

Optimizing interactions: Designing for web-based learning and teaching

Dr. Eleni A. Kyza
Lecturer in Information Society
Department of Communication and Internet Studies
Cyprus University of Technology
Email: Eleni.Kyza@cut.ac.cy

Many discussions have taken place in the HCI literature about user-centered design. However, from a pedagogical point of view, taking the perspective of learner- and classroom-centered design is a more fruitful approach, as it offers the grounds to extend discussions beyond technical and person-oriented usability towards the achievement of socio-cognitive learning goals. This talk will explore the topic of designing web-based environments for engaging students in data-rich, problem-based learning. After a brief presentation of the theoretical framework guiding this work, I will focus on describing the processes of optimizing designs for both learners-users and teacher-designers, drawing from work in developing web-based environments for children using the STOCHASMOS learning and teaching platform. Examples from classroom enactments and participatory design work circles, which guided the development and empirical evaluation of these web-based environments, will be used to illustrate the discussion.