

Friday 5 June

12:00 - 12:40pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y305

Presentation Title: Pedagogy, ICT, Language And Working Life -
Perspectives On Independent Learning

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| Presenter / Co-presenters: | Lis Auvinen, University of Helsinki Berit Peltonen, Helsinki School of Economics |
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| Theme: | Learner and teacher experiences |
| Presentation Type: | Paper presentation |

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to present a project that we have been carrying out collaboratively at two different Finnish universities, focusing on the role of independent learning in our Swedish courses for Specific Purposes. In addition to foreign language requirements included in all Bachelor degree studies, Finnish universities have mandatory course requirements for both two national languages, Finnish and Swedish. Our own students are business students at the Helsinki School of Economics and students of law and social sciences at the University of Helsinki.

Based on our pedagogical views and experience, we consider the learners' future needs presented by working life and society to be the foundation on which we have built the rationale for our courses. Consequently, we argue that in addition to gaining academic knowledge in their specific fields, our learners' professional expertise also needs to include language and communication skills, ICT skills, an ability to work independently and in a group as well as skills for lifelong learning. We will present practical examples from our courses of the process of independent learning and learning outcomes. We will also demonstrate how new technologies are used in supporting independent learning (e.g. audio, video, video conferencing, student-produced podcasts).

Biodata

Lis Auvinen is a lecturer in Swedish in the Language Centre of the University of Helsinki. As a member of the University's e-learning support network her current special interest is testing out the applicability of new technologies and their integration into language teaching.

Ms Berit Peltonen is a lecturer in Swedish Business Communication in the Department of Languages and Communication at Helsinki School of Economics. An author of several textbooks, her current teaching and research interests include blended learning teaching formats, with a special focus on podcasts, video, tutoring via the Victor video annotation program and audit clips.