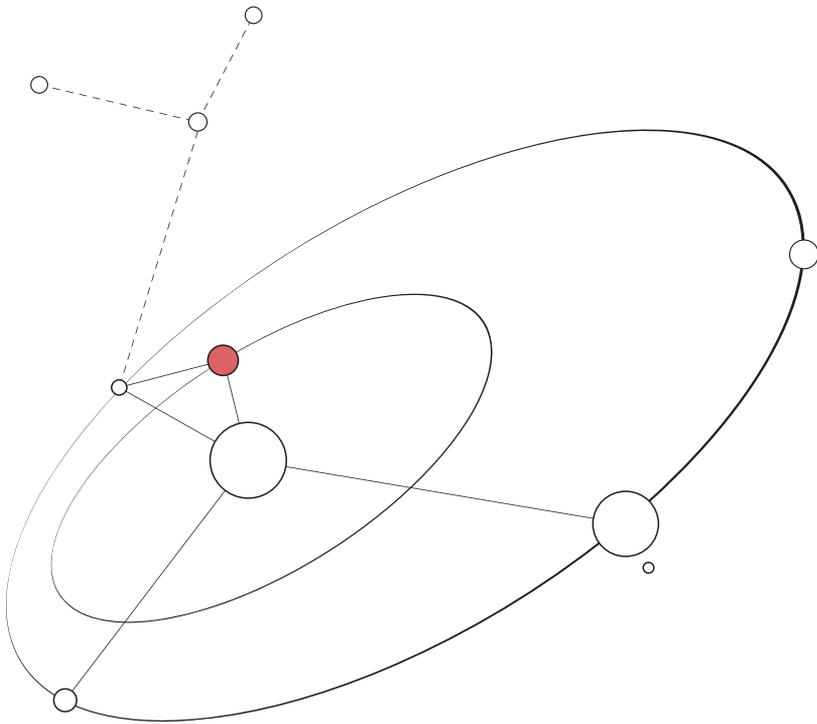


# Networks and Nodes

Practices in Local Learning Centres



Ulrik Lögdlund

Adult education has been subject to sweeping changes in recent decades. Swedish policy of adult education has laid focus on economic growth strategies in order to raise the level of education and limit the effects of unemployment.

In the wake of governmental initiatives, subsidies from the European Union and municipal initiatives local learning centres have been established in Sweden. The concern of the local learning centres organisation is to provide higher education in a local context by means of information and communication technologies such as videoconference.

In four studies the thesis aims to describe and establish an understanding of relations that surround the practice. The metaphor of network has been used as a perspective to capture the links between the local learning centres organisation and the actors in the context of adult education. The thesis investigates the complexity of actor-networks, which have different shape and forms, and analyses the strivings of the network constructors to establish relations and links within the actor-network.

The thesis shows that networking is a complicated process in which the focal actor has to identify useful actors and establish powerful links in order to weave a web of sustaining relations. The practice is described as a result of space forming activities; the interrelations, connections and associations made between humans, technical artifacts, material design and concepts.



**Linköping University**  
EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Linköping Studies in Behavioural Science No.156  
Linköping University, Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning  
Linköping 2011

ISBN 978-91-7393-249-3  
ISSN 1654-2029