

Turku Institute of Advanced Studies (TIAS)

Annual Report 2017

The Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) was established in 2008 as a centre for interdisciplinary research of an excellent international standard. TIAS' work is supported by the faculties of Education, Humanities, Law and Social Science and the Turku School of Economics. This report summaries some of its key activities in 2017.

The Institute is host to a research community comprised of Postdoctoral and Collegium researchers who are appointed to carry out three-year research projects. In 2017 the TIAS research community consisted of 10 Collegium Researchers and 20 Postdoctoral Researchers. A call for new postdoctoral researchers was made in spring 2017 and 10 new postdoctoral students were appointed in September. They will commence their research in January 2018.

In addition to researchers TIAS staff in 2017 consisted of the Director, Professor Anne Kumpula, Coordinator, Dr Silja Laine, and Controller Terhi Oinonen. In May TIAS appointed its first full time Director, Professor Martin Cloonan, formerly of the University of Glasgow. This appointment marked a significant commitment from the University to TIAS' future and it is anticipated that it will raise TIAS' profile both within Finland and internationally. Professor Cloonan assumed his position in September.

In addition to supporting its researchers in their projects (including via the provision of research allowances), TIAS facilitates the provision of a range of events designed to appeal across disciplinary boundaries. The Institute holds regular meetings for its researchers which provide the opportunity for researchers to meet each other and present their work in a collegial atmosphere. In 2017 researchers presented on a diverse range of topics which included: English and German Romantic Texts, 1790-1840; Timeless Experience; Grammatical Competence; Metacognitive Regulation; Misinformation; Political Metaphorology; Relics; Tactile Saints; Gender Atypical Career Pathways; and Motherhood and Collective Memory in the Aftermath of War.

In June TIAS organised a symposium, entitled Creative Freedom or Difficult Challenges – In between of Science, Art and Experience (in Finnish, *Luovaa vapautta vai hankalia haasteita - tieteen, taiteen ja kokemuksen väleissä*). In November TIAS organised its own Symposium on Expertise and Experience, which attracted over 50 delegates from a range of backgrounds. The Institute also supported the work of TIAS researchers who were involved in organising two international conferences: Re-imaging the Christian Body Conference (2 and 3 November) and the YHYS Colloquium, Environmental Politics, Economy and Knowledge (23-34 November). The Director attended these events and presented TIAS work.

In December TIAS held an event entitled: Whatever Next? which provided the opportunity to celebrate the work of those whose three years had come to an end and to reflect on their experiences as part of the TIAS community. In February 2018 TIAS will advertise positions for 6 Collegium and 5 Postdoctoral researchers for each of the years 2019 and 2020.

Professor Martin Cloonan
Director, TIAS
31 January 2017