

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

Building student networks

- anchors from research and reflections

Hannah Müller

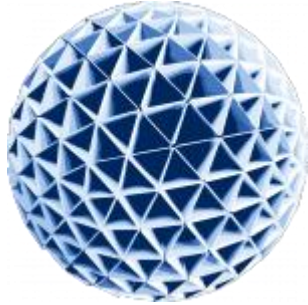
Department
of Education



CELL - Centre on
Experiential Legal
Learning

The Honours Conference 2025, Oslo



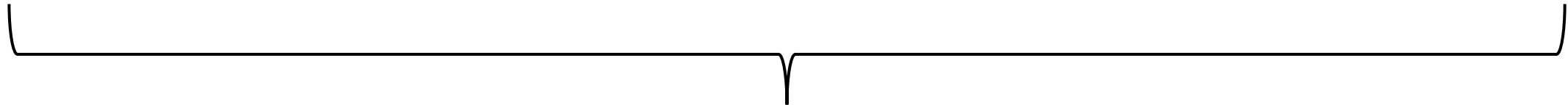


University College Twente
BSc Technology and Liberal Arts & Sciences

ETH zürich

MSc Statistics

Educational
Development

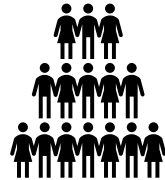


UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO

PhD Higher Education
Student-staff partnership and educational development

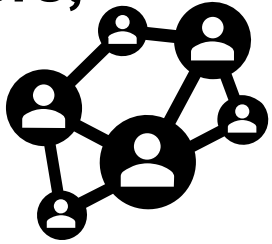
Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ, CH

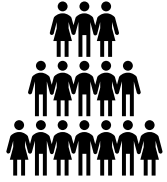
- 1.5 years Master programme
- Ca.40 students per year
- Mostly internationals
- Mathematics faculty, but few links from students perspective



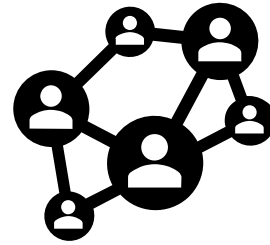
Studentforum for student partners, UiO, NO

- Students working in educational innovation projects, pedagogical research projects → collaborate with staff to develop education
- Short term contracts
- Challenging, full of uncertainty
- Dual role as student and staff
- Work within their own bubbles





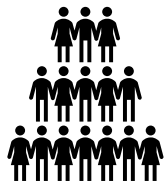
Stats Representatives
Student Representation
MSc Statistics students
ETHZ, CH



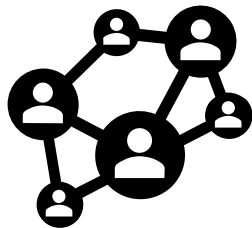
Studentforum
Students involved in
developing and researching
education
UiO, NO

How do you find the people?

