



THE 75TH WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

# WORLDCON 75

9–13 AUGUST, 2017 ♦ MESSUKESKUS, HELSINKI, FINLAND

**PROGRESS REPORT #1**

*Suomi  
Finland*  
**100**



## WORLDCON 75

PROGRESS REPORT 1

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# WHAT IS THIS THING WE CALL WORLDCON 75?

*What is a Worldcon? It's an existential question, but something we are excited to answer for you. There are many people reading this Progress Report who are first-time Worldcon members, and many who will be attending Worldcon 75 as their first European or first Nordic convention. We want to be sure each of you has some idea of what you've signed up for!*

Worldcon is short for the World Science Fiction Convention, and Worldcon 75 is the 75th such convention, which will be located in Helsinki, Finland in August of 2017. Worldcon is actually the convention of World Science Fiction Society. So that's why we don't have tickets to get into the convention, but individual memberships. It is a floating convention, meaning it is in a different place every year. It is also one of the oldest science fiction conventions in the world, starting from year 1939.

At Worldcon you'll have the opportunity to participate with the prestigious Hugo Awards, vote for the best novel/artist/film/fan/etc of the year. Worldcon also hosts an awesome masquerade, a wonderful selection of the best SF/F-related art with its Art Show, a veritable cornucopia of items you can purchase at the Dealer's room, and several hundreds of hours of program, in a lovely atmosphere of fellow aficionados.

European Worldcons tend to be slightly different from the US ones. The convention was born in the United States, thus most of the traditions have been created by the US fandom. One of the most obvious differences is the fact that Worldcons in Europe have no room parties. European hotel rooms are smaller than in the US and there are only a few suites available. It is also worth mentioning, that in Europe we usually don't have a hospitality suite for free food, but Messukeskus does offer a wide variety of restaurant options!

## COMMITTEE

As you know, Bob, Worldcon 75 a.k.a. Helsinki Worldcon has a set of Chairs. Three of them, in fact: Saija Aro, Jukka Halme and Crystal Huff. We like to call ourselves Team HAH. Some days we feel so blessed and relaxed, that we're Team AHH.

None of us is a newbie with con running, though we have been most involved with staffing our national and regional conventions, which is why some of you may not have met us yet. Saija has been making Finncons happen for over 20 years, working at every level from gophering to co-chairing (the last one in 2014 was on the small side with 3000 attendees). She also ran the memorable Finnish room party at Interaction, dabbles with other conventions, fandom organizations and art happenings. In her civil life she manages things at an eco company, a set of twins and the former bid chair, Eemeli Aro.

Jukka Halme has chaired and co-chaired three Finncons, including the massive Finncon-Animecon in 2009 (over 10 000 attendees) and has also been in charge of programming at Finncon and Åcon for several years. Jukka has been actively involved in Finnish and Nordic fandom since the early 80s, doing everything possible from gophering to editing and beyond. He has also been the fan GoH of two Eurocons. In his free time he works for the City of Helsinki and minds his two dogs with his lovely wife. When this PR1 is being released, Jukka will be in Australia, as the GUFF-delegate.

Crystal Huff began staffing conventions at her very first one. She has helped run Publications, Massage Den, Member Services, Staff Den, the Photo Booth, Staff Services, and Volunteers, variously, at Arisia, Boskone, and Worldcon, with occasional side forays into volunteering at Balticon, Transcending Boundaries Conference, and SXSX. She served as chair of Arisia 2011, Relaxacon 2011, and Readercons 23, 24, and 25. Crystal lives in Boston with her family.

An operation as large as this wouldn't be possible without a large number of people. Worldcon 75 has the immense luck and honour to have a pair of Project Managers, who dabble in the day-to-day business

of running the organisation and making sure that the Chairs aren't mucking it up too badly. Hanna Hakkara-  
inen is a long-time con organiser, a mother of a future  
con organiser, a Cat-Lady, as well as a former Chair of  
Finncon and Åcon. When she isn't learning a new lan-  
guage or hatching another con-related idea, she might  
just bake a cake. Or two. Charlotte Laihonen is a native  
N'awlinsian, who moved to Helsinki a few years back  
with her family. Charlotte has been active in US fan-  
dom for most of her life, and joining the Finnish scene  
has given her a unique perspective on the con running  
cultures of both countries. She has the unenviable task  
of trying to moderate the different ways into some  
semblance of a coherent unity. So far, she seems to be  
doing a bang up job.

### WHAT'S GOING ON?

Well, a lot. As one should think, organising and putting  
together an event the size and scope of a Worldcon takes  
a fair number of people, time and effort. While the con  
won't take place until August next year, the large wheel  
has started turning and will keep on chugging, until the  
last of the dead dogs have been dealt with.

Our committee is still a moveable beast, a collection  
of local talent and foreign expertise. As we are one of the  
very few ever Worldcons held in a city/country, where  
English is not the language of the people, there are  
many areas that need that Finnish Division/Area Head.  
Luckily, Finland has several decades of experience with  
organising SF/F-related conventions for thousands of  
attendees. Finncon, the national convention of Finland,

is one of the largest SF/F-literature cons in Europe. In  
addition, there are also similarly sized roleplaying, ani-  
me, and comics cons/festivals taking place every year in  
Finland..

The Worldcon 75 committee is made of several for-  
mer and current chairs, vice-chairs, treasurers, program-  
ming heads, and then some, from the aforementioned  
conventions. Not to mention the committee members  
from all over the world: USA, UK, Sweden, Australia, Ire-  
land, Germany, etc. All people with more or less experi-  
ence with con running, but most importantly, enthusi-  
asm and willingness to learn and work for the common  
goal—making Worldcon 75 a true WORLDcon.

We want to showcase what science fiction, fantasy,  
and everything related to the field of speculative fic-  
tion, there is in Finland. We also want to bring forth the  
rest of the world, all those creators, fans and consumers  
that are Out There, in China, in Russia, in Nigeria, in Bra-  
zil and wherever else. There's treasure everywhere, as  
Calvin & Hobbes pointed out to us. You just need to go  
out and look for it, in order to find that thing you didn't  
know you were looking for.

Of course, Worldcon 75 is not going to be “just” all  
that Finnish/World stuff. It will be a Worldcon as many  
people have known and loved for the 74 years prior to  
now. The majority of our programming will be in Eng-  
lish, all those panels, lectures, debates, plays, quizzes,  
demonstrations, readings, et al. Just like before. With  
some added spices. A dash of Suomi. A pinch of musiik-  
ki. A smidgen of salmiakki.

We're looking to bring a diverse and interesting Art  
Show to Worldcon 75. We're already excited about the  
possibility to have a major contribution from Russian  
artists, who are woefully unknown in the West. Sever-  
al Finnish artists have already been enthusiastic about  
this opportunity to showcase their talents to the world  
at large. We'll have more info soon on our website.

Dealers of all kinds of wares have been asking about  
the rules and regulations, not to mention the dread-  
ed taxes... We'll have all the information coming to our  
webpages later this year. If we don't know the answer  
you're looking for, we'll find that answer for you.

