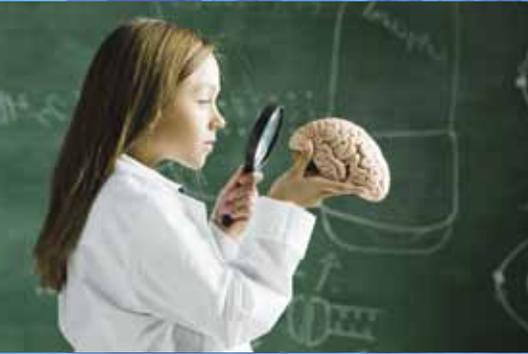




THE HUMAN MIND  
2013–2016

ACADEMY OF FINLAND  
RESEARCH PROGRAMME



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

# THE HUMAN MIND 2013–2016



## THE HUMAN MIND in brief

The Human Mind (MIND) is a research programme funded by the Academy of Finland during the years 2013–2016. MIND consists of 22 research projects, which are provided with 13.4 million euros in funding from the Academy. It involves basic research into the human mind and its neural mechanisms in different cultural and social contexts. The research will be applicable in tackling topical issues and challenges, such as learning, brain and mind development, ageing, health and sickness of the human mind, cultural encounters and conflicts.

## Objectives

The aim of the MIND research programme is to consolidate the scattered research field, bridge gaps between different scientific disciplines, promote the national and international networking of research, and secure the further progress of the field at a high international level. Another aim is to support multi-disciplinary research on the human mind, increase our knowledge of how a healthy mind will develop and how to support and cure an unsound mind. Research on the human mind can also generate significant public benefit and increase people's well-being and quality of life. Besides stepping up basic research, the research programme is also expected to contribute to issues such as teaching practices for children and adults, diagnosis and treatment of social disruptions, care of older people with memory problems and rehabilitation of people with psychic or neurological disorders. Mental illnesses and learning difficulties cause significant social costs and human suffering that could be diminished. Research within the programme will also respond to the challenges posed by lifelong learning.

## Themes

**Development of mind, growth and learning:** biological, neurophysiological and developmental psychological understanding of the development of mind; prenatal development; genes and epigenesis; learning and its preconditions and obstacles; birth and development of morals; education, critical attitude and ethics; systematic intelligence; play and imagination; emotions; body and mind; development of brain and mind; development of rationality.

**Mind, expression and language:** relationship between mind, brain, body and the environment; relationship between mind, language, worldview and values; memory and identity; linguistic and non-linguistic thinking and communication; artistic expression; individual and collective creativity; consciousness; history and philosophy of mind.

**Mind and health:** premises for healthy mind development; understanding and supporting an unsound mind; effect of different treatments on the mind; tailor-made rehabilitation; ability to test realities and disorders

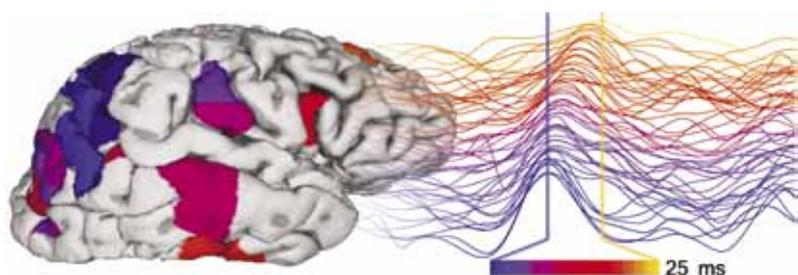
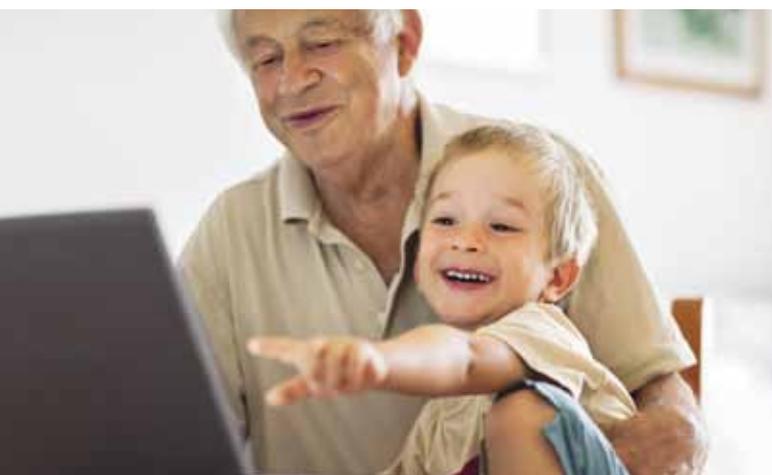


(e.g. hallucinations); altered states of consciousness (sleep, hypnosis and substance abuse effects).

