

Joanna Härmä

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Nationality	British and Finnish
Languages	English (native), French (fair), Finnish (basic)
Education	
2004 – 2008	<i>DPhil, International Education, University of Sussex</i> Thesis title: 'Are low-fee private primary schools in rural Uttar Pradesh, India, serving the needs of the poor?' The thesis, passed with no corrections, explores whether private schooling is accessible, affordable and desirable to poor parents in a rural areas. Mixed methods study using predominantly quantitative (with some qualitative) data analysis, including factor analysis and regression analysis. Quantitative findings were fleshed out through qualitative discussions with parents, one-to-one and through focus groups, while the primary means of data collection was through a structured survey conducted by the researcher in 250 households in 13 villages. Twenty-six schools (government and private) were also visited and their staff interviewed.
2000 – 2001	<i>LLM, International Human Rights Law, University of Essex</i> Dissertation on labour rights in developing country contexts as these relate to international trade.
1999 – 2000	<i>Post-graduate Diploma in Law, The College of Law of England and Wales</i>
1995 – 1999	<i>MA(hons) Modern History (2:1), University of St. Andrews</i>

Professional Associations and other activities

October 2021 to present	<i>Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education</i> Appointment to the journal's College of Reviewers.
October 2017 – present	<i>University of Edinburgh, Centre of African Studies</i> Honorary Fellow. Research seminar in Spring 2018 and supervision and marking of dissertations for Masters students.
January 2014 – present	<i>University of Sussex, Centre for International Education</i> Visiting Research Fellow. Research seminars for post-graduate students.
2006 – 2011	<i>Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity, University of Sussex, Centre for International Education</i> Research Associate.
2008 – present	<i>Higher Education Academy</i> Associate of the Higher Education Academy.
2016 & 2017	<i>International Development Committee, UK Parliament</i> Oral evidence given regarding DfID's work in Nigeria (5 th May 2016) and then again with regard to DfID's work in education, specifically with regard to low-fee private schooling for the poor (16 th February 2017).
2010 to present	<i>Leading education and development publications</i> Peer reviewer of academic papers for journal publication.

Longer term roles

- May 2020 – November 2021 *University of Edinburgh, Moray House School of Education and Sport*
Teaching Fellow in Comparative Education and International Development, teaching on the MSc in Education, focusing on politics, policy and development.
- April 2017 – May 2018 *Early Learning Partnership Systems Research Liberia*
Team Leader. Working with a team from Oxford Policy Management to conduct a system assessment of the early childhood education system in Liberia, using a new learning outcomes measurement tool, MELQO. I was in charge of designing, analyzing, and writing up the data from a comprehensive costing exercise for an expanded, better-quality pre-primary schooling system for Liberia. I, along with the team, also designed the survey instruments for interviewing head teachers, teachers and parents. The research programme was funded by UK DfID.
- November 2015 – May 2018 *Capital Plus Exchange*
Principal Investigator designing and conducting research studies in the slums of Abuja, Accra, Dar es Salaam, Kampala, Lusaka, and Abidjan on low-fee private schooling for a non-profit microfinance capacity building organisation based in Chicago. Responsible for doing all background preparation, fieldwork instrument design, training fieldwork teams, overseeing fieldwork, data cleaning, analysis and report writing.
- November 2011- August 2015 *UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report*
Research Officer. Chapter author for early childhood care and education (EFA Goal 1) in 2015 GMR, involving extensive research on early childhood development from conception through the transition to primary schooling. I have written on skills for rural settings; formative assessment and its application; curriculum reform and '21st century skills' and the challenges in mainstreaming ICTs into teaching and learning.
- April 2009 – October 2011 *DfID Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN)*
Private Education Research Specialist and Education Management Information System Specialist responsible for:
- Designed and conducted separate research studies on the size and scope of private education in Kwara and Lagos States, examining challenges faced. These studies provided DfID with a better evidence base on private education and informed discussion with the Lagos State government and helped to serve as a platform for the DEEPEN programme, which ran from 2013-2019.
 - Designed and conducted a full school census for Lagos State's 12,000+ private schools in 2010-2011; hiring, training, coordinating and overseeing the work of a 290-strong census team; quality assuring the results; analysing & writing up.
 - Gave direct support and training to state governments in EMIS development; organisational arrangements under the decentralisation policy; questionnaire design, priority information needs and quality assuring data; support to the state to manage the school census cycle including work plans, staff training/capacity building and support in preparing school census reports.
- 2008 – 2009 *Columbia University, Center for the Study of Privatization in Education*
Visiting Scholar, writing journal articles from doctoral research data; contributing to selected MA courses; various presentations of doctoral work around the university.

