

CV



Aleksi Aaltonen is a management scholar and successful entrepreneur with over twenty years of experience in digital innovation. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the Richard J. Fox School of Business and Management of Temple University.

About me

I study new forms of organizing and innovation that emerge in digital ecosystems using a variety of methods. My research has been published by top academic journals such as *Management Science*, *MIS Quarterly*, *Organization Studies*, and *Journal of Information Technology*. I also regularly contribute to practitioner-oriented media.

Before academia, I designed and built digital services for different organizations including the office of Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, and Nokia. After my PhD studies at LSE, I cofounded and helped to raise 1.7 million euros funding for an activity tracking app Moves. Apple chose Moves as the Best App of 2013 in the Fitness Revolution category, and the company was acquired by Facebook in April 2014.

Rock climbing and mountaineering are my hobbies – I have been a Finnish citizen since 6 April 1976, now happily married to Wanida Aaltonen and a father of Joachim Aaltonen.

Website
aleksi.info

Email
aake@iki.fi

Mobile
+1 (215) 870-7992

Twitter
[@aleksiaaltonen](https://twitter.com/aleksiaaltonen)

Academic Work Experience

2018–	Temple University Assistant Professor at the Richard J. Fox School of Business and Management of Temple University
2014–2018	Warwick Business School Assistant Professor and Course Director for BSc Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Information Systems & Management Group
2011–2013	Hanken School of Economics Postdoc and Project Researcher in 3DGIS project
2007–2013	The London School of Economics and Political Science Part-time Lecturer and Graduate Teaching Assistant for various courses at the Information Systems and Innovation Group
2003–2004	University of Helsinki Research Assistant at the Center for Activity Theory and Developmental Work Research (nowadays CRADLE, see www.helsinki.fi/cradle/) in the Proactive Design (PROOMU) project

Visiting Academic Positions

2013–2014	The London School of Economics and Political Science Visiting Fellow at the Department of Management, Information Systems and Innovation Group
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Industrial Work Experience

2012–2013	ProtoGeo (www.moves-app.com) Co-Founder and the Chairman of the Board at a startup company developing Moves activity tracking app for iPhone and Android <i>Apple chose Moves app as the Best App of 2013 in the Fitness Revolution category.</i>
2006–2009	io ² Founder of a small consulting company helping its clients align their business and systems development by integrated user analysis, design management and implementation
2006	Satama Senior Designer

- 2001–2005 Crisis Management Initiative
- Project Officer and Technology Expert in the Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy and the Information Technology and Crisis Management projects
- The organization was headed by Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari.*
- 2001–2002 ShiftControl
- Co-Founder, Concept and User-Interface Designer at a social networking based recruitment startup
- 1998–2001 Satama Interactive
- Designer and Project Manager for key projects and clients such as www.nokia.com and Toyota
- 1997–1998 Finnish Environment Institute
- Member of a non-military service team developing a CD-ROM presentation (published 2000 as Suomen Luonto CD-Fakta) on the Finnish environment
- 1994–1998 To the Point
- Producer of several award-winning multimedia presentations

Education and Training

- 2011 PhD
- My PhD dissertation “Manufacturing the digital advertising audience” analyzes how a telecommunications operator uses data from a mobile network to turn its subscribers into advertising audiences
- The London School of Economics and Political Science
Department of Management
United Kingdom
- 2005 Master of Social Sciences (M.Soc.Sc.)
- My Master's dissertation “Where do the construction projects come from? The case of the Kumpula project” analyzes a struggle to initiate a joint construction project between two governmental research institutions
- University of Helsinki
Department of Sociology
Finland

2002	Introduction to Modern China Short course on Chinese history, politics and economy Fudan University, Shanghai China
2000	Intelligent Interface Design Weinschenk Consulting Group United States
1998	National non-military service Finnish Environment Institute Finland
1995	Baccalaureate Helsinki Upper Secondary School of Visual Arts Finland

Language Skills

My native language is Finnish; I also operate fluently in English.

My Swedish was graded “good” in the obligatory test for the second official language at the University of Helsinki. I have LSE Modern Foreign Language Level 2 Certificate and some experience in speaking Mandarin Chinese.

Technical Skills

I develop software using Python, Swift, No/SQL and common developer tools such as Github. I can use Python and R for data science and statistical analysis tasks.

