



# ***InSEA World Council Candidate Information***

**NAME:** Tuija H. Itkonen

**TITLE & PLACE OF WORK:**

Class Teacher, European School of Helsinki, Finland

**CANDIDATE'S ONLINE SITES:**

<https://www.researchgate.net>, <https://www.academia.edu>, <https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi>

**BIO:**

Tuija Itkonen, MFA (USA), MEd (Finland), is at the finishing stages of her PhD (Education) at the University of Helsinki, Finland. With her primary class teacher (specialized in Multicultural Ed.) & English subject teacher certifications from the University of Helsinki, Finland, she currently teaches at European School of Helsinki. Before going into teaching, she worked as a graphic designer and ICT developer for a Finnish greeting card company (affiliate of Hallmark Cards, Inc.). In 2012-2014, she produced educational material, lectured and provided workshops for teachers and teacher students to promote awareness and acceptance of diversity, equality and non-discrimination in Finnish schools (co-financed & coordinated by Finland's Ministry of the Interior & the European Social Fund).

Her multidisciplinary research interests currently include intertextuality, multiliteracy, critical interculturality and social justice in education. She has presented her research at ESER 2012 in Cadiz, Spain and two studies at the InSEA Regional Conference 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. Her publications include peer-reviewed research on interculturality in vocational education and training (Itkonen, 2012; Itkonen, Talib & Dervin, 2015), peer-reviewed chapters involving the intertextual art method in books 'Diversities and Interculturality in Textbooks - Finland as an example' (Hahl, et al. Eds., 2015) and 'Silent Partners in Multicultural Education' (Itkonen, & Dervin, Eds., 2016) and the latest in International Journal of Art and Design Education (June, 2016) . She co-edited the Special Issue of World Studies in Education 'Silent Partners: Place-space, objects and technologies in Education for Diversities' (Posti-Ahokas, Itkonen, Atabong & Dervin, Eds., 2015) and served as the head editor for the 2016 book 'Silent Partners in Multicultural Education' (Itkonen & Dervin, Eds. 2016).

**I HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN INSEA OR RELATED ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

Although quite a new member of InSEA (since 2014), I know I have found my platform to try and get involved in developing, advocating and supporting art education both nationally and internationally. Having attended the InSEA Regional Conference 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal, I was not only impressed about the idea and depth of InSEA as an organization but also excited about the contents and level of work presented at the conference. Together with a long-term member of InSEA and my co-author, Martina Paatela-Nieminen, I presented two studies involving the intertextual art method and multiliteracies at the Lisbon conference: 1) How is the other Produced in two Finnish ABC (e-)books – An intertextual Reading and 2) Multiliteracies and meaning making: allowing silent partners to emerge. The conference exposure created for us a growing interest in the research, theories and practical pedagogies involving the intertextual art method and multiliteracies - a fact that tells me the educational (art) world is continuously developing also in this way. This is the reason I am also involving the method in my doctoral articles, e.g. "Reconstructing Imagined Finnishness: the case of art education through the concept of place" (iJADE, 2016).

**SHOULD I BE ELECTED I HOPE TO:**

Judging by the interest the Lisbon conference stirred towards the research, theories and practical pedagogies involving, among others, the intertextual art method and multiliteracies, it is clear to me the educational (art) world is continuously developing - and that I may have something to contribute towards it. In addition to promoting InSEA to art educators, I hope for chance to join the established (and new) members to promote the organization towards class teachers and general educators as well. To enable this, I would be happy to offer InSEA working teams my research, communication and organizational skills to develop InSEA in the areas of praxis, research and advocacy, and to work on the InSEA web contents and on extending the intercultural collaboration on the InSEA website.