

Talk 1 – 12.11.15**Learning about human learning:****How to know more about it and why we will never know enough**

What is human learning, what is it that makes it distinct, and how can we account for its uniqueness? In this talk, after a brief review of the widely differing answers that have been given to these questions by generations of thinkers, I will reflect on lessons that can be learned from the history of research on learning. I will follow with some observations on next steps that can or should be taken in that research. The point of departure for these reflections will be the acknowledgement of one special feature that sets human learning apart from any other: human learning occurs not only in individuals, but also on the societal level. The fact that the society learns as a whole, that is, that people's activities grow in complexity from one generation to another, can be shown to be the primary source of all human uniqueness. These observations will lead me to the question of how to think about learning so as to acknowledge the constant interplay between changes on individual and societal levels and to understand its role in the ontogenetic development. While we will never be able to offer an ultimate list of *dos* – of things that should be done in dealing with this question, it is probably possible and useful to list some of the *don'ts* of this project.