

# Closer to the senses in online teaching

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Welcome!

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Linnéa Stenliden

19/5 2022



# Outline

08.30

## Introduction

- Linköping University, Teacher education,
- Creating relations:
  - Who are we?
  - Who are you?

08.45

## Online communication: Closer to the senses I and II

09.45

## "Fika"

10.00

## Closer to the senses III: Take home message + discussion

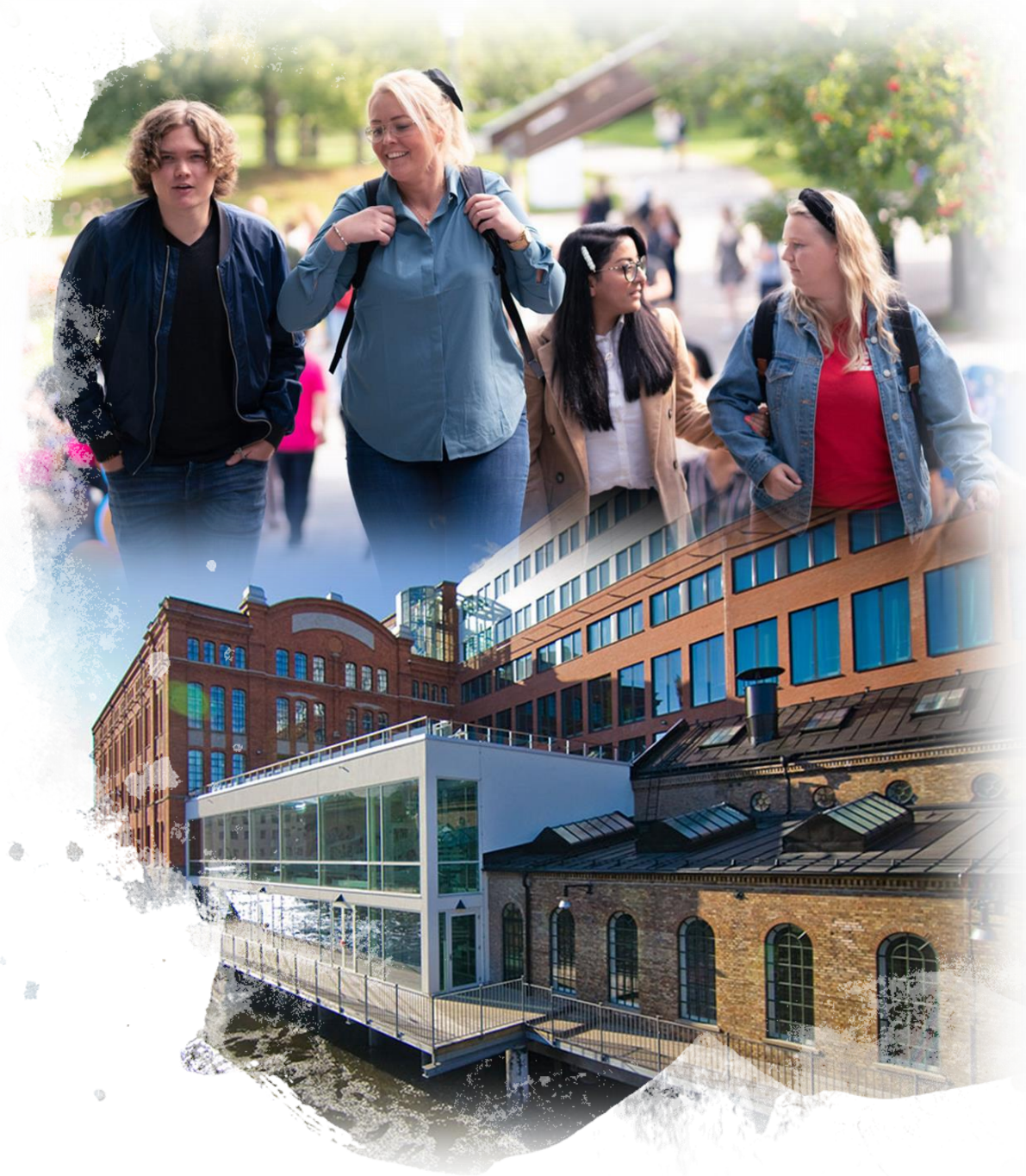
10.30

## Round up



# Teacher training at Linköping University

- Teacher training education in Linköping since 1860, pre-school teachers since 1902
- Provides a comprehensive teacher education and offers postgraduate training, as well as opportunities for research.
- Approx. 2800 students
  - 60-70 doctoral students
  - 24 full professors



