



POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITION

Available in the FinEdu Research Group for one year based at the University of Helsinki, Finland (Collegium for Advanced Studies) in collaboration with the PATHWAYS Program: www.pathwaystoadulthood.org.

For more information please visit our webpage: www.helsinki.fi/collegium/english/projects/finedu/finedu.htm

What is the purpose of the FinEdu longitudinal project?

The aim of the project is to study the educational and well-being pathways, transitions and choices, motivation, school engagement and burnout, peer networks, civic engagement along with factors associated with them, that young people face after compulsory comprehensive education. Specifically, the study concerns the transition from comprehensive school to secondary education both academic and vocational tracks and from upper secondary education to tertiary education and the subsequent transition to either working life.

We use both person- and variable oriented approaches, we analyse peer processes and trajectories, path and SEM model taking a longitudinal approach by focusing on both positive, productive development as well as negative paths.

Issues, such as pathways from school to work; the role of peers in engagement and disengagement, what promotes resilience and positive adjustment even in the face of adversity; what are the familial ties and resources that enhance socialization, social ties that can strengthen connections to educational and workplace settings, and institutional and state policies as well as practices that can alter the trajectories of youth, especially those at risk.

What is the purpose of the PATHWAYS program?

The mission is to stimulate innovative, interdisciplinary, and comparative research of productive youth development. Participating institutions include the Institute of Education in London, the Universities of Michigan, Stockholm, Helsinki, Jena, and the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. The major objective of the program is to promote the next generation of researchers and facilitate a better understanding and discourse with different stake holders about how to equip young people for mastering the challenges of growing up in a changing social context. PATHWAYS will investigate the antecedents, processes, and long-term outcomes of youth transitions, as well as the factors and processes promoting human competences, especially among young people deemed to be at-risk.

The tasks of the post-doctoral researcher:

- Engaging in academic research and publishing internationally over the topics mentioned above in collaboration with the FinEdu and Pathways projects
- Actively participating in meetings and research activities in the FinEdu Group
- Writing proposals
- Participating in annual meetings with the Pathways team

The salary is based on the salary system of Finnish universities (Academy of Finland project). The candidate should have a PhD degree in psychology, sociology, education, social psychology or a related discipline and previous experience with programs for analyzing longitudinal data (e.g., Mplus). The candidate should be capable of theoretical/conceptual thinking, to be highly motivated, ability to work together in a team.

Interested individuals should send their application letter, CV, and names of 1-3 references to Professor Katariina Salmela-Aro, e-mail: collegium-office@helsinki.fi **no later than 16.09.2011**. The position can begin in Autumn 2011.

Helsinki September 1, 2011

Central Administration

www.helsinki.fi/university