

UiO : Department of Informatics
University of Oslo

IN 5510
Suggested project topics

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Project topics 2024

- Work-life balance
- Supporting new kinds of work environment
- Enhancing public spaces
- Urban mobility
- Community events and initiatives
- Living a good life

Project topic
Enhancing Work-Life Balance
A challenge for everyone today?

Balancing academic responsibilities with part-time work is a significant challenge for many. This dual commitment can lead to stress, decreased academic performance, and poor mental health. In particular, traditional time management tools often fail to cater specifically to the unique needs of students.



For example for PhD- or master students

Master's students who work part-time often struggle to manage their academic, work, and personal lives effectively. Existing technological solutions for time management and productivity are often generic and do not adequately address the specific challenges faced by this group.

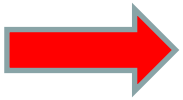
A tailored solution that is designed with participation from the students themselves may be better.




LOV
av 17. juni 2005 nr. 62
OM
ARBEIDSMILJØ, ARBEIDSTID
OG STILLINGSVERN MV.
(ARBEIDSMILJØLOVEN)

Scandinavian tradition – Participatory Design

- Democratisation of working life
- Democratisation of the development process
- Cooperation on equal terms
- Give space to all voices (margins)
- Based on Kristen Nygaard´s union cooperation projects in the 70-ies



Implemented in the Working Environment Act (Arbeidsmiljøloven in 1977)

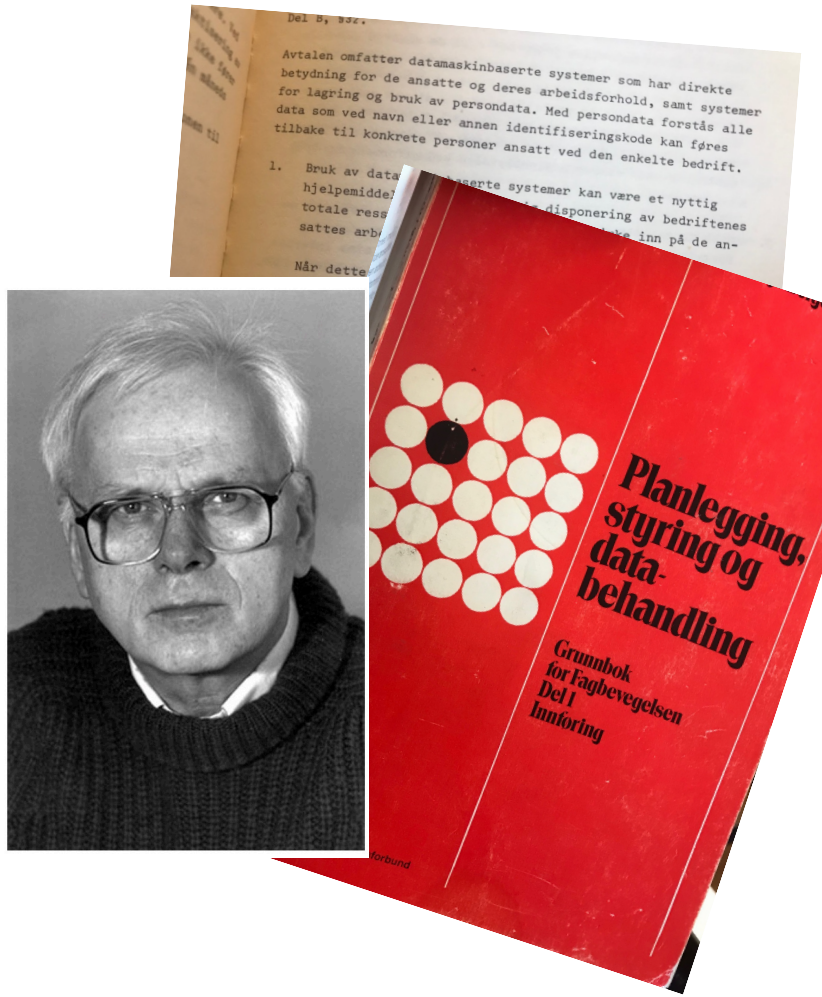
Arbeidsmiljøloven

Act relating to working environment, working hours and employment protection, etc. (Working Environment Act)

Kapittel 4-2.
Krav til tilrettelegging, medvirkning og utvikling

Section 4-2.
Requirements regarding arrangement, participation and development

These come from Kristen Nygaard´s work with the unions. First it was made as agreements about use of computer-based systems between the unions and the employers before it was put into law.



