Teams of computer science students
- on gender, collaboration and power

Speakers:  Lecia Barker, ATLAS Assessment & Research Center,
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In this seminar we will discuss our on-going research projects on how computer science students collaborate. Our focus is on gender, collaboration, and power, when they study their subject. We approach the research from different, but related, theoretical perspectives and will explore the nature of the results that can be reached by these differing research perspectives as well as the synergies these multiple perspectives can bring.

Lecia will present a Systemic Change Model which can be used by university computing departments to increase participation of women in computing study (e.g., computer science, information technology). She will discuss the six components of the model (pedagogy, curriculum, policy and upper-level support, evaluation and tracking, student support, and a recruiting strategic plan), their basis in research evidence, and the type of social scientific research methods that provided the evidence.

Anders will discuss a study on how students, who work in distributed teams, learn about computer systems. He will present findings, based on a phenomenographic study on (a) how the students’ learning is related to (b) how they experience their learning environment and to which aims the students have for taking the course. The rather fragmented picture that evolves – constituted by the descriptions of the different ways in which the students experience isolated phenomena – is integrated into a whole, through the use of elements of activity theory.

In his on-going PhD work, Mattias explores the complex relationship between the distribution of power in teams of computer science students and their learning of the subject area. He will present tentative results on how what make CS students experience their fellow students as being competent. He will further discuss what types of outcomes his research could lead to.