

Newsletter 3/19

Hanken School of Economics

Promoting analytical abilities and critical thinking

Hanken arranged its 12th solemn conferment of doctoral degrees on October 25th this fall, when Hanken also celebrates its 110th anniversary. A total of 10 honorary doctors and 47 doctors received their hats and diplomas on that occasion. From Hanken's first conferment in 1953 (with one doctor and five honorary doctors), this brings the overall sum to 312 doctors and 64 honorary doctors from Hanken.

An academic degree is not only a gateway to a professional research career, it also promotes analytical abilities and critical thinking. A doctor's degree, together with the thesis and potential publications, also carries evidence of the writer's innovativeness and co-operative as well as communication skills. All these skills should be of high value in today's complex world, where it is crucial to identify and process relevant information from the huge information flow, and to separate facts from "fake news".

Hanken has over the years undertaken many actions to improve doctoral education. The structure of the doctoral studies as well as the course content and the funding of studies have been addressed. Today, the doctoral programme aims to attract an international student body, to educate doctors able to produce international high quality publications, and with an education that is competitive on an international job market.

The current positions of our graduated doctors show that Hanken already has taken big steps in that path, as they have placed very well both in the international academic job market as well as in business. In addition, a large number of the doctors participating in the solemn conferment of 2019 have an international background. The Hanken honorary doctors also bear witness of Hanken's excellent academic and corporate connections. Hanken is proud of being able to include these persons in its network.



Eva Liljebloom
Professor in Finance

Estonia's president among Honorary Doctors

Hanken School of Economics conferred 47 doctoral degrees and ten honorary doctorates at the solemn conferment of doctoral degrees on 25 October 2019.

Honorary doctorates in recognition of academic achievements were conferred upon:

- **Mary Jo Bitner**, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University
- **Tore Ellingsen**, Professor, Stockholm School of Economics
- **Martha S. Feldman**, Professor, University of California, Irvine
- **Bjørn Nybo Jørgensen**, Professor, London School of Economics
- **Seppo Pynnönen**, Professor of Statistics, University of Vaasa

Honorary doctorates in recognition of successful and long-lasting careers in business and society were conferred upon:

- **Ilkka Brotherus**, Chairperson, Sinituote
- **Jannica Fagerholm**, Man. Dir., The Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation
- **Kersti Kaljulaid**, President of the Republic of Estonia
- **Kalle Löövi**, Director of International Operations, The Finnish Red Cross
- **Jan Vapaavuori**, Mayor, City of Helsinki





Arjan Erkel at the annual "Hankendagen"

Arjan Erkel's story is about how any one of us can be taken hostage – either in a very real way or in one's own head – and how to pick yourself up after despairing.

In his talk on Hanken's homecoming day Hankendagen on 20 September, Erkel told his audience about his time as an aid worker, and how he during the war in Chechnya was taken prisoner by Islamic rebels in the Russian republic of Dagestan.

The other key note speaker, Ann Hellenius, discussed what constitutes relevant leadership in our data-driven, fast-moving world. Seeing the individual is crucial to being relevant as a leader and relevant leadership is crucial to the success of the company, claimed Hellenius at the seminar.

Science Accessibly Packaged

This year Hanken Research Day was organized the same day as Researchers' Night, a European event aiming to bring researchers and the public closer.

Seven research groups – four representing Hanken's Areas of Strength and three Areas of High Potential – presented their research in an easy-to-access package on Hanken Research Day. Each group had a time limit of seven minutes and could use only pictures to describe their research. Some of the groups chose to use on-stage props as well to illustrate their particular research topic.

"Researchers are used to giving 20-30 minute presentations on their topic; giving them limits regarding both time and format forced them to rethink their presentations. Judging by the feedback we've had from the audiences, this briefer and more visual concept worked well", says Aspara.



Sara Lindeman's PhD Thesis Awarded

Researcher Sara Lindeman from Hanken has won the second prize in the EDAMBA Thesis Competition 2019 for her thesis "Early-phase market organizing in subsistence settings". Sara Lindeman is specialised in innovation for sustainability.

This autumn she will finish the New Global project at Aalto University, which is a multidisciplinary research and innovation project focusing on Africa, India and Latin America. Lindeman has also recently founded Leapfrog Projects consultancy firm that helps Finnish companies find new markets in developing countries.

