Information Infrastructures and multiple logics: a case from heart transplants

11 Sept 2017

Information Infrastructures

- Sociotechnical
 - Information systems and information artefacts, standards, people, work practices, routines, organization of work...
- Shared resources
 - Support many kinds of work practices for heterogeneous groups of users

Work practices and infrastructures

- The focus in this study: complex work practice
- Articulation work vs primary work
 - E.g. how doctors document their practices while they are 'practicing'
- Infrastructures are «<u>transparent</u> to use»: they become <u>visible</u> when something does <u>not</u> work

methodology

- Ethnography of work
- Data collected via observations, interviews, analysis of information systems/artefacts and other documents
- 'follow the actor' to map the information infrastructure

content

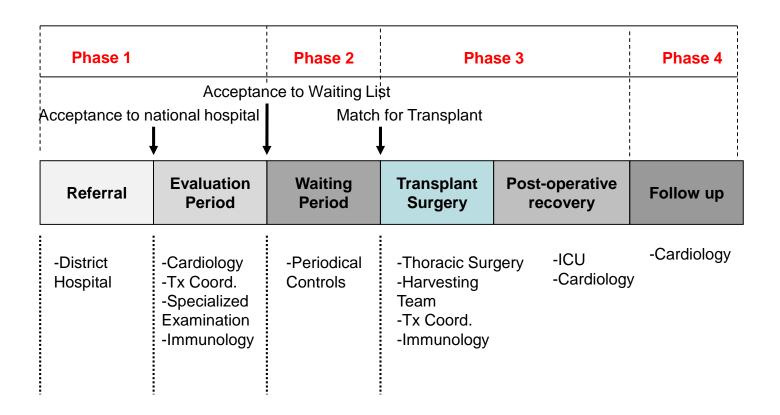
- Short introduction to heart transplants
- Description of heart transplant as a <u>process</u> the patient trajectory
- Description of the <u>core work practices</u> in relation to information work and main information systems and information artefacts
- The perspective of the different departments how they communicate with each other
- Logics of information use how the same information infrastructure supports different kinds of 'collective' work practices



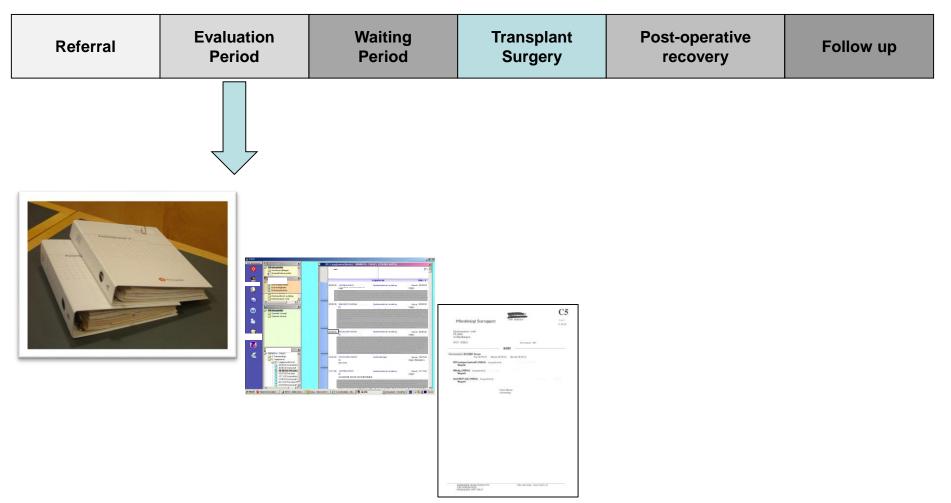
Heart transplant process

- <u>Distributed</u> work process
 - Within the hospital (no transplant center)
 - Across hospitals
 - Across levels of care
- Interdisciplinary process
 - Cardiology: identification of recipients
 - Thoracic surgery: surgical procedure and donation process
 - Immunology: immune response HLA typing
 - Other competences: e.g. organ preservation techiques
- Before/after surgery: complex process of information production, collection, selection, use

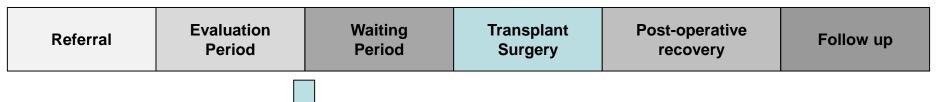
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PHASES OF THE TRANSPLANT PROCESS

