

Night of Ideas #3

Power to Imagination vs Fantasy, the rise of populism and radicalization

The frontier between imagination and fantasy in power is thin. Nowadays, ideas linked to fantasy in power open the dangerous doors of a rise of populism all over the world and feed in extremisms; religious and political dictatorships whose propaganda rely on imagination are also the scene of the rise of radicalization. The panel discussion organized in this context will allow speakers from various fields who have contributed to those important topics to share their ideas and exchange with the audience. At the end of the event, Thomas Bouvatier will be available to sign the copies of his book, "Petit manuel de contre-radicalisation" (in French) that will be available for sale on this occasion.

Where: Institut français de Finlande, Yrjönkatu 36

When: January 25th 2018, 18:00-19:30

Language: English

Registration: free of charge, at <https://ndi2018-3.eventbrite.fr>

This event will be streamed live thanks to the support of Metropolia University. You can follow it online at www.france.fi/ndi and share ideas on Twitter with #NDIHelsinki18.

This event will be opened by Head of Development from the Ministry of the Interior, Police Department, Mrs Tarja MANKKINEN.

Speakers:

Thomas BOUVATIER, writer and psychoanalyst



Thomas Bouvatier is a french psychoanalyst. Since the Charlie Hebdo and casher's grocery terrorist attack, he has been offering training modules and conferences to explain the psychology behind such individual violence and terrorist organization. His opinion columns, his book (Petit manuel de contre-radicalisation, *Little guide to counter radicalizations*) and the association he founded, Autonomisation Citoyenne (**Citizen's empowerment**), are based on three years of researches and experiences in prevention on radical drifts for public employees, professional or social actors and hospitals. In his newest essay "Petit manuel de contre-radicalisation", Thomas Bouvatier shows how radical thinking makes the individual dependent on a group, and why it is urgent to learn how to defend ourselves against it, individually and collectively.

Emilia PALONEN, Senior lecturer in Political Science at the University of Helsinki



Emilia Palonen is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science, University of Helsinki. She works on populism and democracy, with background on Hungarian, Finnish and European politics and cultural symbols. She belongs to the Finnish Academy funded Mainstreaming Populism consortium. Her recent co-edited volumes include a rhetoric-performative discourse analysis of the Finns Party and, in English, in cultural studies *Populism on the Loose*. She has also studied populism and public space in Budapest and local democracy pilots in Helsinki.

Aleksi PAHKALA, journalist



Aleksi Pahkala is a human rights activist, producer and musician. Pahkala has been involved in organizing major anti-racist demonstrations in Helsinki, including the Peli Poikki! (2016 and Meillä On Unelma (2015).

Jouni HOLAPPA, project coordinator, Criminal Sanctions Agency Finland



Jouni Holappa is a project coordinator for the Criminal Sanctions Agency Finland (Southern region) specialized in violent extremism and prison radicalization. He is currently working on an 18-month project aiming at detecting and identifying radicalization among the prison population. The approach includes prison term planning, risk assessment and safe placements. It also enables efficient collection of information on imprisonment, which in turn facilitates cooperation across different networks, as well as information exchange within the correctional institution and with other actors.

Jani LEINONEN, artist and activist



Jani Leinonen (b. 1978 lives and works in Helsinki) plays with the systems of commodity exchange, celebrity and the marketing strategies through which they operate. Leinonen attacks symbols and marketing tactics, turning them into objects of ridicule, clichéing our agreed marketing society and economical every day. Leinonen's installations are shops, bars, slot machines but also plain painting exhibitions. Leinonen's latest projects include releasing a series of commercial-like videos of Kellogg's character Tony the Tiger navigating a grown-up world of prostitution, police violence and suicide bombers (2015), opening a hoax fast food restaurant called Hunger King in Budapest (2014) to fight against the anti-homeless acts of the Hungarian government, and founding a fake terrorist organization called Food Liberation Army that kidnapped and executed Ronald McDonald, the mascot of the McDonald fast food chain in 2011. Leinonen graduated from Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki in 2002.

Moderator: **Tuomas PELTOMÄKI**, news editor, Helsingin Sanomat



Tuomas Peltomäki is a news editor at Helsingin Sanomat and manages its internet and pop culture supplement *Nyt*. He is known for his satirical and investigative take on the news as the frontman for the weekly political satire show *Uutisraportti*, and as a prolific podcaster with *Uutisraportti* podcast. He has been a finalist for the Bonnier Grand Prize in Journalism twice, for his investigative work on Finnish political funding, and for his political satire show. He won the Nordic prize for data journalism for investigative series on Finnish lobbying.

