Food and Information: A Brief Comparison

Anders I. Mørch
Department of Education, University of Oslo, Norway
anders.morch@iped.uio.no
Exploring the relationship

- Think of food & eating as model for information/knowledge and learning, and vice versa?
- What will we gain by such as comparison?
- I adopt a sociocultural perspective on learning and combine it with a cognitive perspective, which is not often done, but done here for comparative reasons
- *Sociocultural perspective*: learning together with others and mediated by cultural tools
A sociocultural perspective

Social: communication

Cultural tools
## Comparison table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Eating</th>
<th>Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Digestive functions</td>
<td>Emotions and memory in brain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental</td>
<td>Sensory experience</td>
<td>Sensory experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Tools for eating</td>
<td>Tools for learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The computer’s role

• The computer’s role in learning from a sociocultural perspective
  – Capturing contextual information (physical)
  – Recommend what to do for optimal experience (mental)
  – Recording events (social)
  – Enhance (dis)abilities (cultural)

• Examples of food & information
  – The smart cooking system
  – Intelligent appliances (IoT)