I have considerable experience in user and concept studies based on observational techniques and qualitative interviews, and I have taught SSM, UML and wireframe techniques for analyzing, modeling and designing information systems.

Refereed Journal Articles

Aaltonen, A. and Seiler, S., 2015. Cumulative growth in user-generated content production: evidence from Wikipedia. *Management Science*, 67(7), pp. 2054–2069. doi: 10.1287/mnsc.2015.2253

Aaltonen, A. and Lanzara, G. F., 2015. Building governance capability in online social production: insights from Wikipedia. *Organization Studies*, 36(12), pp. 1649–1673. doi: 10.1177/0170840615584459

Aaltonen, A. and Tempini, N., 2014. Everything counts in large amounts - a critical realist case study on data-based production. *Journal of Information Technology*, 29(1), pp. 97–110. doi: 10.1057/jit.2013.29

Kallinikos, J., Aaltonen, A. and Marton, A., 2013. The ambivalent ontology of digital artifacts. *MIS Quarterly*, 37(2), pp. 357–370.

Kallinikos, J., Aaltonen, A. and Marton, A., 2010. A theory of digital objects. *First Monday*, 15(6–7). Available at: <http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3033/2564>

Aaltonen, A., 2006. Rakennushankeen moniaineksinen muotoutuminen: Esimerkkinä Ilmatieteen laitoksen ja Merentutkimuslaitoksen uusi toimitalo. [“The shaping of a construction project: the case of the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the Finnish Institute of Marine Research building”] *Yhdyskuntasuunnittelu*, 2006(2), pp. 24–45. Available at: <http://www.yss.fi/aaltonen.pdf> [OA]

The best urban studies publication in 2006 in Finland

Refereed Conference Proceedings

Stelmaszak, M. and Aaltonen, A., 2018. Closing the Loop of Big Data Analytics: the Case of Learning Analytics. In: Association for Information Systems (AIS), 26th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS). Portsmouth, UK. 23–28 June 2018. Available at: <http://ecis2018.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/1464-doc.pdf>

Charoenpanich, A. and Aaltonen, A., 2015. (How) Does Data-based Music Discovery Work? In: Association for Information Systems (AIS), 23rd European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS). Münster, Germany 26–29 May 2015.

Aaltonen, A. and Lanzara, G.F., 2011. Governing social production in the Internet: The case of Wikipedia. In: Association for Information Systems (AIS), 19th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS). Helsinki, Finland 9–11 June 2011. Available at: <http://aisel.aisnet.org/ecis2011/49/>

Aaltonen, A. and Eaton, B., 2009. Exploring the impact of real-time communication on media choice in the context of distributed work. In: Association for Information Systems (AIS), 17th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS). Verona, Italy 8–10 June 2009.

Aaltonen, A., 2008. Organizing control in real-time environment: The use of real-time communications in an educational start-up. In: S. Vidolov, P. O'Scolai, R. G. L. Rajão, I. Faik and A. Higgins, eds. 2008. Heterogeneities, multiplicities and complexities: Towards subtler understandings of links between technology, organisation and society. CITO Proceedings Series 1. Dublin: University College Dublin.

Research Monographs

Hasu, M., Keinonen, T., Mutanen, U.-M., Aaltonen, A., Hakatie, A. and Kurvinen, E., 2004. Muotoilun muutos. Näkökulmia muotoilutyön organisoimiseen ja johtamisen kehityshaasteisiin 2000-luvulla. [Changing design. Perspectives on managing and organising industrial design in the new millennium.] Helsinki: Teknologiateollisuus.

Refereed Book Chapters

Aaltonen, A. and Kallinikos, J., 2013. Coordination and learning in Wikipedia: Revisiting the dynamics of exploitation and exploration. *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*, 37, pp. 161–192.

Non-refereed Professional Journal Articles

Aaltonen, A. and Seiler, S., 2014. Wikipedia: the value of open content production. *CentrePiece*, 19(2), pp. 11–13. Available at: <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/cp428.pdf>

Aaltonen, A., 2013. The beauty and perils of metrics. *Mercury Magazine*, 2(3), pp. 44–47. Available at: <http://www.fek.uu.se/download.asp?doc=mercury%2FMM3.P44-47.pdf>

Theses

Aaltonen, A., 2011. Manufacturing the digital advertising audience. PhD thesis. The London School of Economics and Political Science. Available at: <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/198/>

Aaltonen, A., 2005. Where do the construction projects come from? The case of the Kumpula project. Master's thesis. University of Helsinki.