2007 – 2008	<i>University of Sussex, Centre for International Education</i> Associate tutor on the MA in International Education.
March 2002 – March 2003	<i>Global March Against Child Labour, New Delhi, India</i> ILO Convention 182 (on the Worst Forms of Child Labour) Campaign Officer.
September 2002 – Present	<i>Free Schools India, Uttar Pradesh, India</i> Co-founder of charity promoting quality education for girls in rural Uttar Pradesh. I am still deeply involved with the school, providing support to teachers.

Short assignments

January – December 2019	<i>Government of Ghana, ARK Education Partnerships Group, IDP Foundation</i> Principal Investigator on a study comparing the quality of government and private schools in three districts of Ghana. Responsible for most of the study design, including data collection instruments; training and oversight of field teams; most of the data analysis and report writing.
April – September 2018	<i>ELMA Philanthropies</i> Case study of the secondary school Public-Private Partnership of 2007-2018 in Uganda.
June – November 2017	<i>ARK Education Partnerships Group, London</i> Principal Investigator. Providing technical direction, guidance and training to the team conducting a 3-year evaluation of PEAS secondary schools in Uganda.
January – June 2017	<i>DEEPEN Challenge Fund, Lagos</i> Technical Advisor. Guidance to the challenge fund team providing grants to service providers and innovators in the field of low-fee private education in Lagos, Nigeria.
October 2016 - March 2017; November 2015 - January 2016; May – June 2015	<i>DfID Developing Effective Private Education Nigeria (DEEPEN)</i> Research Specialist, conducting research into the affordability of low-fee private schooling for the poor; why there are no locally owned chains of low-fee private schools in Lagos; what the barriers to the development of chains are; and whether it would be beneficial to facilitate their development; market responses to the entry into the market of international chain schools.
March - April 2016	<i>ARK Education Partnerships Group</i> Work on fieldwork instrument design for field research on the private schooling sector in Liberia.
August - December 2015	<i>DfID RMSA Technical Cooperation Agency, India</i> Analysis of primary data and writing two research papers for publication.
September - November 2015	<i>DfID Mozambique - Private Sector Development Cadre</i> Designing and managing a research project to collect primary data in two slums in Maputo to learn the extent of non-state schooling. Analysis and write-up of a report as well as dissemination to DfID colleagues.
March – May 2013	<i>DfID Low-cost Private Education Project, Innovation, Research and Learning Panel</i> Member of four-member team providing advisory inputs on the design of the current DfID-funded programme, and to inform the research agenda; Lagos, Nigeria.

October 2011	<i>DfID Nigeria Lagos Scoping Mission on Affordable Private Schools</i> Part of a four-member team conducting the one-month scoping mission for the DEEPEN programme (2013-2019) in Lagos, Nigeria.
July – September 2011	<i>DfID Kenya Education Programme Business Case Team</i> Member of a small team writing a business case for an education support programme in Kenya.
March 2011	<i>Results-based Management (RBM) Technical Assistance Project for 2009-2011 Second Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP II), Bangladesh</i> Provided training in RBM to local and district officials in Bogra and Dhaka, and provided input for improvement to the training course.
May – July 2010	<i>DfID Human Development Resource Centre</i> Co-authored a policy paper for the Private Sector Development cadre of DfID on private schooling for the poor in developing countries, with proposals for possible DfID interventions. Presented the paper at the cadre's annual retreat on 15 th July 2010 and took part in the policy debate on the day.
August – September 2008	<i>Malawi Link, University of Malawi</i> Consultant researcher, supporting the pilot phase of a longitudinal study.

