



Press release  
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## Oppi Festival – the world's biggest learning festival launches in Helsinki 11–12 April

Oppi – Helsinki Learning Festival is a unique international celebration of education and learning, bringing together 90 of the world's leading experts of the field from 18 different countries in Helsinki for the first time. The festival offers an inspirational mix of speeches, workshops, presentations, and discussions on the most recent themes in education. The event is organised cooperatively by the **Finnish Institute in London** and **Suklaa**.

Oppi Festival will take over the whole of Finlandia Hall in Helsinki city centre for two days. Among the brilliant line-up are for example top international personalities **Sarah Brown** (A World at School), **Sugata Mitra** (TEDPrize 2013), **Naomi Williams** (Plan International), **John Martin** (Sanoma Learning), **Tony Wagner** ('Finland Phenomenon'), and **Jennifer Chung** ('Investigation of Reasons for Finland's Success in PISA'), as well as Finnish experts **Krista Kiuru** (Minister of Education and Science), **Pasi Sahlberg** (Visiting Professor at Harvard), **Esko Aho** (Former Prime Minister and Senior Fellow at Harvard), and **Saku Tuominen** (Idealist Group).

Oppi offers innovative and playful ideas on learning. **NASA** will have a direct connection to outer space during the festival. **Rovio**, known for Angry Birds, will unite their powers with **Lauri Järvillehto**, philosopher and happiness researcher at **Aalto University**, in order to prove how and why learning should be fun. **International Mozilla Foundation** and **Open Knowledge Foundation** will be exhibiting their latest findings on open teaching and making use of Internet applications. The participants will also be able to commemorate the festival by using the Oppi Bug mobile game.

"This festival is deeply committed to the practitioner. It's really putting teachers, teaching, and school leadership right at the heart of the agenda. And we are going to be mashing up thought leaders and change leaders, people who are thinking about learning, people who are really driving learning forward in new ways", says Australian education innovator and researcher **Simon Breakspear**.

This April's Oppi will be the first of a series of international pop-up festivals: in the forthcoming years Oppi festivals will tour different countries and cities. It is a tribute to the Finnish educational expertise that this festival is premiering in Finland.

"On my way to Helsinki, a bloke asked me why we were organising an education festival in Finland. I replied that it was because Finland had a reputation for excellence in education - so it was a logical choice. A bit like hosting the World Cup in Brazil", says **Claudia Barwell** from Suklaa.

Oppi is a not-for-profit event in which the whole line-up is participating pro-bono, solely for their own interest towards the field of education and wish to share their experiences with others. The main themes of Oppi are new ways of learning, the most

recent educational innovations, and design, games, fun, and technology as resources for learning.

**Pasi Sahlberg**, a visiting professor at Harvard University, commented on the importance of the festival for the future of Finnish education: "Oppi is a unique opportunity for Finland, a country which is known for its educational system that is high in quality and offering equal opportunities for everyone. However, at the same time we must remain active in looking into the future as well in order to continuously develop this system."

The festival is organised by the **Finnish Institute in London** and **Suklaa** and sponsored by **Sanoma Learning**.

[www.oppifestival.com](http://www.oppifestival.com)

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