Book Chapters

Aaltonen, A., 2006. Muotoilun avulla kohti ratkaisukeskeistä rakennustuoteliiketoimintaa. ["Using industrial design for solution-driven construction product business"] In: U.-M. Mutanen, J. Virkkunen and T. Keinonen, eds. 2006. Muotoiluosaamisen kehittäminen teknologiarityksissä. Helsinki: Teknoliigiteollisuus.

Blog Posts

Aaltonen, A. 2016. Brexit is not a disaster for UK startups. Medium, 19 July 2016. Available at: <https://medium.com/@aleksiaaltonen/brexit-is-not-a-disaster-for-uk-startups-2e32e5b0b180#.7nd1vk1kr>

Aaltonen, A. 2016. Blockchain could fix even the EU. Medium, 15 July 2016. Available at: <https://medium.com/@aleksiaaltonen/blockchain-could-fix-the-eu-cfd8b6f0f7e1#.1u7pnzw9f>

Aaltonen, A. 2016. Academia should learn from software development. Medium, 7 April 2016. Available at: <https://medium.com/@aleksiaaltonen/academia-should-learn-from-software-development-f44d0156ff2a#.5nyem3lye>

Aaltonen, A. 2016. Can Apple resist the stupidity of the markets? Medium, 26 January 2016. Available at: <https://medium.com/@aleksiaaltonen/can-apple-resist-the-stupidity-of-the-markets-bfbf72b6e83d#.e9s9xncfv>

Aaltonen, A., 2016. Wikipedia at 15: in decline but condition isn't terminal – so what may the future hold? The Conversation, 15 January 2016. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/wikipedia-at-15-in-decline-but-condition-isnt-terminal-so-what-may-the-future-hold-53185>

Aaltonen, A., 2015. Who broke Twitter? Medium, 16 November 2015. Available at: <https://medium.com/@aleksiaaltonen/who-broke-twitter-f611afd6fe88>

Aaltonen, A., 2015. How to manage your research data? Medium, 10 October 2015. Available at: <https://medium.com/@aleksiaaltonen/how-to-manage-your-research-data-bcd20af9e1ce>

Aaltonen, A., 2014. BT buying EE shows that a more radical approach to telecoms regulation is needed. The Conversation, 19 December 2014. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/bt-buying-ee-shows-that-a-more-radical-approach-to-telcoms-regulation-is-needed-35733>

Aaltonen, A., 2014. Android One won't make Google big bucks, so why bother with cheap smartphones? The Conversation, 24 September 2014. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/android-one-wont-make-google-big-bucks-so-why-bother-with-cheap-smartphones-32059>

Aaltonen, A. and Karjalainen, S., 2013. Toward quietly smart phones. The Huffington Post, 3 June 2013. Available at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/aleksi-aaltonen/toward-quietly-smart-phon_b_2821760.html

Other Publications

Aaltonen, A. 2016. Factors shaping entrepreneurial ecosystems and the rise of entrepreneurship: a view from top management journals. Working paper, 29 May 2016. Demos Helsinki. Available at: <http://aleksi.info/downloads/factors-shaping-entrepreneurial-ecosystems.pdf>

2013. A series of monthly blog posts about startup entrepreneurship (in Finnish) on the website of Tekniikka & Talous magazine

Aaltonen, A., 2006. Muotoilu apuna Rautaruukin rakennustuoteliiketoiminnan uudistuksessa. ["Fostering innovation in Rautaruukki's construction product business by industrial design"] In: M. Lindström, M. Nyberg and P. Ylä-Anttila, 2006. Ei vain muodon vuoksi – muotoilu on kilpailuetu. The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy publication B220. Helsinki.

Helsinki Process Secretariat, 2005. Report from the Helsinki Conference 2005. Helsinki: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Unpublished Works

Aaltonen, A., 2008. Social Innovation Camp: Organising the moment of self-organisation. [unpublished report]

Mutanen, U.-M., Virkkunen, J., Hakatie, A. and Aaltonen, A., 2005. Teollinen muotoilu organisaation osaamisalueena teknologiateollisuudessa. ["Industrial design as an organisational competence in technology industry", unpublished final report of the Proactive Design (PROOMU) project]

Letters to the Editor

Aaltonen, A., 2008. Huonosta laista ei voi syyttää Nokiaa. Helsingin Sanomat, 14 February 2008.

