

Dr. Mikael Melan

Born 15 October 1981
(Turku, Finland)

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SKILLS

User Research
Personas
Info Architecture
Wireframing
Prototyping
Usability Testing

TOOLS

MS-Office & iWork
Sketch
inVision
Balsamiq
HTML & CSS
JavaScript & Java

LANGUAGES

Finnish (mother
tongue)
English (fluent)
German (fluent)
Swedish (basic)
Spanish (basic)

INTERESTS

Football
Zen Meditation
Table Tennis
Chess
Sauna
Painting

PROFILE

I am a social scientist who turned into a user experience designer. At the university, I studied people and their actions, emotions, and attitudes from the philosophical point of view. In my [doctoral dissertation](#), I concentrated on different ways to understand and explain human action.

After becoming a UX designer, only my view point has changed to a more practical one. The fascination with human action is still my driving force and to understand people as thoroughly as possible is my goal here as well. And also in UX design my strength lies in research and insights.

EDUCATION

2018 User Experience Designer

In August 2018, I became a certified UX designer at [CareerFoundry](#). I am also doing a specialization course in Frontend Web Development.

2013 Doctor of Social Sciences

I graduated from the University of Turku in Finland. In 2011, I spent five months at the University of Southern California as a visiting PhD student. My major was philosophy to which I changed from mathematics in 2006. I still had maths, computer science and physics as my minors.

TIMELINE

September 2018 – current

UX Freelancing

After my graduation, I got my first real life project underway. I help *Médecins Sans Frontières* voluntarily to optimize their websites. At the same time, I am doing a Frontend Development for Designers -course at *CareerFoundry*.

January 2018 – August 2018

UX Design at CareerFoundry

Finally, I found the perfect way to put my newly discovered interest in technology and my old love for studying human action together. It took some time but the road was all worth it.

September 2017 – January 2018

Learning to Program

After my parental leave I rediscovered my enthusiasm for programming (I had studied a bit of computer science too). I learned Java, Javascript, HTML and CSS through books, exercises, and online courses.

September 2016 – August 2017

Parental Leave

I spent a wonderful year with my daughter before she started daycare. I learned a lot about time management, self-control, patience, empathy, love, and Teletubbies.

September 2014 – September 2016

Free Author

I devoted this period to writing fiction. While writing intensively for two years, I managed to finish two collections of short stories and a novel. Also when writing fiction, I was interested in the movements of human mind. This time in difficult and often quite absurd situations. I tried to bring together philosophical pondering and silly humour but, sadly, my fictional writings never found their way to the wide public.

September 2013 – August 2014

Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher

Department of Philosophy, London School of Economics and Political Science, England

After finishing my PhD and a three month grant in Finland, I spent one year in London continuing the research that I had carried out before. At the same time, I tried to learn as much as possible about new areas, such as decision theory, by attending courses, lectures, and seminars.

June 2009 – May 2013

Young Researcher

University of Turku, Finland

During my time as a predoctoral researcher my work consisted of several tasks. I carried out my independent research (which basically means studying books and papers), gave presentations and taught. Actually I started to teach logic demonstrations already when I was doing my Master. I also co-edited [a book](#) about philosophy of football.

Until October 2008

Library Assistant (& Student)

The library of Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland

Throughout my youth and studies, I worked as a library assistant in the Swedish-speaking university. I also did various other jobs. For instance, I gathered work experience as a construction worker in Finland and abroad, and as an assistant cook in a Japanese restaurant in Barcelona.