2nd CALL FOR PAPERS - NORDIC BALTIC ISCAR 2025

We are happy to announce that the Nordic Baltic ISCAR Conference will be hosted by University West, Trollhättan, Sweden, 17-19 June 2025 on the theme

"Working and learning with CHAT-driven research"

The event aims at interrogating and re-envisioning the shared roots of working and learning, to make them relevant in the face of current global challenges and for transforming human activities to sustain lives and the planet. Work is here understood in a broad sense, including the work of learners, teachers, patients and caregivers as well as unpaid and voluntary forms of work. The conference sub-themes include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Foundational issues and challenges in cultural-historical theory
- Learning and working in educational settings
- Cultural-historical studies of work-integrated learning

- Technological mediation and change in organizational and educational settings
- Digitalization and technology for societal and industrial change
- School development and educational change
- Fourth generation cultural-historical activity theory and enacted utopias
- Studies in transformative agency
- Formative interventions and expansive learning

Cultural-historical activity theory has often been applied in studies of Work-Integrated Learning (WIL), reflecting the overall profile as well as the area of strength of University West.

The conference welcomes researchers, students, practitioners and working life and industrial partners internationally to present results of their work, attending workshops, exchanging know-how, as well as building new relationships and strengthening existing networks. In this spirit, the conference will also offer a forum for further development and productive discussion on principles and applications of the fourth generation of CHAT. This is at the core of the agenda of the Center for Activity Theory at University West.

Submission formats

The conference welcomes the following types of submissions:

- **Papers** aimed for oral presentations (20 minutes, plus 5 minutes Q&A). The organizing committee will assemble papers on the basis of thematic coherence with other paper submissions. Papers will be allocated in sessions of 90 minutes including 15 minutes general discussion at the end.

- **Symposia** consisting of three (3) papers, a discussant and a chairperson. A symposium is organized by the participants, who arrange the papers so that they form a coherent whole before submitting the session proposal. The symposium is led by a chairperson identified in the proposal along with the discussant. A symposium is allocated a total time of 90 minutes, including discussion with the audience.

- **Posters** giving researchers a chance to present their work visually. Those proposing a poster should be prepared to briefly present their work in 3 minutes, discuss with the audience and answer questions. Early-stage research is best suited for poster sessions.

- **Interactive workshops** are hands-on and exploratory and aim for instance at critically discussing a specific topic, a new aspect of research or teaching practice or analysis of data sets. If presentations are given, they are short. Workshops are particularly suited for ongoing formative intervention research. Each workshop will be allocated a timeslot of 90 minutes.

Submission guidelines

All submissions require an abstract, following the specifications below:

- A title of maximum 20 words for the paper, poster as well as for the overall symposium or workshop
- Name(s), email address(es) and affiliation(s) of the author/s with specification of the presenting authors and, in case of symposia the chair person and the discussant.
- The submission for a **paper** requires a short abstract of maximum 200 words, complemented by an extended abstract of maximum 700 words including references.
- The submission for a **symposium** requires one single document including the following: 1. a title and an extended abstract of maximum 700 words, arguing for the overall coherence of the symposium and including references; 2. a title and an abstract of maximum 200 words for each paper.
- The submission for a **poster** requires an abstract of maximum 200 words.
- The submission for a **workshop** requires a short abstract of maximum 200 words, complemented by an extended abstract of maximum 700 words which elaborates on the contents and explains how the workshop engages the participants.
- All submissions must be written in English.
- Submitted abstracts will be peer reviewed
- All accepted abstracts will be published in the **online conference abstract book with ISSN** in the form they have been submitted; **please make sure that the language has been checked before the submission.**

Each participant can submit a maximum of two (2) entries as the first author.

At least one author/presenter must be registered for the conference by May 1, 2025 for the entry to be in the program and book of abstracts.

All presentations must be made in person at the conference (not online).

Authors are invited to submit abstracts using the EasyChair platform which will become operational on the conference website in early January 2024.

