

CV



Ville Aleks Aaltonen is a Finnish citizen born on 6 April 1976. Aleks has a degree in sociology, works on a PhD thesis at LSE, and serves as the chairman of Demos Helsinki. His intellectual interests centre on technologies of organizing.

I am an entrepreneur and a PhD Candidate at the London School of Economics and Political Science with an interest in opportunities and challenges new information and communication systems pose for individuals, organizations and the society at large. Operating across the boundaries of academia, non-governmental organizations and the corporate world, my work is realized as publications, presentations and hands-on design projects. A number of my works have been awarded with prizes including the best Finnish urban studies publication in 2006. I also serve as the chairman of Demos Helsinki think tank.

My current academic work revolves on digital objects, data-based practices in mobile advertising industry and the governance of Wikipedia. I have previously written about the phenomenon of informed presence in real-time communication systems and the motivation for self-organizing and social innovation. I have a degree of Master of Social Sciences in sociology concentrating on science and technology, communication, and urban studies.

Before founding io² (www.io2.fi) in 2006, I worked over ten years analysing, designing and building internet-based services for organizations such as the leading Finnish internet consultancy Satama, the office of Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, and Nokia. Two years at the Center for Activity Theory and Developmental Work Research at the University of Helsinki gave me hands-on experience on doing academic research. I have worked with telecommunications, advertising and construction industries, international relations, climate change and on using industrial design for organizational change.

My hobbies include climbing and mountaineering, photography, travelling and, more recently, an attempt to pick up yoga. I spend most of the time in London, but I also have basecamps in Helsinki and Bangkok.

Website

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United Kingdom

Language and technical skills

Finnish is my native language, but I also operate fluently in English (TOEFL score 283/300). My Swedish was graded “good” in the obligatory test for the second official language at the University of Helsinki. I have also LSE Modern Foreign Language Level 2 Certificate and some experience in talking Mandarin Chinese. With the machines I get along with using a number of common languages such as Python, PHP, SQL, UNIX shell, UML etc..

Work experience

2006–present *io² (www.io2.fi)*

Founder of a company helping its clients to align their business and systems development by supporting the integration of user analysis, design management and implementation

2007, 2008, 2009 *The London School of Economics and Political Science (www.lse.ac.uk)*

Graduate Teaching Assistant for “Foundations of Social Research in Information Systems: Paradigms and Traditions” course (IS492) and “Systems Development” course (IS471) at the Information Systems and Innovation Group

2006 *Satama (currently Trainers’ House, www.trainershouse.fi)*

Senior designer in telecommunications and travel industry projects

2001–2005 *Crisis Management Initiative (www.cmi.fi)*

Project officer and technology expert for the Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy and the Information Technology and Crisis Management (www.itcm.org) projects

2003–2004 *University of Helsinki (www.helsinki.fi/yliopisto/)*

Research assistant at the Center for Activity Theory and Developmental Work Research (www.edu.helsinki.fi/activity/) for the Proactive Design (PROOMU) project

2001–2002 *ShiftControl*

Co-founder, concept and user-interface designer for a social networking based recruitment startup owned by a venture capital firm Tera Group

1998–2001 *Satama Interactive (currently Trainers’ House, www.trainershouse.fi)*

Designer and project manager for major projects and clients such as www.nokia.com and Toyota

1997–1998 *Finnish Environment Institute* (www.environment.fi)

A member of a non-military service team developing a CD-ROM presentation (published 2000 as Suomen Luonto CD-Fakta) on the Finnish environment

1994–1998 *To the Point*

Producer of several award-winning multimedia presentations

Education and training

2006–present *PhD Candidate*

The London School of Economics and Political Science
Department of Management
Information Systems and Innovation Group
United Kingdom

2005 *Master of Social Sciences (M.Soc.Sc.)*

University of Helsinki
Department of Sociology
Finland

2002 *Introduction to Modern China*

Course on Chinese history, politics and economy
Fudan University, Shanghai
China

2000 *Intelligent Interface Design*

Weinschenk Consulting Group
United States

1998 *National non-military service*

Finnish Environment Institute
Finland

1995 *Baccalaureate*

Helsinki Upper Secondary School of Visual Arts
Finland

Selected publications and writings

2010

Kallinikos, Jannis & Aaltonen, Alekski & Marton, Attila (2010): A theory of digital objects. *First Monday*, vol. 15(6–7). The article is available at: <http://bit.ly/br7TfX>

2009

Aaltonen, Alekski & Eaton, Benjamin (2009): Exploring the Impact of Real-Time Communication on Media Choice in the Context of Distributed Work. In the proceedings of 17th European Conference on Information Systems, 8–10 June 2009, Verona, Italy.

