Welcome to an international forum for the exchange of knowledge relating to theory, research and practice in the field of styles and strategies of learning and thinking. The Department of Special Needs Education is pleased to host the ELSIN Conference, for the first time in Scandinavia.

- **Host:** Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo, Norway
- **Location:** Blindern Campus of the University of Oslo
- **Date:** June 12-14, 2006
- **Publication:** Selected papers will be published on conference CD and in a special issue of the Danish journal of *Cognition and Pedagogy*

This interdisciplinary conference focuses upon the many possibilities for enabling lifelong learning within the fields of education, special education, psychology, management and leadership.
www.isp.uio.no/elsin
elsin-conference@isp.uio.no

Project manager:
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Introduction

The European Learning Styles Information Network (ELSIN) is an association of researchers, educationalists and trainers interested in the theory and application of Learning styles or Cognitive styles. ELSIN is an inter-disciplinary body attracting members from a wide range of disciplines and professional contexts. The existence of ELSIN is a response to increasing global interests in the area of individual differences within the field of human performance. The organisation was originally formed (1996) as an association of academics and practitioners in the disciplines of education, management, psychology and other related fields interested in promoting an exchange of knowledge emanating from the theory, application and research into cognitive style and learning style.

About ELSIN 2006 Conference

The Department of Special Needs Education (University of Oslo, Norway) welcomes the European network to our Scandinavian venue. We would like to provide a forum for presenting research and clinical based findings:

- investigating the potential of applying learning styles both within the general school system as a basis for inclusive and differentiated teaching and the special programmes for children, youth and individuals with special needs.
- in promoting lifelong learning & adult education
- in providing innovation in both primary and higher education, institutions and workplace organisations,
- in investigating the use of ICT and structured learning environments in educational and workplace settings
- in extending learning and style-led performance beyond the educational arena – into communities and informal networks.

The focus on enriching and empowering both individuals and systems is a major focus of research and development for our department. Specifically, one group targets young children, language development and early intervention; a second has a broad national and international focus on inclusion; a third looks at possibilities in the classroom setting; the fourth combines mental health & social/ emotional with learning and growth. All groups include projects within communities, school and welfare systems. Learning style is one of the several theoretical orientations.

In addition we have direct contact and collaboration with both Swedish and Danish Learning Style Institutes. The conference is a collaborate Scandinavian effort.
Tentative outline of the conference 2006

The conference will provide many opportunities for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, knowledge and concerns about enabling life-long learning. In addition to presentations of papers, there will be workshops every afternoon where practitioners can be inspired by colleagues. There will be walk and talk discussions on Monday on the way to the informal reception in Oslo's famous Sculpture park. The conference dinner is a midsummer night Fjord Adventure on a schooner.

**Sunday 11th June**
- Informal reception at the SAS conference hotel

**Monday 12th June**
- 11.00 – 12.00 Registration & coffee
- 12.00 – 13.00 Welcome to ISP Dr. Solveig Alma-Lyster, Head of Department - Learning for Life: Professor Edvard Befring -
- 13.00 – 14.00 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Hans Henrik Knoop
- 14.00 – 15.00 Late Lunch at Helga Engs House
- 15.00 – 18.00 Presentations & workshops 1 & 2
- 18.00- Walk & talk discussions on the way to the Informal dinner at Vigelandsparken -Oslo Sculpture Park

**Tuesday 13th June**
- 9:30 – 10:30 Keynote Speaker : Professor Tomas Kroksmark
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11.00 – 13.00 Presentations
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00– 18.00 Presentations and Workshops 3 & 4
- 19.00 – Conference Dinner – A Summer Night Fjord Adventure

**Wednesday 14th June**
- 9:00 – 10.00 Keynote Speaker Dr. Lynn Curry
- 10.00 – 13:30 Presentations and Workshop 5 (with coffee breaks & snacks in between)
- 13:30 – 15.00 Late lunch with closing speaker Dr. Liv M. Lassen
**Presentations of Workshops:**