**Mind and social interaction:** social behaviour and human interaction; digital environments and mind; individual and group decision-making; emotions in decision-making, aesthetic and ethic experiences and interaction; manipulation; meditative and religious experiences; controlling and regulating one's own mind; meditative and religious experiences; forms of intersubjectivity and their cultural maintenance; human-machine interaction; supported and social cognition.

## Scope

Understanding the human mind requires deep and broadminded cooperation between the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences. In the MIND research programme, the human mind is studied in a number of research fields and from many different perspectives. The research programme involves experts from various fields: educationalists, psychologists, sociologists, religion scholars, social scientists, humanists, neuroscientists, psychiatrists and brain imaging scientists. The programme aims at combining all these different perspectives into a



*Neuronal avalanches are cascades of propagating neuronal activity and may be observed in spontaneous source-reconstructed magneto- and electroencephalography data. (Palva et al., 2013, PNAS).*



fruitful interaction to create an overall and more profound picture.

The MIND programme also involves international research funding collaboration. Within the programme, the Academy of Finland and the Russian Foundation for Humanities (RFH) provide funding to research projects in the field of the humanities and the social sciences. In addition, the Academy and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) fund research into the brain plasticity and learning. European cooperation is carried out through projects that receive funding from ERA-NET Neuron.

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## Funded projects

### Eye Contact and the Meeting of Minds

Jari Hietanen, University of Tampere

### Mind and the Other

Marja-Liisa Honkasalo, University of Turku

### Intergenerational transmission of socio-emotional well-being: A multidisciplinary study of offspring development across the lifecourse

Liisa Keltikangas-Järvinen, University of Helsinki

### Mind the Gap between digital natives and educational practices

Kirsti Lonka, University of Helsinki

### Face To Face: Molecular and Functional Neural Mechanisms of Social Bonding and Interaction

Lauri Nummenmaa, Aalto University



**Linked lives over the life course: A dyadic approach to social development**

Anna Rotkirch, Family Federation of Finland

**Relational mind in events of change in multiactor therapeutic dialogues**

Jaakko Seikkula, University of Jyväskylä

**Cross-modal connections between speech communication, hand gestures and perception**

Martti Vainio, University of Helsinki

**Consortium projects**

**Role of personality in awareness and memory of visual representations (HCCG)**

Matias Palva, University of Helsinki

Satu Palva, University of Helsinki

Juha Silvanto, Aalto University

**The Conscious Mind: Integrating subjective phenomenology with objective measurements (CONSCIOUS MIND)**

Antti Revonsuo, University of Turku

Harry Scheinin, University of Turku

**Handling mind: Embodiment, Creativity and Design (Handling mind)**

Pirita Seitamaa-Hakkarainen, University of Helsinki

Maarit Mäkelä, Aalto University

**Mind, picture, image (MIPI)**

Janne Seppänen, University of Tampere

Göte Nyman, University of Helsinki

Kari-Jouko Rähä, University of Tampere

**INTERNATIONAL JOINT PROJECTS**

**Academy of Finland and Russian Foundation for Humanities (RFH)**

**Meanings of an Urban Space, Past and Present. Cross-cultural Studies of the Town of Vyborg from the 16th to the 21th Century**

Kimmo Katajala, University of Eastern Finland

**Positive development during the life-span:**

**Psycho-social implications in Finland and Russia**

Katariina Salmela-Aro, University of Jyväskylä

**Collective Minds**

Raimo Tuomela, University of Helsinki

**Consortium project**

**Perception and joint actions in humans with analytical vs. holistic cognitive styles (ANHOLCOGN)**

Iiro Jääskeläinen, Aalto University

Seppo Laukka, University of Oulu

**Academy of Finland and National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)**

**Learning of speech sound discrimination - insights from brain activity recordings in humans and rats**

Piia Susanna Astikainen, University of Jyväskylä

**Learning and memory and the involvement of the fronto-striatal network.**

Synnöve Carlson, Aalto University

**Systemic evaluation of the cognitive plasticity of schizophrenic patients after music therapy**

Li Tian, University of Helsinki

**ERA-NET NEURON II (European Research Projects on Mental Disorders)**

**Novel molecular pathways and biomarkers of anxiety disorders**

Iris Hovatta, University of Helsinki

**Discovering genetic risk variants for neuropsychiatric disorders and their consequences using dogs, humans and mice**

Hannes Lohi, University of Helsinki

**Biological Mechanisms of Transgenerational Transmission of Early Life Stress**

Katri Räikkönen-Talvitie, University of Helsinki



## MORE INFORMATION

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