

## Technology Enhanced Learning

By

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The rapid advancement and pervasiveness of ICT—especially in Norway where use of converging information and communication technologies is one of the highest in the world—is radically changing the possibilities for lifetime learning. Technological advancements, a perspective on knowledge as a cultural artefact, and our understandings of teaching and learning have influenced changes in learning environments during the past four decades. This has created new conditions for society and for its institutions that are challenging our basic assumptions about the nature of learning, teaching and educational activities in modern knowledge societies. For example, as technology becomes more pervasive in all aspects of life, with increasing and varied content, it becomes an integrated part of informal learning (e.g., through electronic games, visits to museums, on-line interest communities). There is a need to understand what consequences this has for formal learning settings, and the ways in which different groups of users interact with and through ICT.

In this talk I will try to show how my Scandinavian experience has influenced my perspectives on ICT and on learning, thus helping shape my understanding of Technology Enhanced Learning. I will use examples from some of the projects in which I have been involved.

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**STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

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# Faculty of Computer Science 2006–2007 Seminar Series

## Author Biography:

Barbara Wasson, Ph.D USask 1990, is a full Professor at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen, Norway, a Senior Researcher at InterMedia, and a founding partner of eNOVATE AS. From its inception in January 2001–2005 she was Scientific Leader of InterMedia. She is one of the founders of Kaleidoscope, a European Network of Excellence on Technology Enhanced Learning and has been leader of its CSCL SIG with over 400 members.

Barbara is an associate editor of the new International Journal of Computer Supported Collaborative Learning, and she is on the board of the ICT Programme VERDIKT at the Norwegian Research Council that determines how National ICT research funds will be used for the next 10 years. In 2003 she obtained the contract for InterMedia to develop the ICT-based National test in English for the Norwegian Ministry of Education. In December 2004 she attended, by invitation only, a research summit to launch the international research initiative on Youth, Technology and Learning at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Barbara's research interests include computer support for collaborative learning, socio-cultural theories of learning, design-based research, methodologies for studying virtual environments, and pedagogical agents. Her specialty is the design and evaluation of collaborative learning in distributed settings.