PhD course: *Challenges and possibilities of technology in practice research* (5 ECTS)

This PhD course is offered under the auspices of the research school PROFRES, a professions research collaboration between UiS, UiA, and Nord University.

### Full English course description

**Key course facts:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code and name</th>
<th>Challenges and possibilities of technology in practice research</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Course type</strong> (E-TYPE)</td>
<td>Compulsory    Elective   X   Other (write):</td>
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<td>Study location</td>
<td>Bodø  X  Levanger  Mo i Rana  Namsos  Nesna  Sandenessjøen  Steinkjer  Stjørdal  Vesterålen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course coordinator</td>
<td>Professor James McGuirk, Professor Reidun Follesø og Førsteamanuensis Johanne Alteren</td>
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<td>Teaching language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Teaching semester</td>
<td>Vår</td>
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<td>Offered as independent course (E-TYPE)</td>
<td>Ja  x  Nei</td>
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<td>Costs (E-KOST)</td>
<td>No tuition fees. Costs for semester registration and course literature apply.</td>
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<td>Course evaluation (E-EVALU)</td>
<td>Evaluation using mid-term and final surveys. Students are also encouraged to participate in the central quality surveys.</td>
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The purpose of this PhD course is to explore the challenges and possibilities of the use of technology in practice and especially in research in practice. While recent years have witnessed a growing interest in the implications of technology in society generally, as well as the possibilities offered by technology in education and research, this course will specifically address the implications of this research for professional practice and practice research. While the notion of technology itself is a very broad one that covers any of the ways in which humans transform themselves and their environments through the use of tools, this course will focus more narrowly on some of the specific contemporary challenges posed by new technologies such as social media, digitisation, etc.

Amongst the themes covered are:
- Possibilities for the use of technology in practice research
- Human-computer interaction in practice research
- Ethical implications of the use of technology in practice and practice research

Social media and research

Speakers:
Professor Jan Gulliksen, KTH, Stockholm (Sweden)
Professor Gary Rolfe, Swansea University, Wales (UK)
Associate professor Anne B. Tjønndal, Nord University (Norway)
Professor Tim Highfield, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Programme:
Tuesday 12th of March
Room: Regine Normann (A11) (both days)

0900-1030: Associate Professor Anne Tjønndal (Nord University):
*Social Science faced with New Technology – using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as data.*

1030-1045: break

1045-1200: Group work based on lecture themes. Rooms: 2429, 2431, 2433, E143, E254

1200-1300: lunch


1430-1445: break

1445-1600: Group work based on lecture themes. Rooms: 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2406, 2408
Wednesday 13th of March

0900-1030: Professor emeritus Gary Rolfe (Swansea University, UK): *Is technology ethically and critically neutral?*

1030-1045: break

1045-1200: Group work based on lecture themes. Rooms: 1109, 2119, 2135, 2138, E144, E254

1200-1300: lunch

1300-1430: Professor Tim Highfield (Amsterdam University): *Social media for the practice of research and the research of practice*

1430-1445: break

1445-1545: Group work based on lecture themes. Rooms: 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2406, 2408

1545-1600: Summing up. Professor James N. McGuirk (Nord University)

18.30 - PROFRES dinner at Scandic Havet – Restaurant Havneutsikten, first floor. Adr.: Tollbugaten 5

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<th>Learning outcomes (E-LÆR)</th>
<th>Knowledge: The student will gain</th>
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<td>• relevant professional knowledge related to technology in practice and practice research</td>
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<td>• knowledge of cutting-edge research within the field</td>
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<td>• knowledge of key research needs and research challenges in the field</td>
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Skills: By the end of the course, the student can

- produce a paper of high scientific quality where the candidate’s own thesis project is linked to the research field.
- handle existing theories, methods and interpretations within the fields of technology in practice and practice research

General competence: By the end of the course, the student can:

- identify discipline-specific topics to general reflections and concepts in their own research project
- develop critical understanding and analytical perspectives in relation to the course theme
- participate in critically reflective discussions regarding the field's basic assumptions, discourses and research practices
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<th>Prerequisites (E-OPPTAK)</th>
<th>The course is open to students enrolled in a doctoral program. PhD candidates that are members of the research school PROFRES will be given priority.</th>
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<td>Recommended prior knowledge (E-ANFOR)</td>
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| Mode of delivery (E-UNDBESKR) | Internal (ansikt-til-ansikt) X E-learning (nett)  
External (nett- og samlingsbasert / samlingsbasert)  
Other (write): |
| Learning activities and teaching methods (E-LOGUND) | The course work consists of a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars/symposium and discussions. A high degree of independent work is presupposed in connection with the writing of the paper. |
| Course literature and recommended reading (E-PENS) | **Course literature, compulsory:**  


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<th>Permitted examination aids (E-HJELP)</th>
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<td>Professional practice (E-PRAKSIS)</td>
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<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Course participants will write an essay on an elective theme that addresses a central issue from the course. The essay should be 2,000-3,000 words and will be assessed as pass/fail.</td>
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