# Who we are...



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2. Stenliden, L., Bylund, A. M., Landkvist, L., Lind, L. E., Lundberg, S. K., Stenmark, H., & Wilhelmsson, C. (2020). Lärares digitala kompetens före, under och efter covid-19.
3. Martín-Bylund, A., & Stenliden, L. (accepted). Closer to the senses – the (es)sence of precense in digital online teacher education. *Education and Information Technologies*.
4. Stenliden, L., Bylund, A. M., (2022...). *Digitala dimensioner av svenskundervisningen – Lärares kvalitativa digital kompetens i ämnet svenska på högstadiet och gymnasiet*. Ämnesdidaktisk skriftserie, Linköpings universitet.

A black and white photograph showing two hands clasped together in a firm, interlocking grip. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers of one hand wrapped around the other. The skin tone is dark. The hands are wearing dark, textured suit sleeves. The background is dark and out of focus, with some vertical lines suggesting a wooden surface. Overlaid on the hands is the text "Who are you?" in a white, sans-serif font.

Who are you?

# Find out by...

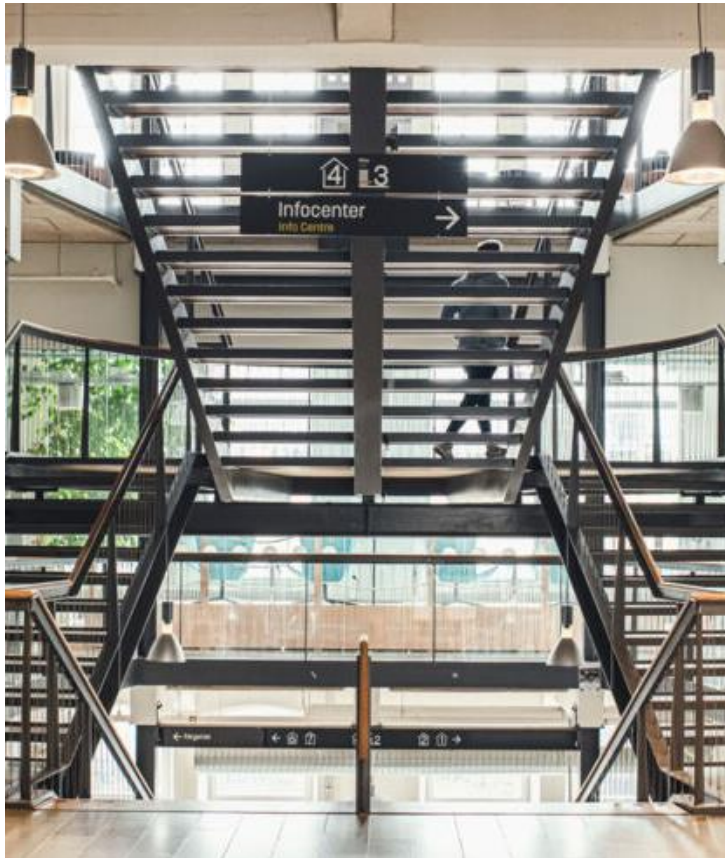
1. Connect to: <https://bit.ly/3ldNuwJ>
2. "Sense" what area of the Padlet that you would like to connect to
3. Double click the area and write your:
  - Name
  - From...
  - Occupation, affiliation...
  - Why are you here?
  - A personal detail?



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# Digital teaching, distance teaching, online teaching...



An education practice


- emerges in a field of relationality .
- is an intensification of experiences.
- The events take place in a contemporary space.

Online teaching

- deals with distance in teaching where time and space are critical attributes.

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MAY 18, 2020

High five! It's possible to create proximity online

by Therese Ekstrand Amaya, Linköping University

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Hög femma! Det är möjligt att skapa närhet online

Closer to far away: transcending the spatial in transnational families&...  
online video calling

MartÅn-Bylund, Anna, Stenliden, Linn

svt NYHETER

Nyheter Lokalt Sport SVT

ÖST

Журнал: Journal of Multilingual an  
Multicultural Development

Файл: PDF, 1,43 MB



Journal of Multilingual

Closer to far away:  
transcending the  
spatial in  
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MartÅn-Bylu  
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RESEARCH RESEARCH OUTCOMES

High five! It's possible to create proximity online



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OVERVIEW

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FaceTime helps families feel physically closer "when they mirror each other's body language during video calls"