As for the Programming, the volunteering and sug-  
gestion forms will be put online this Spring, as will the  
pertinent pages relating to important matters such  
as Accessibility and Code of Conduct. This is a work in  
progress. We're not rushing things in order to make  
things fast. We want Worldcon 75 to be something bet-  
ter than good; we want it to be great. Worldcon 75 shall  
be a great experience for everyone—every single par-  
ticipant, from regular attendees to programme partic-  
ipants, not forgetting the staff and committee. This is a  
joint operation, a labour of love.

Tervetuloa Helsinkiin!



# 2017 SITE SELECTION RESULTS

## FIRST BALLOT

	MAIL-IN	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TOTAL
HELSINKI IN 2017	538	279	229	316	1363 WINNER
MONTREAL IN 2017	51	25	73	79	228
NIPPON (JAPAN) IN 2017	18	16	33	53	120
DC17 (WASHINGTON, DC)	288	156	222	212	878
NONE OF THE ABOVE	0	0	0	0	0
INVALID BALLOTS	0	1	0	0	1
ALL OF THE ABOVE	0	3	2	0	5
NIGHTVALE	1	0	2	0	3
MINNEAPOLIS IN '73	1	1	0	0	2
GALLIFREY (CHERON)	0	1	0	0	1
GNDEVAZ, ARMENIA	0	1	0	0	1
HAPPINESS FULFILLMENT CORPORATION	0	0	0	1	1
MARIEHAMN	0	0	0	1	1
MARSEILLE, FRANCE	0	0	0	1	1
BOSTON IN '89	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL WITH PREFERENCE	898	483	561	664	2606
NEEDED TO WIN					1304
NO PREFERENCE	11	6	0	2	19
TOTAL VALID VOTES	909	489	561	666	2625

The race for 2017 Worldcon was between four cities: Helsinki (Finland), Montreal (Canada), Shizuoka (Japan) and Washington DC (US). There were 2625 valid ballots, of which 19 indicated no preference, leaving 2606 with preferences. Thus, 1304 votes were required to win the election.

Helsinki won in the first ballot, so there was no need for any redistribution of votes.



**ALEKSI KUUTIO**

## TIPS ON SMALL TALK WITH THE GUESTS OF HONOUR

Worldcon offers the delightful possibility of meeting practically anyone on the con premises and striking up a conversation on, say, the respective merits of different Doctors or whether Game of Thrones could work as a Jane Austen-inspired mecha anime series. Oh, the joyful moments we can look forward to! But what if you run into one of the Guests of Honour? What do you do when anxiety strikes and your hand instinctively creeps towards one of their books in your backpack or vest pocket? You would like to ask for a dedication and say something witty at the same time, but the only phrase on the tip of your tongue is: “Master. I’m not worthy.” Don’t worry. We hereby offer you a few excellent magic words for small talk, allowing you to navigate conversational spaces of all kinds. These subjects function especially well with the Guests of Honour, but are prime talking matter also with other visitors.

### **CHARLES BAUDELAIRE**

As unbelievable as it seems, the 19th-century French poet would be a great subject to discuss at least with Nalo, John-Henri, and Walter Jon Williams. Nalo wrote about Baudelaire’s black lover in her novel *Salt Roads*, and John-Henri has translated into Swedish all the books of the *Series of Unfortunate Events*, starring none

other than the Baudelaire children (author Lemony Snicket named the family in honour of the poet). As for Williams, he has visited Baudelaire’s grave. Or almost visited. He paid a visit to the poet’s memorial at a French cemetery in dismal weather. There’s something to talk about.

### **FOOD**

There may be no accounting for taste, but tasty food is a sure-fire conversation starter with the Guests of Honour! Walter Jon Williams has been characterized, among other things, as a cyberpunk pioneer and visionary, but one portrayal is especially fitting: he is a writer who leaves readers hungry with his nothing less than uninhibited gastronomic scenes. The fascination of food is also strongly present in Nalo Hopkinson’s drool-inducing descriptions.

As Nalo the gourmet wisely stated in an interview in *Tähtivaeltaja*, a major Finnish fanzine, in 2013: “Food is magic. I hope that whichever being came up with the idea of food was handsomely rewarded for its creativity.”

And let’s not forget gastronomy buff Johanna Sini-salo, who imagined a literal love affair with fiery chilies in her novel *The Core of the Sun*.



### ALICE IN WONDERLAND

In 2008, Marvel decided to take a little break from its usual bread and butter, and produced the Avengers Fairy Tales series. This lark also included an Alice in Wonderland story, illustrated by Claire Wendling. While you're at it, ask the genius illustrator about her relationship to comics. You might be surprised. Also, Johanna Sinisalo has made her mark in the comic world by writing manuscripts. If you ask her about Alice, she will surely be happy to tell you how her comic *Möbiuksen maa* (Möbius Country, unfortunately not available in English) was influenced by Alice's adventures. As for Nalo – and let's give her a big hand already at this point – she intends to learn Finnish with the help of Lewis Carroll's classic work. If you run into her at the con or in social media, remember to inquire how her studies are going. And ask her for the Finnish name of the Mad Hatter!



**Nalo Hopkinson**  
@Nalo\_Hopkinson  
[@emmi\\_elina](#) [@turtschaninoff](#) [@worldcon75](#)  
Found Alice in Finnish & in English annotated in Finnish. Have just ordered them.

### FANDOM

Right you are! If you draw a blank on everything else, *fandom* is the magic word that will get you off the hook any time. Worldcon is all about community. All the Guests of Honour are attending Worldcon because they love the SFF community. Each of them has years, or decades, of experience in national and international fandom. They have a wealth of fandom adventures to share. Don't be shy, go ahead and ask about the

wonderful people, crazy characters, and happenings throughout the years. But be prepared: the stories might go on long enough to make you late for the next program item.

### THESE MIGHT ALSO COME IN HANDY:

"Shall we dance, Mr. Darcy?" In 1983, Walter Jon Williams designed the *Pride and Prejudice* game for Berserker Works. In the spirit of Jane Austen's novels, a young noblewoman must make herself the object of interest of as good and esteemed a gentleman as possible. The best option is, of course, Mr. Darcy himself.

Johanna Sinisalo was one of the scriptwriters for *IRON SKY*, the moon Nazi comedy. She has also reviewed the Finnish translation of Walter Jon Williams' novel *HARDWIRED*.

John-Henri Holmberg is the man to thank for the fact that a science fiction story written at age 17 by Stieg Larsson, the author of the immensely popular *MILLENNIUM TRILOGY*, has also been published in English in the anthology *A DARKER SHADE OF SWEDEN*. Ask John-Henri for more details.

Nalo Hopkinson got into metaphors after reading the short story *SURVIVOR'S BALL* by Kelly Link, a classmate of hers. Nalo's name is pronounced *NAH-lo*.

Claire Wendling has created illustrations and art for many French music and storytelling festivals. Her most striking pictures are collected in the book *DAISIES*.

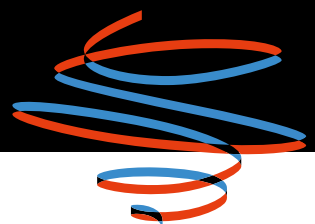
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## ON POLAR BEARS

As many know, we who were staff of the Helsinki in 2017 bid are very fond of polar bears. Completely over the moon about polar bears, in fact, we are. There were some fairly large concerns about having a Worldcon in Finland when we first announced our intentions to bid, and the most serious was a gentleman from California loudly proclaiming that "it is COLD in Finland! There are POLAR BEARS there!"

