment of resources seems like a clever move also in the future.

We acknowledge that with the current PROF16 funding fading off, the investment on the datafication research initiative (with 3 50% programme leaders, 3 post docs and doctoral students) will be hard to sustain. We believe that this field of research will sustain its viability and competitiveness and UH without this designated input. In contrast think the core of **methodological unit** – consisting of 4 senior researchers

with distinct methodological and data track skills, and 2-3 project methods support staff members – is **essential to sustain**. This staff can further strengthen their role in connecting the institute to Faculties and other units and contribute more to methodological teaching (particularly in doctoral programs). As the building project of the institute is past, the leadership structure can also be rationalized (e.g. bringing the Directors position down to 50%).

**Core functions.** We also believe that the current core functions we have developed translate and scale the large institutional mission into practices reasonably well. The user feedback on this offers support for this, but also suggest point on improvement. The yearly investment to the Catalyst Grant, Visiting Professors, Leadership course and methodological workshops is approximately 250-300 000 €/year. It is not possible to precisely assess the causal effect of this investment to the rate of return (we have offered some highlights), but the fact that there are instruments that enhance **cross-faculty and multidisciplinary** work at the level of research projects and groups is, in our experience, crucial.

We acknowledge that assessment and processes in making decision on these funding instrument can be further developed (criteria and transparency). We also believe the profile and targeting of instruments – and new ones – can be collectively developed with campus researchers. But our experience strongly supports the need to sustain **some kind of cross-faculty incentives**. Offering recurring, yearly schedule of open funding instruments where the success rate is reasonably good (even if the financial stakes are quite modest) opens an effective interface to the needs and plans of campus research groups. It serves both the groups (by providing funding), the institute (by providing knowledge about campus wide interests) and the campus (as the institute communicates and highlights the achievements of the projects).

Without such instruments, the effects of the institute will clearly weaken.

### 6.3. HSSH as part of a strategic campus infrastructure plan

HSSH is currently preparing overarching plan for strategic development and the research infrastructure of the City Centre Campus. Building on our four years of interaction and experience, we believe that there is room for more concrete and consequential planning, investment, sharing of resources and decision-making structures. During spring 2025, HSSH is sketching the first draft of shared SSH-research environment. This will include:

- Mapping of research **spaces and service platforms**
- Inventory of **equipment, software** and investment roadmap
- Discussing on the **cooperation and/or division of labor** between relevant campus infrastructure initiatives

- Identifying existing **staff members** that serve different City Centre Campus infrastructures and deliberating on their responsibilities.
- Sketching more **robust and institutionally anchored organizational decision-making structure** for producing the necessary decisions for supporting and developing a shared research (environment) infrastructure. In a nutshell: this could mean a committee with clear mandates from faculties/units, some representative of key platforms and campus sites, connection Library/ Data Support and UH Computer Services.



# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1:

**Table A1.** Titles of core staff's peer-reviewed journal article publications in alphabetical order

Titles of core staff's peer-reviewed journal article publications	
A measure for assessment of beneficial and harmful fortitude: development and initial validation of the Sisu Scale	
Ambivalent rituals of belonging: (Re)theorising hybrid, violent media events	
An epistemic proxy war? Popular communication, epistemic contestations and violent conflict in Ethiopia	
Articulating Lynching in India	
Association between genetic risk of alcohol consumption and alcohol-related morbidity and mortality under different alcohol policy conditions: evidence from the Finnish alcohol price reduction of 2004	
Birds of a feather flock together, but what about fledglings? Observational census as a method to investigate spatial, temporal, generational and gendered dimensions of microecological segregation	
Brain Responses to Peer Feedback in Social Media Are Modulated by Valence in Late Adolescence	
Can you feel the excitement? Physiological correlates of students' self-reported emotions	
Circulation of conspiracy theories in the attention factory	
Citizen Science Archaeological Finds on the Semantic Web: The FindSampo Framework	
Clones and zombies: rethinking conspiracy theories and the digital public sphere through a (post)-colonial perspective	
Common good in the era of data-intensive healthcare	
Communication now and then: analyzing the Republic of Letters as a communication network	
Conceptualising Finnish deradicalisation policies: Implicit or explicit, projectified or institutionalised?	
Conceptualizing Populism about/in/as Religion: illustrations from Nordic Media Sphere	
Concerns with Infrastructuring: Invisible and Invasive Forces of Digital Platforms in Hangzhou, China	
Contributions of specific causes of death by age to the shorter life expectancy in depression: a register-based observational study from Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Italy	
Current Unemployment, Unemployment History, and Mental Health: A Fixed-Effects Model Approach	
Dataistunut uskonto: Kaupalliset kuvantunnistuspalvelut uskontoa "tunnistamassa"	
Deliberative Qualities of Online Abortion Discourse: Incivility and Intolerance in the American and Irish Abortion Discussions on Twitter	
Detecting deceit within a predominantly true statement using two parallel assessment methods: a pilot study	
Do you see what I see? Measuring the semantic differences in image-recognition services' outputs	
Does algorithmic content moderation promote democratic discourse? Radical democratic critique of toxic language AI	
Does having siblings really protect against childhood atopic diseases? A total population and within-family analysis	
Enduring elites in quoted sources: Institutional alignment in Finnish media, 1999-2018	
Eteneminen omalla vastuulla: Lähdekirittinen laskennallinen näkökulma sähköisiin kansanrunoaineistoihin	
Facet-level changes in mothers' neuroticism and extraversion from early pregnancy to 6 months post-partum	
Finnish Media Scrapers	
Grandiosity, vulnerability, and narcissistic fluctuation: Examining reliability, measurement invariance, and construct validity of four brief narcissism measures	
Harmonizing and publishing heterogeneous premodern manuscript metadata as Linked Open Data	
Health of immigrant children: The role of immigrant generation, exogamous family setting, and family material and social resources	
Health-related selection into employment among the unemployed	
"Holy shit!!!! Jos tuo ei herätä ihmisiä niin sitten ei mikään!" Salaliittoteoreettinen populistinen kuvittelu ja tunnestruktuurit sosiaalisessa mediassa	
How do trendy diets emerge?: an exploratory social media study on the low-carbohydrate diet in Finland	
Imagining communities with 'intelligent' machines Innovationism and the hope for alternative imagination	
Income differences in COVID-19 incidence and severity in Finland among people with foreign and native background: A population-based cohort study of individuals nested within households	
Introduction: epistemic contestations in the hybrid media environment	
Investigation of different ML approaches in classification of emotions induced by acute stress	
Islam as the Folk Devil: Hashtag Publics and the Fabrication of Civilizationism in a Post-Terror Populist Moment	
Keiden tasa-arvo tai yhdenvertaisuus? Yhteiskunnallisen oikeudenmukaisuuden kielet uutisjournalismissa 1999–2018	
Lapsen astmalääkehoidon toteutuminen riippuu perhetaustasta	
LetterSampo – Historical Letters on the Semantic Web: A Framework and Its Application to Publishing and Using Epistolary Data	
"Male-typicality disadvantage" in educational outcomes is reflected in personal values, but not in personality traits	
Media and the Climate Crisis	
National identity predicts public health support during a global pandemic	
Nationalism, populism or peopleism? Clarifying the distinction through a two-dimensional lens	

Niche climate news sites and the changing context of covering catastrophe

Protecting the future 'Us': a rhetoric-performative multimodal analysis of the polarising far-right YouTube campaign videos in Finland

Putting self at stake by telling a story: storyteller's narcissistic traits modulate physiological emotional reactions to recipient's disengagement

Reception Reader: Exploring Text Reuse in Early Modern British Publications

Research agenda for critical algorithm studies: Access to justice lessons for interdisciplinary research

Revisiting the Populist Moments in Postcolonial India

Safeguarding social justice and equality: Exploring Finnish youths' "Intergroup Mindsets" as a novel approach in the prevention of radicalization and extremism through education

Self-Other Agreement in Experience Sampling Measures

Shame in social interaction: Descriptions of experiences of shame by participants with high or low levels of narcissistic traits

Social and moral psychology of COVID-19 across 69 countries

Sociodigital practices, competences, mindsets, and profiles of Finnish students before and after the COVID-19 distance learning period

Sources and development of the Kalevala as an example for the quantitative analysis of literary editions and sources

Student visual attention during group instruction phases in collaborative geometry problem solving

Synthetic ethnography: Field devices for the qualitative study of generative models

Telling a supervisor about experiences of gendered dismissal: problems of documentation, tellability, and failed authority

The Anatomy of Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

The Attention Apparatus: Conditions and Affordances of News Reporting in Hybrid Media Events of Terrorist Violence

The contribution of alcohol-related deaths to the life-expectancy gap between people with and without depression – a cross-country comparison

The Journalism in Climate Change websites: Their Distinct Forms of Specialism, Content, and Role Perceptions

The Legacy of the Sociology of News Paradigm: Continuities, Changes, and Ironies

The public sphere and contemporary lifeworld: reconstruction in the context of systemic crises

The return of propaganda: Historical legacies and contemporary conceptualisations

Under the thin skin of narcissus: facial muscle activity reveals amplified emotional responses to negative social evaluation in individuals with grandiose narcissistic traits