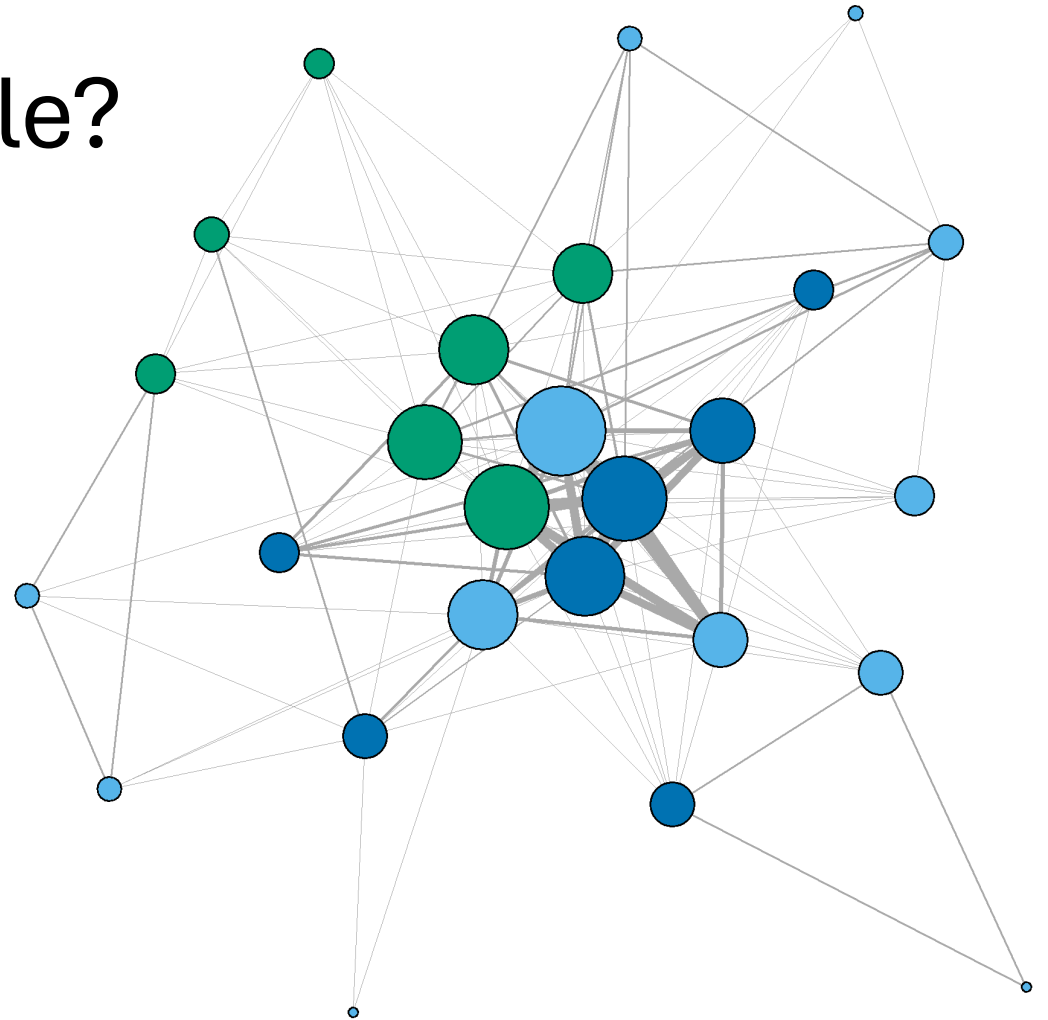
Core and periphery (Wenger, 1998)



Stats Representatives



Studentforum

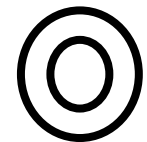


Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ

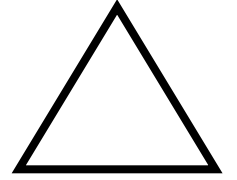
- Found 2 others to work with
 - One with experience with associations
 - One Swiss person who organised things
 - All different cohorts
- Got students onboard through a survey to establish feedback to the programme and what people needed
- Friends :)

Studentforum for student partners, UiO

- Started with students I know
- We found others to do a panel debate
- Expanded from there
- BUT: very little time, **people are hard to find**



Your motivations, needs and purposes



Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ

- Collect feedback to the programme across student group to improve (me)
- Contact across cohorts – social and academic
- Mentoring?

Studentforum for student partners, UiO

- Experience exchange between individuals and across organisations
- «onboarding»

Frames - existing initiatives

- Honours student association Ockham UTwente
- ESN: Erasmus student network
- ...



Institutional and (inter-)disciplinary embeddings

Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ

- One study programme
- Hidden in the faculty
- multidisciplinary student group

Studentforum for student partners, UiO

- One university
- Different centres, departments
- Multidisciplinary student group
- Common role



Where will this network live?



Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ

- Whatsapp
- Email account
- Meetups social and academic
- Maths student association
- Institute for Statistics

Studentforum for student partners, UiO

- Microsoft Teams
- 2 meetings a semester
- Tjaaaa – inbetween, no unit at UiO has the mandate to support this form of student involvement





Vulnerabilities?

(Mackenzie et al. 2014, Muelder, under review)

