



Introduction¹

The second issue of the 2026 volume of *Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies* brings together four interesting and timely research articles. Like the first issue, it spans several levels of the labor market, from individual experiences of work to policy practices.

The opening article *Sorting Out Agencies in AI-supported Radiological Work Practices* by Astrid Galsgaard and former NJWLS Editor-in-Chief Anders Buch explores the highly topical question of how artificial intelligence (AI) may impact work. Through the ethnographic methods of shadowing observation and semi-structured interviews at two Danish hospitals, they answer the main research question, How is radiological professional expertise and agency practiced and reconfigured through the integration of narrow-task AI in everyday work practices? The findings show that when radiographers and radiologists interact with narrow-task AI systems in their daily work, they develop new expertise by learning when to trust, question, or override AI suggestions, and thus produce new forms of relational expertise while preserving distinct forms of human and non-human agency. The authors propose that successful AI integration requires socio-material perspectives, and go beyond the view that AI integration is merely a technical challenge.

In the last NJWLS issue, the time of the pandemic was revisited through two studies examining remote work and work schedules in healthcare. In this issue, the second article *Remote Work and the Psychosocial Work Environment: The Role of Contact*, by Mari Holm Ingelsrud, Vilde Hoff Bernstrøm, and Wendy Nilsen, studies the relationship between remote work frequency and psychosocial work environment and to what extent the relationship is mediated by social contact during the COVID pandemic. Empirical data comes from The Norlife Remote Work - Longitudinal Study of Norwegian employees and is analyzed using general structural equation modeling. The results show that remote work had an impact on several psychosocial work environment factors through reduced contact with supervisors and colleagues. Specifically, remote work may reduce influence at work and increase job demands. The authors call for attention to the fact that remote work can be beneficial for the employee, but that there are tensions to manage.

People with disability is still a group with disadvantages in the labor market, for example, being in employment. Julie Ulstein analyzes the impact of a Norwegian policy, the 'joint inclusion effort' on the labor market participation of people with disabilities in her article *The Impact of Norwegian Labor Market Policy on Disability*. She uses registry data and a difference-in-differences design to study the estimated effect of this policy on the probability of employment for people with disabilities. It seems like the policy has an overall effect, although small, on labor market participation. The research points to the importance of continuing to discuss active labor market policies.

This issue's fourth article *Skills Ecosystems – a Solution to the Skills Problem? Experiences from the Nordics* by Anna Lundgren and Mari Wøien Meijer is a Nordic comparative study of the so-called 'skills problem', meaning there is lack of labor, skills gaps, and skills mismatch. The study is based on five Nordic regional case studies (one in each Nordic country) in which the authors examine how the skills problem is framed

¹ You can find this text and its DOI at <https://tidsskrift.dk/njwls/index>.



and managed. The results show that regional skills ecosystems have the potential to contribute to solving the skills problem through skills analysis, skills development, and skills governance.

We hope you will find these articles compelling and that you would like to continue the scientific discussions they raise by contributing your own articles to the *Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies*.

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