

Reading guidelines and questions – Lecture 2

Aanestad, M., & Olaussen, I. (2010). «Tverrfaglig teknologiforskning» i M. Aanestad og I. Olaussen (red.) IKT og samhandling i helsesektoren. Digitale lappetepper eller sømløs integrasjon. (available also in English)

This is a chapter from a book about IT for collaboration in the health sector. The authors present four research traditions that promote a sociotechnical understanding of technology. This chapter gives a good description of the background for the sociotechnical approach.

Guiding questions:

- What are the main traditions inspiring a sociotechnical approach to information technology?
- What are the key characteristics of these traditions?

Aanestad, M., Grisot, M., Hanseth, O., & Vassilakopoulou, P. (2017). “Information infrastructures and the challenge of the installed base”. Chapter 3 in Information Infrastructures within European Health Care (pp. 25-33). Springer, Cham.

This is a chapter from a book about national eHealth infrastructures in Europe. The chapter focuses on the concept of the installed base, which is a core concept in infrastructure theory.

Guiding questions:

- Why do [the authors] argue for a sociotechnical perspective to technology?
- How do [the authors] define sociotechnical?
- What do [the authors] mean by embeddedness?
- How do [the authors] define installed base?
- Why do [the authors] argue for reconceptualizing design? What do they mean?
- What does ‘cultivation of the installed base’ mean? How is it different from construction?

Monteiro, E., Pollock, N., Hanseth, O., & Williams, R. (2013). From artefacts to infrastructures. Computer supported cooperative work (CSCW), 22(4), 575-607: read section 2.2

This article in section 2.2 introduces the theme of design of information infrastructures. It introduces the concept of continuous/continuing design to argue for a more extended understanding of design.

Guiding questions:

- What does ‘continuous design’ mean?
- Why do [the authors] argue for continuous design?
- What do you think [the authors] mean with ‘infrastructure time’? how is it different from ‘project time’?