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Craft Research Methods in Finnish Craft Science and Craft Teacher Education

NordPlus project Higher Education on Craft Traditions

History of Craft Science in Finland

- 1975 foundation of an assistant professorship in pedagogical research of craft
- **1979** a degree programme leading to a **Master's degree** in education for craft teachers
- **1982 first professorship** in textiles, clothing and craft design
- 1983 first students graduated with a Master's degrees in education
- 1984 first Licentiate thesis in textiles, clothing and craft design was published
- **1992** field name-change from Textiles, Clothing and Craft Design to **Craft Science**
- **1994 first doctoral thesis** in craft science was published

- Now 4 universities in Finland



Craft science and craft teacher education, UH

- Master of Education (5 years, 300 ECTS)
- BA in 3 years 180 ECTS + MA 2 years 120 ECTS + 4 years PhD

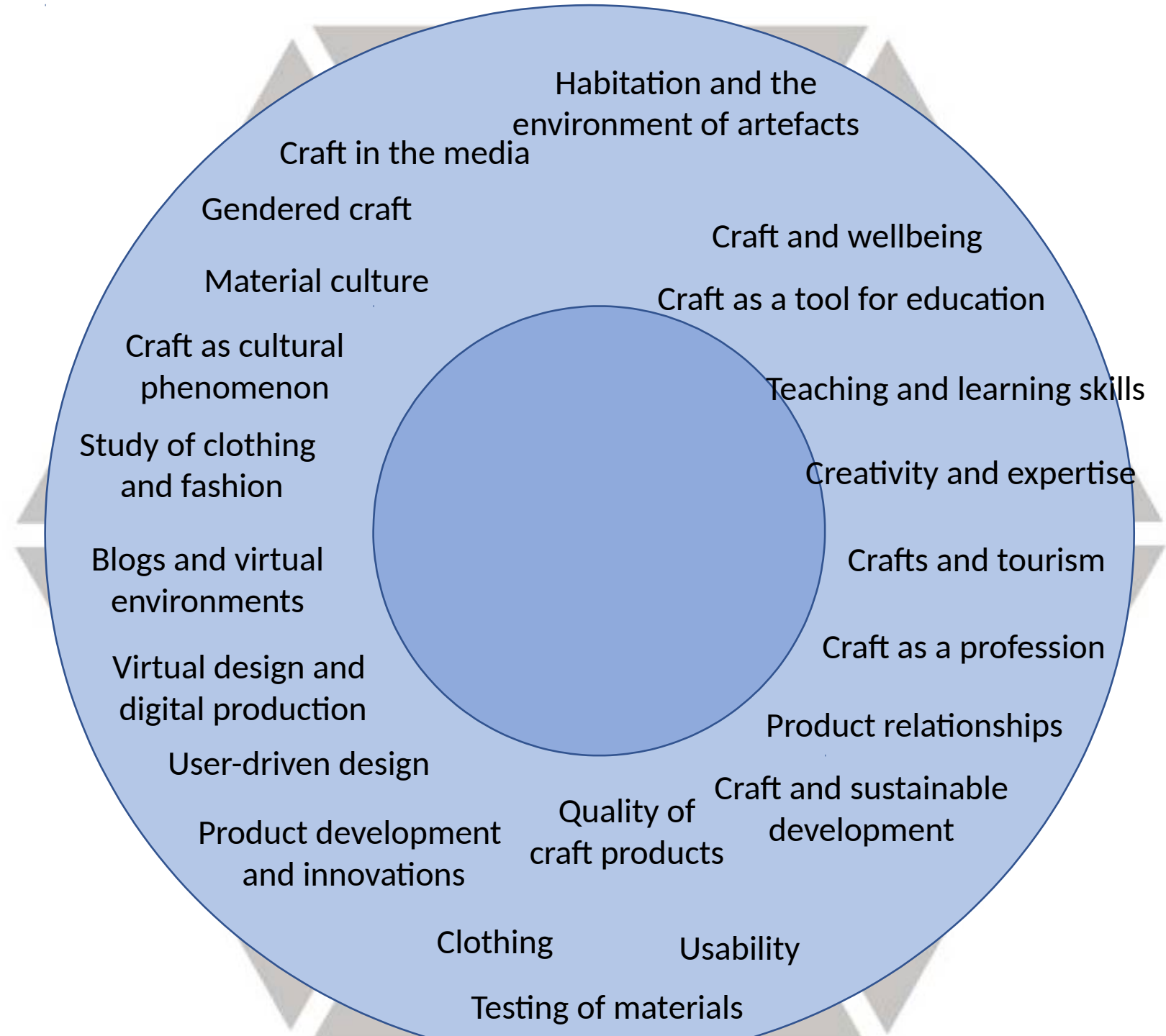
- Main subject studies in Craft Science (155 ECTS)
 - Basic studies
 - Intermediate studies
 - Research methods & BA thesis (20 ECTS)
 - Advanced studies
 - Research methods & MA thesis (50 ECTS)