Kapittel 4. Krav til arbeidsmiljøet (2005-version)

§ 4-2. ***Krav til tilrettelegging, medvirkning og utvikling***

(1) Arbeidstakerne og deres tillitsvalgte skal holdes løpende informert om systemer som nyttes ved planlegging og gjennomføring av arbeidet. De skal gis nødvendig opplæring for å sette seg inn i systemene, og de skal medvirke ved utformingen av dem.

(2) I utformingen av den enkeltes arbeidssituasjon skal:

a. det legges til rette for at arbeidstaker gis mulighet for faglig og personlig utvikling gjennom sitt arbeid,
b. arbeidet organiseres og tilrettelegges under hensyn til den enkelte arbeidstakers arbeidsevne, kyndighet, alder og øvrige forutsetninger,
c. det legges vekt på å gi arbeidstaker mulighet til selvbestemmelse, innflytelse og faglig ansvar,
d. arbeidstaker så langt som mulig gis mulighet til variasjon og for å se sammenheng mellom enkeltoppgaver,
e. det gis tilstrekkelig informasjon og opplæring slik at arbeidstaker er i stand til å utføre arbeidet når det skjer endringer som berører vedkommendes arbeidssituasjon.

(3) Under omstillingsprosesser som medfører endring av betydning for arbeidstakernes arbeidssituasjon, skal arbeidsgiver sørge for den informasjon, medvirkning og kompetanseutvikling som er nødvendig for å ivareta lovens krav til et fullt forsvarlig arbeidsmiljø.

(4) Departementet kan i forskrift gi nærmere bestemmelser om gjennomføringen av kravene i denne paragraf.

Chapter 4. Requirements regarding the working environment (2005)

Section 4-2. ***Requirements regarding arrangement, participation and development***

(1) The employees and their elected representatives shall be kept continuously informed of systems used in planning and performing the work. They shall be given the training necessary to enable them to familiarise themselves with these systems, and they shall take part in designing them.

(2) The design of each employee's working situation shall pay regard to the following:

a) arrangements shall be made to enable the employee's professional and personal development through his or her work,

b) the work shall be organised and arranged with regard for the individual employee's capacity for work, proficiency, age and other conditions,

c) emphasis shall be placed on giving employees the opportunity for self- determination, influence and professional responsibility,

d) employees shall as far as possible be given the opportunity for variation and for awareness of the relationships between individual assignments,

e) adequate information and training shall be provided so that employees are able to perform the work when changes occur that affect his or her working situation.

"*Arbeidsmiljølovens formål er å sikre trygge ansettelsesforhold og likebehandling i arbeidslivet. Loven har også som formål å sikre et arbeidsmiljø som gir grunnlag for en helsefremmende og meningsfylt arbeidssituasjon, og bidra til et inkluderende arbeidsliv.*" (Regjeringen.no, 2022)

Early PD sprung out of connections between unions, researchers, introduction of new technologies (ref UTOPIA, Florence) and the working environment act. PD today (and other ifi research) is not much concerned about trade unions.

What happened? What will be new applications in the modern working life of the WEA?

Modern challenges for Arbeidsmiljøloven?

Introduction of technology in a local workplace, e.g. DFØ, Leganto at UiO

Employees in part-time work, on-call workers, zero hour contracts and temporary employments.

