

First Call for Proposals

Learning Processes matter – Measures, Analysis and Applications

Conference of the EARLI SIG 27 "Online Measures of Learning Processes"
29th of November - 1st of December, 2016
University of Oulu, Finland
<http://www.oulu.fi/sig27>

Dear Colleagues,

EARLI Special Interest Group 27 which deals with *Online Measures of Learning Processes* is proud and honoured to announce the first SIG 27 conference hosted with Learning and Educational Technology Research Unit (LET) (<http://www.oulu.fi/let/>), University of Oulu.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all in Oulu, the Capital of Northern Scandinavia, Finland. Two years ago an idea bubbled up to found a new EARLI SIG that would focus on new, more objective ways of measuring learning processes. The idea for the new SIG came, on the one hand, from a dissatisfaction with the subjective measures used (e.g., questionnaires, Likert scales, etc.) for measuring learning processes and on the other hand from developments around new technologies which make it possible to observe, measure, and understand learning and assessment processes more objectively while they are happening: online and in real time. Today, SIG 27 has reached the point where it is setting up its first SIG conference.

First a note: SIG 27 aims at providing a forum that affords possibilities to share and discuss the methodological and analytical ideas or challenges that international research community interested in understanding the learning processes are facing. It's goal is to be complementary and supplementary to already existing SIGs in that it provides theories, insights and tools for researchers in other SIGs. We would like to invite all of you who share this interest in finding new ways to measure learning as a process to do this with us in a white and beautiful wintery Oulu, which is getting ready for Christmas time in polar nights!



The theme of the 2016 Conference of the EARLI SIG 27 is **Processes matter – Measures, Analysis and Applications for Tracing Learning**. Learning is more than an outcome, a final grade, or a degree; learning is an ongoing process leading to an outcome. Similarly, the assessment of learning also requires considering the process and not just the outcome. To better understand and improve learning or assessment it is, thus, important to look at the 'how' and 'why' on the route to these outcomes. The chosen conference theme reflects an interest in the state-of-the-art and upcoming approaches to measure the process of learning, innovative solutions to analyse data, while also offering the opportunity to think about and discuss how the developing understanding can be used to design applications for supporting learning processes.

Conference Formats

We will have four different conference formats to ensure that you will get the best out of the conference presentation: flipping the papers sessions, no-or-not-perfect-data sessions, paper sessions and poster sessions. Below is more information about each four formats.

Flipping the papers sessions

The flipping the papers session is a dynamic format which allows conference attendees to optimally interact with as many presenters as possible in a short amount of time. This type of session provides a platform for presenting empirical work which is already in the process of preparing a scientific publication (as in paper sessions).

Flipping the papers session sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes and normally include four interactive presentations which give every contributor 3 minutes to interactively present video/narrated slides. The session begins with six or seven 3-minute presentations of the main points of the presentation. At that point, the session breaks with each presenter at a separate table where (s)he then make a 10-minute presentation and interact for 10 minutes with attendees. At the end of 20 minutes attendees can switch tables to interact with another presenter in the same way. This is followed by a final switch. Some of you may know this as a fire-hose session.

Participants are encouraged to submit a proposal for a type of presentation that opens the conference to ways of communicating that move beyond the traditional presentation approach. The proposal should clearly outline the strategy for engaging the audience.

In each room in which flipping the papers session sessions will take place, a computer, digital projector, and internet access will be provided.

In order to submit a proposal for a flipping the papers session presentation, you need to prepare an extended summary of up to 1000 words (including references) as well as an abstract of up to 250 words. The extended summary provides a short but detailed outline of the aims, methodology, results, and the theoretical and practical significance of your research. Furthermore, the extended summary has to contain a description of the interactive materials that will be used in the sessions.

No-or-not-perfect-data sessions

No or not perfect data (NoNPD) sessions normally include four oral presentations of draft papers or proposals and provide an opportunity to present empirical work which is at an early stage (e.g., research ideas or work in progress). This implies that either no data have been collected yet or that collected data seems not perfect in some way (e.g., non-significant or unexpected results, difficult to interpret results, etc.).

Typically, NoNPD sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes and include four oral presentations of early stage research. Each individual presentation lasts 10 minutes and is followed by a discussion with the audience of 10 minutes. The aim of the NoNPD format is to provide a platform particularly for researchers to get accustomed to presenting their research, to explore remedies for methodological challenges, and/or to discuss the adequacy of new/controversial research approaches.

The special feature of this format is that each session will be supervised by two senior researchers who will have made themselves familiar with the individual proposals beforehand and who provide comprehensive feedback for each participant.

In each room, in which NoNPD sessions will take place, a computer, digital projector, and internet access will be provided.

In order to submit a proposal for a no-or-not-perfect-data presentation, you need to prepare an abstract of up to 250 words which provides a short outline of the aims, methodology, (expected) results, and the theoretical and practical significance of your research.

Paper session

Paper sessions normally include four presentations of empirical papers and are scheduled for 90 minutes. Each individual presentation lasts 15 minutes and is followed by a discussion with the audience of at least 5 minutes. Presentations of empirical papers have to include data and results in order to be accepted for the conference. If your research is at an earlier stage, suitable conference formats are posters or no-or-not-perfect-data sessions. Besides empirical papers, theoretical papers are also welcome.

In each room, in which paper sessions will take place, a computer, digital projector, and internet access will be provided.

To submit a proposal for a paper presentation, you need to prepare an extended summary of up to 1000 words (including references) as well as an abstract of up to 250 words. The extended summary provides a short but detailed outline of the aims, methodology, results, and the theoretical and practical significance of your research.

Poster session

Poster sessions include posters which are used to present research studies with a strong visual component. Poster sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes. At the beginning, a chair gathers the presenters and the audience, and a short oral presentation of about 3 minutes for each poster is given. For clarification, each individual presentation is followed by a brief discussion between the presenter and the audience. After all posters have been briefly presented and discussed, an interactive in-depth discussion between the presenter and a smaller audience that is specifically interested in particular posters can take place. Poster presentations are an ideal opportunity to present research that is at an earlier stage as they allow a more direct interaction between the researcher and the audience.

In each room in which poster sessions will take place, poster boards and materials for attaching the posters to the boards will be provided. Posters should be printed in either A0 or A1 format. The size of the poster boards is 95 cm (width) × 135 cm (height).

In order to submit a proposal for a poster presentation, you need to prepare an extended summary of up to 1000 words (including references) as well as an abstract of up to 250 words. The extended summary provides a short but detailed outline of the aims, methodology, results, and the theoretical and practical significance of your research.

Important Dates

Announcement/Public info	December 15, 2015
First Call for Proposals	January 15, 2016
Second Call for Proposals	February 25, 2016
Submissions due	March 31, 2016
Notification of Review Outcomes	May 31, 2016
Registration opens	June 20, 2016
Early bird registration	September 15, 2016
Final Registration	November 1, 2016
Conference	November 29 – December 1, 2016

We are very much looking forward to receiving your submissions and welcoming you all in beautiful wintery Oulu for the first SIG 27 conference!



On the behalf of the Organising Committee

Hanna Järvenoja & Jonna Malmberg

Conference Organizing Committee

- Halszka Jarodzka, SIG coordinator, Open University of the Netherlands
- Ladislao Salmeron, SIG coordinator, University of Valencia, Spain
- Ellen Kok, JURE Assistant Coordinator, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- Hanna Järvenoja, Conference Organizer, University of Oulu, Finland
- Jonna Malmberg, Conference Organizer, University of Oulu, Finland
- Sanna Järvelä, University of Oulu, Finland
- Paul A. Kirschner, Open University of the Netherlands