2008

Aaltonen, Alekski (2008): Huonosta laista ei voi syyttää Nokiaa. An opinion article in *Helsingin Sanomat* on 14 February.

Aaltonen, Alekski (2008): Social Innovation Camp: Organising the moment of self-organisation. The report is available at: www.alexicon.info/report-on-the-first-social-innovation-camp

Aaltonen, Alekski (2008): Organizing Control in Real-Time Environment: The Use of Real-Time Communications in an Educational Start-up. In Vidolov, Simeon & O'Scolai, Peadar & Rajão, Raoni Guerra Lucas & Faik, Isam & Higgins, Allen (eds): *Heterogeneities, Multiplicities and Complexities: Towards Subtler Understandings of Links between Technology, Organisation and Society*. CITO Proceedings Series, vol. 1. Centre for Innovation, Technology & Organisation, UCD Business School, Dublin.

2007

Aaltonen, Alekski (2007): Huippuyliopistoa ei synny kouluja yhdistelemällä. An opinion article in *Helsingin Sanomat* on 17 October.

2006

Aaltonen, Alekski (2006): Ilmastomuutos voi palauttaa brittien luottamuksen politiikkaan. Vieraskynä (Guest Pen) article in *Helsingin Sanomat* on 11 November, p. C11. English version in the November 2006 newsletter for the British-Finnish Scholarship Alumni Network published on 29 November.

Aaltonen, Alekski (2006): Muotoilun avulla kohti ratkaisukeskeistä rakennustuoteliiketoimintaa. In Mutanen, Ulla-Maaria & Virkkunen, Jaakko & Keinonen, Turkka (eds.): *Muotoiluosaamisen kehittäminen teknologiayrityksissä*. Helsinki: Teknologiateollisuus.

Aaltonen, Alekski (2006): Muotoilu apuna Rautaruukin rakennustuoteliiketoiminnan uudistuksessa. In Lindström, Maarit & Nyberg, Martti & Ylä-Anttila, Pekka: *Ei vain muodon vuoksi – muotoilu on kilpailuetu*. The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy publication B220, published on 28 June.

Aaltonen, Aleks (2006): Rakennushankeen moniaineksinen muotoutuminen: Esimerkkinä Ilmatieteen laitoksen ja Merentutkimuslaitoksen uusi toimitalo. *Yhdyskuntasuunnittelu* 2006(2), pp. 24–45.

2005

Aaltonen, Aleks & Hautala, Heidi (2005): Globaalissa päätöksenteossa tarvitaan parlamentteja. Vieraskynä (Guest Pen) article in *Helsingin Sanomat* on 16 December, p. A2.

Helsinki Process Secretariat (2005): Report from the Helsinki Conference 2005. Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Aaltonen, Aleks (2005): Where Do the Construction Projects Come from? The Case of the Kumpula Project. Master's thesis, May 2005, University of Helsinki.

Mutanen, Ulla-Maaria & Virkkunen, Jaakko & Hakatie, Annaleena & Aaltonen, Aleks (2005): Teollinen muotoilu organisaation osaamisalueena teknologiateollisuudessa. The final report of the Proactive Design (PROOMU) project.

2004

Hasu, Mervi & Keinonen, Turkka & Mutanen, Ulla-Maaria & Aaltonen, Aleks & Hakatie, Annaleena & Kurvinen, Esko (2004): Muotoilun muutos. Näkökulmia muotoilutyön organisoinnin ja johtamisen kehityshaasteisiin 2000-luvulla. Helsinki: Teknologiateollisuus.

Presentations in academic conferences

2010 *“Making Up Mobile Advertising Audience” and “Unpacking Wikipedia governance: The emergence of a bureaucracy of peers?”* (with Giovan-Francesco Lanzara)

Presentations in the 3rd Latin American and European Meeting on Organization Studies (LAEMOS), 7–10 April 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2009 *“Exploring the Impact of Real-Time Communication on Media Choice in the Context of Distributed Work”*

Presentation in the 17th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), 8–10 June 2009, Verona, Italy

2008 *“Organizing control in real-time environment: The use of real-time communications in an educational startup”*

Presentation in the 24th EGOS Colloquium, 10–12 July 2008, Vrije University, Amsterdam