Design for workers in the gig-economy: Foodora, Uber, Airbnb, individual enterprises

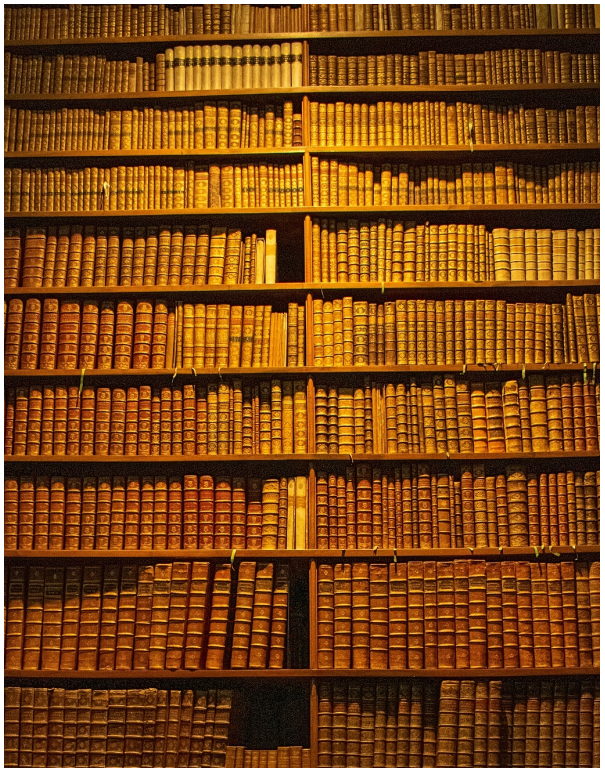
Sources:

Arbeidsmiljøloven forklaring fra Regjeringen.no: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/arbeidsliv/arbeidsmiljo-og-sikkerhet/innsikt/arbeidsmiljoloven/id447107/, 26.08.2022

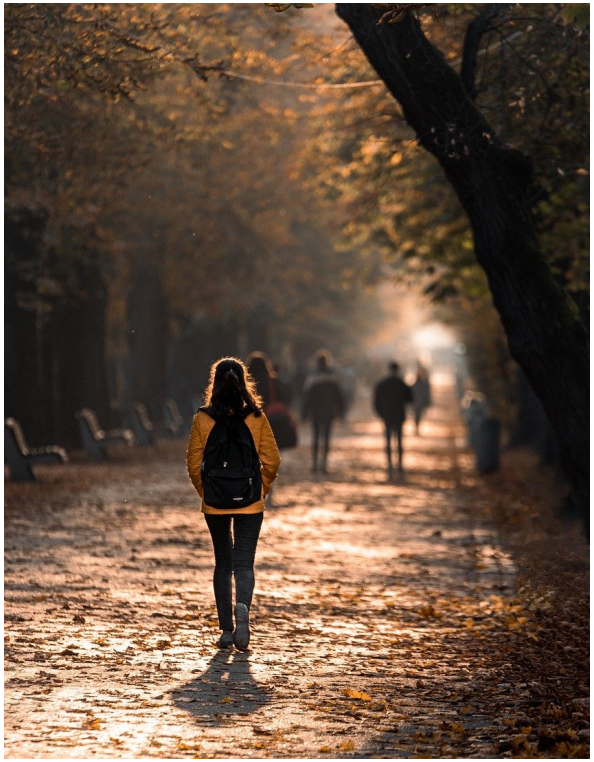
The AML/WEA: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-17-62, 26.08.2022

The UTOPIA project: Sundblad, Yngve. (2010). UTOPIA: Participatory Design from Scandinavia to the World. 176-186. 10.1007/978-3-642-23315-9_20.

Enhancing public spaces









Picture from: By Alan Stanton - "Queen's Bench Division? No, Defensive Architecture", CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=110755364



Picture from: https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/feb/18/defensive-architecture-keeps-poverty-undeen-and-makes-us-more-hostile