Polar bears, naturally, became the biggest attraction to our bid. We had the most adorable polar bear stickers, and jewelry, and magnets, and hand-knit polar bear caps that we could find, and we brought them to every convention. We shipped more stuffed polar bears around the world than I knew existed. Some polar-bear-manufacturing-guru has made a handsome sum off our bid, surely.

It therefore follows that, the next time I was due to visit Helsinki and discuss the bid with everyone local to our convention site, I did some research online before the trip. I looked up the polar bear enclosure for the Helsinki Zoo and discovered beautiful plans and photos of a gorgeous new enclosure being built. The polar bears in the photos and sketches looked quite pleased with their surroundings, in fact.

Confident in my mission, I clicked on the helpful contact link to email the Helsinki Zoo, Korkeasaari, directly. I explained that I was an American visiting Helsinki on a tight schedule. For the purpose of convincing voters to support our Worldcon bid, it would be wonderful if I could get some pictures with the polar bears in Korkeasaari, preferably not during a time they were eating or sleeping, so as to share on social media and entertain our international followers. I would be very grateful to know when the polar bears might be congenial to my visit and available for taking promotional photos.

A quite surprised staffer of Korkeasaari promptly emailed me back. Where had I gotten the idea that the Helsinki Zoo had polar bears??? This was the essence of their polite missive.

My friends, there are no polar bears in the Helsinki Zoo. There are no polar bears located anywhere within the bounds of the city of Helsinki. I am afraid that if you wish to visit a Finnish polar bear, you will have to go to the wild hinterlands of at least Espoo, Finland.

Luckily, Espoo fans have written a helpful guide to Helsinki for when you return! :)

**CRYSTAL HUFF**

# MEMBERSHIPS

We welcome anyone to join us as a member of Worldcon 75! There are many notes about membership that we wish to share with you now, in fact. Even if you already have a membership of some kind to our convention, you may wish to read the following information.

Members who joined before January of 2016 may nominate for the Hugo Awards this year, whether they are attending or supporting members. (A non-attending membership is also known as a 'supporting membership.') This year's Hugo nominations are due March 31st, 2016 to MidAmeriCon2!

People who voted in Worldcon site selection in 2015 (administered by Sasquan in 2015) have, at minimum, an automatic supporting membership to Worldcon 75. This entitles you to a discounted attending membership if you wish to upgrade to attending our convention. See the column in the table below titled 'Upgrade from Supporting'.

Friends and subscribers of the Helsinki in 2017 Worldcon bid who voted on site selection in 2015 are automatic full attending members of Worldcon 75. This is regardless of how you voted, and we appreciate each of the 2624 people who participated in the vote! If you were a friend or subscriber who didn't manage to vote, please contact us at [info@worldcon.fi](mailto:info@worldcon.fi) to discuss.

**First Worldcon Membership:** One of the goals of Worldcon 75 is to be a more inclusive event and more accessible to new members of fandom. We would like to encourage new fans to join Worldcon, whether they heard about our convention in the month after we won the bid (in 2015) or in the months just prior to the convention (July 2017). If you have never had a Worldcon membership of any kind before, you are eligible for the First Worldcon Membership price of 95 euros, which was the price of an adult membership when we first started as a convention. We hope to see many new faces and make exciting new friends in Helsinki!

Pre-supporters of the Helsinki in 2017 Worldcon bid are very much appreciated, but the 20 euros of pre-support was entirely used up by the bid's efforts to win the race. We regret that we are not able to offer you a discount for

pre-supporting the bid. However, your reward is that we've won the Worldcon to be placed in Helsinki! If you voted on site selection in 2015, you do have an automatic non-attending (supporting) membership to Worldcon 75. This can be upgraded to an attending membership as above.

If you wish to receive paper copies of the convention's publications, we'll be happy to send those to you for an additional €10 / \$12 fee. Our convention default is to receive your pre-convention publications at no additional charge via email or download from our website, [www.worldcon.fi](http://www.worldcon.fi).

If you wish to begin an installment plan for an attending membership, please be sure you've purchased a supporting membership and then email [registration@worldcon.fi](mailto:registration@worldcon.fi) with "Installment" in the subject header.

Your membership is personal, but it is possible to transfer your membership (of any kind) to another person. Please contact us at [registration@worldcon.fi](mailto:registration@worldcon.fi) if you wish to do this. The type of membership will be retained—child membership for children only, etc.

All membership rates which are age-bound refer to a person's age on the first day of the convention, 9 August 2017. Although a Kid-in-Tow is free of charge, please remember to register your wee ones as members. We need information about them in order to appropriately plan for your family's participation and enjoyment of our convention.

Child and Kid-in-Tow memberships do not include voting rights. We advise you to buy a membership that is for an older age group if you are under 16 but want to have voting rights.

We intend to have day memberships available, if you can't join us for all 5 days but wish to pop in for a day or two. The prices will be published in 2017.

Families or households of 4 or 5 members of any age may register together for a 10% discount on their memberships. Families or households of 6 or more members of any age, may register together for a 15% discount on their memberships. The discount is calculated based on the membership type people are eligible for, which is based on their age on the first day of the convention. For payment instructions, you must email [familymembership@worldcon.fi](mailto:familymembership@worldcon.fi).

	NEW	UPGRADE FROM SUPPORTING
ADULT*	120€ / \$140	85€ / \$100
YOUTH (16–25)	90€ / \$105	55€ / \$65
CHILD (6–15)	60€ / \$80	N/A
KID-IN-TOW (5 AND UNDER)	0€	0€
SUPPORT	35€ / \$40	N/A
PAPER PUBLICATIONS	10€ / \$12	

\*First time Worldcon memberships 95€ / \$110 until July 2017

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40 euros 1/4 page

Semi-Pro: 250 euros full page,  
150 euros half page,  
90 euros 1/4 page

Pro: 400 euros full page,  
250 euros half page,  
150 euros 1/4 page

### PUBLICATION DATES

PR2 - MAC2 (mid-AUG)  
PR3 - End of year 2016 (NOV/DEC)  
PR4 - Easter 2017 (mid-APR)  
(PR5 - electronic only JUN/JUL)



NINA TÖRNUDD

# FINLAND: AN ASSORTMENT OF NOTES AND INFORMATION

## FINLAND

The 75th Worldcon in Helsinki will be unique in a number of ways.

- ◆ It will be the northernmost Worldcon to date.
- ◆ It will be organized in the smallest country (by population) to ever host a Worldcon.
- ◆ This is also the first time a Worldcon will take place in a country celebrating the 100th anniversary of its independence. A coincidence, but a fine addition to the jubilee year.

Finland is situated in the north-eastern corner of Europe, with the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Norway and Denmark to the west and Russia to the east. Estonia is also a close neighbor, with Tallinn just a short ferry ride across the Gulf of Finland from Helsinki.

