

Session 5

Workshop 2:

GenAI & the human touch. Improved classroom management with a little help from GenAI idea generation

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OBS: Note the presentation will be in Danish even though the abstract is in English.

Most educators have experienced classes, where some of the students haven't been particular receptive to learning.

In a class such students might show signs such as:

Passivity, lack of engagement during class, few or no questions during lectures, silence during group work or dialogue-based teaching, "hiding" behind screens, repeatedly checking their phones, Lack of preparation for the day's topic, absence and irregular attendance, missing assignments and missed deadlines. Often, such behaviors and lack of participation might be signs of complex underlying issues, such as:

Stress and performance pressures, depressions, lack of academic skills, poor study practices, lack of connection to instructors and fellow students etc.

Given such a wide variety of potential problems it will not be realistic to expect the individual educator to fix all problems in the classroom.

Still, the problems need to be dealt with in the best possible way. And it might actually be possible to let GenAI help (pre)process some of these problems.

Certainly, in this presentation, it is suggested that generative Ai can provide some assistance.

- First the problem (as it presents itself) in the classroom can be described informally to the GenAi, that can be asked to highlight the problems impact on the teaching in the class.
- Secondly, the GenAi can be asked to come up with steps in a possible solution.

With these two inputs, this second opinion, the educator can then re-evaluate the situation, and be better prepared before taking action.

Indeed, often the GenAi will be able to point to similar cases, and be able to highlight the underlining problems, and appropriate next steps for dealing with the problems in the classroom. Giving the educator a quick overview that might be helpful before the educator applies his or her own "human touch"

to the situation.

3 case stories will be given (in this presentation), along with GenAi feedback to these scenarios. Exemplifying GenAis role in solidifying the educators work with these cases and come up with practical suggestions for dealing with real world situations.

In the presentation it will be clearly stated that GenAi feedback should not be seen as a substitute for feedback from colleagues or mentors. But only as one additional teaching resource when it comes to classroom management.

What do you intend the workshop participants to achieve from this workshop?

In a workshop format the small presentation will highlight the possibilities for getting assistance from GenAi in complex , real world classroom scenarios. In a workshop format the latter part of the workshop will allow participant to engage with their own real-life cases, and discuss them and the Feedback from GenAI with fellow educators. Where the learning outcome will be increased familiarity with this way of working with classroom management. Gaining inspiration on strengths and weaknesses in using GenAI as a sparring partner for classroom management challenges. In a short presentation – the workshops more thorough discussion will be shortened to a small list of questions to listeners, at the end of the talk.

Which activity will you include at the workshop TAL2025?

Cases will be used to ensure activation of participants. Where participants will be included actively in the workshop through time for investigation of (their) own practical examples of real-world problems with classroom management, followed with group discussions.

According to you, what could be the impact for participants participating in the workshop?

The expected take home messages will be that complex classroom management problems can appear very intimidating. Getting started is obviously the first step though. And GenAi can often be a good way to get started.

How could this workshop be inspirational/transferable to other teaching contexts?

Finding the right way to use GenAi is the hard part. Especially in very complex problem areas like classroom management.

Primary literature:

For some years now, teachers have worried that students use GenAI Inappropriately. Recently, students have begun to worry that teachers use GenAI inappropriately.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/14/technology/chatgpt-college-professors.html>
But well, much of it is a learning process, exploring what is appropriate use and what is less so. With this presentation as one small step of the way.