

CV 1989-2025

Heta-Kaarina Pukki, 06/11/1968

University degrees

Master's degree in biology, University of Helsinki, 1994

Master of Education (M.Ed.), University of Birmingham, 2009

- Degree in Special Education, with focus on autism in adults
- Master's Thesis: *A different devil in the details: Investigating perceptions of empowerment among autistic adults and autism professionals in Finland to support development of a course on autism.*

Language skills

Finnish: native speaker with high level skills and broad vocabulary

English: excellent skills, equivalent to those of a trained translator

Swedish: fluent reading and listening comprehension, basic spoken and written expression

German: basic reading comprehension, some elementary spoken and written expression

Dutch: basic reading comprehension, some elementary spoken and written expression

Work experience

1.2.2024 – 31.12.2025 **Project Coordinator**

Erasmus+ project Digital for All, developing peer teaching of digital skills for people with disabilities

31.5.2021-31.5.2023 **NGO Coordinator**

Suomen Autismikirjon Yhdistys ry / Autistic Spectrum Finland, Helsinki

- 17.2.2014-31.5.2016 **Project coordinator, Autism&Uni international project**
Keskuspuiston Vocational College (Orton Foundation)
- Co-author of the project's Best Practice Guides
(<http://www.autism-uni.org/bestpractice/> , <http://www.autism-uni.org/outputs/>)
- 2005-2024 **Sole Trader**, trade name, AutSpect Education.
Public speaking, training, publishing, research literature searches and summaries, development of educational materials related to the autism spectrum; translation of texts related to autism, special education and social work research.
- 1.7.2016-2020 **Personal assistant**
Periods of work for several individual employers and assistance service firms. Practical support in daily living for people with a range of different disabilities, both physical and cognitive.
- 1999-2017 **Carer of a disabled family member**
Officially carer for severely disabled autistic daughter from age 10 to 18, 2009-2017.
- 16.8.2011-1.6.2012 **School assistant in autistic children's afternoon activity**
Seure Henkilöstöpalvelut Oy
- 13.8.2012-13.8.2013 **Special assistant in autistic children's afternoon activity**
Helsingin City, Social Bureau
- 1989-1998 University of Helsinki, several periods of employment

Periods of work as course instructor, research assistant and researcher, totalling 25 short contracts. Mainly plant and fungal physiology and molecular biology.

Volunteer roles and political advocacy

European Council of Autistic People, President, 2019- , ongoing

Autescape Organisation, Trustee

<http://www.autscape.org/organisation/board>

Autistic Spectrum Finland, Chair of the Board, 2023- 2025
Secretary 2025 - ongoing

Selected publications and conference presentations

- 2025 Pukki H (2025): Beyond the Badges – Preventing marginalization in autistic space. Autscape conference 2025. United Kingdom.
<https://www.autscape.org/2025/programme/presentations#heta>
- 2024 Pukki H (2024): Autistic People and Independent Living. Post on the European Disability Forum blog.
<https://www.edf-feph.org/blog/autistic-people-and-independent-living/>
- 2024 Dewinter, J., Onaiwu, M. G., Massolo, M. L., Caplan, R., Van Beneden, E., Brörmann, N., Crehan, E. T., Croen, L. A., Faja, S., Gassner, D. L., Graham Holmes, L., Hughes, C., Hunter, M., Huysamen, M., Jelonche, P., Lai, M.-C., Noens, I., Pukki, H., Stokes, M. A., ... van der Miesen, A. I. (2024). Short report: Recommendations for education, clinical practice, research, and policy on promoting well-being in autistic youth and adults through a positive focus on sexuality and gender diversity. *Autism*, 28(3), 770-779.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613231188349>
- 2023 Pukki H (2023): *Käypä hoito -suositukset autismikirjolle – kommenttipuheenvuoro. [Clinical Good Practice Guidelines for the autism spectrum – commentary]*. Presentation at the Autismin Talvipäivät conference 2023, Finland. Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bgvCxf8RkU>
- 2022 Pukki H, Bettin J, Outlaw AG, et al. (2022): Autistic Perspectives on the Future of Clinical Autism Research. *Autism Adulthood*. 2022 Jun 1;4(2):93-101. doi: 10.1089/aut.2022.0017.
- 2022 Pukki H (2022): *Working together globally to amplify autistic voices*. Presentation at the Autscape Conference 2022. United Kingdom.
<https://www.autscape.org/2022/programme/presentations>
- 2021 Pukki H (2021): *Portraying autistic strengths*. Presentation at the AUTcamp conference, Italy, 2021.

- 2019 Pukki H (2019): *Connecting autistic-led organisations in Europe*. Presentation at the Autminds 2019 conference, the Netherlands.
<https://eucap.eu/2019/12/14/presentation-at-the-autminds-2019-conference/>
- 2017 Pukki H (2017): *Tytöt ja naiset autismin kirjolla [Women and girls in the autism spectrum]*. Presentation at the Autismin Talvipäivät 2017 conference, Finland. Material at <https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/heta-pukki-tytt-ja-naiset-autismin-kirjolla-autismin-talvipivt-2017/72356827>
- 2016 *A guide to best practice in supporting higher education students on the autism spectrum*. Co-authored three guides (Fabri, Andrews, Pukki). These have been translated to several languages.
- Fabri, M., Andrews, P.C.S., Pukki, H.K. (2016) *A guide to best practice in supporting higher education students on the autism spectrum – for HEI managers and senior academics*.
- Fabri, M., Andrews, P.C.S., Pukki, H.K. (2016) *A guide to best practice in supporting higher education students on the autism spectrum – for HE lecturers and tutors*.
- Fabri, M., Andrews, P.C.S., Pukki, H.K. (2016) *A guide to best practice in supporting higher education students on the autism spectrum – for professionals within and outside of HE*.
- 2016 *End users' participation in the design process and perceptions of the usability of the Autism&Uni Online Toolkit*. (Pukki, Fredriksson, Aavikko). Presentation at *Proceedings of International Technology, Education and Development Conference (INTED)*, March 7-9 2016, Valencia, Spain.
- 2015 *Fasilitoidun kommunikoinnin taustaa ja sitä koskevia kannanottoja Australiassa, Yhdysvalloissa ja Länsi-Euroopassa [Background to Facilitated Communication and related public resolutions from Australia, United States and Western Europe]* (Heta Pukki ja David Andrews). Book published by AutSpect Education, Finland.
- 2014 Pukki H (2014): *Autistic adults and projects: Ethical and respectful treatment of participants*. Workshop at the Autscape Conference 2014, United Kingdom.
<https://www.autscape.org/2014/programme/presentations>
- 2013 *Observations on the Employment Issues of Autism Spectrum Adults in Finland*. Chapter in the book *Decent Work: Promising practices in the employment of people with disabilities from Sweden, Denmark, Estonia and Finland* (eds. Idström, Stenroos, Uimonen).

2006 *Telling peers at school about Asperger syndrome: Thoughts on how and why.*
Chapter in *Coming Out Asperger* (ed. Dinah Murray). Jessica Kingsley Publishers,
United Kingdom, 2006.