Please refer to the conference website for detailed submission guidelines as well as for fees and the conference program: https://www.hv.se/en/research/research-environments/area-of-strength-work-integrated-learning/centre-for-activity-theory/nordic-iscar2025/

Important dates

- Submission opens: January 15, 2025
- Submission deadline: ~~March 2, 2025~~, March 15, 2025
- Notification of acceptance: April 16, 2025
- Conference registration opens April 16, 2025 and closes May 16, 2025 (Early bird registration closes on April 30, 2025)
- Conference June 17-19, 2025

Keynotes

We are happy to announce our two keynote speakers for the conference:

Professor Susanne Bødker

"The future of hybrid work and collaboration – what is new and what is not?"

Based on the Rework project and previous research on hybrid, remote and collocated work, this talk will draw lines to the past, and discuss the post-covid setting where work is happening in many hybrid settings, either because people work more frequently from home, because employers want to save space, or because people work remotely over distance. Many technologies support these forms of hybrid activity, yet the technologies also introduce fundamental asymmetries between participants. The talk will discuss these asymmetries and how technology can possibly help mend them.

Bio
Susanne Bødker is professor of Human-Computer Interaction at the Department of

Computer Science, Aarhus University. She is known for her theoretical and empirical work on second-wave Human-Computer Interaction, computer mediated activity, and participatory design. She was co-PI of Aarhus University's interdisciplinary center for Participatory IT research, and PI for CIO, which was supported by ERC.

Associate Professor Marco Antonio Pereira Querol

"Innovations for Sustainable Expansive Learning: Lessons from Formative Interventions in Work Settings in Brazil"

Formative interventions are increasingly important given the urgent need to address socio-environmental challenges. Drawing on experiences of such interventions in Brazil, based on Cultural-Historical Activity Theory (CHAT), co-created innovations are presented along with lessons on how their impact and sustainability can be enhanced. The innovations include the development of a new software, designed to enhance the visualization of occurrences of workplace accidents and to facilitate rapid, synchronized action. Another innovation was the expansion of the community of actors, including companies, to actively participate in developments aimed at improving workplace safety and security. Five lessons have been learned from these studies. First, training intervention teams and participants in key CHAT concepts can strengthen the use of the intervention tools and promote continuity of learning. Second, the inclusion of activity-specific concepts and models can complement CHAT concepts and enrich interventions. Third, the involvement of key stakeholders in planning can better align interventions with existing development initiatives. Fourth, along with temporary learning spaces, more permanent learning platforms may promote continuity and the building of coalitions for change. Finally, communication approaches such as traditional mass communication, social media, theatre and the arts can help to support expansive learning beyond local settings.

Bio
Marco Antonio Pereira Querol is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomic

Engineering at the Federal University of Sergipe (UFS), teaching Rural Sociology, Rural Extension, and Social Movements. His research focuses on Innovation, Sustainability, Organizational Learning, Cultural-Historical Activity Theory, and Interventionist Methodologies, particularly the Change Laboratory.

Conference chairs at UW:

Associate Professor Maria Spante

Professor Annalisa Sannino

Professor Emeritus Yrjö Engeström

Organizing committee at UW:

Professor Ulrika Lundh Snis

Dr Monika Hattinger

Dr Helena Vallo Hult

Mrs Eva Erkmar

Dr Emma Forsgren, Leeds University Business School, UK

Scientific committee:

Associate Professor Ge Wei, Capital Normal University, China

Professor Inger Eriksson, Stockholm University, Sweden

Professor Katsuhiro Yamazumi, Kansai University, Japan

Professor Aydin Bal, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Senior Lecturer Brett Bligh, Lancaster University

Maître de Conférences Yannick Lémonie, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Paris

Professor Emeritus Yrjö Engeström, University of Helsinki and University West

Professor May Britt Postholm, NTNU, Norway

Professor Stan Karanasios, University of Queensland

Warmly welcome to the Nordic Baltic ISCAR at University West,

17-19 June 2025 in Trollhättan, Sweden!