Understanding the impact of sisu on workforce and well-being: A machine learning-based analysis

Voices of a generation the communicative power of youth activism

Voicing experiences of ageist nonrecognition in performance appraisal interaction: complexities in constructing stories that counteract organisational ignorance

You can learn well regardless of your motivation type - evidence from a virtual learning environment

"You Will Never Hear Me Mention His Name": The (Im)possibility of the Politics of Recognition in Disruptive Hybrid Media Events

Äitien kansalaisuuden murroksia: kotihoidontuki julkisessa keskustelussa

## Appendix 2:

**Table A2.** List of core staff's funding applications

Successful funding applications				
Project	HSSH researcher	Faculty of the researcher	Source of funding	Sum applied
The Long Arms of Authoritarian States	Pohjonen Matti	Law	EU	420 250
S-Factor / Nordforsk	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	Others	398 024
PLEDGE	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	EU	293 063
Sosiaalisten säikeiden systeemit: toimij	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	Research Council of Finland	279 998
STN 10/22 - 09/25	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	279 351
CO3: Social Contract	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	EU	219 001
Kaikukammiot, asiantuntijat ja aktivisti	Kunelius Risto	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	183 631
ENDURE / SA 6/22 - 5/25	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	144 937
MERELPO Uskonto ja populismi hybridissä	Valaskivi Katja	Theology	Research Council of Finland	140 000
Project Information and Media Literacy P	Pohjonen Matti	Law	EU	108 332
Historiallisten keskustelujen tunnistami	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	Research Council of Finland	103 833
European Cloud for Heritage OpEn Science	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	EU	77 375
NOS-HS Thomas	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	Others	42 128
ARCH-ON seed funding	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	Others	10 000
PLEDGE seed funding	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Others	7 500
All funding applications				
Project	HSSH researcher	Faculty of the researcher	Source of funding	Sum applied
POLYVOICES	Kunelius Risto	Social Sciences	EU	3 997 167
Huipparin osahanke	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	1 162 135
BRIDGE ERC CoG	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	EU	999 222
LIFE/WORLD ARCHIVE	Kunelius Risto	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	674 492
Akatemiamhanke	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	534 484
Life/World Archive	Kunelius Risto	Social Sciences	Others	514 054
Avenues of Democratic Process and Sustai	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	453 146
ANNOTATE	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	EU	411 925
ARM: Authoritarian information Repressio	Pohjonen Matti	Law	EU	407 793
S-Factor / Nordforsk	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	Others	398 024
Finnish infrastructure for register-base	Moustgaard Heta	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	390 706
METACHAIN	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	EU	332 756
PoVi	Valaskivi Katja	Theology	Research Council of Finland	325 000
STN-osahanke	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	308 417

PLEDGE	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	EU	293 062,5
Platforms at War (Platwar)	Pohjonen Matti	Law	Others	282 400
Sosiaalisten säikeiden systeemit: toimij	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	Research Council of Finland	279 998
BRIDGE	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	Research Council of Finland	274 166,5
HumSpatial	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	EU	237 954
LIFE/WOLRD ARCHIVE	Kunelius Risto	Social Sciences	Others	227 341
Politics of Victimisation (PoVi), WP3	Valaskivi Katja	Theology	Research Council of Finland	215 000
CO3: Social Contract	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	EU	198 441,5
Kaikukammiot, asiantuntijat ja aktivisti	Kunelius Risto	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	183 631
TAP ENDURE 2021	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	144 939,5
FILTER2	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	Research Council of Finland	139 977
Koneensäätiön lisähakemus	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Others	138 496
Datafication as Debate and Method	Pohjonen Matti	Law	Others	114 900
HPC-COM	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	Research Council of Finland	111 552
Judicial Information Literacy Institute	Pohjonen Matti	Law	EU	107 262,15
PoC of Finnic Oral Poetry	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	Research Council of Finland	102 691,5
ECHOES	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	EU	78 024
Ukraina-haku Oleh Bravko	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Research Council of Finland	57 602
Erasmus+ co-operation part/ Ethics in AI	Mäkelä Pekka	Social Sciences	EU	53 457
Translocalis 1886–1920	Mäkelä Eetu	Arts	Others	37 072
Boundaries of Humanity	Valaskivi Katja	Theology	Research Council of Finland	15 000
ARCH-ON seed funding	Tuominen Jouni	Arts	Others	10 000
PLEDGE seed funding	Palonen Emilia	Social Sciences	Others	7 500