Behavioural scientists found giving a virtual high five to a relative can make them feel emotionally closer together, even if they are thousands of miles apart

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## Closer to the senses I: before Covid-19

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The focus on the interaction of bodies and language, and if/how proximity of any kind is enabled in online communication

- Bodily co-ordination
- Social proximity
- The senses, the sensual, the multi-sensory

# Swinging into a high five

- Co-ordination of impressions/expressions
  - verbal conversation
  - shared memories
  - voice, intonation
  - body movements
  - common laughter



There is a relationship > coming closer	We have common experiences / memories > coming closer	We are in different rooms, at different places > distancing	We can not have eye contact > distancing	We can not see each other fully > distancing	Technical disturbances > distancing
We care about each other > coming closer	We use the body / gestures > coming closer	We use a varied voice tone > coming closer	We use artifacts / gadgets > coming closer	We talk about what is visible / present > coming closer	We think about what is not visible > distancing
	We do the same thing > coming closer	We multi-task > distancing	We joke and laugh together > coming closer	We are bored > distancing	

Proximity...





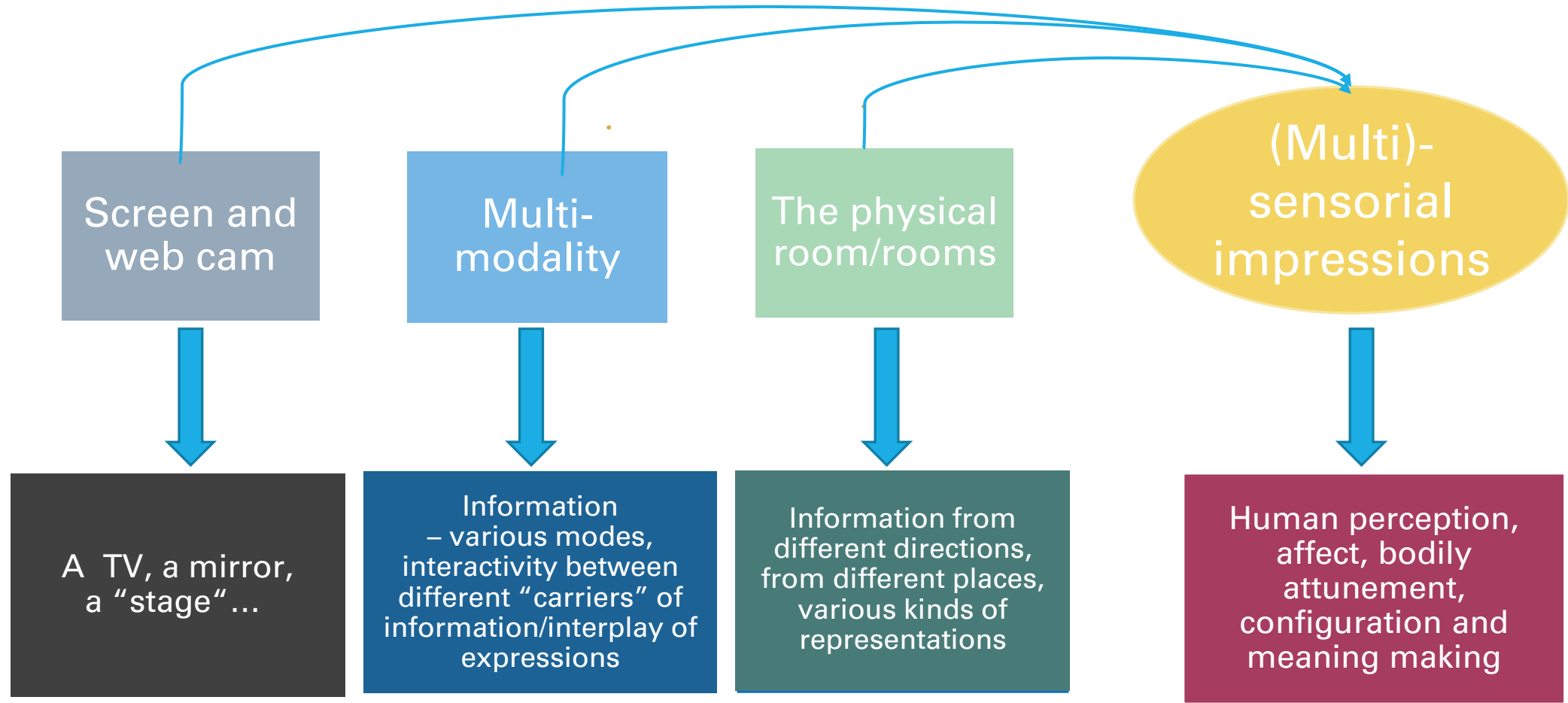
# Online communication

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- Specific circumstances created in/by the analog and digital (multimodal) “space”
- Bodily/sensorial engagement
  - visibility – movements – touch(ability) – play –
  - humourism of uncertainty and invisibility