Finnish is from a different language family from the Indo-European languages like English, German and most closely related to Estonian and Hungarian.

You will be able to get around in Helsinki and Finland just fine without learning Finnish. 85 percent of Finns speak at least one foreign language, with English the most common one learnt.

“Hei!” and “kiitos!” are hello and thank you, for those of you wanting a crash course. Complete mastery of the language may take a while. Finnish has many unusual features—no definite or indefinite articles, no grammatical gender and sixteen cases for nouns. It is also a language that creates *very* long words.

It is for example possible to say “I wonder if I should do a little bit of aimless running around” in one word—juoksentelisinkohan. It is also possible to create a word with seven vowels in a row, if you want to say “wedding night intention”—hääyöäie.

Ask the nearest Finn for help with pronouncing that, if you want. Finns are quite proud of their oddball language and will be happy to demonstrate.

Despite the difference in linguistic families, Finland is historically, culturally and politically close to the Scandinavian countries. It is not geographically in Scandinavia, but Finland was a part of Sweden for over 600 years. This bond was severed when Sweden lost Finland to Russia during the Napoleonic wars in 1809.

During the Russian period Finland became an autonomous grand duchy and started developing the traits of an independent nation.

Universal suffrage was implemented in Finland in 1906. Finland then became the first country in Europe where men and women were granted the vote and eligibility to the Parliament, regardless of income.

On December 6, 1917, in the throes of the Russian revolution and World War I, Finland declared independence. A civil war followed, but the newly independent republic survived.

The next critical moment came only two decades later in late 1939, when the Soviet Union attacked Finland, after Moscow’s demands that Finland cede part of its territory had been rejected. Finland lost about a tenth of its territory to the Soviet Union in the peace treaty in 1944, but remained unoccupied and independent.

Today, Finland and the other Nordics share many features—they are socially and culturally liberal welfare states, where people expect cradle-to-grave service from the state, in return for a fairly high level of taxation. A Finnish specialty is the baby box, a care package of useful childcare stuff, that since 1938 is sent free of charge to all new parents.

As opposed to the Scandinavian kingdoms, Finland is a republic, where the head of state is a president. Presidential elections are held every six years and parliament is elected every four years. The present government is a centre-right coalition of three parties. Coalition governments with the ensuing horse-trading and compromises between parties are the norm in Finnish politics. Proportional elections make it virtually impossible for one single party to gain a majority of the 200 seats in Parliament.

Joining the EU in 1995 has made Finland a more multicultural country, but it remains fairly homogenous in population. About 300 000 immigrants have come Finland from 1995 and most have settled in the Helsinki area. The largest groups are Russians, Estonians and Somalis.

The global refugee crisis is having an impact on Finnish society. Finland received a record number of over 30 000 asylum seekers in 2015, most of whom are Muslims. About a third are expected to stay permanently. The next chapters in Finnish history will no doubt be influenced by how successful Finland is in integrating the people who have fled here from the wars in Iraq and Syria.

## HELSINKI

If you come to Worldcon 75, you will be visiting Helsinki when the city shows its prettiest and liveliest side. People are out and about, making the most of the long days and to soak up the sunshine before the dark days of winter.

Around the Worldcon dates in early August, the sun will be rising after five in the morning and setting around half past nine. (To see the midnight sun, you will need to come earlier in summer and go further north, beyond the Arctic Circle.)

Helsinki is a compact capital city, with about 620 000 inhabitants and some 1.3 million people living in the surrounding region. The centre of Helsinki can easily be explored on foot, by tram or with a rented city bike. Helsinki is a safe city with a low crime rate, but normal precautions are recommended; take care of your belongings, be wary of pickpockets and don't pick fights with drunks.

Finnish summers are variable, and you can expect the weather in August to be sunny and/or rainy, with temperatures around 15–25C (60–77F).

Central Helsinki is surrounded by the sea on three sides and the heart of the city is by the harbor and marketplace. This is where you find the oldest part of the city, which was mostly built in the years after Helsinki became the capital in 1812. The German architect C.L. Engel designed the Empire style buildings surrounding the Senate Square, including the Cathedral, the University Library and the Senate palace. The style resembles St. Petersburg, but on a much smaller scale.

There are many styles of architecture in Helsinki, as the city grew over many periods in the late 19th and 20th century. The art nouveau or jugend-style buildings can be found mostly in Katajanokka and Ullanlinna districts, and Töölö is an area with many examples of 1930's art deco or funkis-style houses. Helsinki was bombed by the Soviet Union during the war, but the city survived mostly intact.

One of most interesting sights in Helsinki is the Suomenlinna marine fortress, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was built in to defend Helsinki against Russia in the latter part of the 18th century. However, it surrendered without a real fight in the war between Russia and Sweden in 1808. Today, the fortress and its bastions are a popular spot for a historic walk or a picnic by the sea.



## FINLAND

**POPULATION:** 5.4 million  
**LANGUAGES:** 89 percent speak Finnish as their primary language, 5.3 percent Swedish  
**AREA:** 338 144 sq km  
**POPULATION DENSITY:** 18.1 people per sq km  
**COASTLINE:** 4 600 km  
**ISLANDS:** 81 000  
**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** men 78.2 years, women 83.9 years  
**RELIGIONS:** 74 percent Lutherans (about 4 million)  
1.1 percent Greek Orthodox (60 000). 1.3 million other – non-religious, atheists or other faiths.  
**FOREST COVER:** 73 percent of the land area  
**SAUNAS:** estimates vary, 2–3 million  
**LAKES:** 187 888 (over 500 sq m in size)  
**COFFEE CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA:** 158 liters per year  
**BEER CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA:** 85 liters per year

## HELSINKI

**POPULATION:** 620 000  
**POPULATION IN THE REGION:** 1.3 million  
**LANGUAGES:** Finnish-speakers 80 percent,  
Swedish-speakers 5.8 percent, others 14 percent  
**AREA:** 716 sq km  
**ISLANDS:** 315  
**COASTLINE:** 123 km

Many of the other over 300 islands in Helsinki can be visited as well. Some are military areas and off limits, but others are open to visitors, offering beaches, restaurants and other attractions.

There are numerous beaches around the Helsinki coast line and the water is fine for swimming - but probably not warmer than 18–20C (65–68F). For a slightly warmer dip, you can visit the Swimming Stadium outdoor pool near the center. It is an Olympic size pool that was originally built for the Helsinki Olympics in 1940. World War II put a stop to that plan, and the games in Helsinki took place in 1952 instead.

These days, Helsinki is a lively, green city with a thriving restaurant and shopping scene. New bars, restaurants and shops are popping up on a regular basis, especially in the Kallio and Punavuori districts.

## MESSUKESKUS

The Messukeskus convention centre is not usually listed among the major architectural sights of Helsinki. But if there is a book fair or a boat exhibition, a pitching event for startup companies or a large international meeting in Helsinki, the Messukeskus is where it will most likely be held.

Situated in Itä-Pasila near the centre of Helsinki, the Messukeskus is easy to reach by tram, train, bus or bike. Driving to the Helsinki airport takes about 15 minutes



and the walk to the Pasila railway station is about 300 meters (328 yards).

The facilities are accessible and there is no need to go hungry—there are 21 cafés and restaurants on the premises.

