

OTTO LEHTO: Curriculum Vitae

(updated for October 2015)



Name: Otto Ilmari Lehto

Date of birth: January 31, 1984

Country of birth and residence: Finland

1) MY CONTACT INFORMATION:

- 1) **Address: Tieteenkatu 14 B 35, FI-33720 Tampere, FINLAND**
- 2) **Phone number: +358 407514748**
- 3) **E-mail: otto.i.lehto@gmail.com**
- 4) **Homepage: www.ottolehto.com**

2) EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

2003: **IB High School Diploma** (English-language high-school program; International Baccalaureate). Tampereen lyseon lukio. Tampere, Finland

2005-2013: **Bachelor's Degree (BA) studies**, English Philology. Faculty of the Arts, *University of Helsinki*, Finland.

2013-2015: **Master's Degree studies** (M.Soc.Sci. = Master of Social Sciences), Social and Moral Philosophy. Faculty of Social Sciences. *University of Helsinki*, Finland.

2014 (Aug-Dec): **Exchange student**, Philosophy. *University of Iceland*, Reykjavik.

3) SKILLS AND EXPERTISE:

Language competence:

- Finnish (native)
- English (excellent, with TOEFL score of 119/120)
- Swedish (good)
- Spanish (good)
- German (good)
- French (acceptable)
- Latin (acceptable)
- Sumerian (OK)
- Babylonian (OK)
- Ancient Greek, Japanese, Icelandic, Old Norse, Sanskrit (elementary knowledge)

Academic interests: philosophy, epistemology, political theory, Darwinism, linguistics, semiotics, history, musicology, psychology, sociology, anthropology and economics.

Civic skills: public speaking, leadership, NGO governance, organizational skills.

Other work skills: journalism, blog writing, congress organisation, peer review.

4) ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS: (online: www.ottolehto.com/academic-work/):

- *Music's Pre-Existence as Ideal Sound: The Pythagorean Legacy in Music* (2008). In: *Before and After Music. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress on Musical Signification* (ed. by Lina Navickaite-Martinelli), Vilnius, Lithuania.

- *The Collapse and Reconstitution of the Cinematic Narrative: Interactivity vs. Immersion in Game Worlds* (2009). In: *E/C Journal*, issue titled "Computer Games Between Text and Practice" (edited by D. Compagno & P. Coppock). Italian Association of Semiotic Studies.

- *Humanism, Existentialism, Semiotics* (2009). In: "Communication: Understanding and Misunderstanding: Proceedings of the 9th World Congress of Semiotics" (ed. Eero Tarasti), Vol. 2., *Acta Semiotica Fennica XXXIV*, 2009.

- *Reason and Madness in the Holocaust: Mythologizing a Modern Narrative in 20th Century Prose*. (My Bachelor's Thesis. Grade 5/5: Excellent), University of Helsinki, Department of English Philology.
- *Studying the Cognitive States of Animals: Epistemology, Ethology and Ethics* (2009). In: *Sign Systems Studies*, Volume 37(3-4), pp. 369-419. Tartu University Press, Estonia.
- *Vapauden illuusion loppu: Spinoza & radikaali determinismi* (trans. "The End of the Illusion of Freedom: Spinoza & Radical Determinism") (2010). In: *Synteesi* magazine (Synteesi 2/2012). Helsinki, Finland.
- *Performing Culture and Breaking Rules* (2014). In: "Philosophies of Performance" *Acta Semiotica Fennica XLIII*. Semiotic Society of Finland: Helsinki. (Originally published in: *Proceedings of the 10th World Congress of the International Association of Semiotic Studies (IASS/AIS)* [electronic publication] (Spain, 2012))
- *The Three Principles of Classical Liberalism (from John Locke to John Tomasi): A Consequentialist Defence of the Limited Welfare State*. (2015. Master's Thesis, University of Helsinki; Grade: *cum laude*). Available online at: <https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/155211?locale-attribute=en>
- *Better welfare, better markets?* (2015). A review of "Basic Income and the Free Market: Austrian Economics and the Potential for Efficient Redistribution" (ed. Guinevere Liberty Nell, 2013, Palgrave MacMillan: Printed in USA). In: *Basic Income Studies*. Volume 10, Issue 1, Pages 157–160, ISSN (Online) 1932-0183, ISSN (Print) 2194-6094, DOI: [10.1515/bis-2015-0007](https://doi.org/10.1515/bis-2015-0007), May 2015.

5) CONGRESS PARTICIPATION:

2006: JUNE: Speaker at the Imatra Summer School of Semiotics. Delivered two papers. Imatra, Finland.

2007: JUNE: Speaker at (and organiser of) the "9th World Congress of Semiotics" in Helsinki. Delivered two papers on semiotics and philosophy.

- Speaker at the adjacent International Congress on Peirce Studies ("Applying Peirce") in Helsinki. Delivered a lecture on C.S. Peirce's ontology on the topic of: "The Three Faces of Peirce."

2008: JANUARY: An invited lecturer at the "What's Wrong with Nature?" interdisciplinary symposium on environmental ethics at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Gave a speech on the philosophy of nature.

APRIL: Speaker at the post-doctoral seminar on musical semiotics at the Helsinki University on the topic of "Performance and Personality: Schizophrenia, Art and Self-Mastery."

