

# INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS FORUM

on Science  
Engagement

#IDF2023

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HEUREKA,  
VANTAA



# Brigitte Baptiste



Photo credits: <<https://www.nobelprize.org/?np-event-panellist=brigitte-baptiste>>

Dr. Brigitte Baptiste (COL) is a biologist who has raised awareness that cultural diversity is part of nature's diversity.

She is a member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and she has been part of the national representation to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.

Dr. Baptiste works as the director of Universidad Ean.

# Siim Kumpas



Photo credits: LinkedIn. Siim Kumpas.

Siim Kumpas (EST) is a Policy Officer at the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Union's diplomatic service. Before joining the EEAS, he served as a Strategic Communication Adviser at the Government Office of Estonia. His speciality is strategic communication and psychological defence against foreign information manipulation. Kumpas emphasizes the need to shift our focus from problematic content to manipulative behaviour. The EEAS is leading work on this and has pivoted from the fairly narrow concept of 'disinformation' to 'foreign information manipulation and interference' (FIMI), capturing a much fuller spectrum of threats in the information environment.

"Information manipulation is not a communication challenge, it is a problem", Kumpas writes.

# Petra Laiti



Photo: Vesa Laitinen / Ekonomi

Petra Laiti (Ásllat-Mihku Ilmára Mika Petra) is a Sámi activist who has worked at e.g. *Ellos Deatnu!* activist group and the presidium of the *UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus*. She works as a specialist at Nordic Culture Point.

"We have had to defend and all too often lose a dispute about our lands, our waters, our lives," writes Laiti. "As a Sámi person, no one asks me if I want to be an 'activist' or not. We are not given any alternatives."

# Maria Mäkelä



Photo credits: Jonne Renvall / Hämeen Sanomat.  
<https://www.hameensanomat.fi/paikalliset/5250599>

Dr. Maria Mäkelä (FIN) teaches literature at Tampere University.

She is an expert on the dangers of narrative and has studied how storytelling is used to impact our minds.

Carefully selected details create a relatable story world and help the listener to feel the experience of the story's main character under their skin. Narratives of experience have thus a power that affects society and politics.

# Markku Wilenius



Photo credits: Markku Ojala / Turun Sanomat  
<https://www.ts.fi/puheenvuorot/3952085>

Markku Wilenius (FIN) is a professor at Turku University Business School. He has worked for over 20 years with futures studies. He is a member of Club of Rome and has led Finnish delegation in Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit.

In recent years his research interests include understanding socio-economic long-term waves, the future of the financial industry, the future of the forest industry and the future of non-hierarchical organisations. His latest project is the future of cities and communities. He has published books and articles widely.

# Risto Isomäki



Photo credits: Into-kustannus.

Risto Isomäki (FIN) is an activist and columnist as well as science fiction and non-fiction writer. Some of his 44 books, like the Sands of Sarasvati, are ecological thrillers with apocalyptic proportions. Isomäki's books deal with climate, environment and other global problems and they have been translated to more than 20 languages. Isomäki has worked on the same themes in various non-governmental organizations both in Finland and in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

# Orna Ben Lulu



Photo credit: Orna Ben Lulu

Orna Ben Lulu (FIN) is editor-in-chief and founder of RARE Media, a new generation media. It offers more diverse and more inclusive journalism and publishes content aimed at young people on social media. The content is inspired by the goals of the UN's sustainable development action program Agenda 2030, such as reducing inequality and climate action. Orna Ben Lulu has specialized in sustainable development and young people's media consumption.

# Viktor Jaakkola



Photo credit:: Viktor Jaakkola / LinkedIn

Viktor Jaakkola (FIN) is a climate activist from Operation Arctic (Operaatio Arktis), a project consisting of 14 young people concerned about the seemingly inevitable disappearance of arctic summer sea ice and the cascade of destructive consequences that come with it. Operation Arctic aims to popularise the reality that it's too late to avoid horrific and for many people unacceptable climate scenarios without Climate Repair. Climate Repair refers to techniques, such as Marine Cloud Brightening, which are temporary interventions that aim to stabilise the climate system, buying crucial additional time for reducing emissions and scaling up carbon dioxide removal.

# Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen



Tellervo Kalleinen (FIN) and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen (GER) are an artist duo whose artistic work is basically a creative collaboration and a dialogue with the participating audience. The subjects of their works are social, but instead of documenting everyday life, they aim to provide a platform to share experiences and produce utopias, imagined solutions towards a better world through the means of art. It also reveals that systemic mistakes influence our thinking far more than we realize. The final work is often a video installation, film, event, or performance.