



NORdic research SchooL in Information Studies

Workshop on Theories, Methodologies and Research Methods in Information Studies

(Tallinn University, Estonia, November 23 – 27, 2009)

The workshop is in 2 parts. The first focuses on theories in information studies. This workshop starts Monday 23 November and ends Wednesday 25 November. The second workshop focuses on methodologies and research methods in information studies and it starts Wednesday 25 November and ends Friday 27 November.

The organisers recommend that students register for the whole workshop lasting 5 days, but it is possible to participate in just one of them.

The Nordic Research School in Information Studies invites PhD students and senior researchers to participate in a workshop on theory building and use of theoretical frameworks, methodologies and research methods in Information Science.

The workshop will discuss theory use and theoretical approaches and give possibility to discuss fundamental research methodologies (qualitative and quantitative), research methods and techniques in a friendly atmosphere as they are carried out in various fields of application in LIS. We invite PhD students and senior researchers with experience from particular theoretical approaches as well as those looking for applicable theories.

The importance of framing research topics and designs in well-developed theoretical frameworks has been discussed actively in recent years. The workshop will create opportunities to learn about issues such as: the role of theory in doctoral research; differences between paradigms, theories, and models; the role of hypotheses in theory-building; building theories from case study research; streamlining theoretical frameworks and units of analysis.

Selecting an appropriate research methodology and relevant methods for empirically founded doctoral dissertation work is one of the key decisions for novice researchers. The decision of what research method or approach to apply, and why, is important especially since there are nowadays several alternative perspectives to apply in information science. The workshop will create opportunities to learn about issues such as: how research paradigm implies research methodology; qualitative and quantitative research design; research methods (case studies, surveys, ethnography, action research, Delphi study) and

data analysis. The workshop addresses these issues by presenting various basic and advanced methods for studying quantitative and qualitative data and the underlying motivations for their use.

The workshop consists of lectures given by experienced researchers (lecturers will be announced later) and in-depth discussions on participants' research projects.

The workshop is organized by NORSLIS and facilitated by experienced researchers. The workshop adopts a broad and inclusive perspective. Participants from all research areas within LIS as well as from adjacent and interdisciplinary research areas such as (but should not be seen as limited to) computer-mediated communication, human-computer interaction, information systems research, media studies, learning research, and science and technology studies, are welcome.

The workshop will be based on PhD students' and senior researchers' presentations and discussions. Invited talks and presentations by the participants are given equal weight in the workshop program to provide ample time for constructive and supportive dialogue between the workshop participants. There will be ample possibilities for the participants to present questions, test ideas concerning their ongoing research, and to get feedback on papers, research plans, and theory chapters.

Lecturers:

You will find the names of lecturers and supervisors in the detailed programme to be found on the www.norslis.net

Workshop programme committee:

Nils Ole Pors, Research School Director, Professor, Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen, Denmark

Aira Lepik, Associate Professor, Institute of Information Studies, Tallinn University, Estonia

Ágústa Pálsdóttir, Associate Professor, Library and Information Science, University of Iceland

Nils Pharo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Journalism, Library and Information Science, Oslo University College, Oslo, Norway

Sanna Talja, Lecturer, Department of Information Studies, University of Tampere, Finland

Time:

2009, November 23 – November 27.

Location:

Institute of Information Studies, Tallinn University, Estonia

www.tlu.ee/eng

www.tlu.ee/lis

Accommodation:

Will be announced later.

Application deadline:

15 October 2009

Notification to the participant will be emailed 24 October 2009

Credits:

The whole workshop is recommended to be equivalent to 5 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).

Note: Final credits are decided by the person in charge of the local Ph.D. program. If participants choose to join one of the two parts, it is recommended that this part of the workshop is equivalent of 2.5 ECTS.

How to apply:

Participants are asked to submit a short abstract (approximately 500 words) on their ongoing research, including research questions and theoretical considerations of their research project. The application should also include a brief CV. This information will be used for selection purposes.

NB. State very clearly if you want to participate in the whole workshop or just in one of the two parts.

The application should be electronically submitted in Word format to Aira Lepik (aira.lepik@tlu.ee).

The application must contain the following information:

Name of course/workshop:

Last name:

First name:

Birth date:

Male/female:

E-mail address:

Name of supervisor:

Supervisor's e-mail address:

All Ph.D. students registered at one of the 14 NORSLIS departments as well as Ph.D. students from outside the NORSLIS departments are welcome to apply for the workshop. Please note that travel and accommodation costs cannot be financed by NORSLIS. The students who have been accepted to the course will apply funding from their own departments or from other available funding sources.

Extended abstract

Participants are asked to submit an extended abstract (up to 2500 words) or a longer paper on their ongoing research two weeks before the workshop date. The deadline for the extended abstract is 10 November 2009.