

Nomineringstext till segraren 2010

Boel Berner

Department of Thematic Studies -
Technology and Social Change

Professor Boel Berner at the Tema Institute for the Prize. Berner has for twenty years created, maintained, and renewed several successful means to support junior faculty in their intellectual development.

Professor Berner has always encouraged junior faculty staff to participate in doctoral training, through including them to comment on doctoral student's papers in seminars, including them as teachers and as secondary supervisors as well as advisors in periodic evaluations of doctoral students' progress. The supervision meetings provide junior faculty staff with invaluable opportunities for improving their skills, through attending to Berner's ways of listening and commenting on doctoral students' texts and thoughts. In addition of course, junior faculty researchers are also encouraged to make their own contributions. This is indeed learning through practice.

Professor Berner is the scientific leader of a very fruitful seminar series – Technology, Practice, and Identity – at the Institute. The seminar series provides a creative environment where graduate students, junior faculty and professors alike can get critical, yet constructive and salient comments and suggestions that substantially improves their work, thereby granting them successful publication opportunities.

Berner herself is a very accurate and scrupulous reader with a broad knowledge of the fields that the junior faculty researchers are engaged in, whether it concerns funding strategies for protein research, social construction and management of risks in socio-technical systems, gender biases in brain research, ethnographies of telemedicine, or knowledge transformations in forensic chains of evidence. Her comments are to the point and always very helpful. She is very keen in pointing out salient weaknesses in argumentation but also in identifying and suggesting improvements in structure. She is conscientious in language matters, in both English and Swedish, making incomprehensible texts intelligible and persuasive.

Professor Berner is a proficient advisor in publication issues, including both scientific and popular science with a broad knowledge of different fields, journals and publishers. She is an experienced advisor on funding opportunities and strategic choices for funding application strategies, as well as an outstanding advisor and commentator on drafts for funding proposals. In addition she also provides valuable suggestions for career opportunities, often suggesting and encouraging junior faculty researchers' specific and suitable choices. She has several times invited junior researchers to participate in organizing successful conferences and editing anthologies which has been very well received.