Aaltonen, A., 2007. Huippuyliopistoa ei synny kouluja yhdistelemällä. Helsingin Sanomat, 17 October 2007.

Aaltonen, A., 2006. Ilmastonmuutos voi palauttaa brittien luottamuksen politiikkaan. Helsingin Sanomat, 11 November 2006, p. C11. (English translation published in the November 2006 newsletter for the British-Finnish Scholarship Alumni Network)

Aaltonen, A. and Hautala, H., 2005. Globaalissa päätöksenteossa tarvitaan parlamentteja. Helsingin Sanomat, 16 December 2005, p. A2.

Presentations in Selective Conferences, Invited Talks and Seminars

2018 "Toward a Bidirectional View of Causality in Big Data Analytics: The Case of Learning Analytics"

Presentation in the AoM Specialized Conference on Big Data and Managing in a Digital Economy, 18–20 April, University of Surrey, UK

- 2015
- "The Generativity of the Social Web: A Multi-case Enquiry into Generative Patterns of Social Media Platforms"
- Presentation in the 4th Innovation in Information Infrastructures (III) Workshop, 13–15 October, Warwick Business School, UK
- "Making Up Digital Advertising Audiences: The New Form of Contracting Human Attention"
- Presentation in the 31st European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS) Colloquium, 2–4 July, Athens, Greece
- "(How) does data-based music discovery work?" (with A. Charoenpanich)
- Presentation in the 23rd European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), 27–29 May 2015, Münster, Germany
- 2014
- "The evolving *societas* of online social production systems: Capabilities and rights in the governance of Wikipedia" (with G. F. Lanzara)
- Presentation in the 5th Latin American and European Meeting on Organization Studies (LAEMOS), 2–5 April 2014, Havana, Cuba
- 2013
- "Digital data as organizing technology"
- Presentations in the 29th European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS) Colloquium, 4–6 July 2013, Montreal, Canada
- 2011
- "In search of the hidden pattern: mystery and mastery in Wikipedia Evolution" (with G. F. Lanzara)
- Presentation at a Decade in Internet Time Symposium, Oxford Internet Institute, 21–24 September 2011
- "Computational data, measurement and the double bind of audience information" and "Governing social production in the Internet: the case of Wikipedia" (with G. F. Lanzara)
- Presentations in the 27th European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS) Colloquium, 7–9 July 2011, Gothenburg, Sweden
- "Governing social production in the Internet: the case of Wikipedia" (with G. F. Lanzara)
- Presentation in the 19th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), 9–11 June 2011, Helsinki, Finland
- 2010
- "Making up mobile advertising audience" and "Unpacking Wikipedia governance: the emergence of a bureaucracy of peers?" (with G. F. Lanzara)
- Presentations in the 3rd Latin American and European Meeting on Organization Studies (LAEMOS), 7–10 April 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina

- 2009 "Exploring the impact of real-time communication on media choice in the context of distributed work"
- Presentation in the 17th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), 8–10 June 2009, Verona, Italy
- 2008 "Organizing control in real-time environment: The use of real-time communications in an educational startup"
- Presentation in the 24th European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS) Colloquium, 10–12 July 2008, Vrije University, Amsterdam
- "Across boundaries in real-time: the use of real-time communications in an educational startup"
- Presentation in the Triangular Post-Graduate Conference, 5–6 June 2008, UCD School of Business, Dublin
- 2007 "Studying information growth in Skype system"
- Panel presentation in the 3rd Social Study of ICT Open Research Forum (SSIT-ORF), 21 March 2007, the London School of Economics and Political Science, London
- 2005 "Rakennetun ympäristön muutos rakennushankkeen näkökulmasta"
- Presentation in the annual Finnish urban studies conference "Suomalainen kaupunki", 21 April 2005, Helsinki
- 2004 "Kilpailukykyä muotoilusta?"
- Poster presentation in "TIETOFOORUMI - Suomalainen tieteidenvälinen Knowledge Workshop", 11 October 2004, Espoo
- "Network Dynamics in Construction: Building New Premises for Two Research Institutes"
- Presentation in 4SEASST conference "Public Proofs - Science, Technology and Democracy", 25 August 2004, Paris
- "Rakennetun ympäristön muutoksen tarkastelua rakennushankkeen näkökulmasta"
- Presentation in the annual Finnish urban studies conference "Valta ja politiikka", 28 May 2004, Helsinki
- "Kamppailu rakentamispäätöksestä eli 'tuleeko tästä taloa lainkaan?'"
- Presentation in the Finnish Society for Science and Technology Studies conference, 11 March 2004, Helsinki
- 2003 "Building for the Future? Sustainability as Future-Oriented Practices in Building Design"
- Presentation in the 27th annual 4S conference, 15 October 2003, Atlanta