SEPTEMBER: Participant and speaker at the "10th International Congress of the International Project on Musical Signification," in Vilnius, Lithuania, on the topic: "Music's Pre-Existence as Ideal Sound."

2009: APRIL: Finished my Bachelor's Thesis, "Reason and Madness in the Holocaust" and received my Bachelor's degree in English Philology (with the grade: 5/5 (excellent)).

MAY: Participant at the symposium "Belarus after 15 Years of Authoritarian Rule: Assessment and Prospects", organized by the Helsinki University's Collegium of Advanced Studies.

JUNE: Speaker and participant at the Summer School of Semiotics in Imatra, Finland. Delivered two papers: "Performance of the Self: Democracy, Autonomy and Resistance" & "Overcoming Nihilism and the Necessity of Self-Conflict."

SEPTEMBER: Participant and speaker at the "10th World Congress of Semiotics," organized in La Coruña, Spain, as part of the Finnish study project "Philosophies of Performance" from Helsinki University. Gave a lecture on the topic of "Performing Culture and Breaking Rules."

NOVEMBER: Lecturer at the 2009 "Semiotiikan X Oscarin päivän seminaari" organized at Tieteiden talo, Helsinki. Topic: "Rakkaus ja Laki" (trans. "Love and the Law").

2010: MARCH: Participant and organiser at the Post-Doctoral Seminar on Musical Semiotics in Helsinki. University of Helsinki, Finland.

SEPTEMBER: Participant and lecturer at the IX International Congress on Musical Signification. Gave a talk on the topic of: "The Practice of Liberty and the Performance of Self-Perfectibility: Music and the Virtues of Enlightenment". Academy of Music in Kraków, Poland.

2012: MARCH: Participant at the 14th International Doctorate and Postdoctoral seminar on musical semiotics. Department of Musicology, Helsinki, Finland.

NOVEMBER: Speaker at the "Oscarin päivä" seminar on semiotics in Helsinki, Finland. Gave a talk on the topic of: "Kulttuurin uusintamisesta ja säilyttämisestä: subjektiivisia ja objektiivisia näkökulmia". (trans. "How to renew and conserve culture: subjective and objective perspectives.")

2015: JUNE: Speaker and participant at the International Society for Information Studies (IS4IS) congress: "ISIS Summit Vienna 2015—The Information Society at the Crossroads". Gave a lecture on the topic: "Spinoza to Darwin via Deacon: Negative and Positive Approaches to (Natural) Evolution". In: Vienna, Austria.

JUNE: Participant at the graduate student seminar "Liberty & Scholarship: Critiques and Challenges". Institute for Humane Studies. Bryn Mawr College, PA, USA.

6) ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE AND ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

2005-7: Member of the organizing committee for the 9th "World Congress of Semiotics" in Helsinki/Imatra, Finland. This work included planning work for a period of two years.

2007 & 2010: Organiser for the Musical Semiotics post-doctoral congress in Helsinki.

2008-2010: Participated in the research project (with funding from the "Niilo Helander Fund") on the topic of: "Eurooppalaisen filosofian ja elokuvan merkitys humanististen arvojen kulttuurissa". This work has included my work for my Bachelor's Thesis, several articles and essays, congress participation, as well as my ongoing work on the history of ideas and social and political philosophy. Department of Semiotics, University of Helsinki, Finland.

2008-2009: Member of the "Philosophies of Performance" research group (at the Institute for

Art Research) funded by the Finnish Academy. My participation in the project included publications, seminars and organizational work across the two years of the project.

2009: Co-editor, with Associate Professor, Dario Martinelli, of the international semiotic journal, *Sign Systems Studies* (Tartu University Press, Estonia), on the special issue on animal communication, Vol. 37(3/4). I also published an article in the same journal.

2008-2010: A member of the planning committee for the Master's Degree Program in Semiotics.

2012-2013: A student member of the preparatory committee of the Faculty of Arts, Helsinki.

2012-2014: An elected member of the representative body of the university's student board (HYY).

7) WORK HISTORY + NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:

2008-2010: Junior high school teacher's substitute (for about 3 months), English and Swedish. Various schools in Tampere, Valkeakoski and Helsinki, Finland.

2009-2012: Translator of Eero Tarasti's historical novel "Villa Nevsky" (about 700 pages), from Finnish to English. (Unpublished.)

2015: High school teacher's substitute (two weeks), philosophy. Tampereen lyseon lukio, Tampere. Also: Translator of the final report of the "Healthy Financial Sector" project (about 50 pages) of the Finnish Financial Services, from Finnish to English.

I have been active, since 2011, in Finnish civic activism, public debate and NGO-work. These have granted me skills in communication, democracy, networking, leadership and social organization.

2012-2014: Secretary of the board, BIEN Finland. (The Basic Income Earth Network of Finland.)

2014-2015: Chairman of the board, BIEN Finland.

Also, I have kept two popular blogs (in Finnish), with 50,000+ views per year (at www.uusisuomi.fi and at www.blogbook.fi). In addition, I have written a few articles for Finnish newspapers. I have been interviewed on various media, e.g. on the Finnish national radio YLE and Finnish newspapers and journals. Just this year (2015), thanks to my civic work, I have been interviewed e.g. on Belgian, French, Swiss, Norwegian, Portuguese and German media (including newspapers and radio).