- Pedagogical studies for teachers & teaching practice (60 ECTS)
- Minor subject studies on a chosen field (60 ECTS)

Craft Science research focus

- Designing and making processes
- Material and immaterial products of processes
- Humans' relationship to the processes and products
- Relationship between culture and products

Examples of research topics



Research methods in the study programme

BA

- Qualitative methods in Craft studies 5 ECTS
- Experimental and quantitative research in craft studies 5 ECTS
- Bachelor's Thesis 10 ECTS

MA

- Research methods (quantitative 5 + qualitative 5 + special 5 ECTS)
- Master's thesis 35 ECTS

Qualitative methods in a BA course (Craft Science)

- Understanding of central themes and phases of the qualitative research process
- Practice the planning and implementation of qualitative data production, analysis, interpretation, and assessment
- 2nd or 3rd year or of studies, giving 5 ECTS
- Lectures and workshops

Topics of the lectures

- Principles of theoretical (literature/research) approach
- Using video as research method
- Interview method
- Thinking aloud method
- Ethnography
- Artefact analysis
- Text and discursive analysis
- Qualitative data analysis



Workshops

- The students choose 2 of the following workshops
 - Video research
 - Artefact study
 - Text and discourse analysis



A dark, irregular ink blot with white text centered inside it. The blot has a rough, splattered edge and is surrounded by a light, textured background. The text is in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Examples of methods
used in MA theses
Related to traditional craft

Examples of product essence analysis and significance analysis

- Ruokamo, Satu(2018). *Artefact study of tanu folk headdresses*.
- Tanu was a white cloth cap worn by married women until end of 19th century. Research material: 13 tanu headdresses from two museums.
- The aim of the study was:
 - to find craft-based knowledge from tanu headdresses.
 - to find general knowledge of tanu headdresses as an object and phenomenon.
 - to find out how the chosen research method would work for to study such objects.

1st stage: researcher approached object as an expert



YLEE2009102:3



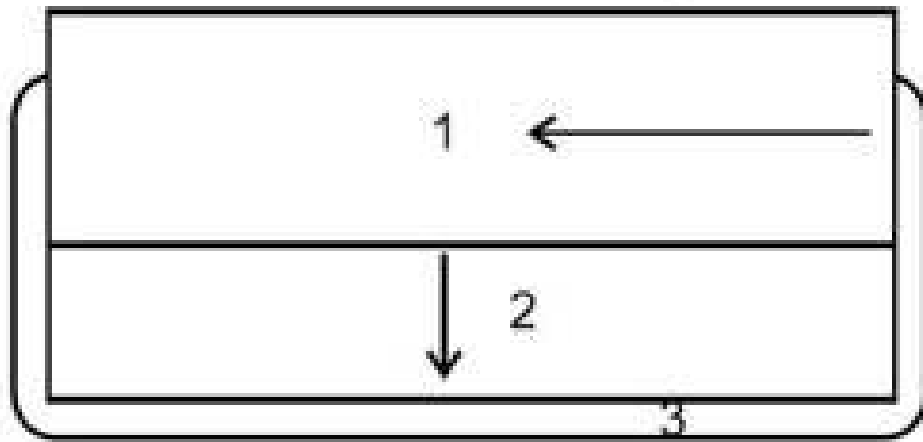
- HM 61:16b. images: Satu Ruokamo.

