

Press Release
7 January 2013

NEW FACES AT THE INSTITUTE

The year 2013 sees new people to join the Finnish Institute in London. **Paula Karlsson** starts as the Head of Arts and Culture Programme 1 February as the Programme Director Hanna Harris begins her maternity leave on 10 January. **Antti Halonen** steps in for for Society Programme Director Jussi Nissilä who will be on his study leave from January 2013 onwards.

For the past two years Paula Karlsson has worked as a producer in the World Design Capital Helsinki 2012 programme team, specialising in event- and food related projects. Prior to her versatile WDC 2012 years Paula worked as the producer of international projects for Dance Info Finland and explored the field of performative arts especially in South-Korea, Canada and Japan. She has graduated from Stadia University of Applied sciences (currently Metropolia) with a degree in cultural production in 2008.

“During my eight months at the Institute I have the pleasure of continuing with the projects that Hanna launched, such as the Viewpoint architecture commission. I also hope to get the chance to carry on with the great momentum of the Design Capital year as well as create more extensive and unexpected connections between the UK and Finland”, Paula says.

Antti Halonen is a social scientist specialised in open government and the societal effects of open data. He has worked at the Department of Political Science at the University College London and as an independent researcher in projects concerning the openness of data. Antti has already worked at the Finnish Institute in London in the fall of 2011, when the Institute was launching its Open Data Programme.

“The Institute does valuable work among emerging societal themes and it is great to be back here to advance the discussion on open data. The recent Open Knowledge Festival organised last September in Helsinki proved that the Institute is a powerful operator in the field of society: with the help of strong partnerships and through hard work the idea of a small open data seminar grew into the biggest Open Knowledge event in the world. Open Knowledge Festival was only the beginning though – in the future it is important to deepen the understanding of the benefits of openness and explore new, interesting themes”.