



Finnish Society for
Disability Research



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

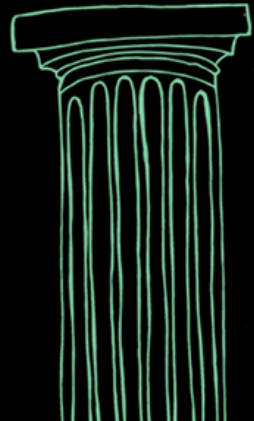


THE NIGHT OF SCIENCES 2025

LOUIS BRAILLE: 200 YEARS OF HERITAGE



French Institute of Finland
Yrjönkatu 36, 00100 Helsinki





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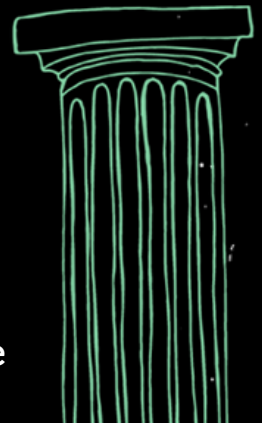
The French Institute of Finland, the University of Helsinki, and the Finnish Society for Disability Research invite you to dive into the history of Louis Braille and his revolutionary invention: a writing system that transformed the lives of blind and visually impaired persons. In addition to the historical aspects, the event will examine braille and visual impairment through research on rights of those affected, personal encounters, and art, aiming at opening new ways of thinking.



Language: English and French

Venue: physically accessible

Admission: free upon registration or online



PROGRAMME



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Louis Braille: 200 Years of Heritage

January 9, 2025

17:00 Welcome address

17:05 Documentary: "Louis Braille, a genius 6.0" -
French with English subtitles

17:30 Comment by H el ene Jousse, director of the
documentary and writer of "The hands of
Louis Braille" - *French and a little of English*

18:00 Research on happiness, disability, rights of
persons with disabilities and their role as
agents of change, by Professor Hisayo Katsui
- *English*

18:20 Personal accounts of Braille and disability, by
Tiina Borgman and Susanna Halme, students
at the University of Helsinki - *English*

18:40 Showcase of the art work of the French artist
specialized in Braille graffiti "The Blind" -
French and a little of English

19:00 Wine and cheese reception

SPEAKERS



Finnish Society for
Disability Research



Hélène Jousse is a French sculptor and author, widely recognized for her "ribbon-face" sculptures, which have been exhibited in museums around the world. She has also written four books, including "The Hands of Louis Braille", a novel that delves into the life of Louis Braille and his invention of a writing system for the blind and visually impaired. Hélène Jousse is deeply committed to making art more accessible and inclusive.

Hisayo Katsui is a Professor in Disability Studies at the University of Helsinki. Her research focuses on disability rights and inclusion across global contexts, with studies conducted in Ethiopia, Nepal, Uganda, and Finland. Hisayo Katsui has worked for the Finnish Society for Disability Research and for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability.

Tiina Borgman is a master's student in archaeology at the University of Helsinki. Her studies focus on Holocaust archaeology, the digitalisation of cultural heritage, folklore and museology.

Susanna Halme is a master's student in Finnish language at the University of Helsinki. Her master's thesis focuses on the attitudes and experiences of visually impaired persons regarding braille.

"The Blind", from his real name Jean-Charles Souliman, is a French artist specialized in Braille graffiti. Despite having full vision, he uses Braille to create tactile art accessible to visually impaired persons. Since 2004, he has set up installations in various cities around the world, fostering a unique interaction between sighted and non-sighted persons.