Taulukko 1. Yhteenveto aineiston tanuista.

numero	pitsi	pitsin leveys	pitsin koko pituus	pesän etureunan leveys	pesän pituus etureuna-takasauma
HM 61:16b	nyplätty tai konepitsi ?	6 cm	50 cm	13 cm	8 cm
HM 61:48a	nyplätty	6 cm	30 cm	22 cm	12,5 cm
HM 50:241	nyplätty	5 cm	-	-	20 cm
YLEE2009102:2	verkkopitsi + nyplätty	12 cm	40 cm	29 cm	23,5 cm
YLEE2009102:3	verkkopitsi	14 cm	42 cm	29 cm	23 cm
YLEE2009102:4	konepitsi + nyplätty	11,5 cm	33 cm	28,5 cm	25,5 cm
YLEE2004045	-	-	-	33 cm	26,5 cm
YLEE2008321	verkkopitsi + nyplätty	12,5 cm	38 cm	30 cm	24 cm
YLEE525:1	verkkopitsi + nyplätty	13,5 cm	40 cm	30 cm	24 cm
YLEE2008320:1	konepitsi	13 cm	44 cm	31 cm	27 cm
YLEE2003007:19	konepitsi	12 cm	38 cm	28 cm	26 cm
YLEE84157	konepitsi	12,5 cm	43 cm	29 cm	24 cm
YLEE264	konepitsi	13,5 cm	41 cm	32 cm	24 cm

2nd stage: researcher used her own craft process as a research method

Kaavio 2. Tanun YLEE2009102:2 pitsiosan kudontajärjestys.



3rd stage: the significance analysis for the museum objects was used

Example of autoethno graphy

Juhantila, Sirkku (2018). *Tehdään niin kuin hyvä tulee - Kansallispuvun korjaaminen, Kemiön puku*

- This research was based on a need to repair a national costume from Kemiö district and willingness to document the repair process.

The main research question was:

- How to repair an old national costume?
 - What are the limitations of the repair options?
 - How the traditional sewing methods of a national dress could be utilized in the repair process?

- **The research strategy** was a case study research and the research method was autoethnography.
- The student tried different repairing methods herself.
- **The data** consisted of narratives and notes written by the student during the research process as well as photographs of phases before and after repair.
- Image: Sirkku Juhantila



Example of significance analysis

Rossow, Rauna (2019). *Järvisaaren savakkokäsityöt inkerinsuomalaisuuden ilmentäjinä*

- The **focus of this study** was on Ingrian Finnish, especially the Savakko textile culture.
- **Research material** included the textile collection of Ingrian Finnish person Raija Pedak, her interviews, photographs, writings, newspaper cuttings, and drawings.
- The material was compared with the objects of Finno-Ugric collections at the Finnish National Museum.

- The study **followed one family** and the meanings given to crafts in changing historical contexts (from rural Ingria to the revolution and crises of the Soviet period and finally to the national awakening of the Ingrian Finns).
- The significance analysis** method, created originally for museum objects, was applied in this study.

•Image: Raija Pedak's collection in Pedak's home album



Example of a qualitative survey method in research on craft traditions

Hellsten, Saila (2017) Self-made wedding dresses in Finland in the 21st century

- The aim was to study the meanings of wedding dresses and making for the brides who have made their wedding dresses themselves.
- The reasons for making and the self-made dresses were also examined.



Methods and data

- The data was collected as a web survey on craft and wedding themed Facebook groups, e-mail lists and online forums.
- Along with answers to open questions, photos of self-made wedding dresses were collected.
- 59 brides responded to the survey.
- The data was analyzed using content analysis with the help of Atlas.ti software.