Publications

- 'Low-fee private schools are families' coping mechanism for the "global learning crisis" – and that's okay. RISE Forum 2023. [Public Private Forum_20230320.pdf \(riseprogramme.org\)](#).
- 'Low-fee private schools and the teaching of mathematics in Sub-Saharan Africa' (2022) *Journal of Applied Teaching and Learning*, 5:2, 2591-801X.
- 'Misalignment of policy priorities and financing for early childhood education: Evidence from Ethiopia, Liberia and mainland Tanzania' (2022) with co-authors J. Kim, N. Robinson, D. Jeffery, P. Rose, T. Woldehanna. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 111, 101891.
- ***Low-fee Private Schooling and Poverty in Developing Countries (2021) London, Bloomsbury Academic.***
- 'Evidence on school choice and the human right to education' (2021) in Adamson, F., Aubry, S., de Koning, M. and Dorsi, D. (Eds.) *Realizing the Abidjan Principles on the Right to Education*. London, Edward Elgar.
- 'De facto and by design privatisation of education in developing countries' (2021) in McCowan, T. and Unterhalter, E. (Eds.) *Education and International Development*. London, Bloomsbury (2nd Edition).
- 'Ensuring quality education? Low-fee private schools and government regulation in three sub-Saharan African capitals' (2019) *International Journal of Educational Development* 66 139-146.
- 'Is there a private schooling market in poor neighbourhoods in Maputo, Mozambique? Exploring the role of the non-state education sector' (2016) *Oxford Review of Education*, 42:5, 511-527.
- 'School choice in rural Nigeria? The limits of low-cost private schooling in Kwara State' (2016) *Comparative Education*, 52:2, 246-266.
- 'Private schooling and development: an overview' (2015), in Counihan, C., Dixon, P. and Humble, S. (Eds.) *Handbook of International Development and Education*, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar.
- 'Access or quality? Why do families living in slums choose low-cost private schools in Lagos, Nigeria?' (2013) *Oxford Review of Education*, 39:4, 548-566.

- 'Scaling up: challenges facing low-fee private schools in the slums of Lagos, Nigeria' (2013) with Folasade Adefisayo, in P. Srivastava (ed.) *Low-fee Private Schooling: Aggravating Equity or Mitigating Disadvantage?* Oxford, Symposium Books.
- 'Is low-fee private primary schooling affordable for the poor? Evidence from rural India' (2012) with Pauline Rose, in S. Robertson, A. Verger & K. Mundy (eds.) *Public Private Partnerships in Education: New Actors and Modes of Governance in a Globalizing World*, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar.
- 'Low-cost private schooling in India: is it pro poor and equitable?' (2011) *International Journal of Educational Development*, 31:4, 350-356.
- 'Can choice in primary schooling promote Education for All? Evidence from private school growth in rural Uttar Pradesh' (2009) *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 39:2, 151-165.

Select reports and working papers

- 'Towards achieving universal secondary education in Uganda: a case study of the ten-year public-private partnership' (2018) New York, ELMA Philanthropies.
- 'Whose children go to Bridge International Academies? A school choice for the middle class in Ijebu, Lagos' (2017) London, ActionAid.
- 'Why low-fee private schools are struggling to take root in rural Nigeria' *The Conversation*, 20th July 2016.
- 'Study of low-fee private schools in the slums of Kampala, Uganda' (2016) Research study report for CapPlus Exchange, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 'Study of low-fee private schools in the slums of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania' (2016) Research study report for CapPlus Exchange, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 'Study of low-fee private schools in the slums of Lusaka, Zambia' (2016) Research study report for CapPlus Exchange, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 'Study of low-fee private schools in the slums of Abuja, Nigeria' (2016) Research study report for CapPlus Exchange, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 'Study of Non-State Provision of Education in Maputo' (2016) Report for DfID Mozambique. Unpublished.
- 'Making it Past Elementary Education' (2016) with Lewin, K., Siddhu, G., and Jha, S. Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi. *Equity in Access and Learning: A Way Forward for Secondary Education*, Report no. 1.
- 'The Shifting Terrain of Government and Private Provision' (2016) with Lewin, K., Siddhu, G., and Jha, S. Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi. *Equity in Access and Learning: A Way Forward for Secondary Education*, Report no. 6.
- 'Equity in Access and Learning: A Way Forward for Secondary Education' (2016) with Lewin, K., Siddhu, G., Jha, S. and Parolin, B. Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi. *Equity in Access and Learning: A Way Forward for Secondary Education*, Report no. 0.
- 'A Study of Competition in Two Local Schooling Markets in Lagos' (2016) Report for DfID-DEEPEN, Lagos. Unpublished.
- 'Goal 1: Early Childhood Care and Education' Chapter 1 of *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2015: Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges*. Paris, UNESCO.
- 'Private responses to state failure: the growth in private education (and why) in Lagos, Nigeria' (2013) National Center for the Study of Privatization in Education, Columbia University, Occasional Paper No. 215.
- 'Household Survey on Private Education in Lagos' (2012) DfID-ESSPIN Report LG503.
- 'The limits of marketization of primary education in India' (2011) with Benjamin Zeitlyn, CREATE India Policy Brief No. 2.

