

Kaša Rita



Position: BSc Thesis Faculty Advisor, Research Fellow; BSc Courses: Research Methods I, Research Methods II
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Rita Kasa holds a PhD in Comparative Education from the State University of New York in Buffalo, USA. In her doctoral dissertation she examined devolution of student financial assistance in Latvia. During her doctoral studies, Rita was a graduate assistant in the International Comparative Higher Education Finance and Accessibility Project (<http://gse.buffalo.edu/org/IntHigherEdFinance/>), chaired by Dr. Bruce Johnstone who was

also her Academic Advisor. She was also a graduate assistant in the study *Religion Among Academic Scientists*, led by Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund (<http://www.owlnet.rice.edu/~ehe/raas.html>). Before starting her PhD studies as a Fulbright scholar in the US, Rita received the degrees of BA and MA in Political Science from the University of Latvia.

Currently Rita works at Stockholm School of Economics in Riga where she teaches classes in research methods as well as coordinates B.Sc. thesis writing process. In her research, Rita focuses on various issues in education and social integration. Among papers published are such as "Comparing tertiary graduates with and without student loans in Latvia", "Preschool education in Latvia and Europe", "The reverse gender gap in Latvian higher education: New issues in human capital formation", "Higher education accessibility in Latvia: The role of government and municipalities in funding students", "Aspects of fiscal federalism in higher education cost-sharing in Latvia", "Bridging the gap to higher education for low-income youth, ", "Learning to Welcome: Integration of Immigrants in Latvia and Poland", "Re-imagining Latvia as a multicultural nation". Rita is a board member in Latvia Dyslexia Association and is a member of Comparative and International Education Society.

Education:

Ph.D. in Comparative Education (SUNY Buffalo, USA)

M.A. in Political Science (University of Latvia, Latvia)

B.A. in Political Science (University of Latvia, Latvia)

Areas of research:

Higher education finance, educational policy, social integration

Publications & Articles:

Peer reviewed articles

2010 Kaša, Rita & Ait Si Mhamed, A., "Comparing tertiary graduates with and without student loans in Latvia," *Baltic Journal of Economics*, 10(2), 49 – 62.

2008 Kasa, Rita, "Aspects of fiscal federalism in higher education cost-sharing in Latvia," *Peabody Journal of Education*, 83(1), 86 - 100.

Monographs and book chapters

2009 Kaša, Rita, (Radošās) domāšanas prasmes Latvijas skolās [Skills of (Creative) Thinking at Schools in Latvia]. Rīga: Iespējamā misija & Radošuma pils.

2008 Kaša, Rita, Demand and potential for institutionalizing interdisciplinary design education program in Latvia. Riga: Stockholm School of Economics in Riga & Jaunrīgas Attīstības Uzņēmums.

2008 Kaša, Rita and Ķešāne, Iveta, "Learning to Welcome: Integration of Immigrants in Latvia." In Dace Akule (Ed.), Learning to Welcome: Integration of Immigrants in Latvia and Poland (pp. 37 – 77). Riga: Center for Public Policy Providus.

2008 Kasa, Rita, "The reverse gender gap in Latvian higher education: New issues in human capital formation." In Yoshiko Nozaki and Rachel Fix (Eds.), Gender equality and higher education in the Asia-Pacific and beyond: Comparative and historical perspectives (pp. 58 – 66). Buffalo, NY: State University of New York at Buffalo Graduate School of Education Press.

2008 Kaša, Rita, "Augstākās izglītības pieejamība Latvijā: Valsts un pašvaldību loma studentu finansēšanā" [Higher education accessibility in Latvia: The role of government and municipalities in funding students]. In Žaneta Ozoliņa un Inga Ulnicāne – Ozoliņa (Eds.), Latvija 2020: Nākotnes izaicinājumi sabiedrībai un valstij [Latvia 2020: Future challenges for society and the state] (pp. 83 – 100). Rīga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds.

2003 Kaša, Rita, "Augstākās izglītības finansēšana Latvijā: 1991 – 2001" [Financing of higher education in Latvia: 1991 – 2001]. In J. Ikstens, Z. Ozolina, J. Prikulis and F. Rajevska (Eds.), Jautājumi politikas zinātnē II: Akadēmisko rakstu krājums [Issues in Political Science II: Collection of Academic Papers] (pp. 151 – 175). Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte.

Working papers

2008 Kasa, Rita, "Quantitative and qualitative research design: Beyond dichotomy". Comparative Minds, Critical Visions: Working Paper Series at the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education at SUNY Buffalo, 2, 25-29.

2007 Kasa, Rita and Yoshiko Nozaki, "Re-imagining Latvia as a multicultural nation." Comparative Minds, Critical Visions: Working Paper Series at the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education at SUNY Buffalo, 1, 36 - 40.

Public policy papers

2008 Kaša, Rita, Aija Lulle, "Pirmsskolas izglītības politika Latvijā un Eiropā" [Preschool education in Latvia and Europe]. Āboltiņa, I. et al, "Pirmsskola kā stiprs pamats sabiedrības attīstībai" [Preschool as a Strong Base for Development in Society] (14. – 85. lpp). Rīga: Valsts Prezidenta kanceleja, Stratēģiskās analīzes komisija.

2004 Kasa, Rita, "Bridging the gap to higher education for low-income youth." In I. Dedze, S. Heyneman, I. Austers & E. Lune (Eds.), Education reforms in Latvia: Underpinning integration and prosperity (pp. 95 - 101). Riga: Providus.

2003 Kasa, Rita, "Student loans and access to higher education in Latvia." In I. Dedze, S. Heyneman & G. Catlaks (Eds.), Education in Latvia's transition: The challenge of management. Report on education in Latvia 2001/2002 (pp. 96 - 119). Riga: Providus.

2001 Kasa, Rita and Zane Loza, "State financing for higher education: Financial flow mechanisms." In G. Catlaks, S. Heyneman & K. Kreslins (Eds.), A passport to social cohesion and economic prosperity: Report on education in Latvia 2000 (pp. 14 - 26). Riga: Soros Foundation Latvia.