## Appendix 3:

**Table A3.** HSSH's international connections

Table A5: ACP-EEU international connections	
Long-term visiting contracts (6)	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
DigiHum / Umeå University	Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University
University of Bielefeld	Queensland University of Technology
University of Colorado Boulder	School of Oriental and African Studies, SOAS
University of Oxford	Stimuli for Social Change, Stimuli
Utrecht Data School	Stockholm University
Weizenbaum Institute / Free University Berlin	Tallinn University of Technology, TalTech
Other visiting contracts (32)	Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg
Aarhus University	The American University of Paris
British Museum	The Democratic Society, AISBL
City University of New York	The French Institute for Demographic Studies, INED
European University Institute	The National Centre for Scientific Research, CNRS
Gulf States Institute in Washington, United Nations University	The Open University, UK
Jawaharlal Nehru University	Ukrainian Catholic University
Lund University	University of Coimbra, CES
Middle East Technical University	University of Colorado Boulder
Northern Illinois University	University Of Macerata
SUNY Buffalo Law School	University of Oxford
The London School of Economic and Political Science, LSE	University of Porto
University College Dublin	University of Southampton
University College London, UCL	University of Southern Denmark
University of Alaska	University of Valencia
University of Brasilia	University of Warsaw
University of Bremen	University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg)
University of Cambridge, Downing College	Uppsala University
University of Cologne	Uppsala University
University of Connecticut	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
University of Copenhagen	Zagreb University
University of Groningen	Joint project applications (26)
University of Minnesota	Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, HUSM
University of Neuchâtel	KU Leuven
University of Paris Sorbonne	Laboratory for Analysis and Architecture of Systems, LAAS-CNRS
University Of Social Sciences and Humanities, SWPS	London School of Economics and Political Sciences, LSE
University of Southern California	Maynooth University
University of Strathclyde	National Science and Technology Development Agency, NSTDA
University of Tokyo	Paris Science-Po
University of Virginia	Politecnico di Milano
University of Zurich	Stanford University
Uppsala University	The Open University, UK
Williams College	University College Dublin
Joint research projects (42)	University College London
Aarhus University	University of Antwerp
Center for Liberal Strategies Foundation	University of Cambridge
Christian Michelsen Institute (Bergen)	University of Coimbra
Free University of Berlin	University of Colorado Boulder
Fulda University of Applied Sciences	University of Genoa
Ghent University	University of Johannesburg
HUN-REN, Centre for Social Sciences	University of Naples Federico II
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin	University of Pittsburgh
Istanbul Bilgi University	University of Tartu
King's College London	University of the Andes
Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan	University of Twente
Lunds Universitet	University of Vienna
Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Rostock)	Vilnius University
Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Berlin)	Waseda University

