

Abstract for ISCAR 2014 PhD DAY (max 350 words)

presenter: Juhana Rantavuori

type: Dialogue paper

topic: Analysis through a cultural historical lens

Analyzing expansive learning:

Learning actions contrasted with types of interaction, contradictions and expressions of transformative agency

In my dissertation work I have been analyzing collective learning processes in educational and work place settings. A theoretical framework of my dissertation is cultural-historical activity theory and especially the theory of expansive learning. The data of my dissertation comes from two different cases. First case is a pilot study, where planning process of the student team was examined. Second case is a research and development project in an academic Library, where Change Laboratory intervention method was used.

In a pilot study, at first, expansive learning actions were identified from the planning meeting of a student team, and then qualitative types of interaction (coordination, cooperation, and communication) were identified from the same data. In Library case firstly expansive learning action were identified from meetings between librarians and their clients. Added to this also discursive manifestations of contradictions and expressions of transformative agency were identified from the same data.

The aim of this study is to develop a new methodology for analyzing learning during formative interventions. After a pilot study, a detailed fine-grained analysis of entire Change Laboratory process was conducted. At first, transcriptions of eight Change Laboratory sessions were divided in meaningful episodes by using content analysis. Then expansive and non-expansive learning actions were identified from the entire data at the level of conversational episodes and turns of talk.

Next step in the analysis is to identify discursive manifestations of contradictions from the Change Laboratory process. These manifestations are dilemmas, conflicts, critical conflicts and double binds. Another step is to identify expressions of transformative agency from the data. These expressions are resisting, criticizing, explicating, envisioning, committing to concrete actions, and taking consequential actions to change the activity.