



Danish International Schools Conference and AGM for Leaders and Co-ordinators

‘Holding On to the Human: Leading schools in the AI Machine Age’

22 October 2026, 09:00–16:00, First Hotel Grand, Jernbanegade 18, 5000 Odense

Deadline for signing up: Wednesday 7th October

Cost: 1500 DKK per person for DISN members, 2000 DKK for non DISN members

Sign-up: <https://www.tilmeld.dk/disn22oktober>

Programme for the day:

09.00-09.30 Coffee, tea and networking

09.30-10.20 Keynote with Gry Hasselbalch: Human Power in the Age of AI

10.20-11.15

11.15-11.30 break

11.30-12.30 Keynote with Thomas Telving: Reinventing Education in the Age of AI

12.30-13.30 lunch

13.30-14.45 Dilemmas and policy work with Thomas Telving

14.45-15.00 break

15.00-16.00 DISN AGM (please consult separate agenda)

AI is already in the classroom, the staffroom and the office - writing, grading, planning, advising. School leaders are deciding right now how far it goes, and what it should never replace.

As AI reshapes the skills we teach, the way we measure and reward learning, and the trust between students, teachers and leaders, we need to also ask **what remains distinctly human about education, and how do we hold on to it?** This is the question the day is built around. The morning belongs to Gry Hasselbalch, who opens with a keynote based on her book *Human Power – Seven Traits for the Politics of the AI Machine Age* and then takes the seven human traits into small-group conversation about your school. The afternoon belongs to Thomas Telving, whose philosophical account of what we risk losing when human presence is replaced by artificial alternatives leads into dilemmas, decisions, and the first outline of a policy you can take home.

Gry Hasselbalch

Morning · Keynote and group work

Scholar and author. *Human Power - Seven Traits for the Politics of the AI Machine Age*, EU's ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI (the AI Act).

<https://gryhasselbalch.com/>

Thomas Telving

Afternoon · Keynote, dilemmas and policy work

Philosopher, author and tech analyst. 10 ting du skal vide om filosofi og kunstig intelligens and Uautomatiserbar

<https://telving.dk/>

Programme in detail

Times are indicative and may shift by a few minutes.

09:00–09:30 Coffee and tea

09:30–10:20 Keynote & Q&A, Human Power in the Age of AI, , Gry Hasselbalch

A humanistic call to action on humanity's unique power at a time when AI is challenging our sense of our human selves and unique qualities at home, in school, and at work. Based on Gry's book *Human Power – Seven Traits for the Politics of the AI Machine Age* (Taylor & Francis, 2025).

10:20–11:15 Group work and discussion, Seven Human Traits for the School, Gry Hasselbalch

We will work with the seven traits of human power from Gry's book: Creativity, Intuition, Emotion, Life, Defiance, Love and Wisdom. We hear every day that these human traits are under pressure from AI.

But they remain something no machine can replicate, they are our human power, what makes us human.

What's at stake when AI reshapes what schools value and reward? In this session, we take the traits into small-group conversation: what do they mean in your school, where are they hampered or strengthened by AI, and what one or two principles would you want to guide generative AI use with them in mind at your school?

11:15–11:30 Break

11:30–12:30 Keynote & Q&A, Thomas Telving

From an educational slow-motion car crash to complete confusion and an urgent need for a philosophically sound recalibration. AI has created chaos across the educational landscape, from primary schools to universities. Pupils, students, and educators have been navigating with different maps and without any shared sense of direction or destination. In a confusing battle between tech optimists and latter-day Luddites, the technology has been alternately embraced and rejected, while the slow thoughtful conversation about what education is for in the first place has been very hard to spot. In this keynote, philosopher, author, and tech analyst Thomas Telving offers his view of the situation from a safe distance outside academia. Armed with common sense and philosophical ballast, he presents his take on how Danish education can reinvent itself for a new reality.

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–14:45 Dilemmas & policy work - Thomas Telving

Dilemma-discussion, group work, discussion and the beginning outline of a policy – Thomas Telving

Taking a pragmatic approach, Thomas Telving walks us through the hard dilemmas, the unavoidable questions and the necessary decisions facing teachers and school leaders in the age of AI. The session ends with each school sketching the beginning of its own policy.

14:45–15:00 Break

15:00–16:00 Closed session / DISN Annual General Meeting