| Workshop 1 | **Learning styles and Methods** - Dr. philos. Lena Bostrøm, Lektor Ulrika Gidlund focus on how to promote pupils’ systematic way of thinking by matching various methods of learning with learning style preferences. |
| Workshop 2 | **Enhancing Flow in practice** – Assistant professor Hans Henrik Knoop, Copenhagen University, Denmark |
| Workshop 3 | **Learning styles and classroom management** - Dr. philos. Lena Bostrøm, **Lektor Elin Aggerbo** & Lektor **Marianne Schmidt** address how to be successful both with individuals and groups from a learning style approach. |
| Workshop 4 | **Learning styles, leadership and implementation** – Organizational Consultant **Marianne Okholm** & Chief Consultant Danish Learning Style Senter **Svend Erik Schmidt** present and discuss practical issues of implementation of pedagogical innovations within communal districts, schools and institutions. The workshop is highly relevant for administrators, principles and leader. |
| Workshop 5 | **Leadership and Learningstyles: 3 Sides of the Same Issue** - Chief consultant Danish Learning Style Senter - **Svend Erik Schmidt** & Organizational Consultant **Marianne Okholm** will present an innovative leadership model applied in the implementation of two successful projects in Billund and Esbjerg, Denmark. Practical exercises will be utilized in the presentations. |

This tentative program will be updated as soon as the call for papers and submissions are evaluated.
Keynote Speakers

EL SIN is delighted to welcome keynote speakers:

Lynn Curry, Ph.D

Lynn Curry earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Stanford University and a Diploma in higher education administration from Bryn Mawr College. She has held graduate faculty positions at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), Dalhousie University and the University of Toronto. She established and managed the Medical Education Unit at Dalhousie University and created the professional assessment programs and a peer reviewed journal for the Canadian College of Health Service Executives. In 1990 she founded the firm of Curry Adams & Associates, Inc. Seratus Inc. and CurryCorp. were established in 1994. Seratus co-ordinates Canadian expertise in health care reform. CurryCorp. provides services in evaluation, planning and organisational redesign.

Hans Henrik Knoop, Cand. pæd. psych.

Hans Henrik Knoop is Associate Professor of Psychology at The Danish University of Education. He has published numerous articles, written five books on learning, complexity, and technology and has presented his work in Denmark, Norway, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, UK, China, and the United States. As scientific expert he has served committees in four Danish ministries, the National Institute of Evaluation and several private enterprises including the LEGO Company and Danfoss Universe. He collaborates with Howard Gardner at Harvard University, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi at Claremont Graduate University, and William Damon at Stanford University in the interdisciplinary "GoodWork Project®" that researches the link between technical, moral and emotional "good" in professional work. His books include "Play,

Tomas Kroksmark, Fil Dr.

Professor, School of Education and Communication, University of Jönköping, Sweden.

Dr. Tomas Kroksmark is a highly acknowledged professor in educational work at the School of Education and Communication, University of Jönköping, Sweden. In 1987 he received his doctorate in education with an investigation of Phenomenographic Didactics and in 1982 a Bachelor of Arts in sociology, education and theory of science from the University of Göteborg. He was appointed as the best teacher at the University of Göteborg in 1997. Presently he is an affiliated consultant in education at the International Institute for Reflective Practice (Gloustershire, Great Britain) and the American Educational Research Association.

He has published numerous books and articles including: The timelessness of Education (2000), Learning about Learning (2000), Headmasters visions (2000), Teachers Intuition, Didactic Intuition (2004), Effects of Learning-Style Responsive versus Traditional Approaches on Adolescents’ and Adults’ Grammar Achievement (In print 2006- together with Dr. Lena Bostrøm). He has been a visiting professor in USSR, Germany, Israel, USA, China and Finland. He will share his worldwide knowledge and positive approach to life long learning at ELSIN 2006 with a keynote lecture on “Phenomenology of Learning Styles”.

Edvard Befring, Dr philos

Professor, Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo, Norway
Edvard Befring received his magister degree in education in 1965 and dr. philos. degree in 1972, both from the University of Oslo. He has been professor in educational psychology at University of Århus (Denmark) and for the last 20 years professor of special education at the Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo. Previously he was dean and primary developer of the department, gathering all the disciplines within special education within one unit and raising the department to a doctoral level. Today he leads the research program “Childhood environment, problem behaviour and inclusion” and national and international networks of researchers with competence in special needs education, social and general education, psychology and health and social studies. For his vast contributions to the field he was in 2005 knighted as Knight of Saint Olav’s Order by the King of Norway and in 1990 knighted as Knight of the Cross by the president of Iceland. Dr. Befring has published 15 books, the recent of which are: *Schools for Children’s Best- development and learning from a pedagogical perspective* 2004, *Special Education* 2004. In 2000 he led a national commission that investigated the child protective services in Norway. The subsequent reports were: *Child Protective Services in Norway - Evaluation, new perspectives and reforms* 2000, *Child Protective Services and special education under a looking glass* 2004. Befring has published numerous chapters in books and articles. With regards to ELSIN 2006 his work – *The Enrichment Perspective – A special education approach to an inclusive school* 2001 and *Liberating Pedagogy* 2004- very relevant.

