



# E-teaching in the Virtual High-School Classroom

## PURPOSE

Analyse the activity system of the e-teacher in the virtual high-school classroom.

*People and organizations are all the time learning something that is not stable, not even defined or understood ahead of time. In important transformations of our personal lives and organizational practices, we must learn new forms of activity which are not yet there. They are literally learned as they are being created. (Engeström, 2001, pp. 137-138)*

## PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Elizabeth Murphy, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education

Elizabeth Murphy holds a Ph.D in Educational Technology from Université Laval and was named Winner of the President’s Award for Outstanding Research for 2007-2008. Her research interests include teaching practices in K-12; post-secondary web-based distance education; e-learning; and technology-mediated language learning.



## METHODS

Semi-structured interviews (90-120 minutes in length), using Elluminate Live with

- thirteen CDLI e-teachers representing a range of subject areas (e.g., math, science, language arts, music, social studies)
- seven CDLI management and support personnel.

Second set of interviews with e-teacher participants only.

An Activity Theory framework (Engeström, 1987, 2001) guided data collection and analysis.

# DISSEMINATION

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2009). Sage without a stage: Expanding the object of teaching in a web-based high-school classroom. *International Review of Research on Open and Distance Learning*, 10(2).
- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2009). Research on the e-teacher in the K-12 distance education Classroom. *The Encyclopedia of Distance and Online Learning* (2nd ed.).
- Haughey, M., Murphy, E. & Muirhead, B. (2008). Open schooling. In T. Evans, M. Haughey & D. Murphy (Eds.), *International Handbook of Distance Education* (pp. 147-165). Oxford, UK: Elsevier Inc.
- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2008). Using activity theory and its principle of contradictions to guide research in educational technology. *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*, 24(4), 442-447.
- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2008). Instant messaging in a context of virtual schooling: Balancing the affordances and challenges. *Educational Media International*, 45(1), 47-58.
- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2008). Contradictions between the virtual and physical high-school classroom: A third generation Activity Theory perspective. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 39 (6), 1061-1072.
- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2008). Revisiting Transactional Distance Theory in a context of web-based high-school distance education. *Journal of Distance Education*, 22(2), 1-14.
- Murphy, E. & Rodríguez-Manzanares, M. (2007). Deviations from the script: An Activity Theory perspective on the practice of the e-teacher in the virtual high-school classroom. In V. Uskov (Ed.), *The 10th IASTED International Conference on Computers and Advanced Technology in Education*. Calgary: ACTA.
- Murphy, E., Rodriguez, M. A., & Ciszewska-Carr, J. (2006, April). Perspectives on virtual schooling in a Canadian context. *Proceedings of the 6th International Educational Technology Conference, Famagusta, North Cyprus*, 1241-1247.

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Furey, D. & Murphy, E. (2005). K-12 virtual schools and schooling. *The Morning Watch: Educational and Social Analysis*, 32 (3-4). <<http://www.mun.ca/educ/faculty/mwatch/win05/MurphyFurey.htm>>

## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION ACTIVITIES

- K-12 distance education: A bibliography <[http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~emurphy/page\\_1.htm](http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~emurphy/page_1.htm)>
- Virtual schooling in Canada: A digital portal <<http://virtualschoolscanada.googlepages.com/>>
- Perturbations and possibilities in the virtual classroom (video) on TeacherTube <[http://www.teachertube.com/view\\_video.php?viewkey=6bb580df6e80b0dc05c4](http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=6bb580df6e80b0dc05c4)>

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

- International Conference on Education, Hawaii, 2009
- International Conference on Computers and Advanced Technology in Education, Beijing, China, 2007
- International Educational Technology Conference, Famagusta, Northern Cyprus, 2007
- Canadian Association for Distance Education, Winnipeg, MB, 2007
- Canadian Institute for Distance Education Research, Synchronous Online Presentation, 2007
- Canadian Association for Distance Education, Montreal, QB, 2006
- Doctoral Seminar Series, Faculty of Education, Memorial University, 2006
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Canadian Studies Department, 2007

## References

Engeström, Y. (1987). *Learning by expanding: An activity-theoretical approach to developmental research*. Helsinki: Orienta-Konsultit. <<http://communication.ucsd.edu/MCA/Paper/Engestrom/expanding/toc.htm>>

Engeström, Y. (2001). Expansive learning at work: Toward an activity theoretical reconceptualization. *Journal of Education and Work*, 14(1), 133-156.