

Andrea Valente
Associate Professor
SDU Game Development and Learning Technology
The Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Institute
University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense, Denmark
Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6295-9511>

Pedagogical view

I tend to prefer learning-by-doing (constructivist and constructionist), materials for my courses. I have worked both in theoretical Computer Science and e-learning, and I find that gives me a strong understanding of learning, that I use in my teaching. In particular I believe in scaffolding learning by providing practical examples to the learners, and ground theoretical knowledge by abstracting from practice and concrete exemplars. Given that many of my courses have projects connected to them or are evaluated at least in part via portfolio activities, I can say that I follow a blended learning.

Teaching experience

I have obtained both my master and PhD in Computer Science in Italy (at the Dept. of Computer Science of the University of Torino), and I have started teaching already during my PhD, mostly courses in programming and CS-related subjects, for various educations withing the Natural Sciences institutes in Torino. After moving to Denmark in 2002, I worked at the University of Aalborg, Esbjerg Institute of Technology, where I taught Computer Science, Medialogy and engineering courses (since 2003); I have gained a lot of experience in the Aalborg teaching model (focused on POPBL, Project-Oriented Problem-Based learning), and I was often chosen as project supervisor in semesters from basis to master.

I got a position as associate professor at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) in 2014-2015, and that is also when I moved to Odense and got my Danish citizenship.

I have taught many courses in various technical subjects, at bachelor and master levels, including: introduction to programming, web programming, courses in the fields of Graphical user interfaces and interaction design, HCI, Software development methodologies, Computation and Complexity theory, introduction to Web, Film informatics, Computer Game programming, Calculus and linear algebra at bachelor level.

Formal pedagogical training

I attended various pedagogical courses at Aalborg University (including the official pædagogikum for assistant professors).

Other activities related to teaching and teaching development

I obtained a certification of proficiency in English for education, at SDU. Since teaching and learning are also my research interests, I am involved in various projects with focus on these subjects. I am very happy to bring my expertise in the field of learning also in my teaching.

For instance, together with a colleague from the department of Media at SDU and a PhD student, we are conducting a comparative study of pedagogical patterns in organizing Computational Thinking courses for primary schools; we are comparing Denmark and scandinavia more in general, with Japan and Taiwan (and other Asian countries). Results are going to be shared with our network of Danish primary and secondary school teachers, so they can benefit from global experience.