Liv M Lassen, Dr.philos

Assistant Professor Department of Special Needs Education, University of Oslo, Norway

Assistant Professor Liv Margarete Lassen is Assistant Professor at the Department of Special Needs Education at the University of Oslo, Norway. She attained her doctorate at the University of Oslo in 1999 (*A Study of Parent’s Needs Related to Stress and Coping – Parenting Children with Rare Progressive Disabilities*), degree as a developmental psychologist in 1976 at Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, and a B.A. in psychology at Randolph-Macon Woman’s College, Virginia USA in 1967. Dr. Lassen was a visiting professor at the Department of Education, University of Virginia from 1986-1987 and a researcher at the Department of Psychology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (1967-1969). She has been affiliated with universities and colleges in Island, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia and Norway throughout her academic career. Her publications include four books (an example: *Counselling - the art of helping* 2002), numerous compendiums (*Psychological Theories Underlying the Counselling Process* 2000, *Client Centered Rehabilitation Counselling – A Leonardo da Vinci Program for Educating and Training Low Vision Therapists*, *Professional Development of Counsellors* 2000) and articles (*The reflective Practitioners in*...
Education, Health and Social Care and the Challenges in Empowering Parents 2000, Learning and Strategies, An attempt to unravel concepts, methods and effects 2005 (with Dr. Lena Bostrøm), Empowering systems to ensure the welfare of children - Community based intervention in inner city Oslo 2005) spanning across the fields of counselling, innovation, learning style and special education. In addition to their research basis, these productions are based on her vast practical experience within school psychology, child welfare programs, system and human resource development. For the last 20 years Dr. Lassen has headed the unit for counselling and innovation at the Department of Special Needs Education educating students at the doctoral, masters and bachelor levels. Her field of interest is empowerment and early intervention, learning disabilities, salutogenesis and coping and solution based counselling.
Papers

ELSIN 2006 has a broad thematic focus including the positive analysis and enabling of human potential and learning within schools, higher education institutions and organisations. Papers to be presented at the conference may have research, clinical or construct based analysis.

We welcome submission of papers that focus on key issues such as:

- Theory and nature of style constructs
- Implications of styles and strategies for the design of learning environments
- Implications of styles and strategies for education at all levels, human resources and organisational development
- Approaches to assessment of styles and strategies of learning and thinking
- Adapted education based on style analysis
- Styles, human performance and lifelong learning
- Critical perspectives on styles and strategies

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and submitted in Word format as an email attachment to: elsin-conference@isp.uio.no

Once accepted, full papers should be no longer than 5000 words and submitted in Word format as an email attachment to: elsin-conference@isp.uio.no. Formatting guidelines for full papers will be made available to authors on acceptance of their abstract.

Accepted papers will be allotted 45 minutes for presentation. The language of the conference is English.

Deadlines

- Deadline for submissions of abstracts: 15th of February 2006
- Deadline acceptance of abstract: 6th of Mars 2006
- Deadline for submission of full paper: 30th April 2006
- Deadline for registration: 19th of May 2006. (May 1, 2006 is the deadline for guaranteed low hotel rates at the SAS Conference Hotel).

Please note: Only papers received by the 24th of April 2006 will be included in the conference proceedings.

Proceedings of ELSIN2006

Proceedings will take the form of the refereed abstracts bound into hard copy. Full papers will be available on CD.
Travel

The mode of transport to Oslo is by plane to Gardermoen Airport and airport train to the center of Oslo (19 minutes; kr 160), tram (10 minutes; kr.20) or Taxi (15 minutes; kr. 200) to Blindern Campus – Helga Engs House. There are many airlines going to Oslo. Prices vary greatly with regards to chosen ticket – from kr.1400 (Norwegian Air) to kr 3,000 (SAS). Flight time from Heathrow/ Stanford is about 2.5 hours. In addition one can take a boat from Newcastle, Kiel, or Copenhagen.