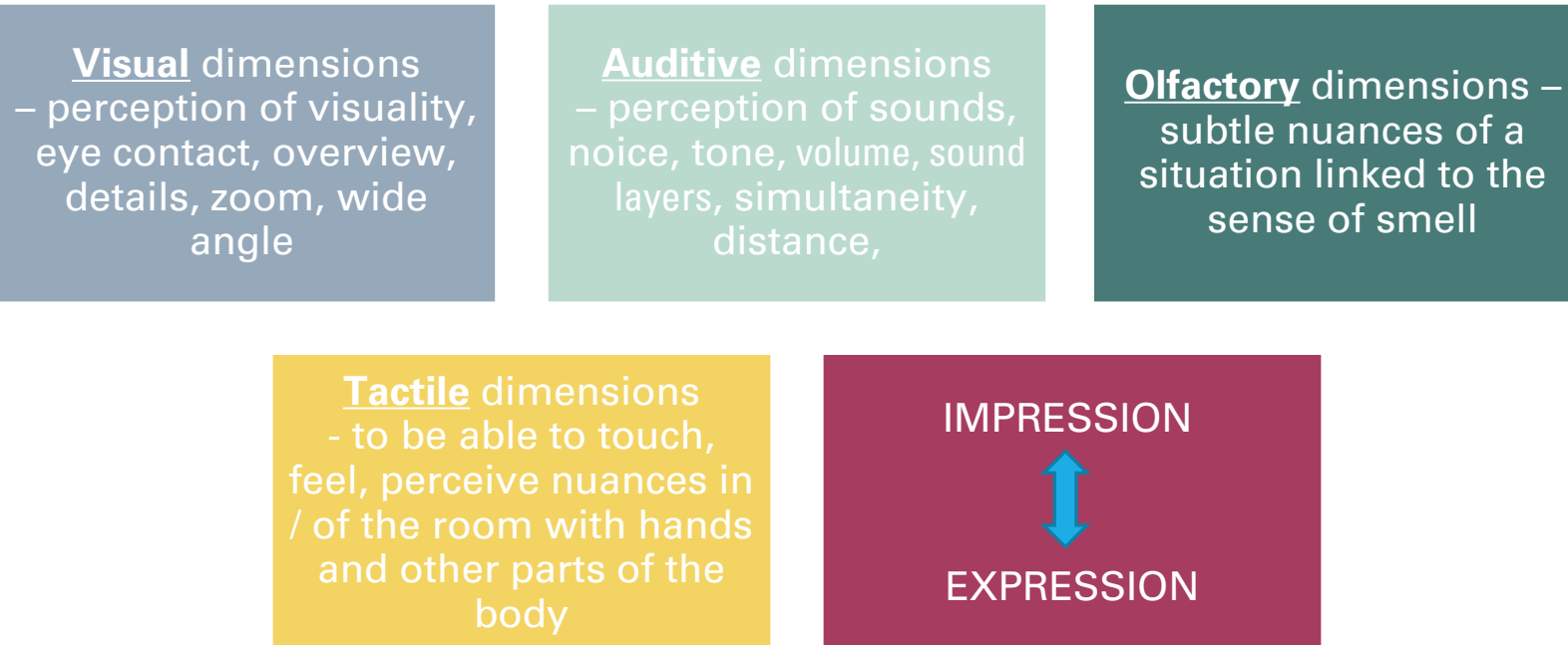


# Online interactions



# The sensuous - bodily impression and expression

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# Closer to the senses II: online education during the pandemic

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The (es)sense of social presence when teaching at a distance: the impact of sensual dimensions

- Social presence
- Interaction is a socio-material concern
- The presence of the senses

A background image showing a close-up of coffee cups and a tray. In the foreground, there are two white coffee cups with black lids, one of which is partially covered by a white circular overlay containing text. In the background, there is another white coffee cup with a latte art design on top, sitting on a dark surface. The overall scene is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text overlay.