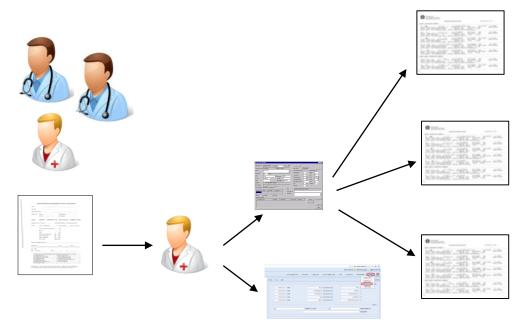


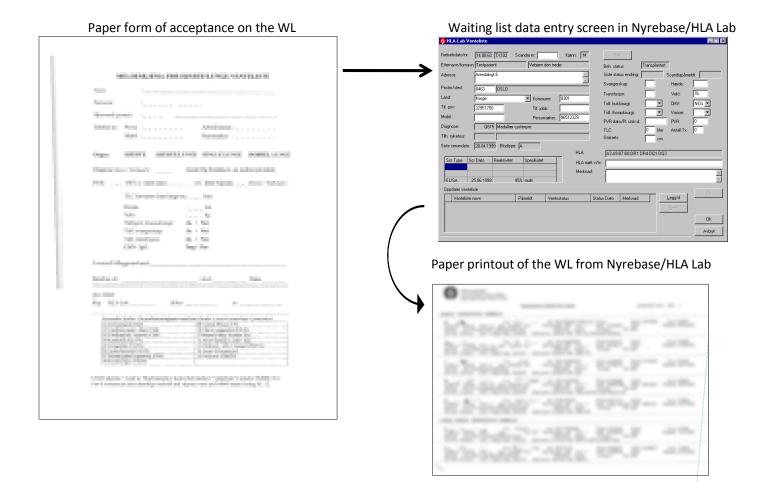
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Heart Meeting

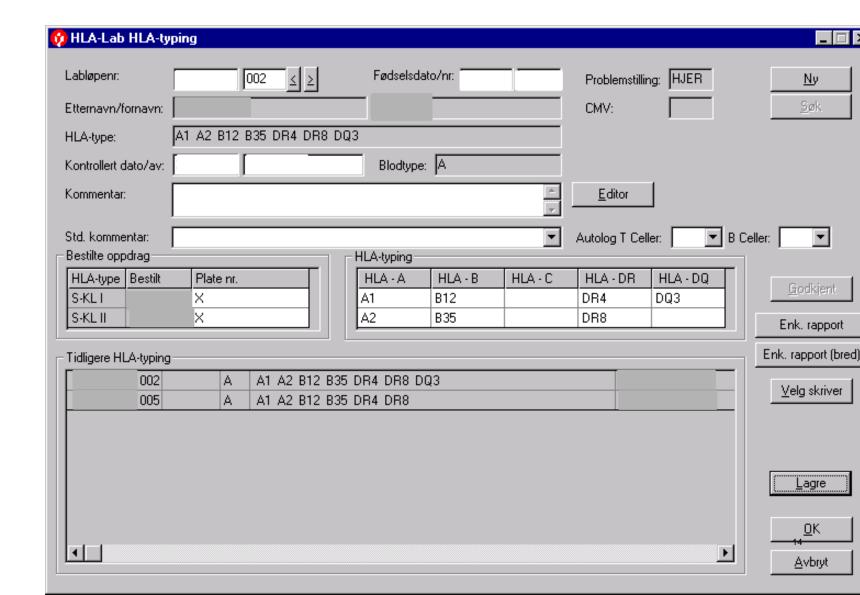




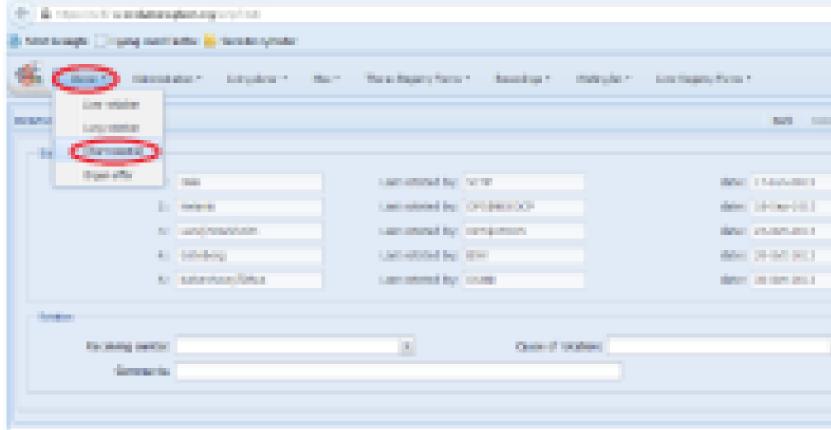
Data on the waiting list:

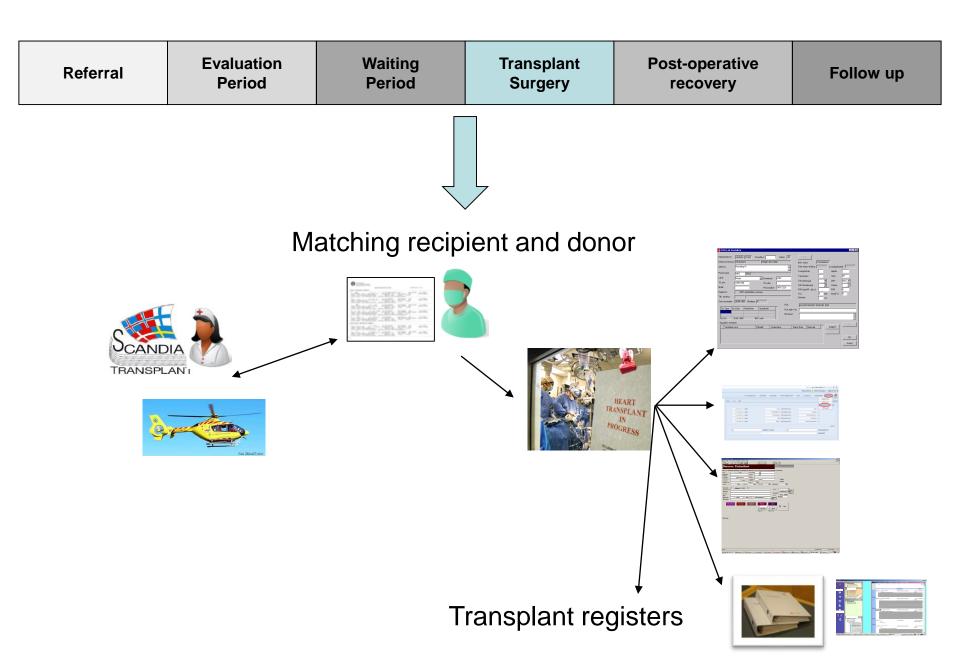
- Name, Personal Number, Address, Telephone (private, work, mobile), Beeper, Scandia transplant number
- High, Weight, PVR (pulmonary vascular resistance) and date, TLC (total lung capacity), previous thoracic surgeries and date
- ABO, HLA (antigens), CMV (cytomegalovirus), pregnancies, transfusions,

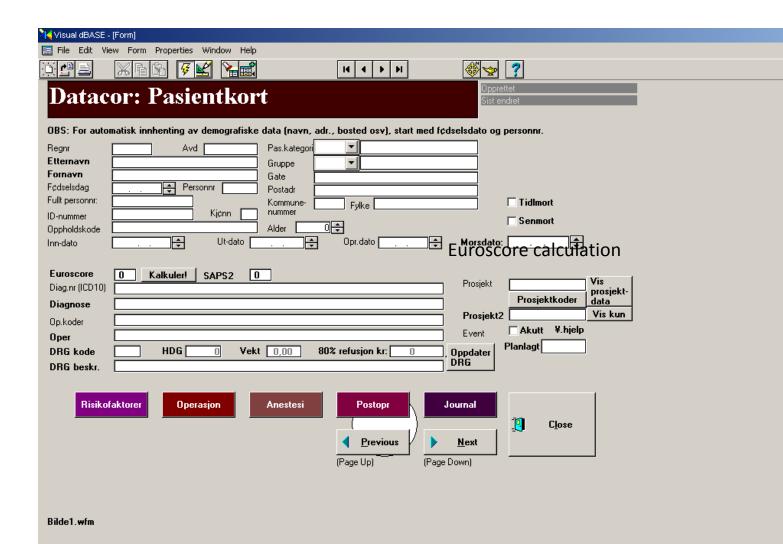
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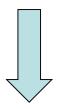




