

The Significance of Spiritual Values in Contemporary Education and Research

New Wave Research Colloquium 6.10.2017 Snellman College, Finland

Program:

9.30 – 10.15 Registration and coffee

10.15 Opening remarks *Reijo Wilenius professor*

10.20 – 11.00 **Keynote lecture 1** (Chair Markku Niinivirta, Snellman College)

Markku Wilenius, professor: Patterns of the Future: Understanding the Next Wave of Global Change

11.00 – 11.30 Moderators: Göte Nyman, professor, University of Helsinki and Nicanor Perlas, author (via video)

11.30 – 11.45 Short break

11.45 – 12.30 **Plenary session 1.** Presentations (15 min.) on the topic

- Eeva Kallio, Adjunct professor, senior researcher University of Jyväskylä/Tampere
- Maija Pietikäinen, Dr, singing teacher & Waldorf pedagogue.
- Tony Dunderfelt MA, lecture, consultant and therapist

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch and coffee

13.30 – 14.30 **Keynote lecture 2** (Chair Antti Saari, Ph.D, post doc researcher University of Tampere)

Bo Dahlin, professor: Spiritual research methods and phenomenology

14.30 – 15.00 Moderators: Jani Pulkki, doctoral student, University of Tampere, Jan-Erik Mansikka, PeD, University of Helsinki

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00 **Plenary session 2** Presentations (15 min.) on the topic

- Jussi Mäkelä, Class & Art teacher, doctoral student UTA
- Terhi Takanen, PhD, lecturer & CoCreative Coach
- Timo Purjo, PhD, lecturer, President of Viktor Frankl Institute Finland,
- Liisa Poikkimäki, Class & Special education teacher, doctoral student UTA:
- Markku Niinivirta, Headmaster, doctoral student UTA,

17.00 Closing remarks *Markku Wilenius professor*

Researchers are asked to submit a five-page seminar paper. Submissions are to be written in English. Deadline closes September 15, 2017 and papers are to be sent to the email address above.

There is no attendance fee for moderators and researchers who give short presentations. There is a 50€ attendance fee for the audience (includes lunch, refreshments and materials). Kindly confirm registration no later than September 29.9.2017 to info@snellman-korkeakoulu.fi. Please note special dietary requirements.

The New Wave Research Colloquium

This colloquium serves all researchers who are interested in the current new wave and the significance of spiritual values in contemporary education and research. The colloquium is the follow-up to the Future Human Being - Gyllenberg Symposium 2015 and research on the nature of the human. We will concentrate on the present topic and how it relates to the holistic concept of a human. The language of the New Wave Research Colloquium is English.

The organizing committee of the colloquium: Markku Wilenius, UNESCO professor / University of Turku; Veli-Matti Värri, Professor of Educational Philosophy / University of Tampere; Secretary Markku Niinivirta / Snellman College Research Department.

The New Wave Research Colloquium receives financial support from the Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation.

About the framework:

The New Wave Research Colloquium is interested in the spiritual values in contemporary education and research. Spiritual values are often implicit and our purpose is to try to be explicit and discuss these values among those who are working in the fields of research and education.

Nel Noddings, well-known contemporary philosopher and educational researcher, writes in her book *The Challenge to Care in School* (2005, p. 49): “The physical self is only part of the self. We must be concerned also with the emotional, spiritual, and intellectual aspects of self, and clearly these are not discrete. The spiritual aspect of self, for example, gets almost no attention in today’s public school. Most young people have a host of questions that could be discussed [...]: Is there life after death? Is there a god who cares about me? Am I connected to anything beyond the phenomenal world? [etc.]”

In his newest book *Patterns of the Future: Understanding the Next Wave of Global Change*, Professor **Markku Wilenius** (2017) explains why his particular futures studies standpoint is useful for deeply understanding what is currently going on in our society. In the epilogue, he turns our thinking back to our modes of being and acting. “The more cooperatively and earnestly we humans behave, the more we develop spiritually. Our true progress can be measured only in those terms.” (markkuwilenius.fi)

Researchers **Jani Pulkki, Bo Dahlin and Veli-Matti Värri** write in their article *Environmental Education as a Lived-Body Practice? A Contemplative Pedagogy Perspective*: “Environmental education usually appeals to the students’ knowledge and rational understanding. Even though this is needed, there is a neglected aspect of learning ecologically fruitful action; that of the lived-body... An argument is made for the need of a biophilia revolution, in which refined experience of the body and enhanced capabilities for sensing are seen as important ways of complementing the more common, knowledge-based environmental education.”

At the end of the article Pulkki, Dahlin and Värri refer to suggestions for practice: “A contemplative pedagogy of EE, based on mindfulness of body and breath, can begin to open up these to a large extent hidden, pre-reflective realms of experience, for students as well as for teachers. The point is not (only) to read about these things as abstract philosophical ideas, but to practice, to cultivate, and thereby come to richer and deeper experiences of our being-in-the-world.” (*Journal of Philosophy of Education*, Vol. 51, No. 1, 2017).

More than one hundred years ago, **Rudolf Steiner** writes in his *Philosophy of Freedom* that observation and

thinking are the two points of departure for all the spiritual striving of human beings in so far as (s)he is conscious of such striving. The question is what significance this personal spiritual inner activity and care has in our professional fields of education and research.