Day passes for all trams, subways and busses within Oslo cost kr.60. The transport network is sufficient and easy to use.

Hotel Accommodation

Radisson SAS Scandinavia Hotel is our primary conference hotel. It is situated in downtown Oslo, by the castle and the main street: Karl Johan. You can easily get to the hotel by airport train, or buss. From this Hotel the delegates can also enjoy the summer nights and many art galleries and museums in Oslo. For delegates arriving Sunday night, we will have an informal gathering in the hotel’s panorama bar on the 24 th floor. Through the University we are able to offer our delegates rooms with breakfast for the prize of NOK 875:- per night. To get this advantageous price delegates must make their reservations by May 1, 2006 through the registration page.

To make a reservation please contact:

Telephone: 02525 or from abroad: (+ 47) 67 82 31 00
Fax: (+ 47) 67 82 31 01

E-mail: reservations.oslo@radissonas.no Webpage: www.radissonas.com
Or you can book into another Hotel, P-Hotel, situated in the city centre, next to every
ting the city has to offer. They offer our delegates single rooms with breakfast for the
prize of NOK 545;- per night. To get this advantageous price delegates must make
their reservations by May 1, 2006 through the registration page.

Telephone: (+47) 23 32 80 00
Webpage: www.photels.no fax 23 31 80 00
E-mail: oslo@p-hotels.no

Conference Fees

3 day attendance without accommodation: 400 Euro

Day delegate fee: 133 Euro

Conference Dinner: 75 Euro

Host institution

The Department of Special Needs Education at the Faculty of Education at the
University of Oslo (Norway) will host the 2006 ELSIN Conference. The department is
situated at the main campus of the University of Oslo (at Blindern, see attached campus
guide) about 10 minutes from the center of Oslo (the capital of Norway) by subway. The
University of Oslo is Norway’s largest and oldest institution of higher education founded
in 1811. Today there are approx. 30,000 students and 4,600 employees. Four Nobel
prize winners indicate the quality of the research at the University (see web page –
About the University of Oslo/ www.uio.no/english ).

The Faculty of Education includes three departments Department of Teacher Education
and School Development, & Department of Special Needs Education and the Institute
for Educational Research and Inter Media. There are 235 staff members covering all
aspects of teaching and special education from kindergarten to higher education. The faculty is situated at Helga Engs House which is the next newest building at the Blindern Campus. The newest building is Georg Sverdrups House which is our elegant and modern library. These will be the sites for all lectures, lunches and informal meetings. The lecture halls that are booked for the conference include a large auditorium for the welcoming session and guest speakers, three smaller lecture auditoriums for paper presentations (seating 50 each) and workshops. Modern technical equipment is available in all rooms.

Coffee breaks and lunches will be served here in the same building. The two dinners are, however, planned in cultural settings to give the delegates a “taste of Norway”. The one setting is the Gustav Vigeland Sculpture Park (about a 20 minute walk from Blindern) which depicts all the stages of human development. We are planning walk & talk discussions on the way to the park. There are, however, many forms of transportation including the renting of bicycles for the delegates that do not want to walk. The conference dinner on Tuesday will begin at the downtown harbour (10 minutes from the SAS Conference Hotel). There we get aboard a large schooner or Viking Ship. The boat will take us out the Oslo Fjord which usually is a magnificent experience. We will be served a traditional Norwegian dinner and there is live music on board to enjoy or dance to. In June the summer nights are light and long. If we are lucky with the weather, we can combine culture with academics.
Conference Organisers and Contact Details

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**Links:**

**ELSN** The European Learning Styles Information Network  
http://www.elsinnet.org.uk/

**CMOL** Centre for Management and Organisational Learning  
http://www.hull.ac.uk/hubs/research/cmol/index.htm

**Lena Bostrom and Sweden LearningStyleCenter**  
http://www.larstilscenter.se/

Danmark LearningStyleCenter: **SIS akademi**  
http://www.sisakademi.com/

**Norwegian LearningsStyleCenter** (Halden) http://www.laeringsstilsenterert.no/

Previous Conferences:

- **2003 University of Hull**  
  http://www.hull.ac.uk/elsin/
- **2004 University of Surry**  
  http://www.som.surrey.ac.uk/research/conferences/elsin.asp