- “Across Boundaries in Real-Time: The Use of Real-Time Communications in an Educational Startup”*
- Presentation in the Triangular Post-Graduate Conference, 5–6 June 2008, UCD School of Business, Dublin
- 2007 *“Studying information growth in Skype system”*
- Panel presentation in the 3rd Social Study of ICT Open Research Forum (SSIT-ORF), 21 March 2007, the London School of Economics and Political Science, London
- 2005 *“Rakennetun ympäristön muutos rakennushankkeen näkökulmasta”*
- Presentation in the annual Finnish urban studies conference “Suomalainen kaupunki”, 21 April 2005, Helsinki
- 2004 *“Kilpailukykyä muotoilusta?”*
- Poster presentation in “TIETOFOORUMI - Suomalainen tieteidenvälinen Knowledge Workshop”, 11 October 2004, Espoo
- “Network Dynamics in Construction: Building New Premises for Two Research Institutes”*
- Presentation in 4SEASST conference “Public Proofs - Science, Technology and Democracy”, 25 August 2004, Paris
- “Rakennetun ympäristön muutoksen tarkastelua rakennushankkeen näkökulmasta”*
- Presentation in the annual Finnish urban studies conference “Valta ja politiikka”, 28 May 2004, Helsinki
- “Kamppailu rakentamispäätöksestä eli ‘tuleeko tästä taloa lainkaan?’”*
- Presentation in the Finnish Society for Science and Technology Studies conference, 11 March 2004, Helsinki
- 2003 *“Building for the Future? Sustainability as Future-Oriented Practices in Building Design”*
- Presentation in the 27th annual 4S conference, 15 October 2003, Atlanta
- 2002 *“Matkapuhelimen aiheuttama häiriö sosiaalisesti keskittyneissä tilanteissa”*
- Presentation in the National Consumer Research Centre seminar, 16 May 2002, Helsinki

Affiliations

Current positions

I am the chairman of the board (2009–) at Demos Helsinki (www.demos.fi) think-tank (a member of the board since 2007). The association is a part of the international network of London-based Demos working on everyday democracy.

Past positions

In the past I have served at Aula Co-Operative (member of the board 2000–2002), and m-cult centre for new media culture (member of the board 2001–2003, the chairman of the board 2004).

Memberships

I am currently a member at the following associations: Crisis Management Initiative (www.cmi.fi), Demos Helsinki (www.demos.fi), The Finnish Alpine Club (www.suomenalppikerho.fi), The Finnish Society for Science and Technology Studies (pro.tsv.fi/stts), Internet-käyttäjät ikuisesti IKI (www.iki.fi), and Pro Fair Trade Finland (www.repu.fi).

Prizes and awarded grants

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| 2009 | Information Systems Research Studentship 2009/10 for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science |
| 2008 | Information Systems Research Studentship 2008/09 for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science |
| 2007 | Information Systems Research Studentship 2007/08 for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science |
| | My first peer-reviewed article “Rakennushankeen moniaineksinen muotoutuminen: Esimerkkinä Ilmatieteen laitoksen ja Merentutkimuslaitoksen uusi toimitalo” in the main Finnish urban studies journal Yhdyskuntasuunnittelu (published in 2006 issue 2) was chosen as the best publication in the field in Finland. |
| 2006 | British Sampo Scholarship for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science |
| 2004 | Honourable Mention in Pro Oeconomia competition (the best business books in Finland) for Hasu & al. (2004): Muotoilun muutos. Helsinki: Teknologiateollisuus. |
| 2001 | Re:Spekt (December) Best Design award for ShiftControl recruitment service |

- 1997 1st Honourable Mention in EMMA Awards for “Nokia Connecting People” CD-ROM and infokiosk presentation
- 2nd Prize in Media&Message Competition in series “Educational CD-ROM Programs” for “Nokia Telecommunications Induction” CD-ROM
- 1995 1st Prize in Markkinointi&Mainonta New Media Competition series “Other Interactive Productions” for the infokiosks of the Finnish Postal Museum
- 1st Prize in Markkinointi&Mainonta New Media Competition series “CD-ROM” for “ABB, DTC” CD-ROM

More information

This document was updated on 8 June 2010.

The latest version of my CV is available from www.aleksiaaltonen.info. You may also wish to check out my research blog at www.alexicon.info, photostream at www.flickr.com/photos/aleksiaaltonen, LinkedIn profile at www.linkedin.com/in/aleksiaaltonen or my company website at www.io2.fi.