Lux Humana – Bridging Science and Humanities

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Terkko Health Hub
www.terkko.helsinki.fi

The Lux Humana Group
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EAHIL 2018, Cardiff, Wales
Promoting medical humanities

• **Medical humanities**: interdisciplinary entity encompassing humanities, social sciences and arts, which have an application or are relevant to medical education or practice

• **Lux Humana**: a successful cooperation of the medical faculty and the medical library Terkko in the University of Helsinki

• Since 2005, inspired by *Camera Obscura* in Karolinska Instutet Library

• Action group of medical teachers, students and librarians
Lux Humana: collection & action

**Funding:** faculty, library, grants

**Collection:** concise, high quality, interesting

- fiction (classics, novelties)
- non-fiction on arts and other humanistic fields
- in Finnish, English and Swedish
- about 4000 titles
The literature courses introduced by Lux Humana have been integrated into the curriculum

• Optional courses
• e.g. “Fiction and authors”; 2,5 credit points
• 30 students, both from the Finnish & Swedish speaking students
• To get a wider perspective to medical doctors work, with the help of fiction, movies and group discussions & also to encourage discussion in Finnish/Swedish
• Everyone reads the same two books, also the authors are invited to group discussions
Intensely listening to Katja Kallio

Author Katja Kallio

"Love’s not Time’s fool", Jussi Lehtonen

"Love’s not Time’s fool", Jussi Lehtonen
Lux Humana: collection & action

Expert lectures
• e.g. psychoanalytic perspective on hatred, revenge and gender

Literary evenings with authors
• e.g. Katja Kallio on Amanda of the Night and Kimmo Oksanen on Faceless Man

Performances with artists
• e.g. actor Jussi Lehtonen: the solo show Love’s not Time’s fool, toured in hospitals, prisons, care units for people with dementia or eating disorders; part of Jussi Lehtonen’s doctoral thesis

Lots of other activities, for example: a film night with the theme physicians in movies, poetry slam...
Physicians in movies, Peter von Bagh

Lux Humana short story writing contest.
From left: jury members, authors Joel Haahtela and Claes Anderson, winner neurologist Hannu Laaksovirta & jury member chief editor of the Finnish Medical Journal Pertti Salonheimo
Lux Humana: collection & action

Writing contests
• for health care students and staff
• poetry
• short stories

Literary advent calendar
• on Facebook and in Terkko

Students get credits when participating in the Lux Humana events
Arts, Health and Wellbeing: Slow walking & poetry

- **Kirst Heimonen**, slow walking, **Päivi Pekkarinen**, poetry, Bute Park Thursday 12 July 9.30-11.00 am


Awarded & visible

- Acknowledged among the whole medical profession in Finland, as Lux Humana book reviews are regularly published in the Finnish Medical Journal
- The Finnish Medical Society Duodecim granted the group the Cultural Award in 2006.
- In 2017 Lux Humana was presented to the international audience in the AMEE (Association for Medical Education in Europe) Conference in Helsinki
- Active Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/luxhumana/
Lux Humana collection

Lux Humana book review in *Finnish Medical Journal*

Medical Association Duodecim Cultural Award
Thank you!

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