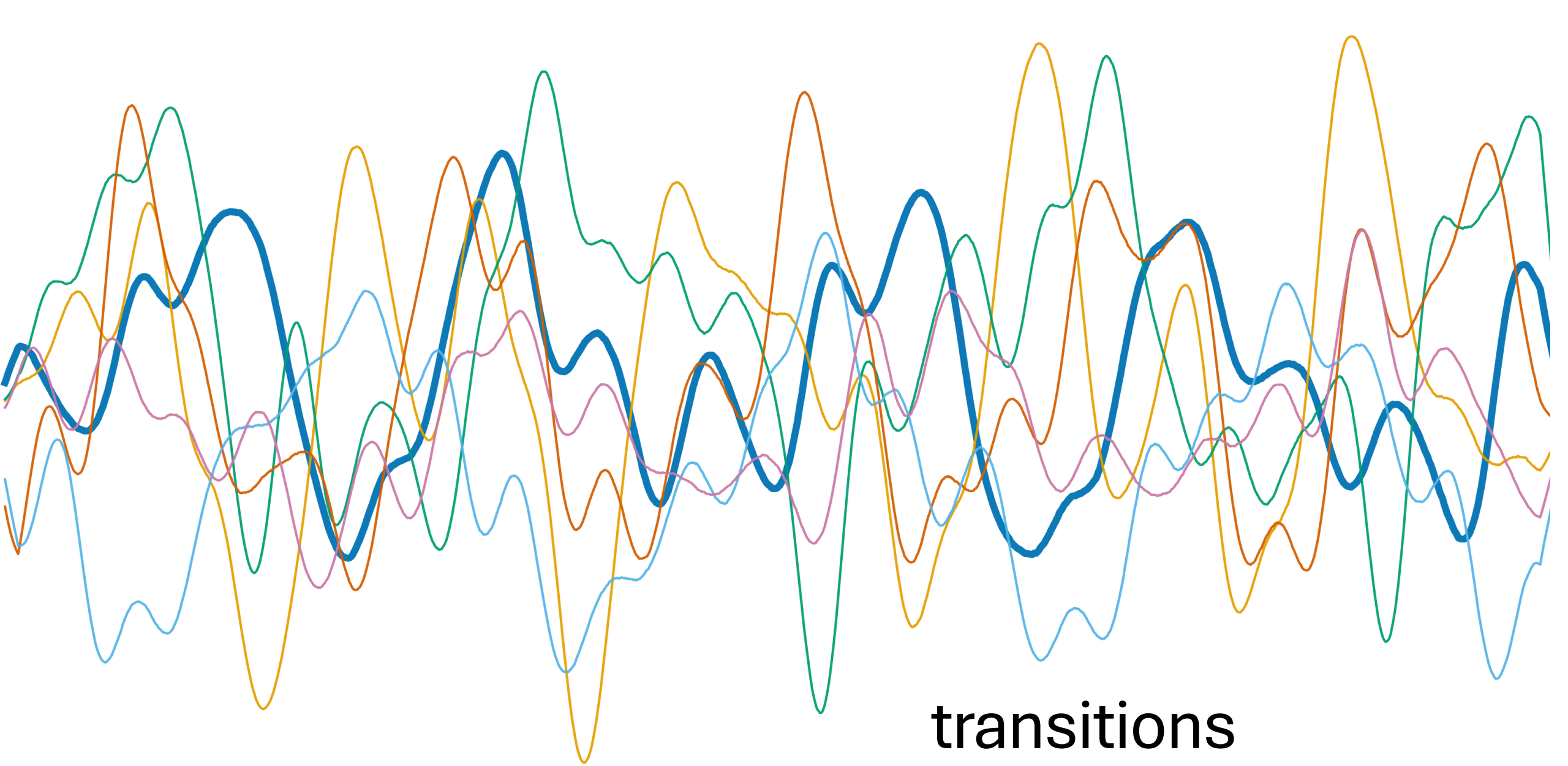


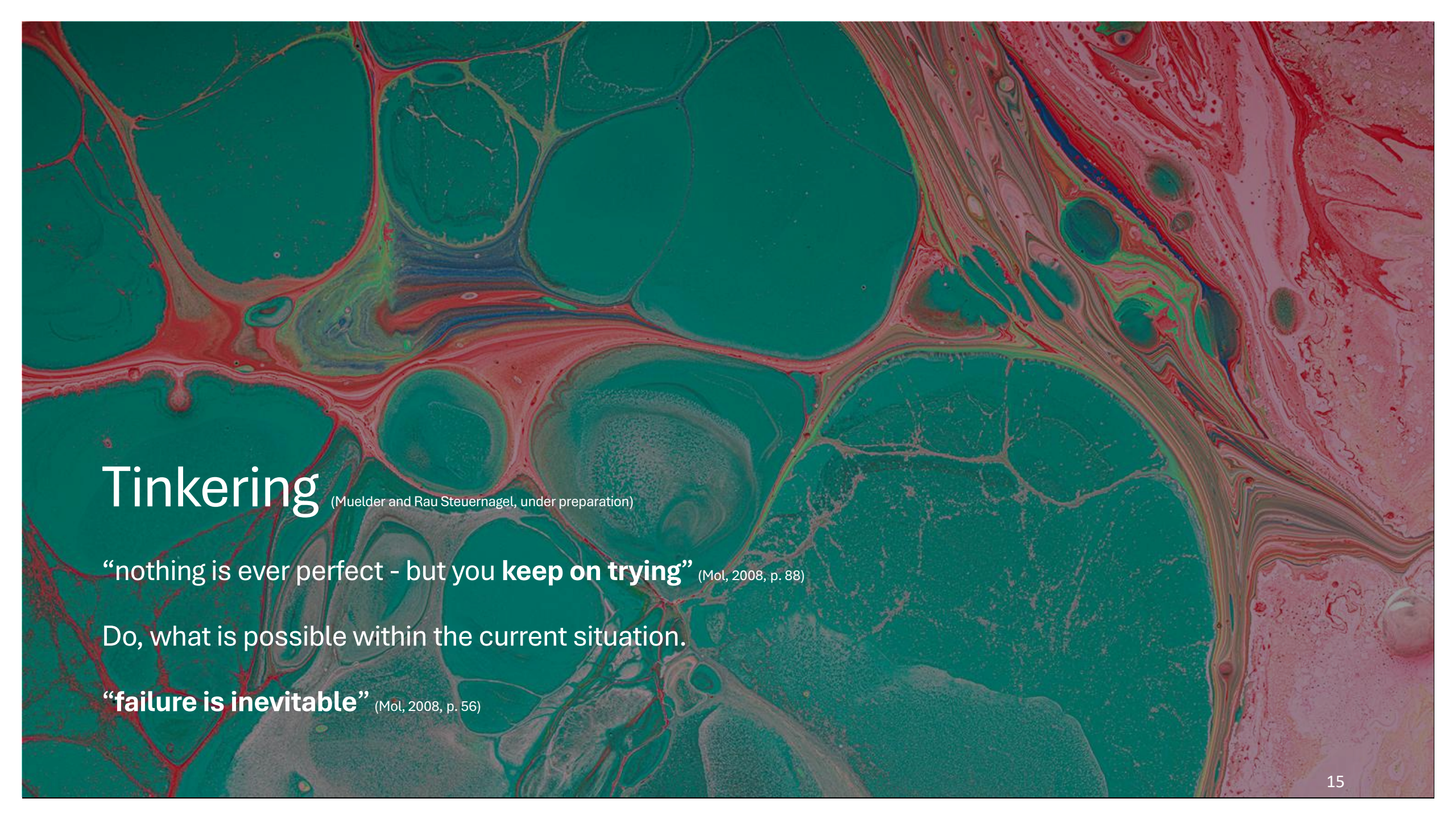
Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ

- Only 1.5 years, switch representatives often
- No history for student-staff collaboration on improving education

Studentforum for student partners, UiO

- Everyone on different contracts with different timelines
- New beginners don't necessarily get to talk to the one leaving
- Little time
- Informal for now
- Facilitating for the exchange needed is not an easy task





Tinkering

(Muelder and Rau Steuernagel, under preparation)

“nothing is ever perfect - but you **keep on trying**” (Mol, 2008, p. 88)

Do, what is possible within the current situation.

“**failure is inevitable**” (Mol, 2008, p. 56)

Student Representation MSc Statistics students ETHZ

- Things that stayed: drinks, thesis presentations,
- Mentoring
- Tried to get in contact with professors to discuss the courses and programme
Not always successful
- New things: trips with the group, merchandise, jobs, rooms ...

Studentforum for student partners, UiO

- How to support onboarding for new students
- Keep Teams alive, lower the threshold
- How to create longer term structures

To summarise



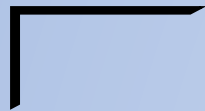
the people



need



embedding



framing



vulnerability in transitions



tinkering

THANK YOU!



