

Jaakko Kuorikoski

Jaakko Kuorikoski was born in 1977 and obtained his master's degree from the University of Helsinki in 2002 with theoretical philosophy as his main subject. He then began working for his doctorate on the strength of grants from various foundations and as a researcher in projects financed by the Academy of Finland, in either the Department of Philosophy or that of Practical Philosophy.

Kuorikoski gained his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Helsinki with the grade of *laudatur* in 2010. The aim of his thesis was to create conceptual tools for clarifying and evaluating explanations of phenomena in the social sciences on the basis of formal models. Both this thesis and his subsequent work showed him to be not only an independent and critically-minded scholar but also a good participant in teamwork.

Since completing his doctorate he has been working as a post-doctoral researcher supported by the Academy of Finland in the University of Helsinki's Centre of Ex-

cellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences and has also been leading a project of his own within the same university, examining philosophical aspects of cognitive integration, in particular how evidence can travel across disciplinary boundaries.

At the present moment Kuorikoski is acting professor of practical philosophy at the University of Helsinki while continuing with his research with the Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences. He has published widely in respected international forums on the analysis of explanation, modelling, causation and social mechanisms, frequently in collaboration with other researchers, and he is also active in the philosophical research community both in Finland and abroad.

When asked about his relationship with science, Jaakko Kuorikoski replies that "Science is my work, the object of my research and my outlook on life." His scientific work has been focused on a world

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that is internal to science itself, a world that is gaining in importance all the time as more and more material or evidence is emerging, including "big data" requiring processing on a massive scale.

"The ideal does not come from physics, in which mathematical models produce general regularities that are based on exact results, as the models used in the social sciences act more as accessories to reasoning. Not everything can be resolved by calculations," he emphasizes.

For Kuorikoski, mathematics and formulae are like a language in which one wishes to say something. Once the results exist it is necessary to use reasoning, and this reasoning will increase in significance as new forms of knowledge come to occupy a more prominent role.

Kuorikoski is about to move to the University of Tampere to work as associate professor, where new challenges await him in the field of the methodology of social sciences.

The Jutikkala Prize is awarded to a scholar of humanistic sciences in the beginning of their career, who has already earned international renown.

Picture: Ruut Lahdenmäki