

Teaching and learning in interdisciplinary and technology rich learning environments

My research project is a qualitative study that aims to contribute to insight and knowledge about teaching and learning in interdisciplinary and technology rich learning environments. In order to explore my research aim, I am going to investigate two different approaches to the interdisciplinary topics set out in the Norwegian Curriculum Renewal. One approach is related to a project within the interdisciplinary topic health and life skills in a lower secondary school, and the other one is related to a project within the interdisciplinary topic democracy and citizenship in an upper secondary school. The projects will extend from 10-15 hours over 1-3 weeks, and my focus will shift from teachers' professional practice to students learning processes.

I am going to collect multiple sources of data. I am going to interview the teachers before and after the projects, interview the students in groups, observe and video record the participants during the projects/instructions, and collect digital and analog products (syllabus, assignments, texts, presentations, and so on) from the teachers and the students that they produce during the projects.

Before I collect data, I will obtain verbal and written consent from my participants. However, this will raise ethical questions about the participants understanding of the consent and the participants' free decisions to participate in the research project. Secondly, because I am going to observe and interview students and collect student products, and especially within the interdisciplinary topic health and life skills, a possible ethical dilemma might concern personal and sensitive information. Further, in a research process, several ethical dilemmas will arise, and these ethical considerations may conflict with the desire to produce knowledge. This will be important for me as a researcher to reflect upon and take into account.