

Ways with wor(l)ds: Approaching the dynamics of knowing and learning as situated practices.

Current digital transformations in society challenge established ways of knowing and learning. Many of those challenges emerge from attempts to redesign institutional practices and reshape established societal relations. While the social fabric of our societies is being re-designed, we can sense but not really grasp, its sociomaterial manifestations and undertows. Metaphorically speaking, we are on the edge of something imaginable but not well known or understood in terms of their implications. Ever more sophisticated technologies are finding their way into the market, the social media, the workplace, and our mundane digital devices. In public debates hopes and fears of what the future might bring are salient and many stakeholders also voice their concerns, while others are extrapolating technological features and affordances, trying to make most out of current developments.

At the local level, however, developers and practitioners are engaged in co-designing, learning, and tinkering with technologies, anticipating opportunities, and pre-empting risks. What is valuable to know and what needs to be learned are highly relevant questions, not least among these professionals who are accountable for the products of their work. How can we as researchers approach these ongoing dynamics of knowing and learning as situated practices? While this is the topic of my keynote, no straightforward answers should be expected. I will instead share some generative entry points and insights based on collected research experiences emanating from different institutional contexts through projects conducted with research colleagues and collaborators.



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