There is an attached Holiday Inn hotel, with 244 rooms, a gym and a car park. The hotel also has three saunas and a sauna suite—an obligatory service in a country where saunas are an integral part of the culture.

## HOTELS

We have preliminary contracts with a few large Finnish hotel chains, but the deals still need to be finalised. More information about the hotels, reservation possibilities for their 1600 rooms, and special rates will be available later. In addition to the hotels we have contracts with, Helsinki has many other hotels to choose from, so you can reserve whichever suits your needs the best. However, it is best not to leave the reservation too late, since there are other events going on in Helsinki at the same time as Worldcon. The con hotel, which has 244 rooms, is attached to the con location, Messukeskus (the Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre). Room reservations for this hotel are primarily intended for people who need them due to mobility issues. The remaining places will be allocated through a draw. The other hotels involved in the

contract are located in different parts of central Helsinki, but even the farthest of these is only 22 minutes away from Messukeskus by public transportation. The City of Helsinki will be providing all attending members of the convention with free public transit passes, which cover the metro, trams, buses, local trains, and the ferry to Suomenlinna.

In Finland, hotel rates include taxes, and usually also breakfast and wireless internet. Finnish hotel breakfasts consist of a buffet serving a wide variety of both cold and hot items.

Tipping is not a common practice in Finland, and it is not expected. However, you can of course leave a tip if you are especially pleased with the service.

**PAULA HEINONEN**



AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> — AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 2019

A BID TO BRING THE  
WORLD SCIENCE FICTION  
CONVENTION TO DUBLIN  
FOR THE FIRST TIME

A Worldcon for All of Us

Ireland has a rich tradition of storytelling. It is a land famous for its ancient myths and legends, great playwrights, award-winning novelists, innovative comics artists, and groundbreaking illustrators. Our well-established science fiction and fantasy community and all of the Dublin 2019 team would consider it an honour to celebrate Ireland's rich cultural heritage, contemporary creators and fandoms everywhere.

We love our venue, the Convention Centre Dublin, and we believe that its spell-binding allure will take your breath away as you watch the sun set over the city, before the Kraken rises from the city, before the Kraken rises from the River Liffey!



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# THE WORD FOR WORLDCON IS MAAILMANKONGRESSI

## HELSINKI 1888 — THE GASLIGHT WORLDCON

While it is common knowledge that the first official Worldcon was held in New York in 1939, history could have told a very different story had it not been for fate's cruel hand. Join me, if you will, for a brief glimpse into the little-known secret history of Worldcon. The year was 1888. The place was Helsinki, then the capital of the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland on the outskirts of the Russian Empire. Considerable effort had been put into turning Helsinki from a quiet little village into a provincial capital worthy of the Czars. The city had become a bustling center of commerce and culture and boasted many modern amenities, such as horse-drawn trams and electrical street lights. It was in this environment of innovation and modernity that some of the first steps towards what would become Worldcon were taken. The key figure in these oft-overlooked events was the greatest mind of his generation, Julius Halmenius. Halmenius was a thoroughly cosmopolitan patron of the arts. He had originally learned French during an extended sabbatical at a Trappist monastery, and during subsequent travels through France, had fallen in love with the works of Jules Verne. Upon returning to Helsinki, Halmenius was determined to gather together in Helsinki a global convocation of admirers of fiction of the highest imaginative caliber. Preparations were already well underway for this event when an unfortunate incident involving vodka, fine Czech cigars, and an ill-advised attempt to re-enact scenes from Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days" inside

the family library caused a fire to destroy the Halmenius home and claim the life of Halmenius himself. The loss of such a great mind proved an insurmountable setback, and it would be a full fifty years before Halmenius' dream would finally come to fruition in the institution we know today as Worldcon.

## FROM MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DÉTENTE — HELSINKI WORLDCON IN 1960

Site selection for the 1960 Worldcon was held at Detention, in Detroit, the year before. The process was much more complicated than usual. Many voters didn't bother to read the fine print about the suggested location of the Pittsburgh bid, which was actually Helsinki, Finland, in honour of the bid's chairman Wiljami Pitt, the great-grandfather of the founder of Pittsburgh. The Pitt family was originally from Helsinki, where one of the quarters is called Pittäjänmäki after them.

The 18th Worldcon in Helsinki was convened under an atmosphere of apprehensive feelings, a sentiment mostly harbored by the attendees from United States, who felt that the convention was being held under false pretences, and on the wrong continent. None of that apprehension was lost when the arriving attendees saw that the look of the con was largely based on Soviet-ethos. This was, however, not the case with the programming or various fannish activities, which focused on co-operation and bringing people together by the power of science fiction. For many US-attendees, this was the first time







The 1960 Worldcon poster was one of the very first works by the seminal Finnish SF/F-illustrator, Petri Hiltunen.

they met and had serious talks with Russian and other Eastern-bloc fen.

The 1960 Worldcon is seen as one of the very first, albeit perhaps too early, forms of non-political détente, that actually brought people from opposing political spheres of influence together. It was also one of the major reasons why Helsinki got to host both the CSCE and Worldcon in 1975.

### WORLDCON 1975 — A MEETING OF EAST AND WEST

Worldcon has probably never been held in as politically charged an atmosphere as that of the 33rd Worldcon, organized in Helsinki in 1975. The con venue was Finlandia Hall, designed by Alvar Aalto. Here, only two weeks earlier, the final act of the CSCE, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was signed.

Worldcon 33 gazed into the future of the planet's cultural life, outlined by science fiction writers from both east and west in a five-day meeting that brought together more than a thousand members. The patron of the event was the President of the Republic of Finland, Urho Kaleva Kekkonen, who is a science fiction writer himself. His short story "A Journey to Mars" ("Matka Marsiin", 1916) contributed significantly to early Finnish speculative literature.

The guests of honour at Worldcon in 1975 were Ursula K. Le Guin from the United States, Arthur C. Clarke from Great Britain, the brothers Arkady and Boris Strugatsky from the Soviet Union, and Stanislaw Lem from Poland. The official program culminated in a communiqué in which both eastern and western science fiction writers proclaimed their confidence in the capacity of SF culture to induce détente in a world governed by superpowers.

Many remember the 1975 Worldcon in Helsinki from the *Who's got the widest collar and longest sideburns?* competition organized as part of the masquerade. The winner was R. Ivanov of the Soviet Union, who had combed his eyebrows down to function as sideburns.



The Groke-award was never given to anyone, because No Award came on top ever year from 1952 to 1975. Not-a-Hugo, Groke was intended as an award to a non-English original novel of the year, but apparently the voting public never read books in other languages. Actual copies of the award are extremely rare. (Courtesy of Jeff VanderMeer)

The 1975 Worldcon poster was made by Björn Weckström, later claimed scientific fame as the designer of princess Leia's jewelry for the Star Wars films, who refused to correct his original mistake on the poster, as it would've 'broken something that was perfection itself'.



The poster features a whimsical illustration of a forest with a winding path. In the background, there are stylized trees and satellite dishes. The foreground is filled with various mushrooms and green foliage. The text is presented on white, ribbon-like banners that follow the path's curve. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and yellows, with blue for the main title.