Examples of some recent PhD theses

- First PhD in Craft Sciences 1992, altogether about 50 + PhD on crafts within Educational Sciences
- Multiple methods and approaches, multiple themes

Some examples from 2000 onwards:

- 2000. **Seitamaa-Hakkarainen Pirita**. The Weaving-Design Process as a Dual-Space Search. University of Helsinki. Department of Home Economics and Craft Science Research Report 6. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
- 2002. **Ihatsu Anna-Marja**. Making Sense of Contemporary American Craft. Joensuun yliopiston kasvatustieteellisiä julkaisuja N:o 73. University of Joensuu.

- 2007. **Kokko Sirpa**. käsityöt tyttöjen kasvatuksessa naisiksi. [The road to womanhood through gender-specific crafts] Joensuun yliopiston kasvatustieteellisiä julkaisuja N:o 118. University of Joensuu. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:952-458-896-X>
- 2012. **Päivi Fernström**. Damastin traditio ja innovaatio. Tekstiilitaiteilija Dora Jungin toiminta ja damastien erityisyys. [THE TRADITION AND INNOVATION OF DAMASK The work of textile artist Dora Jung with a focus on her damask textiles] Kotitalous- ja käsityötieteiden laitoksen julkaisuja. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-10-8376-1>
- 2012. **Outi Sipilä**. Esiliina aikansa kehyksessä: moniaikaista tekstiilikulttuuria ja representaatioita kodista, perheestä, puhtaudesta ja käsityöstä 1900-luvun alkupuolen Suomessa. [Apron in temporal frames] University of Eastern Finland. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-61-0985-5>
- 2015. **Kaiju Kangas**. The Artifact Project. Promoting Design Learning in the Elementary Classroom. Kotitalous- ja käsityötieteiden laitoksen julkaisuja. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI. <http://hdl.handle.net/10138/136526>
- 2015. **Johanna Oksanen-Lyytikäinen**. Puku taiteena ja työvälineenä: Näyttämöpuvun merkitys kolmessa oopperaproduktiossa. [The meanings of theater costumes in three opera productions] Kotitalous- ja käsityötieteiden laitoksen julkaisuja. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI. <http://hdl.handle.net/10138/153100>
- 2015. **Virpi Turunen**, Pellavalangan neulonta kotineulekoneella. [Machine knittig with flax yarn] University of Eastern Finland. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-61-1932-8>
- 2016. **Tarja-Kaarina Laamanen**. Generating and transforming representations in design ideation. Kotitalous- ja käsityötieteiden laitoksen julkaisuja. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-51-1948-3>
- 2016. **Anna Kouhia**, Unraveling the meanings of textile hobby crafts. Kotitalous- ja käsityötieteiden laitoksen julkaisuja. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-51-2497-5>
- 2018. **Katja Vilhunen**. Neuleblogi osana käsitöitä – neulebloggaajien kokemuksia blogin ja käsitöiden yhdistämisestä [Knitting Blog as a Part of Craft Making – Experiences of Combining Blogging and Handicrafts by Knitting Bloggers] Publications of the University of Eastern Finland. http://epublications.uef.fi/pub/urn_isbn_978-952-61-2820-7/urn_isbn_978-952-61-2820-7.pdf
- 2018. **Tellervo Härkki**. Handling Knowledge – Three perspectives on embodied creation of knowledge in collaborative design. UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI. <https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/239650>



- Finding the relevant topics of research, new areas

- ☾ relevant

multiple and mixed methods

All research on crafts is important

- ☾ Sustain craft traditions

Future?

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- Purasmaa, Marika (2018) Studio Pedagogy as a Method in Textile and Fashion Design Education. <https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/277585>
- Ruokamo, Satu (2018). *Tanuja museoiden kätköistä: Käsiyöllinen esinetutkimus tanu-päähineistä.*
<https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/235727>
- Rossow, Rauna (2019). *Järvisaaren savakkokäsityöt inkerinsuomalaisuuden ilmentäjinä.*
<https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/300813>