

Hanna Teräs



Senior Lecturer in education at the [School of Vocational Teacher Education, Tampere University of Applied Sciences](#). Her greatest passion is to change teacher education in order to meet the challenges posed by the 21st century knowledge society. Hanna is the program director for an international certificate program, "21st Century Pedagogical Skills", which is an authentic & collaborative learning and technology based competence building program for teachers in higher education.

She's experienced in e-learning as I've been active in the field for over ten years. I teach online pedagogy and social media pedagogical solutions to teacher students and have given faculty competence building in this field both at Tampere University of Applied Sciences and universities in different parts of the world.

Blog:

<http://www.hannateras.com>

Demo Abstract:

Using Authentic Learning and Social Media for Developing 21st Century Pedagogical Skills in Teacher Education

In my demo session I will demonstrate a new approach to preservice and in-service teacher education that has been developed studied and employed at the School of Vocational Teacher Education at Tampere University of Applied Sciences. The approach is based on the principles of authentic and inquiry-based learning and the studies take place entirely in open social media environments. The aim has been to develop a model for teacher education that is better suited in the evolving, 21st century knowledge society environment. The novelty of the approach does not only come from the use of social technology, but the use of technology is combined with cutting-edge pedagogical research results.

In order to promote the students' acquisition of the skills and competences needed in the knowledge society working environment, it is essential that the new generation of teachers are able to put aside some of the traditional conceptions of teaching and learning that derive from the industrial age system and learn to build a new type of professional identity. To help this happen, we have attempted to create communities of practice for networking and sharing of expertise with the help of social media.

The learning environment consists of several social media tools, including Facebook, blogs, Skype, Second Life and Twitter. In my demo session I will demonstrate how these have been used for collaborative learning, digital narratives, learning community building, knowledge construction and assessment. I will also discuss how similar things can be done with different tools. The use of the social media environments has been based on the principles of authentic learning as described by Herrington, Oliver & Reeves (2010).

The results have been extremely encouraging. The program has also been continuously studied in an ongoing action research and it is constantly being developed in accordance with the experiences and research results.