26.08.2024

Enhancing public spaces

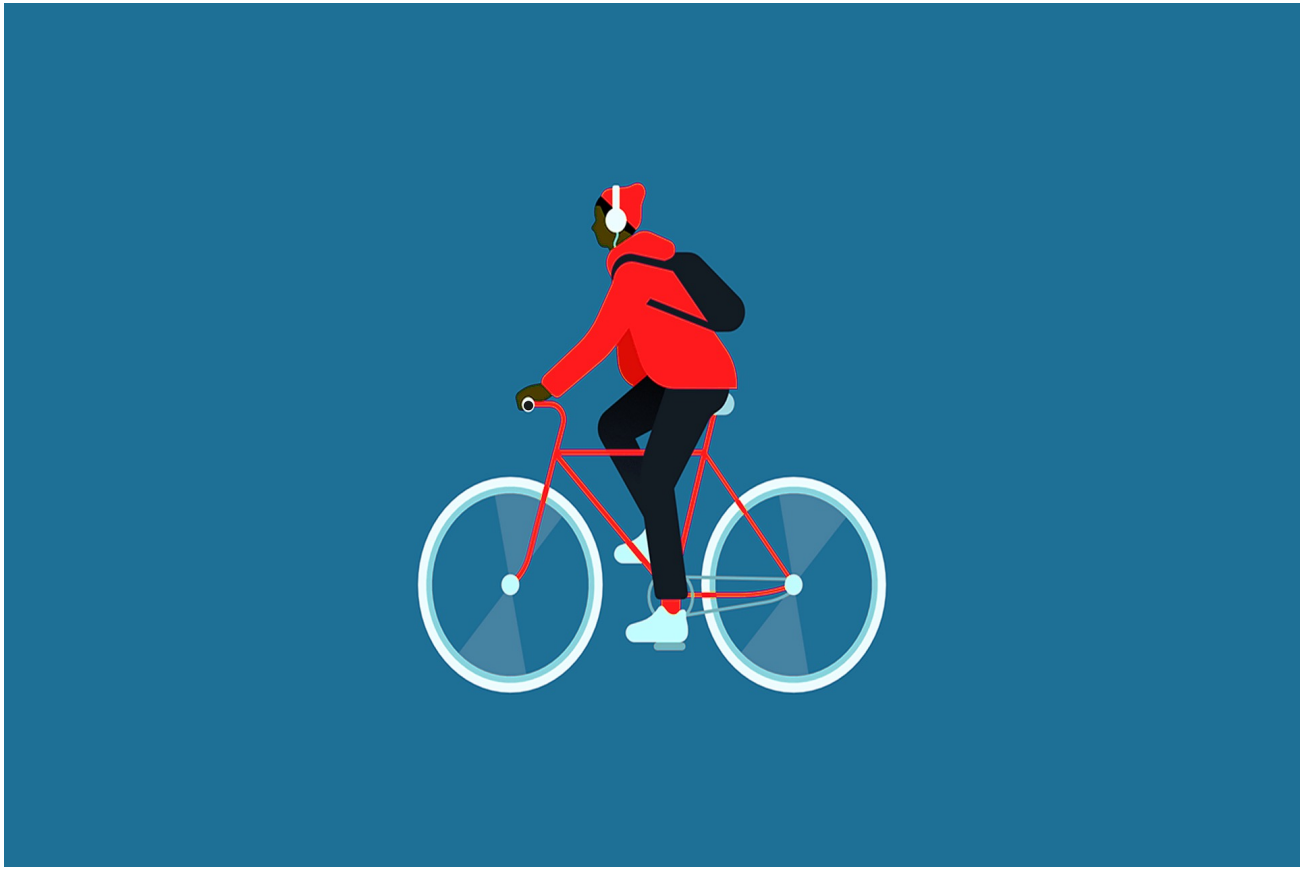
- public spaces used by a wide variety of people
- public spaces are depending on location, culture, and community needs



Enhancing public spaces

- What could be (digital) improvements for public spaces such as libraries, parks, or recreational areas?
- What do you need to focus on?
  - accessibility?
  - engagement?
  - usability?
  - everything?
- work with local residents and community members on this topic