The European Doctoral Programmes Association, EDAMBA, is a European association for doctoral education within Management and Business Administration with about sixty membership universities in Europe.

Hanken holds its positions on Financial Times' Ranking

Hanken's master's programme has been ranked 68th in the Financial Times' annual Masters in Management ranking, which is very close to last year's result (65th).

- The result proves that Hanken's master's programme still is of high international standard. We want to especially thank all the alumni that took the time to complete the survey from Financial Times, says Maj-Britt Hedvall, Director for International Affairs and Corporate Relations.

In total there are some 14 000 business schools in the world. Of these, only 100 are ranked on the Financial Times list. Six Nordic business schools have made it on the list and two of these are Finnish. The Top 3 consists of University of St. Gallen (1), HEC Paris (2) and London Business School (3).

Commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030

On 8 November 2019 Hanken signed the Climate Emergency Letter, an initiative started by the SDG Accord – the university and college sector's collective response to the global goals – ahead of the COP25 meeting in December.

By signing the letter, Hanken has committed to mobilising more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation, going carbon neutral by 2030, and increasing the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curriculum, campus and community outreach programmes.

To reach these ambitious goals, Hanken has approved of a solar panel installation on the roof of the buildings in Helsinki and Vaasa. The projects are planned to go operational by 2021.



QTEM students received their certificates in Amsterdam

Hanken's four first QTEM students received their certificates at the QTEM annual graduation ceremony on 26 October at the University of Amsterdam. Altogether some 80 students received their certificate.

- Analytics, international experience and intercultural communication skills are aspects needed today and even more in the future. Through QTEM our students have a unique opportunity to become a part of a great network including a group for alumni, says Hanken's Dean Minna Martikainen.

QTEM is an international Masters network with 23 member universities. The network offers students the possibility to study quantitative subjects during a semester at one of the member universities. Students also complete an internship as part of the programme.

Focus on sustainability during theme week

A theme week around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held for the second time at Hanken 19-26.11.2019. The aim is to mobilise students, staff and members of public to board on a collective journey towards achieving the global goals.

"As an educational and research institution, we have the knowledge, the power and responsibility to be the driver of the change required to make this world a more sustainable place, and the SDG week plays an important role in that" explains Rector Karen Spens.

During the week, a stakeholder conference called "Responsible Organising" was organized. Other events included a flea market with clothing-donation facilities, a student case competition on sustainability and societal impact, and an interactive workshop about inspiring societal change through work and community.



Nobel Laureate Bengt Holmström linked to Hanken and Helsinki GSE

Nobel Laureate Bengt Holmström will be tied to Hanken and Helsinki Graduate School of Economics as Hanken Foundation Distinguished Fellow. Bengt Holmström is at present professor at MIT and will be linked to Hanken starting 1.1.2020. He will support teaching and research with special regard to the PhD programme.

New bilateral exchange agreements

Hanken has signed a new bilateral exchange agreement. Our new partner is:

Simon Fraser University, Beedie School of Business (Canada)

Partner Programme

The Hanken Partner Programme builds long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships that strengthen the connection between Hanken and the corporate world.

Hanken Partners



Hanken Branding Partners



Handelsbanken

Hanken Non-Profit Partners



This is Hanken

Hanken School of Economics is a leading internationally accredited Finnish university with operations in Helsinki and Vaasa, Finland. We are one of the oldest business schools in the Nordic countries, with over 100 years experience in education and research in economics and business administration. We combine tradition with a dynamic and innovative approach to research, teaching and learning.

Academic Excellence

Academic excellence is at the core of everything we do. Effective research-based education and the development of global competences help our graduates manage global complexity.

Facts & Figures

- » Founded in Helsinki 1909
- » Operations also in Vaasa since 1980
- » Research and teaching in Swedish and English in five departments
- » Students enrolled for bachelor's and master's degrees – 2383
- » Number of doctoral students – 117
- » Academic staff – 146

Areas of Strength in research

- » Competition Economics and Service Strategy
- » Financial Management, Accounting, and Governance
- » Responsible Organising
- » Leading for Growth and Wellbeing

Program portfolio

- » Bachelor of Science
- » Master of Science
- » PhD
- » Hanken Executive MBA

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