

CV

Personal details and date of CV

Kurikka

Heli Maria

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Date of CV 2026-1-26

Degrees

- 2022-3-31 Doctor of Administrative Sciences (Regional Studies), Tampere University, Finland (opintotoimisto.tau@tuni.fi)
- 2008-5-22 Licentiate of Philosophy, Geography, University of Oulu, Finland
- 2005-12-22 Master of Science, Planning Geography, University of Oulu, Finland

Current employment

- 4/2024 - Present, Senior Research Fellow, Tampere University, Faculty of Management and Business / Research group of Urban and regional Studies. Leading its sub-group called "Knowledge- and skills-based regional and urban development" at Seinäjoki University Consortium
- Academic research career stage: III

Previous work experience

- 12/2022-3/2024 Postdoctoral researcher, Tampere University, Faculty of Management and Business (including a grant period of 12 months)
- 1/2018-11/2022 Researcher, Tampere University, Faculty of Management and Business (employment 20-100 % + a grant period 12 months)
- 4/2015-12/2017 Project Coordinator, University of Tampere, School of Management (part-time 50-70 %)
- 3/2014-11/2014 Project Coordinator, University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute (part-time 50%)
- 2/2010-1/2012 Project Manager, University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute
- 4/2008-1/2010 Entrepreneur / Partner, Comia Software Oy
- 4/2006-3/2008 Researcher, University of Oulu, Department of Geography

Career breaks

- Parental leaves 9/2010 - 2/2014

Research funding and grants

- Alfred Kordelin Foundation grant for postdoctoral research, 6/2023 - 5/2024, 30 000 €, personal, no related applicants
- European Regional Development Fund funding for STRATU project (Future-oriented strategy work in SMEs of South Ostrobothnia), 204 792 €, principal writer, project-manager
- The Finnish Cultural Foundation grant for doctoral thesis, 1/2021-8/2021 and 10/2019-2/2020, 24 000 €, personal, no related applicants

Research supervision and leadership experience

- Three ongoing doctoral thesis supervisions (co-supervisor) in Doctoral Programme in Administrative Sciences, Business Studies and Politics

- Leading the research group's operations in Seinäjoki unit (main site in Tampere) since 4/2024.
- Most recent project leadership: PI in "Attractiveness and quality of a medium-sized higher education city" research project (2022-2024). A project manager in an ERDF development project "Future-oriented strategy work in SMEs of South Ostrobothnia" (2021-2022)

Teaching merits

- Responsible teacher for "Expertise in Regional and Municipal development (HAL.KAJO.317) course in Tampere University Administrative Sciences since 2025.
- Lecturer visits in Tampere University's and University of Vaasa courses of Regional Studies 2022-2024.
- Planning and coordinating complementary training programme "Innoventurer" for regional developers in 2010 and 2015

Awards and honours

- Tampere University MAB Faculty's Highly Cited Articles, 2024
- Special award on society interaction of University of Oulu, 2010

Other key academic merits

- Member of Management Board of Seinäjoki University Consortium, 2025-
- Referee of Scientific journals (European Planning Studies, Geoforum, Terra, Hallinnon tutkimus, Kasvatus ja aika)
- Member of organising committee for NoRSA (Regional Studies Nordic Division) conference, Seinäjoki 2019

Scientific and societal impact

- Member of Seinäjoki Ecosystem agreement board, 2024-
- Member of expert group of Finnish regional development scenarios for Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (2021)
- Expert of regional structures' future scenarios (2016) and expert of regional smart specialization strategy (2014, 2016-2019) for Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia

Other

- Member of Board of Comia Software Oy 2008-
- Ilmajoki municipality council (alternate member), member of audition board 2013-2018

Publications

A. Peer-reviewed scientific articles (13)

Grillitsch, M., Rekers, J., Asheim, B., Fitjar, R. D., Haus-Reve, S., Kolehmainen, J., Kurikka, H., Lundquist, K.-J., Martynovich, M., Monteilhet, S., Nielsen, H., Nilsson, M., Sopanen, S., Sotarauta, M., & Stihl, L. (2024). **Patterns of opportunity spaces and agency across regional contexts: Conditions and drivers for change.** *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 57(2-3), 159-183. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X241303636>