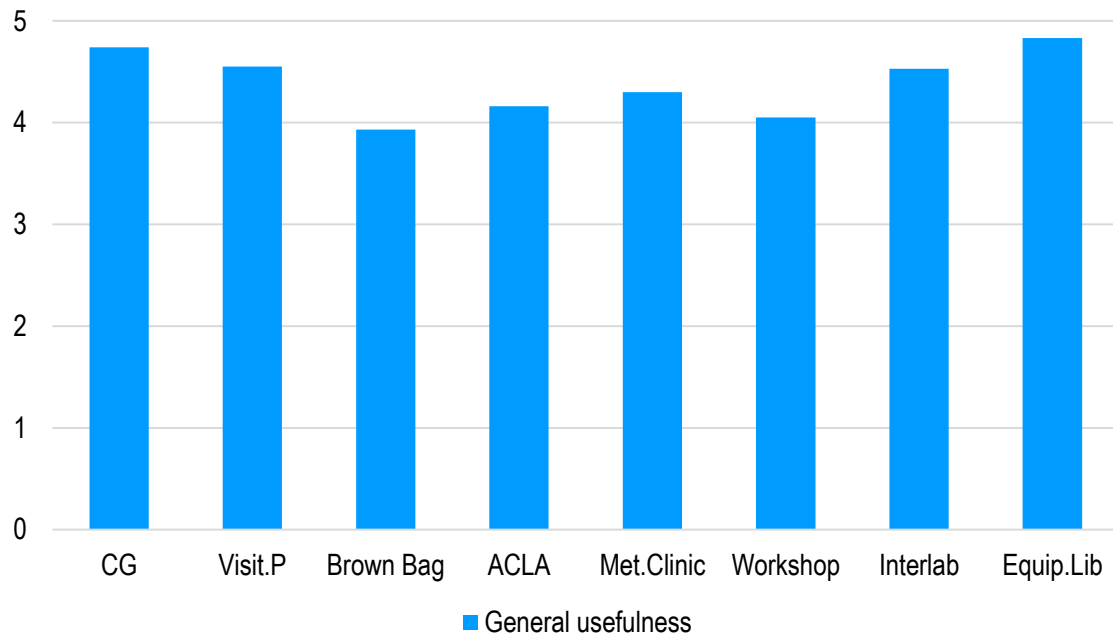
#### Appendix 4: Note on user survey

Survey querying the HSSH collaborators about institute performance targeted researchers who have participated in one or more of core activities (received Catalyst Grant, hosted through HSSH's Visiting professor program, participated in the ACLA course, visited Methods clinic, participated in an HSSH workshop, or utilized Interlab or the Equipment library). In total, individual e-mail addresses of 827 potential respondents were identified and contacted to invite the potential participants to respond to the survey via a link sent to their e-mail. Brown Bag seminar participants are not required to sign up and thus we did not have their contact information, but we also obtained ratings related to the Brown Bag seminar; it turned out that 50 % of the respondents had also participated in the Brown Bag seminar. Survey responses were collected between 10 September – 11 October 2024, with an initial on 10 September, followed by two reminders. The final sample was  $N = 138$  respondents (16.7 %).

Respondents were asked to rate HSSH's 8 core activities: 1) Catalyst Grant, 2) Visiting Professor program, 3) Brown Bag seminar, 4) ACLA course, 5) Methods clinic, 6) Workshops, 7) Interlab and 8) the Equipment Library. Each activity was rated by evaluating how well this activity had supported the respondents' research in six domains representing HSSH's core tasks: *General usefulness*, *Multidisciplinarity*, *Methodology*, *Infrastructure*, *Collaboration and networking*, and *Acquiring research funding*. The supportiveness ratings were made on a five-point scale: 1 (not at all), 2 (a little), 3 (somewhat), 4 (quite a lot), 5 (very much), with an option to mark the domain as "not applicable". For each activity, participants were first asked to indicate whether they had participated in the activity. If they replied "yes", the rating scales for the activity appeared.

The number of responses varied among faculties. Majority of the respondents came from the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences (62 % of respondents were from these two faculties). From the Faculty of Law there was only one respondent. However, at least one respondent was obtained from each City Centre Campus Faculty. Regarding the types of activities, it should be noted that a large portion of respondents (58 respondents, 42 %) had received the Catalyst Grant and thus received monetary support from HSSH, which may have influenced their responses. However, majority of the respondents (58 %) had not received the Catalyst grant. As shown in the Figure A4, all core activities received a relatively high average rating of usefulness, ranging from 3.93 to 4.83 on a scale from 1 to 5. All usefulness ratings were also statistically significantly higher than the scale midpoint of 3, at the  $p < .001$  level. Ratings related to different dimensions of HSSH's mission were also relatively high (see the ratings of individual functions in Chapter 4).

**Figure A4.** User survey results: Mean ratings of general usefulness for each core activity by the HSSH partners and collaborators.



## Appendix 5:

**Table A5. Catalyst Grant core ideas 2022-2025**

Short summaries of Catalyst Grant core ideas 2022-2025	
Enhancing international collaboration between experimental labs, expanding methodological expertise with EEG, and supporting a young researcher	Organizing a "Mind, Matter, and Action: Process Views" workshop to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration
Creating a platform for collaborative Africa-related research, overcoming Euro-centric biases, involving African researchers, and supporting the Afristadi forum	Amplifying the multidisciplinary environmental-social-scientific research network The Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) and its international connections
Establishing an international and interdisciplinary research group examining the effect of Sustainable Development Goals implementation on residents of European Arctic and Siberia	Hosting an instalment of a highly esteemed annual and international workshop on philosophy of well-being in the University of Helsinki with a more interdisciplinary focus
Building a multidisciplinary archival research network (ARNE) and developing new research methods	Consolidating NUPE network as a stable platform of international collaboration for scholars with a critical focus on urban political economy and ecology in Nordic countries
Creating a network and a discussion forum for researchers working on the intersections of language, sexuality and gender in Finland and beyond	Building national and international networks of scholars from various disciplines who study cognition with the enactivist framework
Developing a new research program that combines cognitive science and philosophy of science to analyse science as a distributed cognitive system	Establishing a national multidisciplinary research hub for the study of political violence and extremism in Finland
Exploring various methodological approaches to studying heuristics with a case study of heuristics in academic online search	Fostering intellectual and policy-impact development of a Nordic academic network of pragmatist sociologists
Producing models of better workflows for cultural heritage data processing among grassroots researchers as well as galleries, libraries, archives, and museums	Building a research network for methodological innovation in the application of AI in ethnographic work as well as application of ethnography to study the social impact of AI
Initiating a multidisciplinary network of scholars to study non-physical violence in different institutional settings and historical times	Organizing a seminar and establishing a network to enhance the role of SSH fields in safety studies, and publishing about the conceptual history of safety
Exploring audiovisual methods as tools in critical thinking and analysis, and developing audiovisual methods for making and disseminating academic work	Developing an interdisciplinary network of scholars to explore ancient labour as a driver of social and economic inequality
Bringing together international group of researchers to develop SSH urban research -based methods to incorporate experiential knowledge into urban planning	Fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration to identify and mitigate human rights risks associated with AI-driven surveillance technologies in urban settings
Investigating academic self-censorship and the culture of dialogue in Finnish higher education, and promoting meaningful academic discussion	Establishing and developing the digital expertise of an interdisciplinary research group examining the uses and character of behavioural economics in the field of technology law
Establishing a multidisciplinary network of textile researchers to foster collaboration and optimize the use of research infrastructures	Developing an international research group to analyse legally and economically the recent EU legislative proposals on green claims in consumer marketing
Fostering an international collaboration to study the prevalence of conspiracy theories across the United States through analysis of American Voices Project data	Bringing together an interdisciplinary and international group of emotion researchers to develop novel approaches to neglected questions
Building a network of researchers from Nordic and Baltic countries to develop novel approaches to studying neighbouring as a convivial practice of urban residents	Bringing together a diverse group of scholars from social sciences and humanities working on the role of collective memory in international relations
Obtaining publicly available spoken interaction data and investigating English pragmatic borrowings in Finland Swedish	Supporting the formation of a national research network to understand the regional effects of demographic development on early childhood and basic education
Exploring social- and linguistic change with large-scale corpus-linguistics, developing the Reddit LGBT+ Corpus, and organizing a multidisciplinary symposium	Adopting a unique multidisciplinary first-person methodology to understand "fast science" and practical capabilities for collectively "slowing down"



