

## Sirkku Kotilainen ja Leena Rantala

### Young people as local actors on the net

This article discusses citizen participation of the young people on the net and presents preliminary results of the survey, which was implemented in Hämeenlinna among 14–18 year old youngsters (N=541). In the questionnaire there were questions concerning generally the uses of the Internet and participation on the local youth website Vaikuttamo.net. This article states that although almost all of the young people are familiar with digital communication technologies, their online activities differ. In addition, instead of being interested in traditional political participation, the young could be interested in the new citizen participation possibilities of the web-mediated publicness and interactive technologies. Civic youth websites have in recent years been established in various parts of the world, but the body of empirical work on young people's online participation is still small. According to this case study, Vaikuttamo.net has increased influencing possibilities of the young locally together with active schools and teachers. Thus, one key observation of the article is that pedagogic support is needed in the empowerment processes of the youth. In this article the pedagogic support is discussed from the concept of communities of practice, which refers to learning as participation in communities.

## Johanna Uotinen

### How Computer is Domesticated – The Signification Process of Information Technology

In the article, theoretical understanding of the processes, practices and means of information technology's (IT) signification is devel-

oped. This theoretical background is illustrated by using one computer biography as an example case. The starting point of the analysis is articulation theory: the signification takes place by connecting some thing, phenomenon or meaning with another thing, phenomenon or meaning. The concrete means of articulative signification are representation and discourse. The world is signified for oneself and for other people by using representations – as they carry different meanings, both visible and hidden, intentional and unintentional. Representations' most important interpretation context is discourse. On the one hand, meanings and signification processes are produced and used in discourses. Discourse, on the other hand, directs the signification processes towards its own ways and understandings. The signifying of IT is directed by discursive practice called the information society discourse. The signification takes place in everyday life situations and practices. It can be understood as domestication of technology, as a process in which technology is articulated or made fit for everyday life. In these processes the meanings of technology become 'ready' and thus technology is domesticated.

## Jarkko Bamberg

### Internet becoming a public space of action. Participative use of the Internet in a local environ- mental dispute.

The article discusses the use of the information and communication technologies in a local environmental dispute. The topic is approached through a case study of Koskenniska vehicle bridge and the public debate of it. The semi-structured interviews of central agents of the Koskenniska bridge process form the research data. In the interviews it was mapped out how and why the Internet was used during the bridge process.

The theoretical viewpoint of this article lies in the notions of publicity, participation and space, which give tools to understand different forms of participation in urban planning as public spaces of action. The different forms of Internet participation in the Koskenniska bridge process are introduced and analysed in the article. The results show that Internet as a space of public action has risen to challenge the mainstream media and other more conventional spaces of public action, which in turn helps to open up the traditionally closed Finnish municipal governance.

## Pauliina Lehtonen

### Local web- communities strengthening social capital. "It has been a tool for publishing the information one has preferred."

The article approaches the web-based citizen participation from the aspect of social capital. The notion of social capital refers to social networks and trust as well as to co-operation that creates interaction and reciprocity. Social capital is often connected to communities where interaction is utilised in order to create the sense of communality. The text discusses how social capital emerges in citizen-oriented action. The research is based on a case study of a web platform called as Manse Square and the data is gathered through theme-interviews and inquiries. The results implicate that citizen participation on the web can increase social capital by strengthening trust, co-operation and the role of active citizens. However, the social capital grew mainly within the most active participants of Manse Square. The citizen-oriented web publicness has not yet succeeded to develop larger sense of communality in local neighbourhoods.