



Learning by Expanding: An Activity-Theoretical Approach to Developmental Research

By Yrjö Engeström

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First published in 1987, *Learning by Expanding* challenges traditional theories that consider learning a process of acquisition and reorganization of cognitive structures within the closed boundaries of specific tasks or problems. Yrjö Engeström argues that this type of learning increasingly fails to meet the challenges of complex social change and fails to create novel artifacts and ways of life. In response, he presents an innovative theory of expansive learning activity, offering a foundation for understanding and designing learning as a transformation of human activities and organizations. The second edition of this seminal text features a substantive new introduction that illustrates the development and implementation of Engeström's theory since its inception.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Yrjö Engeström is Professor of Adult Education and the director of the Center for Research on Activity, Development and Learning (CRADLE) at the University of Helsinki. He is also Professor Emeritus of Communication at the University of California, San Diego. His most recent book is *From Teams to Knots: Activity-Theoretical Studies of Collaboration and Learning at Work* (2008).

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