Studying onomastically and ethnologically urban experiences of environments as empowering, and collecting material through learning-café discussions	Investigating major technology companies' environmental responsibility and initiating international research collaboration and creating a shared dataset
Producing a new edition of the remaining Hexaplaric fragments of the Books of Samuel for the international Hexapla Institute	Producing a multidisciplinary book titled "Disabilities in the Happiest Country in the World - Finland," featuring articles by disability activists and scholars
Digitizing early modern police ordinances in Brazil to complement an existing database created by an international research consortium	Exploring the possibilities to use synthetic data, generated through deep learning AI, for research
Providing the first data-driven cross-cultural examination of non-theistic morality through a multidisciplinary research collaboration	Studying social and cognitive processes of learning in naturalistic settings by recording brain activity of participants in group settings with integrated EEG
Developing practices, tools, and guidelines for ethically sustainable use of crowdsourcing platforms in SSH fields	Investigating cross-national variations in attitudes towards techno-solutionism and the ethical implications of new technologies, using newly developed scales
Luoda ja julkaista sähköinen, helposti haettava ja muokattava uralilaisten kielten etymologinen viitetietokanta (Urevi)	Developing historical data infrastructure on health, education, and economic development in Finland for multidisciplinary use
Locating Jaakko Hintikka's unpublished scientific manuscripts, notes, and correspondence, and founding a scholarly archive	Annotating and supplementing an existing corpus to study variation in storytelling in a multilingual context fusing linguistic approaches and folklore studies
Collecting data and creating actionable data-based recommendations on safeguarding the well-being and integrity of researchers working on distressing topics	Integrating archaeogeophysics and citizen science in Finnish archaeological fieldwork
Updating historical demographic data from four Finnish parishes to match international standards for classifying causes of death and occupation	Studying the encounters between Arctic indigenous people and Christianity comparatively and in methodological triangulation
Developing and mapping tools for collecting Finnish language social media data without API access	Studying the eye-contact interaction between co-teachers, and developing valid and sustainable multimodal data collection setting and analysis protocol
Collecting new research data to cover long-lasting effects of crises on population health and livelihoods in 20th century Finland	Creating an international network to investigate and enhance the roles of journalists, media practitioners, and local actors in environmental communication
Supporting and maintaining the University of Helsinki Citizen Barometer	Kerätä ja täydentää suomenkielistä aineistoa epävirallisista vuorovaikutustilanteista osana Parallel European Corpus of Informal Interaction (PECII) -hanketta
Gathering and inputting all Hexaplaric readings of 1–2 Samuel into the Hexapla project database utilizing various ancient sources	Investigating the narratives of belonging of Finnish migrants in South America and creating analysis methods and a digital historical corpus of spoken and written materials
Updating the University of Helsinki Conversation Data Archive with video material and piloting an automatic conversation analysis transcription program	Discussing ethical issues and producing guidelines connected to ethnography, to co-research methods, and to using these methods to study sensitive issues
Facilitating neurostimulation methods to enhance study of cooperative cognition, learning and communication in the University of Helsinki	Initiating collaboration with the Lithuanian Sports University and collecting a large eye tracking dataset in a driving simulator and releasing it as open data
Developing the Finnish Patent Database 1842-1970 and establishing and strengthening international research networks	Enhancing the use of existing HSSH equipment for measuring heart rate variability (HRV) and activity by developing a toolkit for long-term (2-3 months) tracking of participant wellbeing
Koota uralilaisten kielten etymologisesta tutkimuskirjallisuudesta viitetietokanta, joka mahdollistaa kertyneen tiedon hakemisen ja vertailun verkkojulkaisumuodossa	Luetteloida ja litteroida suomen-, suomenruotsin- ja ruotsinruotsinkielisiä keskustelu- ja tekstiaineistoja sekä tallentaa nämä laajempaa käyttöä varten
Luoda tutkimusinfrastruktuuri sateenkaariperheitä koskevan tilastollisen tiedon keräämiseksi ja analysoimiseksi	Enhancing infrastructure for participatory visual methods
Testing novel eye-tracking and joystick-based video analysis methods to investigate second language learners' behaviour	Building research networks to explore the role of organized sports in the social integration and empowerment of immigrants in Finland
Developing a peer-reviewed multimedia publication for promoting cooperation and multifaceted production of knowledge between music researchers and artists	Exploring the potential of satellite imagery for urban archaeology, specifically in four Roman cities: Pompeii, Herculaneum, Ostia, and Timgad