# FINNCON

2016.finncon.org

Tampere 1.-3.7.2016

Guests of Honor:

Anne Leinonen

Jasper Fforde

Catherynne M. Valente

Eeva-Liisa Tenhunen

FREE  
ENTRY



Masquerade at Archipelacon in Mariehamn 2015. (Photo by Henry Söderlund)

PASI KARPPANEN

## FINNISH FANDOM: SOME UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

*Finnish fandom is currently putting together a Worldcon. Fandom from a country with a population of only five million, which a relatively small percentage of international fandom has previously heard about, wants to arrange a Worldcon as the fourth non-English speaking country in the history of the convention. What is Finnish fandom like, and what makes them want to take on such a responsibility?*

### WHAT MAKES IT WHAT IT IS

Finnish fans engage in similar activities as fans elsewhere, including running societies, publishing fanzines, presenting awards, and organising cons and social gatherings. On the other hand, there are several features of Finnish fandom that make it different from fandoms in other countries.

The starting point of Finnish fandom, the way we know it today, is usually seen as the foundation of the Turku Science Fiction Society in 1976, and the birth of its zine "Spin" in 1977. Sf societies in Helsinki, Tampere, Jyväskylä, Oulu, Espoo, and so on soon followed. Presently, there are a dozen or so sf/f clubs spread around the country, and about the same amount of more-or-less regularly published zines.

In fact, one feature that can be seen as characteristic of Finnish fandom is that the backbone of Finnish fandom has always been societies. They say that while an Irishman goes out to a pub, a Finn goes out and forms a society. Finland has sometimes been called the promised land of societies, and it is understandably so.



Left: Pub quiz at Åcon 2007. Right: Fanzines and other merchandise at Helsinki Book Fair 2006. (Photos by M. Pietikäinen)  
 Below: Skeletor and con co-chair at Tracon 2015. (Photo by Jenni Muhonen)

Finnish sf societies, especially the ones born in the early days of Finnish fandom, were traditionally formed around a city or a town. In the days before the internet, this was the best way to find like-minded people. Over the years, the role of town-based societies has changed, but their active members still remain the major work force when it comes doing the things that makes fandom fandom.

In fact, in many cases, a geographical area doesn't have only one, but several societies, some of which have been born more recently. The roles of these societies, and how the activities are divided between the older and younger societies, differs slightly from town to town.

What Finnish fandom lacks in pure fannish nature, however, it gains in longevity. Most Finnish sf societies have had their ups and downs over the years, and periods during which activity has been low. However, sooner or later, a new generation of fans has emerged and made the societies their own. There are, of course, societies that have died and disappeared silently into history, but the oldest ones still function today. This applies to the fanzines they publish, as well.

One long-standing characteristic of Finnish fandom is the ability of Finnish fans to work co-operatively. There has never been a "Finnish Science Fiction Associ-

ation" nor will there most likely ever be. Finnish fandom is a collection of many different sf societies spread all over the country, all with their own characteristics and histories. Together they form a tight little community that has pulled together from the very beginning.

Another characteristic feature of Finnish fandom I also want to bring up, and one that I personally hold in high value, is gender equality. Women have always had a strong role in Nordic countries. This can be seen in Finnish fandom as well, and it is not male dominated in the same sense that fandoms in some other countries seem to be. All genders work within Finnish fandom, side by side, and there have been as many female con runners, editors-in-chief, and sf writers as there have been male ones, perhaps more.

The role of Finnish sf societies can be seen in the field of Finnish fan magazines. In many cases, drawing lines between zines and clubs in Finland is very difficult. The thing is, there has never been an actual "fanzine culture" in Finland, at least in the strictest sense of the word. The zines, in almost all of the cases, have been founded around a town-based club.

This is another unique characteristic of Finnish fandom: there isn't a single commercial sf/f magazine published in Finland. There have been attempts to publish one, but for one reason or another, they have always ceased production after only a few issues.





Finncon/Animecon 2008 in Tampere. (Photo by Pasi Karppanen)

In their place, however, there's a wide range of flourishing fanzines, semi-prozines, and prozines. Many of them are very slick, printed on glossy paper, and look just as good as any professional sf/f magazine, with content to match. Zines such as *Portti*, *Tähtivaeltaja* and *Spin* have even been on sale at big bookstores. They also have a lot of library subscribers, meaning their importance is much bigger than their actual print run.

There are a few exceptions to the town-based societies and their zines. The oldest one of these is the Finnish Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association and its zine *Kosmoskynä* (Cosmos Pen). Another is the Swedish language web-zine *Enhörningen* (The Unicorn). Finland is a bilingual country and we have a small minority of Swedish speaking Finns. The latest addition to the national societies is The Finnish Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy Research, founded in 2013.

Societies focusing on some specific franchise, genre, or author have always been exceptions in Finnish fandom, and in most cases, the fans of one writer or TV franchise have grouped themselves around existing societies. There have been attempts, of course, but in many cases these societies have disappeared as soon as the peak of interest has passed. The biggest and longest surviving exception in this respect is the Finnish Tolkien Society, and its fannish zine *Legolas*, which began in the early 1990s.

A key feature of Finnish fandom is that there has never been a big separation between science fiction and fantasy. Everybody understands the differences between genres, of course, but inside fandom, the fans and writers of science fiction and fantasy haven't been separate groups. Times seems to be changing though, and nowadays many younger fans see themselves primarily



Table Hockey Championships at Finncon 2006 in Helsinki. (Photo by Pasi Karppanen)



as readers of fantasy, and science fiction is a much more alien genre to them.

The lack of separation in the older generation of fans is in great extent due to the circumstances in which the Finnish fandom was born. In the late the 1970s and early 1980s, both genres were equally marginal, and fans of science fiction and fantasy naturally teamed up. Therefore, one should remember that although most of the societies mentioned in this article are called science fiction societies, all of them are science fiction and fantasy societies. This applies to the fanzines and conventions as well.

As a result, the current generation of writers in Finland are a rather heterogeneous group. The same people write science fiction and fantasy, and in some cases drawing a line between the genres is very difficult, if not impossible. In fact, many writers consider the whole subject of drawing lines between genres restrictive and completely unnecessary.

During the last decade or so we have even seen a rise of a new term for fantastic literature in Finland: *spekulatiivinen fiktio* (speculative fiction) or "spefi" for short. The term doesn't have the acceptance of all the fans, but gradually it has established itself, even outside fandom. One undeniable benefit of the term is that it is a handy way of avoiding classification problems. All works of fantastic literature can be placed under it, without having to ponder whether they are science fiction, fantasy, or horror.

Every fandom has its own awards, and Finnish fandom is no exception. The most important Finnish sf/f award is undoubtedly the Atorox award which is awarded to the best Finnish science fiction or fantasy short story published in the previous year. It has been presented annually by the Turku Science Fiction Society since 1983, and the winner is decided by a jury comprised of representatives from all of the Finnish sf/f societies, as well as individual fans.

