



Wednesday, 6th May 2015  
1.00 - 2.00pm  
MR 317

**Tiina Laajala and  
Pirjo-Liisa Lehtelä**

### **Experiences and Possibilities of Online Counselling**

Online counselling is a widely spread idea. However, counsellors can understand and use it in different ways. This study examined counsellor students' conceptions of online counselling at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland. The counsellors' views of online counselling were relatively positive, however they critically reflected on the additional value of it. In addition the results implicated that counsellors feel timidity with online counselling. Four different orientations toward online counselling were discovered: counselling-ethical, technical, organization centered and developing orientations.

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#### **Biographies**

**Tiina Laajala, MEd** - is a Senior Lecturer and student counsellor educator at School of Vocational Teacher Education in Oulu University of Applied Sciences in Finland. She has worked as a teacher, study counsellor and head of study affairs in vocational second level and in higher education for 15 years. Her special interest lies in practice based research and development of online counselling and curriculum research.

**Pirjo-Liisa Lehtelä, D.Ed** - is Principal Lecturer at the School of Vocational Teacher Education, Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OUAS), Finland. Previously she has worked for example as a science teacher, researcher and expert of science learning and teaching in the University of Eastern Finland. She has been a teacher educator for over 15 years. At present she is a counsellor educator in the Counselling and Guidance Program at OUAS. Her research interest focus on metacognitive thinking, problem-based learning and especially on online counselling and guidance.



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