



NOS-HS workshop:

Understanding digital transformation of teaching and learning in Nordic higher education: innovations, mediations, and contexts

University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway

11-13 May 2020

Invitation to doctoral students

Our workshop series will produce policy-relevant academic knowledge about processes, opportunities and challenges of digital transformation of teaching and learning (T&L) in Nordic higher education (HE).

Our overarching questions are: what kinds of transformations occur as a result of digitalization of T&L in Nordic HE? How do we make sense of them within and beyond the classroom – e.g. effects on policies and practices in organizational, governance and technology domains linked to HE T&L? What theories, methods and empirical cases can successfully tackle these questions?

Our main analytical focus is on the connections between: (1) T&L; (2) educational technology providers; and (3) organizational & governance processes at HEI and national policy levels. These empirical domains correspond to the following primary actors and their perspectives: (1) teachers, learners, administrators and IT staff involved in the physical and virtual classroom; (2) software developers, sales staff and managers of educational technology companies; and (3) HEI managers and national HE policy-makers.

We will produce theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge, grounded in actual uses and practices of digital technologies in Nordic HE T&L. The Nordic region is not only a geographic focus, but also an object of analysis. We will explore the novel question of whether there are “Nordic characteristics” emerging from digital transformation of HE T&L.

Our analytical framework focuses on three key concepts: innovations, mediations and contexts. We will integrate three theoretical approaches (activity theory, the Scandinavian school of new institutionalism, and postphenomenology) and discuss their methodological implications.

Together with our partners KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden and Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark, we will hold three workshops (WS). WS 1 is held in at the University of Agder, campus Kristiansand, Norway (May 2020). It lays the foundations for the other two workshops, by opening up the field of digital transformation of T&L in Nordic HE to a broader constellation of actors and domains beyond the classroom.

PhD-students that are involved with (some of) the topics addressed above, are invited to apply for participation in the first workshop, which includes a dedicated session for doctoral students. We may cover travel expenses and accommodation for up to 5 PhD-students. Please send us an email including information about your doctoral thesis, year of progression, theoretical and methodological approaches to: cathrine.tomte@uia.no & vito.laterza@uia.no

Best, the local UiA-organizing team,
Prof. Romulo Pinheiro, Dr. Vito Laterza & Dr. Cathrine E. Tømte