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Mervi's research is concerned with how gendered and sexualized bodies take shape within organizations throughout a lifespan and how these bodies are regulated with organizational policies; and how violence and a threat of violence shape ones' understanding about self and the development of one's capabilities within various organizations and in everyday life; as well as possibilities of education to cultivate compassion.

Mervi is involved with the Nordic team writing The Academic (Un)employment at the Arctic North – project which was recently granted by the Interreg NORTH for the duration of 1.8.2018-14.10.2020. The project originates from the concern that significant potential of academically educated will be lost and occupational well-being compromised in the northernmost areas of Norway, Sweden and Finland due to fragmentation, gender segregation and gender and ethnicity related prejudices. Specifically, the project will target academic cross-border mobility and networking among such carefully selected Northern academic labor force which is in precarian and vulnerable position, which benefits from mobility and which plays a major role in the well-being of the region. The key partners will be project teams from the universities of Oulu, Luleå and Tromsø.

Selected publications:

- Pihkala, Suvi; Huuki, Tuija; Heikkinen, Mervi & Sunnari, Vappu. (2018). [Reconfigurings of Non-violence as a Matter of Sustainability and Response-ability](#). *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*.
- Cardona López, José Adán; Bredesen Nordfjell, Ole; Gaini, Firouz & Heikkinen, Mervi. (2017). [Promising Nordic practices in gender equality promotion. Developing teacher education dialogue, practice, and policy cycles on-line](#). *Policy Futures in Education*, Special issue: Teacher education for gender, sexuality, diversity and globalization policies.
- Cardona López, José & Heikkinen, Mervi (2015). [Bridging conceptual divides related to sex, gender and sexuality in teacher education](#). *Education in the North*, 22 (Special Issue), pp.24-48.
- Heikkinen, Mervi & Sunnari, Vappu. (2014). [Unfulfilled bodily rights in higher education: Development of sexual harassment policies during the past two decades](#). *Citizenship Teaching & Learning* 9:1, pp.19-33.
- Heikkinen, Mervi. (2012). [Sexist harassment as an issue of gender equality politics and policies at university](#). University of Oulu. Dissertation. *Acta Universitatis Ouluensis*. Series E, Scientiae rerum socialium 131.

More information, e.g.: <http://www.oulu.fi/university/researcher/mervi-heikkinen>