The award has a significant role in the Finnish sf scene and among the Finnish sf writers. The field of Finnish sf short story writing is a thriving one, and the

**Above left: Finncon/Animecon 2009 in Helsinki was the biggest Finncon ever, with over 10 000 visitors. (Photo by Pasi Karppanen)**

**Middle: Tamcon 1985. (Photo by Leena Peltonen)**

**Left: Tony Stark napping in the Tardis, Finncon 2013. (Photo by Henry Söderlund)**

number of works on the Atorox long list is usually over two hundred. This is thanks to the work done in the field and the number of Finnish sf zines and short story anthologies published annually.

### THE THING CALLED FINNCON

The Finnish national con is called Finncon. Finncons are big events and have been so from the very beginning. In most respects Finncons resemble any other big cons in Europe or the USA, with panels, lectures, and other programming, along with Guests of Honour giving speeches and autograph sessions. On Saturday nights there's the official con party with a traditional masquerade (costume contest).

What sets Finncons apart from cons elsewhere, however, is that they are *free*. Yes, that's right. There's no entrance fee whatsoever. Since Finncon 1989, one of the convention's main principles has been that everyone interested should be able to attend. This way, any passerby can just pop in to see what's going on, and with any luck find the event interesting – and if so, a new sf/f fan is born.

"The Finncon brand" was created when the first few Finncons were held in Helsinki in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Finncons are intended to be big events, with no entrance fee, and a focus on literature. Thus far, most, if not all of the Guests of Honour have been writers instead of television figures. The simple explanation for this is that media personalities, even "the third storm trooper from the right," are a lot more costly than the price of a world-class author. But as Finland is a country that takes literacy and readership very seriously, the main reason is Finnish fandom's desire to concentrate on literature.

This has proved to be very successful. Over the years, Finncons have gotten bigger, bigger, and bigger—becoming major cultural events. For over a decade, the number of attendees at Finncons have been in the thousands. They have also attracted increasing numbers of English speaking fans, and a part of their programming in English.

Naturally, Finncons wouldn't be possible without money, and Finnish con organisers have become very good at securing funds from private and government grants, and looking for sponsors and partners. This, in turn, is a result of the fact that sf, as a literary genre, has perhaps a slightly better reputation in Finland than in some other countries.

The reason are various, and it's a subject worthy of an article of its own. There has also been a significant amount of work bridging the gap between fans and literature researchers. For example, academic meetings have been held concurrently with Finncons now for over a decade.



**Destruction of Useless Merchandise  
charity auction at Finncon 2013  
(Photo by Henry Söderlund)**

Another interesting feature of Finnish fandom is that there's no bidding process. Unlike in many other countries that have a national convention that changes location, the towns or con committees do not have to campaign against each other for the right to host Finncon, and the rotation is decided in mutual understanding.

This could also be seen as one of the secrets behind Finncon's success. No matter where Finncon is held, it has always been an endeavour of the whole Finnish fandom, not only of the local fans. Finland is, after all, a small country, and it is a small wonder Finncons are such big events. The main responsibility always falls to the fans in the town hosting the con, but organising cons wouldn't be possible without everyone doing their share.

The next Finncon will be held 1–3 July, 2016 in Tampere, with authors Jasper Fforde, Anne Leinonen, and Catherynne M. Valente as the Guests of Honour.

### IN CONCLUSION

This article was barely a glimpse into Finnish fandom. My hope was to give you at least some kind of overview what it's like, and what kind of differences a visitor may notice when arriving in the midst of Finnish fans. That is, after all, the best way to find out what we're really like. I hope to see you all in Helsinki in 2017.

# MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

We have massive support, with nearly 4 000 members already!

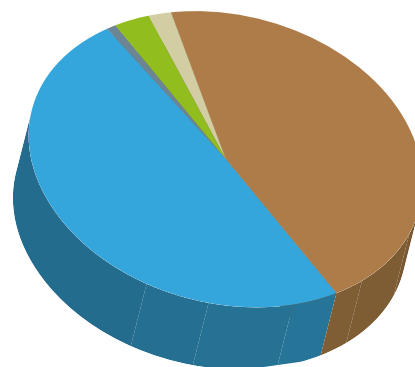
Coming to a browser near you soon: installment plan for paying a membership and family discount! Stay tuned!

## TOP 20 CITIES

CITY	TOTAL MEMBERS	FULL ATTENDING
Helsinki, Finland	257	210
London, UK	103	81
Seattle, WA, USA	81	32
Tampere, Finland	78	59
Espoo, Finland	70	54
Cambridge, UK	47	28
San Jose, CA, USA	46	18
Turku, Finland	35	32
Chicago, IL, USA	35	17
Vantaa, Finland	30	26
New York, NY, USA	29	13
Toronto, ON, Canada	26	12
Jyväskylä, Finland	26	21
Washington, DC, USA	25	7
Stockholm, Sweden	25	23
Minneapolis, MN, USA	25	16
Portland, OR, USA	24	8
Vancouver, BC, Canada	22	8
San Francisco, CA, USA	19	8
Oslo, Norway	19	15

