# EMILIA KORKEA-AHO
# Academy Research Fellow

ACADEMY OF FINLAND

## Social impact

**My research career path**

I moved to Helsinki and gained more independence.
I felt happy and excited when I started my university education.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think back is, perhaps surprisingly, my matriculation exam and moving to Helsinki. I felt a strong need to become more independent. I remember how happy I was when I started at uni and with the idea that I would spend many years studying.

- Master's and doctoral degree in law, University of Helsinki
- Title of docent, University of Helsinki
- Associate Professor in European Law and Legislative Studies,
- Academy of Finland Research Fellow 2018–2021
- Academy of Finland Postdoctoral Researcher 2013–2016
- Visiting researcher at Maastricht University, European University Institute, Columbia Law School and University College London
- Visiting researcher at Yale University 2019–2020

**An international flair**

Erasmus exchange to Manchester in 2004 defined my early research career.
It made subsequent mobility much easier.
Each stint has brought new ideas, new friends and new experiences.

*"The second thing, which in a way came to define my career as a researcher, is that, a few years later, I did an Erasmus exchange in England. I spent the spring of 2004 in Manchester. I've spent several periods abroad after that, gaining new ideas, friends and experiences."*

Korkea-aho deals with democracy and the transparency of decision-making in a way that has an impact at both EU and national level.

**From research assistant to researcher**

I got a position as a research assistant in my second year at uni.
I saw that I had what it takes to be a researcher, and the pull of the university was strong.

"I got a research assistant position in my second year at uni. I spent four years as a research assistant and realised that it's possible to earn a living by doing research and that it could be quite fun."

Korkea-aho's research combines law and social sciences and extensively deals with European law and EU administration and decision-making.

**Research is both solitary and shared**

Research is an effective combination of independent work and teamwork.
A researcher's network provides support and helps build close friendships.

*"Doing research is appropriate amounts of individual effort and teamwork, and it's also a great opportunity for idea sharing. Even though I'm the head of the project, I feel part of a network that supports me and gives me close friends who I hope will stay with me."*

During her Academy Research Fellowship, Korkea-aho studies lobbying in the EU and its legal, political and legislative framework.

**Lobbying came to me by chance**

At times I've struggled to find my own identity as a researcher, but now I feel at ease, and excited.

*"There was this American professor in the audience at a seminar where I spoke. He approached me after my presentation and wondered why I hadn't mentioned the word lobbying, although that was clearly what it was about, he thought."*

*"Now I feel I'm in the right place, and it's also easier for me to believe that this is something worth researching. Right now, I feel like everything's fine, and I'm very excited."*

Korkea-aho actively brings a scientific perspective to public debate. For instance, she has produced an international comparison of lobbying registers for the Finnish Government, written blog posts and been invited as an expert to a working group of the Finnish Parliament in 2019.