Urban mobility







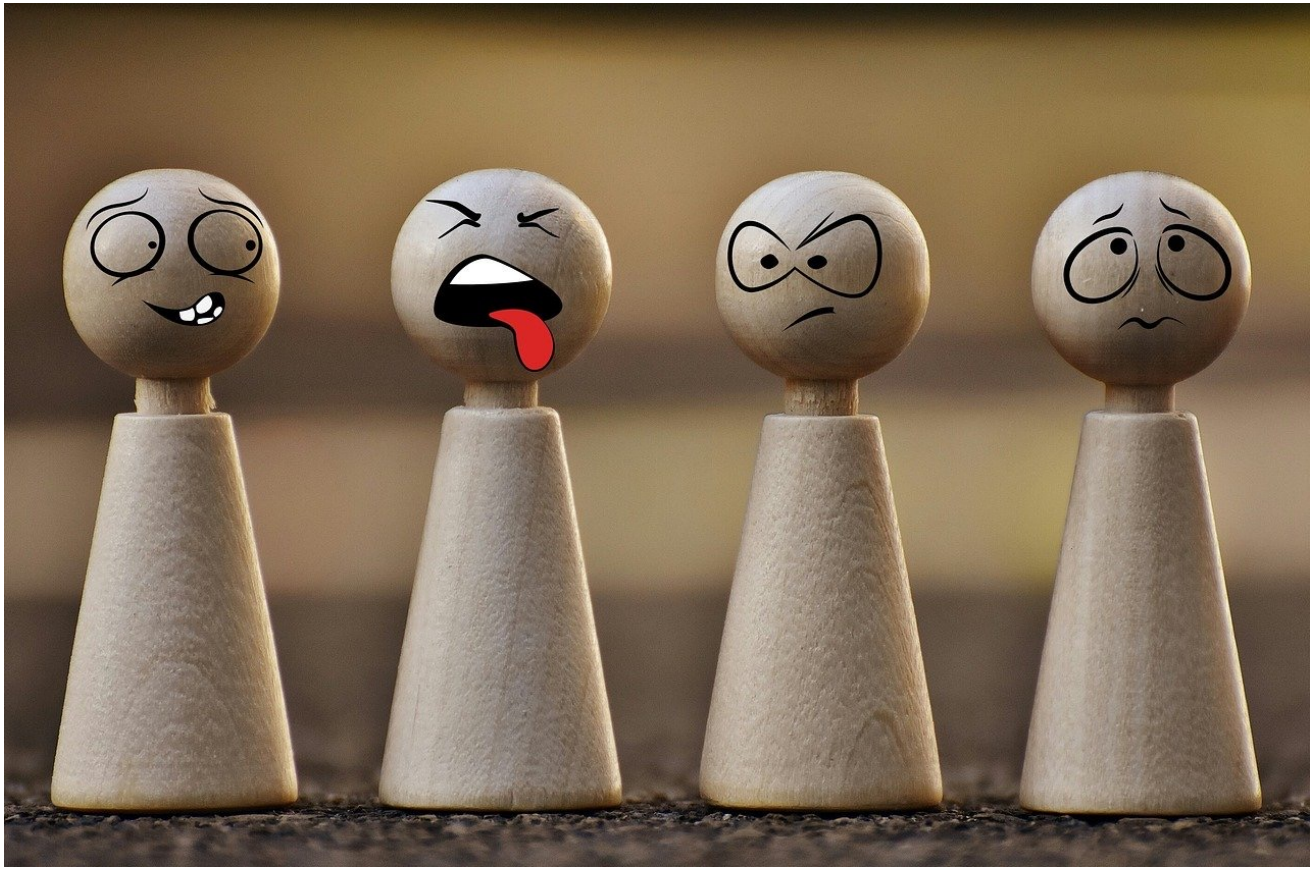

MTR港鐵
Tiu Keng Leng


Let's go!
COOL COMPANY

Urban mobility

- For example: collaborate with commuters, cyclists, or public transport users to explore how the experience and accessibility of transportation within urban environments feels at the moment (and could be improved)
- Finding solutions that work for the community together with the community can be a rewarding topic

Community events and initiatives



Community events and initatives



Some points to consider:

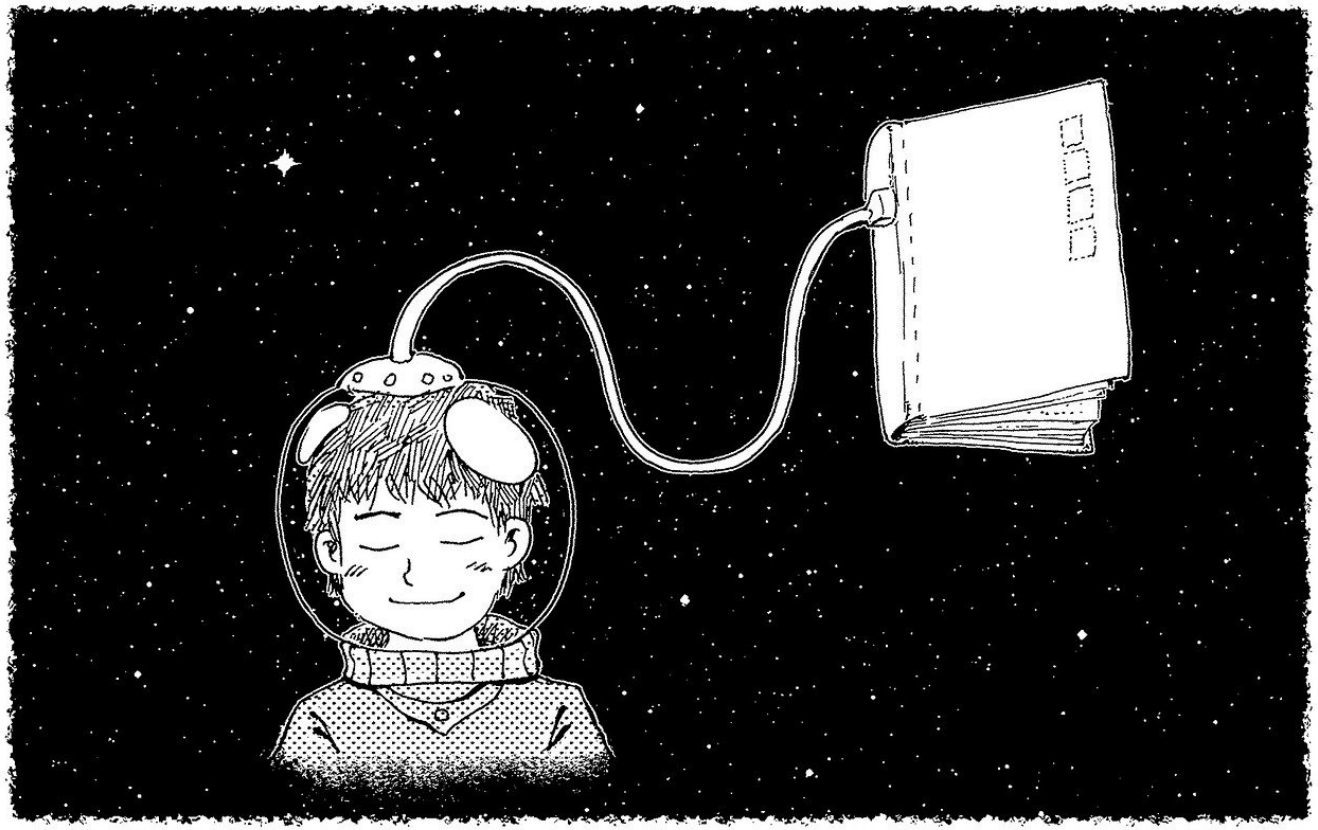
- Limited resources
- Coordination and communication
- Logistical complexities
- Engagement and participation
- Sustainability
- Cultural sensitivity

Community events and initiatives

- Co-create tools and systems that could help in simplifying the planning, coordination, and execution of local events and initiatives, such as festivals, workshops, or markets
- For example: How clubs and student organisations organise their events and initiatives



Living a good life





What does living a good life mean to you?

Living a good life

- Are we considering different perspectives of what constitutes a fulfilling and meaningful life?
- In what ways can participatory design encourage sustainable practices that contribute to a good life for future generations?
- Are we providing opportunities for people to shape their own experiences and environments?
- How can we leverage digital technology to enhance quality of life without detracting from essential human connections and interactions?
- Are we designing solutions that can grow and adapt as individuals and communities evolve?

Living a good life

(Mental health) support for university students:

- Working with fellow students and mental health professionals, the project could encompass exploring services that support students in their learning processes
  - Are the services helpful?
  - Could the services be more helpful?

Starting: Getting in contact

Access to groups you want to work with

- Projects grows out of existing relationships:
  - Workplace
  - Relatives – family friends
  - Babysitting
  - Colleagues
  - Neighborhood

  ….
- Work in parallel with different contacts
- Be the best version of yourself (Crang and Cook, 2007)