Grillitsch, M., Sotarauta, M., Asheim, B., Fitjar, R. D., Haus-Reve, S., Kolehmainen, J., Kurikka, H., Lundquist, K.-J., Martynovich, M., Monteilhet, S., Nielsen, H., Nilsson, M., Rekers, J., Sopanen, S., & Stihl, L., (2023) **Agency and economic change in regions: identifying routes to new path**

development using qualitative comparative analysis, *Regional Studies* 57, 8, 1453-1468.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2022.2053095>

Kolehmainen, J., Jousmäki, H., Kurikka, H. & M. Raunio (2026). 4. Combining HEIs' international talent attraction and regional engagement: Insights from Seinäjoki, Finland. In Charles, D., Nieth, L., Coenen, L. & Cinar, R. (eds.), *Universities and their places*. London: Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003571681-6>

Kolehmainen, J., Keerbergh, A., Kurikka, H. & Raagmaa, G. (2022). **Being Resilient Between the Region and the Higher Education System? Views on Regional Higher Education Institutions in Estonia and Finland**. In Pinheiro R., Frigotto, M. L. & Young, M. (eds.) *Towards Resilient Organisations and Societies: a Cross-sectoral and Multidisciplinary Perspective* (p. 249–276). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82072-5_10

Kurikka, H. (2021). **Gloaali talouskriisi ja Suomen alueellinen resilienssi** [Global economic crisis and regional resilience in Finland]. *Terra* 133:1, 3–16. <https://doi.org/10.30677/terra.96014>

Kurikka, H. & Grillitsch, M. (2021). **Resilience in the periphery: What an agency perspective can bring to the table**. In R. Wink (Eds.) *Resilience in regions, organisations and management*, Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-33079-8_6

Kurikka H., Kolehmainen J. & Sotarauta M. (2018). **Constructing Regional Resilience in a Knowledge Economy Crisis: the case of the Nokia-led ICT Industry in Tampere**. In Benneworth, P. (Ed.) *Universities and Regional Economic Development: Engaging with the Periphery*. Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 163-179. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315168357>

Kurikka, H., Kolehmainen, J., Sotarauta, M., Nilsson M., & Nielsen H. (2022). **Regional opportunity spaces – Observations from Nordic regions**. *Regional Studies* 57, 8, 1140-1452. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2022.2107630>

Sotarauta, M., Kurikka, H., Kolehmainen, J., Sopanen, S., & Moisio, S. (2025). **Place leadership in the geography of opportunities: survival of small industrial localities when industrial giants fall**. *Regional Studies*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2025.2479108>

Sotarauta, M. Kurikka, H. & Kolehmainen, J. (2023). **Change agency and path development in peripheral regions: from pulp production towards eco-industry in Lapland**. *European Planning Studies* 31, 2, 348-271. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2022.2054659>

Sotarauta, M., Kurikka, H. & Kolehmainen, J. (2021). **Patterns of place leadership: institutional change and path development in peripheral regions**. In *Handbook on City and Regional Leadership*. Cheltenham, p. 203-225. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788979689.00022>

Sotarauta, M., Sopanen, S., Kolehmainen, J. & Kurikka, H. (2026). **13 Place leadership as a mobilisation of assets: Town of Salo, Nokia and Microsoft as a case in point**. In Charles, D., Nieth, L., Coenen, L. & Cinar, R. (eds.), *Universities and their places*. London: Routledge. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003571681-17>

Stihl, L., Rekers, J. V., Nilsson, M., Kurikka, H., & Kolehmainen, J. (2025). **Small regions hosting large firms: when, how and why can local agency (not) shape regional development paths?** *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/04353684.2025.2506624>

B. Non-refereed scientific articles (5)

Kurikka H. (2022). **Alueet ahdingossa – Aluetaloudellinen resilienssi Suomessa**. *Lectio praecursoria Tampereen yliopistossa* 11.3.2022. *Maaseutututkimus*, 30: 1. <https://doi.org/10.51807/maaseutututkimus.119808>

- Sotarauta, M., Kurikka, H., Kolehmainen, J., & Sopenen, S. (2021). **Toimijuus ja mahdollisuuksien tilat aluekehityksessä**. Sente-julkaisuja 35/2021, Tampereen yliopisto.
- Kurikka, Heli & Grillitsch, Markus (2020). **Resilience in the periphery: What an agency perspective can bring to the table**. CIRCLE Papers in Innovation Studies. Lund University. Paper no. 2020/07.
- Kurikka, Heli; Kolehmainen, Jari & Sotarauta Markku. (2017). **Path development and constructed regional resilience: The case of the Nokia-led ICT industry in Tampere**. Tampere: University of Tampere, Faculty of Management. Sente-working papers 39/2017.
- Sotarauta, M., Sopenen, S., Kolehmainen, J. & Kurikka, H. (2022). **Place Leadership as a Mobilisation of Assets: Town of Salo, Nokia and Microsoft as a case in point**. Tampere University. Sente working papers 49/2022.