Establishing an interdisciplinary research group to study Ukraine and to re-conceptualize Ukrainian Studies	Organizing interdisciplinary "Helsinki-Node" symposium and bi-monthly online seminar series to bring together professionals working with network analysis
Developing best feasible methods for mapping micro segregation in Helsinki and assessing the resource requirements for such an undertaking	Creating a corpus of the essay tests from 2021 and 2022 in Swedish as mother tongue and making the corpus accessible through the Finnish Kielipankki and Korp
Upgrading equipment for advanced photography-based orthomodelling techniques for creating 3D models of archaeological sites	Developing and streamlining infrastructure for synchronized eye-tracking and psychophysiology measurements
Enhancing the use of wearable eye-tracking technology for studying visual interaction and attention in natural settings	Upgrading the infrastructure of an open-access web publication, Studies in Variation, Contacts and Change in English, while also acquiring new corpora and datasets

## Appendix 6:

**Table A6.** Titles of past Brown Bag seminars 26.10.2021 – 13.11.2024 from latest to earliest

Brown Bag seminar titles
Immersive Non-fiction Virtual Reality Storyworlds: A Framework for Qualitative Analysis
Internal Validity, External Validity and the Evaluation of Thought Experiments in Applied Ethics and Political Philosophy
The promises and perils of understanding the “context” of digital politics globally?
Science Advice in Practice and Theory: The messy relationship between practical development work and academic research
Towards “the Foundation” with the Foundation Models? LLMs Are Getting More Precise in Making Social Predictions
Algorithmic folklore: What is it, and how to study it
Measuring poverty: brief overview on the long-standing issue
What is the Truth? Striving Towards Detached Observation and Objective Measurement through Content Analysis
Improving Duplicate Text Detection with Combined Text Representations
Data Democratization: Bridging AI and Advanced Analytics for Strategic Business Decisions
Cybersecurity, Ethics and Collective Responsibility
Tlingit Cosmology through At.oow (Tangible and Intangible Property) and Concepts of the Sacred
Effectiveness of brief preventive interventions for loneliness, mental wellbeing, and academic skills in the University of Helsinki students
Multimodality research as a model for interdisciplinary work
Peer effects of mental disorders in social networks – register-based approach
Investigating learning with network analysis methods
Challenges in academic publication practices
POST-API: How to Collect Social Media Data without API Access – The Case of Finnish Presidential Election 2024
Multimethod research on global China: Reflections on the use of ethnography, digital ethnography and autoethnography in analyzing China's presence in Europe
Researching heuristics ‘in the wild’
Understanding affect as discursive and beyond: modeling feeling, intensity, embodiment
Towards a foundation for empirical multimodality research
Hybrid Content Analysis Method for Free Text Questionnaires - Case Study with Professional Violin Players' Test Practices
From Conspiratory Microcosms to Mainstream Conspiracy Culture? Compiling a body of spontaneously occurring conspiracy talk in life course interviews
Differential privacy and anonymising data
Semantic Computing and Citizen Science Solutions for Opening Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Data
Cross-linguistic and comparative studies on social interaction in everyday settings and shop encounters
The University of Helsinki Citizen Barometer: A new infrastructure for online surveys and experiments
Synthetic data on the edge of uncanny valley
Cloud-C: A transnational network for studying mediated climate politics in social media
The interactional practices and emotional responses of narcissistic individuals in conversation: recent findings.
Automatic assessment of spoken interaction in second language
Deliberative Qualities of Online Abortion Discourse: Incivility and Intolerance in the American and Irish Abortion Discussions on Twitter
Clones and zombies: rethinking conspiracy theories and the digital public sphere through a (post)-colonial perspective
Universal patterns in egocentric communication networks
Politically engaged research: land and environment or the eco-agrarian issue in Brazil today
Deep learning approaches to estimate disease risk from nationwide health, socio-economic and genetic data
Data is the new copper: Data extractivism and alternatives in Zambia
Culture-Specific Emotions and Literature: New Methods and Methodological Challenges
Recording Archaeological Finds Made by the Public in England, Estonia and Finland: opportunities provided by citizen science and new digital technology
Rethinking how we investigate power dynamics in the information environment
“A scarred people”: Analyzing the imprint of crises on population health and livelihoods in early 20th century Finland
Route 66: The metamorphosis of the internal market through the prism of citation networks
Researching Video Games and Gamevironments around the Globe
How to study families of same-sex couples using register data?
ParliamentSampo: Parliament of Finland on the Semantic Web
The Dating Problem of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Using AI, Radiocarbon and Palaeography
Designing voting advice applications (VAAs)
Educational tracking and the polygenic prediction of education
Studying microecological segregation in Helsinki – methodological challenges and possibilities
Mixed Methods, Mixed Results? What Does it Take to Combine Qualitative and Computational Approaches?

