



Project Number: 2024-1-IT02-KA220-SCH-000250672

## READY: Transnational Teachers Training

### Speakers Biographies

#### Dr. Paavo H.T. Leppänen

Dr. Paavo H.T. Leppänen, PhD, is professor of psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Jyväskylä (JYU), Finland, and the director of the Centre of Excellence for Learning Dynamics and Intervention Research (InterLearn CoE) at the Faculty of Education and Psychology, JYU. In line with InterLearn CoE themes, the links between children's learning and mental health, and the factors that explain the effectiveness of support for learning, Leppänen wants to understand why some children develop difficulties in early life and school and why some children, despite some risk factors manage to avoid major problems.

Leppänen's current research focuses on neurodevelopmental disorders, including reading, math, attention, language difficulties, foreign language learning, digital learning, and their neurocognitive, socio-emotional and environmental risk and protective factors as well as training and intervention effects. Leppänen and his research group uses survey, behavioral, eye-tracking and brain research methods (EEG, MEG, and combined MEG/EEG-eye-tracking methods).

He has recently been the PI or University of Jyväskylä PI of several European collaborative projects, including H2020 doctoral training network Neo-PRISM-C ETN (2019-2023; JYU PI), ChildBrain (PI) and PredictAble (JYU PI) European Training Networks (2015-2019), and Academy of Finland -projects, most recently InterLearn Centre of Excellence (2022-2029), CoPSOI-project on collaborative and online learning (2018-2022, consortium PI), and iFuCo (2016-2018, JYU PI) on enhancing learning and teaching of online inquiry, and eSeek on internet reading and learning difficulties (2014-2017, PI).

#### Dr. Carol Susannah Otieno-Leppänen

Dr. Carol Susannah Otieno-Leppänen is a Cognitive Neuroscience researcher. She currently serves as Principal Investigator of the EU-funded Erasmus+ CBHE project Digital Transformation for NeuroDiversity Inclusion in Africa and Asia (AAN-DI), at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The Digital Transformation for Neurodiversity Inclusion in Africa and Asia (AAN-DI) project is a European Union-funded Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) initiative that aims to promote inclusive digital transformation for neurodivergent individuals. Through partnerships between universities in Kenya, India, Finland, and Spain. She is also the co-leader of the NeuroCognition Lab at the Department of Psychology University of Jyväskylä.

Otieno-Leppänen's current research focuses on cognitive neuroscience of learning, executive function, and socio-emotional development across the lifespan, with a special emphasis on neurodiversity and digital inclusion. Her work integrates behavioral, neurophysiological (e.g., EEG, ERP), and psychometric methods to understand and support individuals with attention difficulties, autism, and learning disorders. She is particularly interested in how emerging technologies—such as AI-driven interventions, VR environments, and brain-computer interfaces—can be leveraged to enhance cognitive functioning, wellbeing, and academic outcomes in diverse and under-resourced populations.

Otieno-Leppänen is also an associate professor of Education and Psychology the director of the Center for Research, Innovation and Emerging Technologies in Cognition (CORTEX) at Great Lakes University of Kisumu. has led and contributed to multiple international research collaborations focused on neurodivergent learners, digital health, and culturally responsive education systems across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.



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