

Speaker 3: Sirkka Heinonen, Professor of Futures Research, Finland Research Centre, Finland

Sirkka Heinonen is Professor of Futures Research at Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC, Turku School of Economics). Previously she has been working as Chief Research Scientist at VTT (the Technical Research Centre of Finland). Her expertise is concerned with futures research, knowledge society, innovation studies, social media, sustainable development, technology foresight, strategic foresight, and the future of cities.

Prof. Heinonen was commissioned to report on futures research activities in other countries to help organise Finnish futures studies in the early 1980s. In the late 1990s she was involved in preparing the Finnish Government's Futures Report to the Parliament and in renewing the Finnish National Strategy for Information Society. In 2005 Heinonen was invited as Associate Member to the Club of Rome, and since 1st Jan. 2008 as member of its International Advisory Board. Since 2006 she is member of the steering group of the Finnish national foresight network of SITRA (The Finnish Innovation Fund).

Examples of her research projects include "Information Society and Sustainable Development – from risks to opportunities"; "Technology Futures Forum" (TFF); and "Social media in the crossroads of physical, digital and virtual worlds" (SOMED). Recently, Prof. Heinonen has launched new research proposals at FFRC, concerning "Creatively Sustainable Communities" (CRESCO); "Creative Foresight Space" (CFS); "Rethinking Futures Research Foundations"; and "Global Civil Society for Mitigating Climate Change".

Dr. Heinonen has also acted as Secretary General and Vice-President of the Finnish Society for Futures Studies. She is a professional member of the World Future Society, and Co-Chair of the Helsinki Node of the Millennium Project (<http://www.millennium-project.org>).