# Social presence

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- to “**read**” **other participants** in an online environment
- creating **relational bounds** where teachers' personal contact with individual students is crucial
- the “degree of salience of the other person in the (mediated) interaction and the consequent salience of the interpersonal relationships” (Gunawardena, 1995).

# The outbreak of Covid-19: emergency remote education

## 2020

- **28 February:** First meeting of the crisis management team
- **9-10 March:** First case detected in Östergötland. The crisis management team is activated. Considerable anxiety and many cancellations among students and co-workers
- **12 March:** New guidelines issued
- **16 March:** Distance learning is initiated
- **22 April:** Decision to move to on-campus mode to on-campus mode with restrictions to prevent the spread of the virus
- **22 April:** Decision to activate Pandemic Level 4, an extensive distance learning mode for the spring of 2021.

All students are to study at home, with exception only for certain timetabled components and some exams. All co-workers are to work at home. Exceptions apply only to those who must be at their workplace.

## 2021

- **4 February 2021:** Decision for restrictions at Level 4 to remain in place for the complete spring term.







## Aim

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Studying situated digital teaching in Swedish teacher education during the distance and hybrid mode caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, **the aim is to explore the (es)sense of social presence, shedding light on the impact of sensory dimensions.**



# The study

- Participants: eight teacher training educators, and their students
- *Video captures* during seminars and lectures autumn -20, focusing how teachers and students, who were separated physically, interacted in the digital teaching space.
- *Diary entries* and *focus groups* were used to follow up the teachers' and students' impressions of the teaching situations.
- *Socio-material approach in the analysis*
- *Theorizing the role of the senses*



# Inaccessible students and classrooms

Empirical example...


- Visual and auditive cues are blurred
- Clarity of the image on the screen varies with camera, distance and material setting
- Lack of inter-sensual connections

BUT...

- Overwhelming body-sense engagement
- Unpleasant emotional expressions
- Energy drainage





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- A large, bright orange and yellow flame rises from a matchstick on the left. Below it, a row of seven unlit matchsticks with red tips is visible. The background is a dark red gradient.
- Visually and auditively connected – bodily separated (no touch, no smell, no taste)
  - Mutuality is only partial
  - Virtual/Real?
  - Bodily(emotional) expressions



# Uncontrollable events

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Empirical example



# Full control of oneself?

- Material framing associated to bodily reactions
- Sensual impression - emotional expression
- Possibility of being protected (by the screen) from other people's perception of her bodily expressions
- A restricted set of sensual expressions - a 'non-bodily' presence
- Less vulnerability
- More control?





# Teacher body replacing the shared premise

- What is continuous?
- No shared building/room
- Producing stability through frequent bodily appearance



# Sensous dimensions - a concern for digital teaching

- Different impressions
  - Different expressions
  - Different presence
  - Challenging the commons
- ↳ • A fractionalized sensousness







# Central concerns ...

1. In what ways are different sensory perceptions of both the self and of the other important to teaching and education?
2. What does the redefinition of participants' sense of control/stability imply for the teaching/learning situation?
3. What implications do you see of the results presented here, in relation to teachers' digital competence?

<https://bit.ly/3ldNuwJ>

# Closer to the senses III bring to the future...

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- Qualitative (digital) competence
- Context/situational bound responsivity
- Awareness - not only what we can do with technology, what technology can do for us but also what technology does with us as sensing human beings.
- Vulnerability-Control
- A new 'copy' of teaching



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Thank you for your  
interest!



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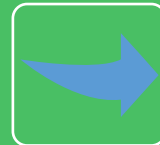
# Sensual, situational competence



*Proximity* – gemenskap, kontakt, närhet  
(Satar, 2013)



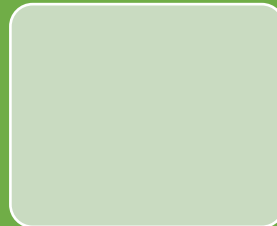
*Sensing presence* – sinnlig närvaro/en  
närvaro som känns



*Transgressive coordination of bodies*

KONTINUA:

- digital.....analog
- nära.....långt borta
- språklig.....kroppslig
- verklig.....virtuell



A new 'copy' of teaching

## Bodily and material dimensions of social presence:

- Different perception of both the self and of the other
- Bodily affect and sensual expressions
- Redefinition of participants' sense of control of the teaching/learning situation – adjusted power relations?



# Möjligheter och lärdomar

- Skärmen som skydd
- Att inte behöva ”vara kropp”
- Mer agens? Effektivitet?
- Kreativa lösningar
- Alternativa strukturer
- En kompenserande sinnlighet