

Leena Rouhiainen

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Leena Rouhiainen works as professor in artistic research vice dean in research at the Theatre Academy (TeaK) of the University of the Arts Helsinki (UNIARTS). She was the head of the Performing Arts Research Centre of the same institution between 2012 and 2016. She additionally is a member of the steering group for research and doctoral studies of UNIARTS. She has acted on the boards of TAhto doctoral programme in artistic research run by UNIARTS and Aalto University as well as Centre for Educational Research and Development in the Arts (CERADA) at UNIARTS. She is a dancer and dance scholar. Together with her artistic collaborators, she has received several national awards for their artistic work in Finland. After submitting her phenomenologically oriented doctoral dissertation on freelance dance artists (2003), she has been awarded funding for several artistic research projects by the Academy of Finland. She has edited books and published articles related to phenomenology, artistic research, somatics and dance. She has acted in the editorial boards of Nordic Journal of Dance, Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices and Ruukku Studies in Artistic Research. She has reviewed articles for the Scandinavian Journal of Education, Scandinavian Journal of Technology, Dance Research Journal, Dance Research Aotearoa and Open Humanities Press. She has been the opponent and examiner of doctoral dissertations in dance and artistic research in Finland, Sweden and Australia as well as assessed applications for artistic research funding, academic positions and new educational programs in the Nordic countries and Europe. She has been the chair and vice-chair of the board of Nordic Forum for Research in Dance (NOFOD). She held the position of associate professor in dance and physical education at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo for the spring-term 2009. She is a member of the board of Society for Artistic Research (SAR) since 2015.

Leena Rouhiainen has co-edited several books in dance research (The Same Difference: Exploring Questions of Ethics and Politics in Dance 2004, Liikkeitä näyttämöllä: Näyttämö & Tutkimus 2, 2006; Ways of Knowing in Dance and Art 2007, Dance Spaces: Practice of Movement 2012, Tanssiva tutkimus: Tanssintutkimuksen menetelmiä ja lähestymistapoja 2014)) She has published more than 14 peer-reviewed articles related to her research area. She has worked as a dancer and choreographer since the early 1990's mainly in the freelance-field of contemporary dance in Finland. She is a founding member of the Suomussalmi-group with which she performed all over Finland and a few foreign countries. This group combined improvised dance and music and was awarded for its innovative work on several occasions. In addition to this, she has worked with and performed in the pieces of several outstanding choreographers and directors working in Finland (e.g. Alpo Aaltokoski, Sanna Kekäläinen, Reijo Kela, Javier Torres Ervi Siren and Jorma Uotinen). She was a performing member of Dance Theatre Eri for season

2000-2001. Altogether she has performed in 42 dance and theatre pieces in addition to the well over hundred improvisational performances by the Suomussalmi group. She herself has created and co-created 16 choreographic works, the last few of which have been experimental in involving participation by audience members as well as the use of multimedial formats.

*Education and degrees:*

Department of Dance Studies, School of Arts, University of Surrey, Guildford, Great Britain

Somatic Studies and Labananalysis Postgraduate/MA Part-time program, taught program 2004–2005

Master of Arts in Somatic Studies and Labananalysis with Distinction awarded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2006, Dissertation: *The Pilates Method as a Somatic Practice*

Graduate Laban Certificate in Movement Analysis (GLCMA) awarded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 by The Labanotation Institute UK and Motus Humanus USA

Department of Dance and Theatre Pedagogy, Theatre Academy Helsinki, Finland

Post-graduate studies in dance research 1997–2003

Doctor of Arts in Dance 28.5.2003 (Tanssitaiteen tohtori) 28.5.2003, Thesis: *Living Transformative Lives: Finnish Freelance Dance Artists Brought into Dialogue with Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology*

First external examiner Prof. Juha Varto's report appreciates the dissertation as excellent. Final external examiner and opponent Associate Prof. Susan Kozel ranked the dissertation among the top 15% internationally.

Department of Dance, Theatre Academy Helsinki, Finland

Dance performance studies, taught program 1986–1990

Master of Arts in Dance 17.11.1995 (Tanssitaiteen maisteri), Thesis: *Tanssijana Sanna Kekäläisen koreografiassa Autaiden lauluja* (Being a Dancer in Sanna Kekäläisen's Choreography The Song of the Beatified)

Bachelor of Arts in Dance 15.9.1994 (Tanssitaiteen kandidaatti)

*Linguistic skills:*

Mother tongue: Finnish

English: excellent spoken and written

Swedish: good understanding of spoken and written