

Research enactments of case-based learning and the potential of semantic technologies in Archaeology



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This is a qualitative case study investigating how research is carried out in practice in an interdisciplinary setting. It focuses on an interdisciplinary research and development project Ensemble, as it studies case-based learning and the potential of semantic web applications in enhancing that learning in Archaeology, one of six research settings engaged by the project. The research design draws on a strand of Actor Network Theory to identify networks and relations within which research is enacted in practice. The study is based on ethnographic research methods.

The key research questions are:

- How is an inter-disciplinary research project enacted in practice: what constitutes the necessary material-semiotic networks that both carry and delimit these practices but also enable them to come into being through enactments?
- What kinds of inscriptions do the researchers produce as a result of their activity in the project? How is this done?
- How are these inscriptions translated into semantic web applications?
- How tensions arising from different scientific traditions and approaches are being negotiated within and through these practices?

What data will be collected:

- Series of semi-structured interviews with researchers, and members of staff and students in Archaeology;
- Participant observations of research activity;
- Photographs of research activity;
- General project documentation
- Any inscriptions produced by the researchers' involvement in this part of the project, including researchers' observation notes, transcripts and reports, developed technologies, photos etc.

What happens to the data?

- They will be stored in a secure, password protected online storage space and on a personal PC and an external hard drive according to Data Protection act 1998.
- The data will be shared with the supervisors, and possible transcriber, but not with other members of the research team, or the public, unless a permission has been obtained.
- The data will be used in a PhD study, but also in other forms of academic dissemination of research findings, like articles or presentations.
- At the end of the project the researcher may keep electronic copies of anonymised transcripts of interviews and photos; other data will be destroyed.

If you have any further questions or concerns about the study, please contact either Sanna or her supervisors through the email addresses provided in this leaflet.

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About Ensemble:

The PhD studentship is linked to a large, interdisciplinary project called "Ensemble: Semantic Technologies for the Enhancement of Case Based Learning". The project is one of eight projects currently funded under the joint ESRC and EPSRC Technology Enhanced Learning Pro-gramme, which is part of the broader Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP). For more information on the project, please visit

www.ensemble.ac.uk

Confidentiality:

All measures are taken to preserve the confidentiality of the research participants. The research team members can choose to be given pseudonyms in any outputs resulting from this study. However, their anonymity cannot be guaranteed due to the restricted number of participants in the study, the specific roles they inhabit and the public nature of the research project generally.

Any personal information disclosed in the interviews, or in any other context of the project, formal or informal, will not be revealed in any outputs of the project.

Members of staff or students of Archaeology will not be named. This concerns data collected both by the me and by the research team.

Participating institutions, departments and the team itself will be named.

Participants will be debriefed at the conclusion of the research and provided with copies, or access to copies, of any reports or other publications arising from their participation.