Mixed methods for cultural expertise: challenges and results

Remember When There Was Only One Channel? Multichannel Ground Penetrating Radar Pilot and Archaeological Test Pitting at Karjaa, Lepinjärvi

Sleeping and not sleeping: best ways to guess and measure

"Data" in digital research

What qualifies as good qualitative research?

Quantifying variation and change in word types

Special session: Introduction to Interlab

Big data as career risk – The position of technical work in computational social research

On love, neuroscience, and interdisciplinarity

Creating chaos online – Methodological challenges to uncover the masked

Why are we here?

Bridging Ethnography and AI – Combination and interchange of computer vision and empirical visual analysis methods to produce ethnographic insights

Sound-space symbolism – A novel paradigm to investigate sound symbolism in laboratory

Materializing organizational communication – Applying computational methods to identify organizational routines in team communication

Explaining gender gaps in education – Empirically constructed "boyishness" and "girlishness" as predictors of school performance

Methodological approaches in quantifying the Finnish concept of "Sisu"

Computational Analysis of Communicative Artefacts in Multimodality Research and Digital Humanities

Moving participatory methods online - innovation, autonomy and other stories from West Africa

Studying the gender revolution using register data

Physical locations and digital spaces – Approaches to tracing geolocations in digital data on Twitter

Analysis of intensive longitudinal data: Emerging designs and models

"Do not slam the door in the morning!" – Notes in public spaces as a communicative genre

New methods for overcoming the challenges of data-centric qualitative and quantitative research

LexComics – comics in building working methods and communicating research in law and technology studies

Deepfaking myself as a digital ethnographic method

Is the world different depending on whose AI is looking at it? Comparing image recognition services for social science research

Transgressive repertoires in the micropolitics of Stormfront's fascist virtual community

Acoustics of Sacred Sites

The Historically Informed Audiovisual Synthesis Project

The so-called "gender-equality paradox" as a cautionary example for avoiding ambiguity and misinterpretations in predicting difference scores

Movie Making Finland - Finnish fiction films as audiovisual big data, 1907–2017 (MoMaF)

Mixed methods research in practice: Experiences from research project management and publishing

Exploring patterns of self-identification in the LGBTQ+ Reddit Corpus

Using virtual reality simulations and psychophysiology in social psychological interaction research

A solidarity paradox – welfare state data in global health data economy

What does a correlation say about me? A tutorial on translating correlational research findings to their implications for individual people

Analysing spatial interactions between people and between people and their environment using Mobile Big Data

New comparative methodology for researching language change in contact ecologies

Researching the circulation of conspiracy theories in Finland

Causal Decomposition of Population Health Differences Using the G-Formula

Social study of microbes – collaboration, interdisciplinarity and limits of methods

The Evolution of Human Communication as a Co-Operative Tool

Activism and Contestations over Climate Politics in Online Space

Researching global conspiracies during the COVID-19 infodemic

The influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University of Helsinki's PhD candidates' study progress and study wellbeing