D. Publications intended for professional communities (11)

- Kurikka, H. (2025). Keskikokoisen korkeakoulukaupungin vetovoima ja laatu (Kevola) - Tapaus Seinäjoki. Sente –julkaisuja 37/2025.
- Kurikka, H. (2022). Alueet kohtaavat kriisejä – mikä merkitys on resilienssillä? Poliitikasta -verkko-lehti 5.4.2022. <https://politiikasta.fi/alueet-kohtaavat-kriiseja-mika-merkitys-on-resilienssilla/>
- Kurikka, H., & Kolehmainen, J. (2023). Korkeakoulutus muuttoliikkeen ajurina: Keskikokoisten korkeakoulukaupunkien näkökulma. *Migration-Muuttoliike*, 49(2), 4–11. <https://siirtolaisuus-migration.journal.fi/article/view/141125>
- Kurikka, Heli & Kolehmainen, Jari (2019). Yllättävä Selviytyjä. Alueellisen resilienssin tarkastelua. Teoksessa Riukulehto, Sulevi & Harjunpää, Nina (toim.) Tehtävä Etelä-Pohjanmaalla! Etelä-Pohjanmaan liiton julkaisuja D:5. Vaasa: Grano Oy, 36-49.
- Kyösti, Anni; Parkkinen, Jonne; Kolehmainen, Jari; Koivisto, Juulia; Airaksinen, Jenni; Nyholm, Inga; Jalonen, Harri; Jäppinen, Tuula; Kurikka, Heli. (2019). Reformeista evoluutioon? : Alue- ja paikallishallinnon uudistamisen tapa ja tulevaisuus. Helsinki: Suomen Kuntaliitto ja Tampereen yliopisto. (Acta 274).
- Kurikka, Heli; Alarinta, Juha; Kolehmainen, Jari & Hynynen, Ari (2016). Etelä-Pohjanmaan aluerakenteen tulevaisuuskuvat 2040. Etelä-Pohjanmaan liiton julkaisuja B:81. Seinäjoen yliopistokeskus / Etelä-Pohjanmaan liitto, Seinäjoki.
- Kurikka, Heli & Riukulehto, Sulevi (2015). Tiekartta elämyksellisiin ruokailukokemuksiin. Raportteja 149. Helsingin yliopisto, Ruralia-instituutti.
- Kurikka, Heli & Rinne-Koski, Katja (2015). Seinäjoen kansalaisopisto kurssilaisten silmin, 139–151. Teoksessa: Parempaa elämää: Seinäjoen kansalaisopisto tiedon ja taidon poluilla 70 vuotta. Mäntylä, J. (toim.). Seinäjoen kansalaisopisto.
- Kurikka, Heli & Rusanen, Jarmo (2006). Oulun yliopistosta vuosina 1970–2004 valmistuneiden alueellinen sijoittuminen vuonna 2005. Hallintopalvelujen lausunnot, muistiot, selvitykset ja tilastot nro 56. Oulun yliopisto.
- Kurikka, Heli (2005) Oulun yliopisto ja alueyhteistyö – Kokemuksia ja odotuksia Oulun eteläisen alueelta ja Raahen seutukunnasta. Hallintopalvelujen lausunnot, muistiot, selvitykset ja tilastot nro 53. Oulun yliopisto.
- Sotarauta, M., Makkonen, T., Moisio, S., & Kurikka, H. (2021). Suomen aluekehityksen skenaariot 2040. TEM julkaisuja 2021:60. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-327-975-9>

G. Theses (3)

- Kurikka, H. (2022). Alueet ahdingossa. Aluetaloudellinen resilienssi Suomessa. Tampereen yliopiston väitöskirjat 546.
- Kurikka, Heli (2008). Suomen yliopistoista valmistuneiden alueellinen sijoittuminen 1990-luvulta 2000-luvulle. Licensiaattitutkielma. Hallintopalvelujen lausunnot, muistiot, selvitykset ja tilastot nro 58. Oulun yliopisto
- Kurikka, Heli (2005). Strategian paikka - Raahen ja Ylivieskan seutukuntien strategiat. Oulun yliopisto. Pro gradu -tutkielma.