

TECS- towards technological attentionality

Video 1: introduction

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Why do we need to pay attention to technology in our everyday practice?



Four reasons for technological attentionality



1. 'New Technology can be difficult to understand – but once learned is becomes too habitual'
2. 'Engagement with technology in practice changes both technology and humans'
3. 'Complex trajectories and lack of ownership of technologies in organizations'
4. 'Professionalism and Technologies' change each other over time.

TECS stand for

- ▶ T = *Technology* as design and learning intensive device
- ▶ E = *Engagement* in using technology in situated practice
- ▶ C = *Complexity* and often diverse networks comprising technology
- ▶ S = *Shift* in professions through the use of technologies

TECS Model:

Model of and model for technological
attentionality in practice



What is Technology?

Many definitions...

- ▶ Many tend merely to perceive technology as ‘tools’ that improve our living conditions (see Hasse & Andersen, 2012).
- ▶ Technology is often defined in relation to professional work
- ▶ Teaching:
 - ▶ “What I define as useful instructional technology, then, is any device available to teachers for use in instructing students in a more efficient and stimulating manner than the sole use of the teacher's voice.” (Cuban 1986, 4)
- ▶ *Nursing:*
 - ▶ “... as a means to an end, an instrument, as well as a human activity.” (Locsin 1995, 201)

Very general definitions

- ▶ “Technological knowledge and skills citizens should have and will need in the future” (Cajas 2001: 719)
- ▶ Related to the definitions of technological literacy are descriptions of what it is to be technologically literate. These are equally problematic as there is no single blueprint or prescription for what is varying at very least in terms of the socio-cultural context they apply to
- ▶ (Ingerman & Collier-Reed 2011: 138).

Not just instrumental tools

Technological artefacts can be broadly defined as a meaningful phenomenon, linking tangible tools with thoughts, actions and culture associated with the everyday routines of our local life-worlds where technology helps to define our relationships and generate opportunities in this life-world (Kim and Roth 2008).

Technologies are not just helpful, but ‘bite back’ and have ‘unintended consequences’ (Tenner 1996).

New electronic technology as materials (wires, plastic etc) AND a cultural force

- ▶ The philosopher Albert Borgmann argues that technology today can be understood in two ways:
 - ▶ 1) as the creation of engineering and
 - ▶ 2) as a cultural force.
- ▶ He also claims that western culture pays more attention to the engineers' creations than the cultural impact on our society brought about by technology (Borgmann, 2006, p. 352).

Technology as new powerdriven technology

- ▶ When nurses and teachers are asked to name the three most important technologies in their working lives, they point to things that are either run on current or batteries, such as computers, their software systems, interactive whiteboards and electronic defibrillators.
Although both teachers and nurses used books, paper and pens, seen in notes from participant observations and they also refers to these devices in our interviews, these are rarely mentioned as examples of technological artifacts.
- ▶ (Harrekilde and Hasse 2015)

Attentionality is *not* intentionality

To pay attention is to attend to the world - using all our senses (Ingold 2016)

Technological attentionality is to attend to the ways technology and humans correspond.

Technological Attentionality

Galit Wellner identify the common denominator of media technologies as their:

“capacity to dislocate our attention to other places (remote in place, time or imaginary), while our physical body remains in full engagement with the surroundings” (2011, p. 95).

Attentionality in everyday practice

Following Ingolds discussion of attentionality, using technology calls for our continual responsiveness to the surroundings, the process, and the elements involved when using technology. To respond, we must attend to these things *as we go along*, joining or participating with them in our own movements.

“This is what it means to listen, watch, and feel” (Ingold 2016, 11)

Contrary to volitional attention, attentionality is an animate movement in itself.

What is technology in your profession?

How do you pay attention to what technology does in your professional work?