

Professor Katri Räikkönen, Hon DSc Tuesday 16 January 2024

Oration given by Professor Dieter Wolker

Chancellor

I am delighted to introduce our honorary graduand this afternoon, the eminent Finnish psychologist:
PROFESSOR KATRI RÄIKKÖNEN.

Katri Räikkönen is a professor of psychology in the University of Helsinki's Department of Psychology and Logopedics. She is a world leader in research investigating the effects of maternal stress during pregnancy on the mental and physical health of their offspring. This research is interdisciplinary and includes the investigation of environmental stresses during pregnancy, in the neonatal period and of our genetic endowment on the offspring's development across the lifespan. Katri is one of the most outstanding researchers in this field of early developmental programming.

Professor Räikkönen is the Number One most cited psychologist in Finland, with 500 plus publications to date. In psychology and medicine, she has been recognised by the annual world ranking site, research.com, with a Finland Leader Award, 2023. She is Chair of the Finnish National Doctoral Programme in Psychology and Director of the Doctoral Programme in Human Behaviour (DPHuB) at the University of Helsinki. She is a Member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences; a board member of the Academy of Finland and an Academy Professor, and a board member of the Scientific Board (specifically, Behavioural Sciences) of the Finnish Ministry of Defence. A highly successful female academic and researcher, she is a role model and inspiration for women in science.

Katri is no stranger to Warwick. Over the last 15 years, Katri has been collaborating with members of the Lifespan Health and Wellbeing Group in the Department of Psychology. These collaborations have included joint research on the development of children born very preterm in Finland, the UK and Germany into adulthood. This culminated into a joint 10 Million Euro European Project (RECAP-Preterm) that brought together over 30 cohort studies of very preterm born children around Europe and the world. Katri is further collaborating in our joint research on the effects of early crying,

sleeping and feeding problems in infancy, so-called infant regulatory problems, on the development of the brain, hormonal stress regulation and mental health into adulthood. Members of the University of Warwick have published over 30 scientific papers jointly with Katri on preterm birth and infant regulatory outcomes over the last 10 years.

Professor Räikkönen will continue to advise on forthcoming large research projects. It is a great pleasure to welcome her to Warwick today.

Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, PROFESSOR KATRI RÄIKKÖNEN.