

## Call for Participation for potential US-collaborators in the area of:

**Proposal 1:** US-colleagues having similar research interests in Social and health services: Welfare state, gender and generational relations and costs of care. Ageing and gerontological social work are also of interest.

**Proposal 2:** Medicine and Health Technology, Health Sciences, Welfare Sciences, Social Research, Administrative Studies, Information and Knowledge Management, and Information Technology.

## Call for Participation for potential US-collaborators:

**Deadline: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Academy of Finland has two partners in the United States: the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Academy and the American funders have agreed to promote Finnish-American research collaboration in 2020–2024. Cooperation will be strengthened by funding research projects between American and Finnish parties in areas represented by the research flagships included in the [Academy's Finnish Flagship Program](#). The collaboration between the funders follows a lead agency model, with the US-agency reviewing applications and the Academy of Finland providing additional funding for Finnish PIs, thus enlarging the overall possible budget.

To support the utilization of these opportunities the Finnish-American Research & Innovation Accelerator (FARIA) launched in collaboration with the Academy of Finland a light-weight matching and preparatory program for US and Finnish researchers – the FARIAincubator.

### FARIAincubator

The FARIAincubator is a program that encourages the creation of joint project teams and prepares them to apply for funding. The preparation is conducted via a series of four online seminars which aim to share up to date information of the joint Finnish-US calls and coaching by experienced grant writers.

#### *Added value for participating researchers:*

- Reach new potential collaborators specific to your field of interest
- Qualify for joint Academy of Finland/NIH/NSF funding by partnering
- Stay up to date on funding criteria and application processes
- Increase the quality of your proposal and thereby success chances for funding

### How US-colleagues can participate:

#### *1. Read the short project idea and request for US-expertise:*

Finnish researchers submitted a draft research/project idea and description of the kind of collaborator expertise they are looking for. Have a quick look if your interests and expertise are a potential match.

## 2. Get in touch with the FARIAincubator team:

If interested, send a short email until April 15<sup>th</sup> to the program manager (Dr. Jérôme Rickmann; [Jerome.rickmann@aalto.fi](mailto:Jerome.rickmann@aalto.fi)) indicating:

- The proposal you are potentially interested in
- A short description of how you fit the searched profile

## 3. Next steps:

Dr. Rickmann will reach out to you and organize the “matching seminar”, which essentially is a zoom-session serving the Finnish PI to present the project proposal in a bit more detail and to discuss the idea with US-colleagues.

## 4. Program participation:

After the matching seminar participants can freely decide if they want follow the program and to continue to refine the initial ideas together. The participation is at all stages free of cost and no “hard commitment” to proposal submission is expected.

*The program is structured as follows:*

Step 1	Researcher matching seminar	April
Step 2	Academy of Finland Seminar: Joint calls with NSF and NIH	28 <sup>th</sup> of April
Step 3	Grant writing workshop	May/June
Step 4	Joint proposal development/refinement	June-August
Step 5	Academy of Finland Seminar: Updates on imminent calls	August**
Step 6	Submission of proposals	Fall 2022**

*\*\* Exact dates to be confirmed, depends on the Academy's budget situation and the timing of the next joint calls.*

## Background of Initiative:

The state governments of Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, and most recently Washington and Colorado have signed Memoranda of Understanding with Finland to increase collaboration in various areas of mutual interest. Other MoUs are in preparation. Research collaboration is highlighted and encouraged in all of them.

The Finnish-American Research & Innovation Accelerator (FARIA) is a US-focused RDI-network, which integrates, aligns and supports joint and associated actions of its Finnish member higher education institutions. FARIA comprises 16 Finnish higher education institutions - representing 92 % of Finnish research universities, and 89 % of the Finnish HE sector's RDI-power (measured in RDI funding).

FARIA is financed by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and collaborates closely with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen Finnish-US RDI-relationships.

FARIA is jointly coordinated by Aalto University and the University of Helsinki.