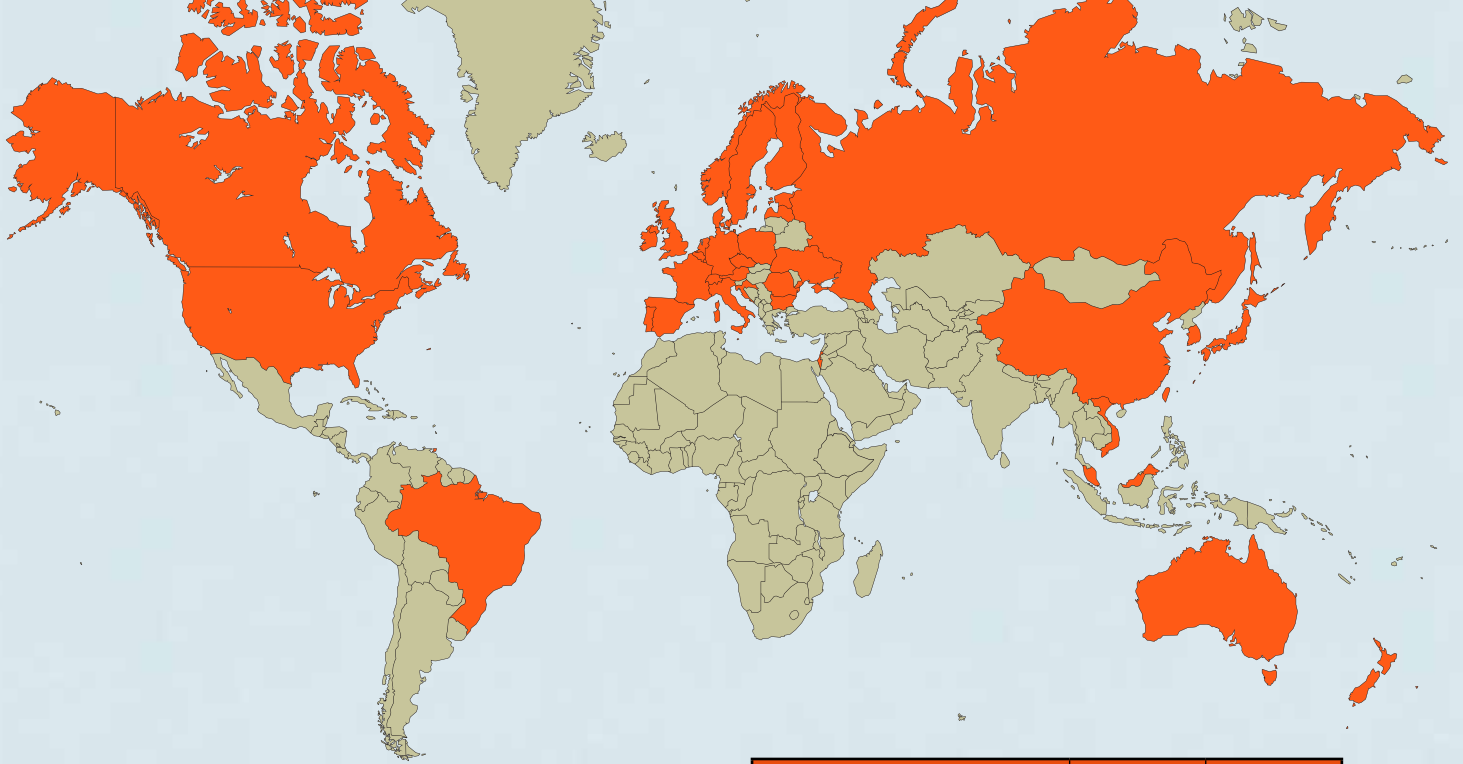
## MEMBERSHIPS BY TYPE

<b>adult attending members</b>	<b>1967</b>
GoH	5
new attending	916
bid friend/subscriber	133
upgrade to attending	913
<b>first worldcon attending members</b>	<b>31</b>
first worldcon	30
upgrade to first worldcon	1
<b>youth attending members</b>	<b>119</b>
youth	107
upgrade to youth attending	12
<b>full attending members</b>	<b>2117</b>
<b>attending members w/o WSFS rights</b>	<b>81</b>
child	54
kid-in-tow	27
<b>supporting members</b>	<b>1781</b>
voter	1649
supporting	132
<b>members in total</b>	<b>3979</b>



- adult attending members
- first Worldcon attending members
- youth attending members
- child or kid-in-tow
- supporting members





**MEMBERSHIPS BY COUNTRY**

COUNTRY	TOTAL	FULL ATT.
<b>Europe</b>	<b>1530</b>	<b>1251</b>
Austria	3	3
Belgium	11	11
Bulgaria	2	2
Croatia	8	4
Czech Republic	2	1
Denmark	11	9
Estonia	3	3
Finland	667	549
France	29	23
Germany	96	81
Ireland	29	25
Italy	6	3
Jersey	1	1
Latvia	4	3
Luxembourg	5	3
Malta	1	1
Netherlands	32	29
Norway	30	25
Poland	20	19
Portugal	2	2
Romania	5	5
Russia	7	7
Spain	4	4
Sweden	91	81
Switzerland	9	8
UK	448	345
Ukraine	4	4

COUNTRY	TOTAL	FULL ATT.
<b>North and South America</b>	<b>2924</b>	<b>780</b>
Bermuda	2	2
Brazil	2	1
Canada, British Columbia	51	19
Canada, Ontario	58	23
Canada, other	83	23
Cascadia	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	0
USA, California	370	164
USA, Illinois	84	38
USA, Massachusetts	146	73
USA, Maryland	132	22
USA, Minnesota	52	30
USA, New York	94	45
USA, Oregon	58	14
USA, Texas	80	22
USA, Virginia	90	22
USA, Washington	257	74
USA, other	1363	207
<b>Asia and Pacific</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>86</b>
Australia	77	47
China	5	1
Israel	17	12
Japan	31	12
Malaysia	2	2
New Zealand	12	6
Singapore	4	2
South Korea	1	1
Taiwan	1	1
Vietnam	1	0
(unspecified)	3	2

A bid for the 2017 NASFiC



# San Juan PUERTO RICO July 6-9, 2017

Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel & Casino

## Why San Juan, Puerto Rico?

- **LOCATION:** Beaches, sunsets, beautiful facilities, dazzling nature, world-class dining, and vibrant arts and culture.
- **SF:** An active SF community, including fans and pros.
- **SITES:** World Heritage and National Historic sites, the Arecibo Radio Telescope, and the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Park Service.
- **A U.S. COMMONWEALTH:** U.S. citizens don't need a passport to travel to Puerto Rico, English is an official language, and the U.S. dollar, U.S. Postal Service, and your cell phone work just like in the mainland U.S.
- **EASY TO GET TO:** With more than 2,000 flights per week on more than 20 airlines, Puerto Rico is less than five hours from Chicago and less than four from New York.

## To support the bid

- Visit our table at the con or [www.sanjuan2017.org](http://www.sanjuan2017.org).
- Contact us at [volunteers@sanjuan2017.org](mailto:volunteers@sanjuan2017.org) to join our team. We are actively seeking volunteers to staff fan tables and bid parties.

[www.sanjuan2017.org](http://www.sanjuan2017.org)

[www.facebook.com/SanJuan2017](https://www.facebook.com/SanJuan2017)

[info@sanjuan2017.org](mailto:info@sanjuan2017.org)

The North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) is held in years when the World Science Fiction Convention is held outside of North America. Because the 2017 Worldcon will be held in Helsinki, there will also be a NASFiC that year. The site for the 2017 NASFiC will be selected by a vote of the members of the 2016 Worldcon, MidAmeriCon II.

"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFiC", "Hugo Award", the Hugo Award Logo, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

# MEMBERSHIP LIST

Public membership list as of 18th March 2016. Here are listed all the names of 872 of our members who have explicitly agreed to have their names published. You can see this contains only a fraction of our members and probably your name is missing, too.

The EU privacy laws are strict and we can not post anyone's name without specifically asking for their permission. We have plans on finishing our membership database so that it allows our members to change their privacy settings on their own. If you are impatient and want your name to go public now, please contact [registration@worldcon.fi](mailto:registration@worldcon.fi)



Johanna Abraham  
Ian Abrahams  
Janet Abrahams  
Tomoko Adams  
Ronja Addams-Moring  
Matilda Ælfgifu  
John Aitken  
Peter Åkerlund  
Elsa Alanko  
Liina Alanko  
Katri Alatal  
Ann Albrecht  
Bruce Albrecht  
Aleksi  
BJ Allan  
Todd Allis  
Alytha  
Rolf Andersen  
Paul Dale Anderson  
Lalex Andrea  
Andrew  
Maxwell Andrews  
Nancy Andrews  
Tiffani Angus  
Annakaisa  
Anni-Santeri  
Linda Antonsson  
Areopagan  
Volodymyr Arieniew  
Beth Armitage

C. John Arthur  
Asmus  
Arsi Atomi  
Dave Axler  
Benjamin Bagland  
Mishell Baker  
Alastair Ball  
Gili Bar-Hillel  
Jennifer Barber  
Jessica Barber  
John Barberio  
Francesca T Barbini  
Anna Bark Persson  
Nick Barnes  
Trevor Barnes  
Alejandro Barranco  
Antonio Barranco  
Aurelio Barranco  
Caroline Barranco  
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