From tension to quality: how student partners practice quality work

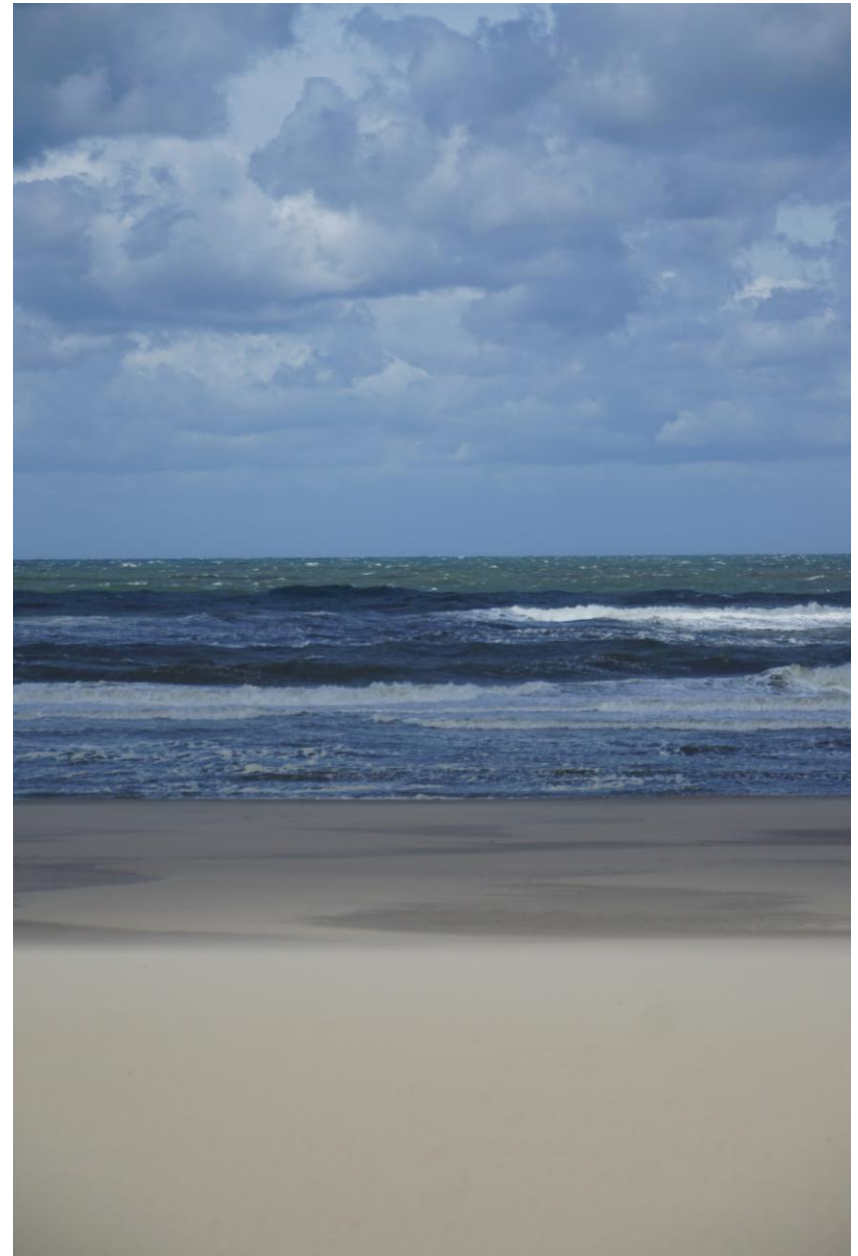
Hannah Muelder, Rachelle Esterhazy,
Nora Bergstrøm-Hansen & Cecilie
Enqvist-Jensen

Hannah Mülder

hannah.mulder@iped.uio.no



UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO



References

- Brown, K., Ecclestone, K., & Emmel, N. (2017). The many faces of vulnerability. *Social Policy and Society*, 16(3), 497–510.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746416000610>
- Mackenzie, Catriona, Wendy Rogers, and Susan Dodds. 2014. *Vulnerability: New Essays in Ethics and Feminist Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mol, A. (2008). *The Logic of Care: Health and the Problem of Patient Choice*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203927076>
- Muelder, H., Esterhazy, R., Bergstrøm-Hansen, N., & Enqvist-Jensen, C. (2025). From tension to quality: How student partners practice quality work. *Studies in Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2025.2496927>
- Muelder, H. (under review). Student Partnership – a vulnerable practice? A spatio-temporal and relational exploration.
- Muelder, H. & Rau Steuernagel, C. (under preparation). Student-staff partner