[www.faria.network](http://www.faria.network)

[USA - Academy of Finland \(aka.fi\)](http://USA - Academy of Finland (aka.fi))

## Proposal 1:

Your research project idea?
<p>My research has mainly focused on elder care from different perspectives, for example family care, care policies, experiences of using care services, care work, care in transnational families. My publications are here: <a href="https://minnazechner.com/publications">https://minnazechner.com/publications</a></p> <p>I would be interested in cooperation with U.S scholars. At present I am starting research on costs of care for individuals and families leading a work package in a project ‘Economic and social sustainability across time and space in an ageing society’ (SustAgeable, <a href="https://www.sustageable.fi/en/">https://www.sustageable.fi/en/</a>). Welfare state, gender and generational relations and costs of care are central in this project. Ageing and gerontological social work are also of interest.</p>
What (complementary) expertise are you looking for from US-partner?
<p>I’d like to connect to US-colleagues having similar research interests in Social and health services: Welfare state, gender and generational relations and costs of care. Ageing and gerontological social work are also of interest.</p> <p>Possible joint activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct comparative or other joint research.</li> <li>• Apply research funding Aof/NIH</li> <li>• Act as visiting scholars.</li> <li>• Organize joint courses or give individual lectures.</li> <li>• Apply funding for shared courses.</li> </ul>
Which information you want the US-colleague to have about your expertise/background?
<p><b>Some of my publications</b></p> <p>Zechner, Minna (2022) Economisation of Care for Older Adults. In Rajendra Baikady, Sajid SM, Jaroslaw Przeperski, Varoshini Nadesan, M Rezaul Islam &amp; Gao Jianguo (eds.) The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems. London: Palgrave. (accepted for publishing).</p> <p>Vabø, Mia, Zechner, Minna, Stranz, Anneli, Graff, Lea &amp; Sigurðardóttir, Sigurveig H. (2022) Is Nordic eldercare facing a (new) collaborative turn? Social Policy &amp; Administration. (accepted for publishing).</p> <p>Zechner, Minna &amp; Anttonen, Anneli (2022) Care as work. In Costanzo Ranci &amp; Tine Rostgaard (eds.) Research Handbook of Social Care Policy. Edward Elgar Publishing (accepted for publishing).</p> <p>Zechner, Minna, Näre, Lena, Karsio, Olli, Olakivi, Antero, Sointu, Liina, Hoppania, Hanna-Kaisa &amp; Vaittinen, Tiina (2022) The politics of Ailment. A New Approach to Care. Bristol: Policy Press (accepted for publishing).</p> <p>Morgan, Fiona &amp; Zechner, Minna (2021) Uncovering Familialism: Cash-for-Care Schemes in England and Finland. International Journal of Care and Caring (pre-published)</p> <p>Åkerman, Sarah, Zechner, Minna, Nyqvist, Fredrika &amp; Nygård, Mikael (2021) Capabilities in care for older adults in Finnish familialistic policy transformations: a longitudinal one-case study. International Journal of Care and Caring 5(2), 229–246.</p>

## Proposal 2:

### Your research project idea?

*Health and social care clients' welfare and equality in meeting their needs for services by aiming at reachability and accessibility of digitalized and non-digitalized healthcare and social welfare services*

The aim of the research project idea is to build a knowledge base of reachability and accessibility of digitalized and non-digitalized social welfare and healthcare services using empirical and data-intensive research methods (for example, social and healthcare data, complaint data, questionnaires and interviews). The societal target is to ensure clients' welfare and equality in meeting their needs for services in the healthcare and social welfare systems in Finland and the United States. According to the Finnish Health Care Act (1326/2010; Section 10), public healthcare and social welfare providers shall arrange the availability of services and universal access based on the clients' needs. Clients of different ages have had problems with their health and social care services, which have been shown for example, by complaints. Queues for care have grown in many areas, and citizens of different ages of have addressed problems in access to care, weakening their health and well-being. Diverse data of social and healthcare organizations opens an opportunity to address problems and their solutions - with or without digitalization - for access to services offered by providers.

Research concerning access to care (for example, studies of patient complaints) has been conducted to some extent all over the world, such as in Europe, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States. My research broadens the scope to include both healthcare and social welfare services, in which various administrative and operational procedures and their related data and technology (including databases) can be used to analyze and implement organizational activity in wellbeing services. This strongly supports knowledge-based performance, decision-making, and strategic development of organizations and society as a whole. Connecting different social and healthcare data has scarcely investigated in research of social welfare and healthcare services, and I am hoping to deepen research in this novel and meaningful research area.

### What (complementary) expertise are you looking for from US-partner?

My aim is to broaden the research project idea nationally and internationally, specifically by forming collaborative relationships with other researchers and research groups. Research collaboration is possible in different branches of science, such as Medicine and Health Technology, Health Sciences, Welfare Sciences, Social Research, Administrative Studies, Information and Knowledge Management, and Information Technology.

### Which information you want the US-colleague to have about your expertise/background?

I have been a researcher in several research groups and teams at the University of Lapland. At the moment, I work as a researcher and project planner on three projects (ESR). They relate to work welfare in social and health care areas, education, and work safety in public organizations and enterprises. On these projects, I am a specialist from the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Lapland.

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