



**Conference on Meaningful Relations in Aging and Dying**  
**28-30 August 2019 Helsinki, Finland**  
**University of Helsinki and University of Eastern Finland**

**Call for papers**

The Conference on Meaningful Relations in Aging and Dying covers various aspects of aging and dying, specifically focusing on meaningful relations during these phases of life. It is a multi-disciplinary conference open to all disciplines, including, but not limited to, law, social and care work, theology, social sciences, and for people working with elderly or dying persons.

**Programme**

Keynote speakers:

- Nigel King, Prof. in Applied Psychology; University of Huddersfield: Seeing the bigger picture: Using the 'Pictor' visual elicitation method to explore roles and relationships in palliative care
- Rosie Harding, Prof. of Law and Society, Birmingham Law School: Supporting decisions at the end of life: Relationality, care and choice
- Hans Stiffoss-Hanssen, Prof. at the Centre of Diaconia and Professional Practice, VID Specialized University, Oslo: Making meaning in old age

In addition, we will have an engaging panel; the title and participants will be announced later. Papers and posters will be presented in parallel sessions.

**Abstracts and registration**

We welcome abstracts (max 200 words) for conference papers/posters that report from or reflect on research related to the conference theme through various theoretical, methodological, and empirical approaches, including:

- Research on aging and care
- Contributions to relational theory
- Research on meaning in life
- Research on death and dying

As this is a multi-disciplinary conference, abstracts need to communicate clearly with delegates from a wide range of disciplines. Please submit all abstracts [MeRelainfo@gmail.com](mailto:MeRelainfo@gmail.com).

Remember to indicate whether you are presenting a paper or a poster. Please also state your name and title, institutional affiliation and contact details and attach your abstract to the message.

**Closing date for submissions: 1 March 2019.**

**Other important dates:**

**Acceptance of presentations by 15 April 2019.**

**Registration closes 1 June 2019.**

**Venue and conference hotel**

The conference will be held at the Faculty of Theology at Vuorikatu 3, Helsinki. There are many hotels nearby but the closest, reasonably priced one is Hotel Arthur, in which we have reserved some rooms. The reservation code for Hotel Arthur is MeRela, please tell them this while you are reserving a room. Note that August is high season in Finland and hotels are very full.

The conference is organized by the research project “Meaningful relations: Patient and family carer encountering death at home” (MeRela), which is a joint project of the University of Helsinki (faculties of theology and social sciences) and the University of Eastern Finland (Law School).

For further information, please contact us on [MeRelainfo@gmail.com](mailto:MeRelainfo@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Auli Vähäkangas, Professor in Practical Theology  
Anna Mäki-Petäjä-Leinonen, Senior Lecturer of Elder Law  
Suvi-Maria Saarelainen, DTh., Postdoctoral Researcher in Social Work  
Marjaana Seppänen, Professor of Social Work  
Milla Korkalainen, MTh, conference secretary