The career story of a driftwood theorist

Marko Leppänen

Marko Leppänen PhD

- Born in 1979 in Hämeenkyrö

- Matriculation in 1998

- Applied to:
  - University of Applied Sciences
  - Veterinary University
  - Tampere University of Technology

- Started studies in the department of Electrical engineering
  - major SW Engineering
  - minor Telecom

Academic years

- Started at Tampere University of Technology (TTKK) in 1998

  - Summer job at Kalmar 1999

  - Research assistant 2000

  - Msc in Electrical engineering 2004 (TTY)

  - Lecturing and researching 2004-2010

  - applied as a grad student in 2010

  - Dissertation 2017

Academic details

- The architecture years 2008-2014

  - Focus on architectures, mostly heavy machinery domain, ATAM + patterns (12+ articles)

  - Book: "Designing Distributed Control Systems - A Pattern Language Approach", John Wiley & Sons, 2014

- Need4Speed project 2014-2017

  - Focus on CI/CD, DevOps, Startups, refactoring, teaching, social aspects (~20 articles)

  - Vanishing Point: Where Infrastructures, Architectures, and Processes of Software Engineering Meet

Post-academic years

▶ While still finalizing the dissertation, joined Vision Development in 2016 as SW specialist

▶ Went to Sandvik by the end of 2016 as Senior Systems Engineer

▶ Got an interesting gig at Ministry of Culture and Education in 2017

▶ Jobless and broke, so did Data Analytics for ICT professionals, 20 ETCS in 2018

▶ Got a job at Agiler as a Software Specialist, the company folded in 2020

▶ Did a hustle for University of Helsinki

▶ Got a job at Teleste as a Software lead in 2021

▶ Moved to Metso in 2023 as an agile coach

Key takeaways

- It's not that much about your research topics, but of course it might be highly relevant in some cases

- Mostly people just honour the commitment and the ability to do such a special effort

- Being analytical, having the ability do use data, being able to model complex things is a beneficial skill