2002 "Matkapuhelimen aiheuttama häiriö sosiaalisesti keskittyneissä tilanteissa"

Presentation in the National Consumer Research Centre seminar, 16 May 2002, Helsinki

Event management experience

2010 4th Quadrangular Conference on Technology, Organizations and Society

Member of the committee for a three-day workshop on 21–23 June at LSE organized by PhD students from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Cambridge, Lancaster University and University College Dublin

2008 The Harman Review: Bruno Latour's Empirical Metaphysics symposium

Member of the organizing committee for the culmination of PhD student reading group Actor-Network Theory – Heidegger Meeting (ANTHEM) as a half-day symposium with Prof. Bruno Latour as the keynote speaker on 5 February 2008 at LSE

2007–2008 Information Systems Research Forum (ISRF)

The head organizer of a series of regular events around invited speakers during the academic year at the Informations Systems and Innovation Group at LSE

2005 Helsinki Conference on Globalisation and Democracy

Member of the secretariat for an international conference 7–9 September on the democratic governance of globalization with over 600 participants from 73 countries organized by the Crisis Management Initiative at Finlandia Hall, Helsinki

2004 Kilpailukykyä muotoilusta: muotoiluosaamisen kehittämisen ja levittämisen työkalut teknologiateollisuudessa

The head organizer of the closing seminar of the Proactive Design research project on 9 December at Tieteiden talo, Helsinki

Past affiliations

I was a board member at Demos Helsinki (www.demos.fi) think tank 2007–2017 (the Chairman of the Board, 2009–2016). The organization more than doubled its annual turnover; established itself as a recognized actor in Finland, and expanded its operations abroad during my tenure as the chairman.

In the past, I have also served at Aula Co-Operative (a Member of the Board 2000–2002), and m-cult centre for new media culture (a Member of the Board 2001–2003, the Chairman of the Board 2004).

Memberships

I am currently a member of the following associations: Crisis Management Initiative (www.cmi.fi), Demos Helsinki (www.demos.fi), the Internet Users Forever IKI (www.iki.fi) and the Association for Information Systems (<https://aisnet.org>).

Prizes and Grants

- 2013 Apple chose Moves app as the Best App of 2013 in the Fitness Revolution category
- 2010 Information Systems Research Studentship for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2009 Information Systems Research Studentship for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2008 Information Systems Research Studentship for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2007 Information Systems Research Studentship for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science
My article "Rakennushankeen moniaineksinen muotoutuminen: Esimerkkinä Ilmatieteen laitoksen ja Merentutkimuslaitoksen uusi toimitalo" in the main Finnish urban studies journal Yhdyskuntasuunnittelu was chosen as the best publication in the field (published in 2006 issue 2).
- 2006 British Sampo Scholarship for PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2004 Honourable Mention in Pro Oeconomia competition (the best business books in Finland) for Hasu, et al. (2004)
- 2001 Re:Spekt (December) Best Design award for ShiftControl recruitment service
- 1997 1st Honourable Mention in EMMA Awards for "Nokia Connecting People" CD-ROM and info kiosk presentation

2nd Prize in Media&Message Competition in series "Educational CD-ROM Programs" for "Nokia Telecommunications Induction" CD-ROM
- 1995 1st Prize in Markkinointi&Mainonta New Media Competition series "Other Interactive Productions" for the info kiosks of the Finnish Postal Museum

1st Prize in Markkinointi&Mainonta New Media Competition series "CD-ROM" for "ABB, DTC" CD-ROM

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