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# **NVL Research Network on Innovation –**

**within the field of adult learning and  
competence development**

Hanna Toiviainen, University of Helsinki, Finland

Date: March 13, 2012

Time: 10.00 – 16.00

Room: B335

Place: NCK/ DPU, Tuborgvej 164, 2400 København NV



# **A glimpse of the themes of adult education research**

**- Biennial Researcher meeting of adult education, February 2012, University of Helsinki**

- History and philosophy of adult education**
- Adult education and special support**
- Narratives of professionalism in an adult educator's work**
- Andragogy**
- Feminist pedagogy at university and in adult education**
- Aging and adult education**
- Innovations, work, and learning**



## **A glimpse of the themes (cont.)**

- **Critical research on adult education policy and on the practices of adult education**
- **Research on guidance**
- **Gender and other distinctions of adult education**
- **Liberal adult education**
- **Societal and philosophical perspectives on university pedagogy**
- **Entrepreneurship education**



## **Research on innovations and work-life learning**

**“Implementation conditions of integration innovations in health care: Organizational volition and the voice of the client” (Tekes 2010-2012, Prof. Yrjö Engeström)**

- Implementation, sustainability and further cultivation of service innovations in social and health care
- Three service innovations studied have been created at Surgical Unit of Oulu University Hospital, at Home Care Services of City of Helsinki Health Centre, and at City of Espoo Health Centre’s care for patients with chronic illnesses



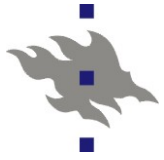
## Questions

- How do future innovations succeed in enhancing the integration of clients' care and services?
  - (1) How can the client's voice be heard in the service process?
  - (2) How can the formation of organizational volition be supported in the implementation and diffusion of integration innovations?
  - (3) How can the innovations be further cultivated by means of timely evidence and feedback concerning their consequences, problems and strengths?



## Cultural-historical activity theory perspective

- Cultural-historical activity theory offers a good starting point to study integration innovations
- Thinking that human activity is culturally mediated (Lev Vygotsky) allows one to analyze development and learning from the point of view of the implementation of cultural artefacts
- The introduction of a new tool (=>innovation) into a community changes activity through re-mediation (=>innovation)



## Learning implications

- The implementation of client-centred innovations by organizational decision-making will not automatically lead to adults' learning and skilful use activity
- From a client's point of view, motivating trigger is needed and an experience of the organizational volition to support and sustain care and care relationship in and through the care innovation
- Organizational volition for the implementation of innovations sets work-based learning challenges to the care givers on all organizational levels



## In press

- Reijo Miettinen: Innovation and human capabilities in welfare society (Oxford University Press)





## Contact

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