- 'Study of Private Schools in Kwara State' (2011) DfID-ESSPIN Report KW326.
- 'Lagos Private School Census 2010/2011 Report' (2011) DfID-ESSPIN Report LG501.
- 'Study of Private Schools in Lagos' (2011) DfID-ESSPIN Report LG303.
- 'Private Sector Development – Private Sector Involvement in Education in Developing Countries' (2010) with Masooda Bano, Human Development Resource Centre, DfID, London.
- 'School choice for the poor? The limits of marketization of primary education in rural India' (2010) CREATE Pathways to Access Research Monograph No. 23.

Select conference and seminar presentations

- Book Launches: 'Low-fee Private Schooling in Developing Countries' at University of Edinburgh, 16 February 2021 and University of Sussex, 25 February 2021.
- 'Low-fee private schooling in developing countries; Comparing government and private schools in Central Region, Ghana', Centre for International Education research seminar, University of Sussex, 2 October 2019.
- 'Can pre-primary school curriculum and policy be implemented without domestic financing? The case of Liberia' UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development, Oxford, 17 September 2019.
- 'Equity in non-state education' at Wilton Park Meeting: No child left behind: What is the complementary role of non-state actors in the delivery of quality basic education in low resource environments? Wilton Park, Sussex, 15 September 2017.
- 'Getting to school on time: A systems approach to the pre-primary enrolment puzzle' UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development, Oxford, 5 September 2017.
- 'School Choice in Rural Nigeria? The Limits of Low-fee Private Schooling in Kwara State' UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development, Oxford, 15 September 2015.
- 'Education for All 2000-2015: Achievements and Challenges' Austrian national launch of the UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2015, Vienna, 14 April 2015.
- 'ECCE Across the Globe: Reflections on Early Childhood in the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2001- post-2015', International Step-By-Step Association International Conference, Budapest, 11 October 2014.
- 'Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All', Finnish national launch of the UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013/2014, Jyväskylä, 29 January 2014.
- 'Youth and Skills: Putting Education to Work', national launches of the UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012, Dublin, 27 November 2012 and Oslo, 16 October 2012.
- '*Partnership with private education: the challenges facing low-fee private schools in Kwara and Lagos States, Nigeria*' UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development, Oxford, September 2011. *Nigeria's use of Nigeria's own Resources in delivering basic education for all: the experience of ESSPIN* (DfID-ESSPIN symposium co-convened with Ron Tuck).
- '*Is low-fee private schooling an equitable solution? Some evidence on poverty and school choice from rural India*', seminar for DfID India, New Delhi, 15th April 2011.
- '*Education through the market in developing countries: evidence on the current context, possibilities for engagement and strategies to try*' DfID Private Sector Development Advisors' Annual Learning Week, London 13th July 2010.
- '*Low cost private schooling in India: is it pro-poor and equitable?*' World Congress of Comparative Education Societies Conference, Istanbul, 16th June 2010.
- '*Is low-fee private schooling and equitable solution? Some evidence on poverty and school choice from rural India*', Comparative and International Education Society Conference, New York, 20th March 2008.