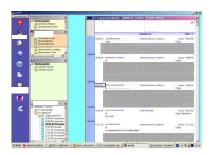


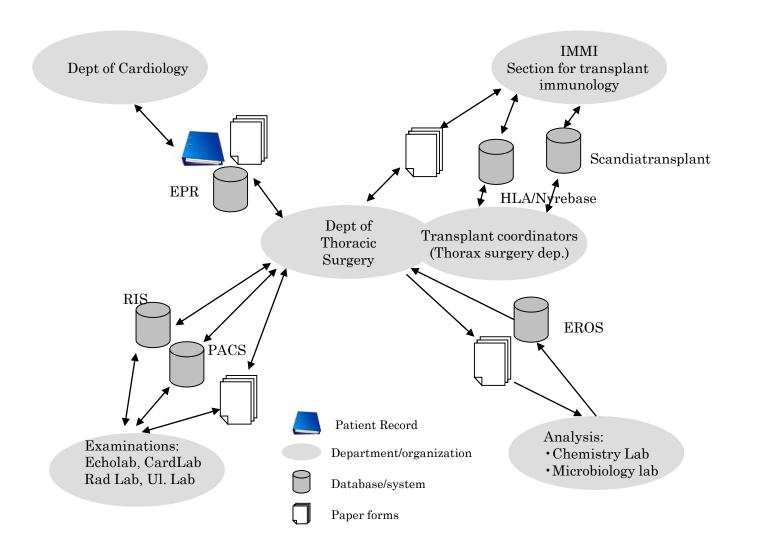


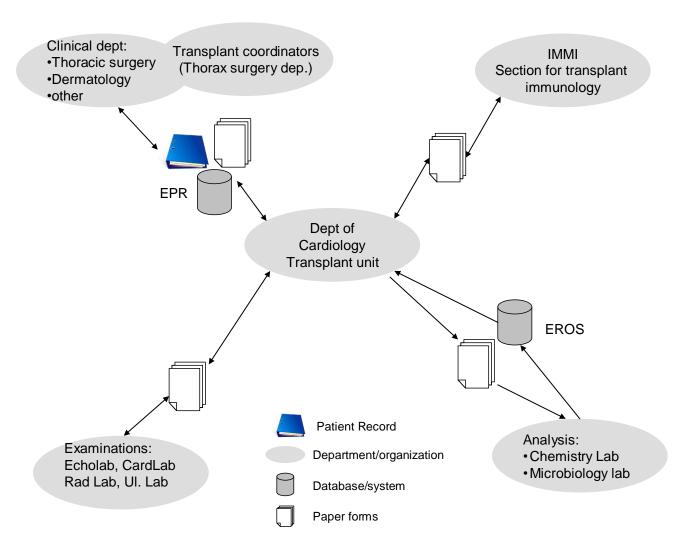
Referral	Evaluation Period	Waiting Period	Transplant Surgery	Post-operative recovery	Follow up
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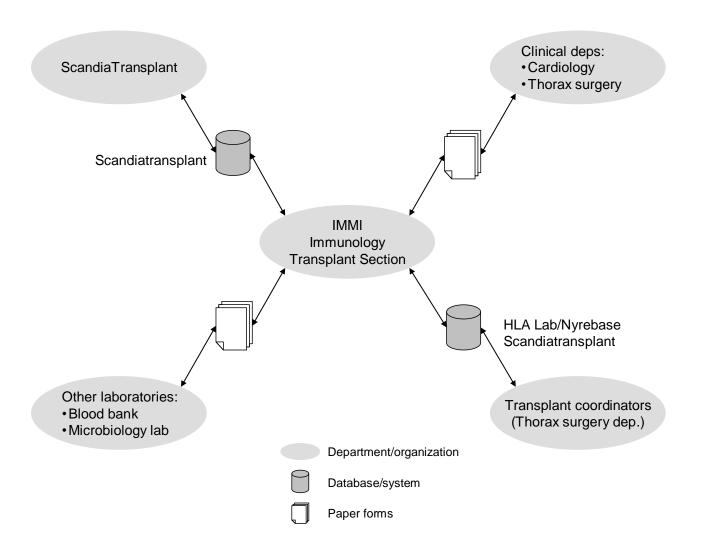


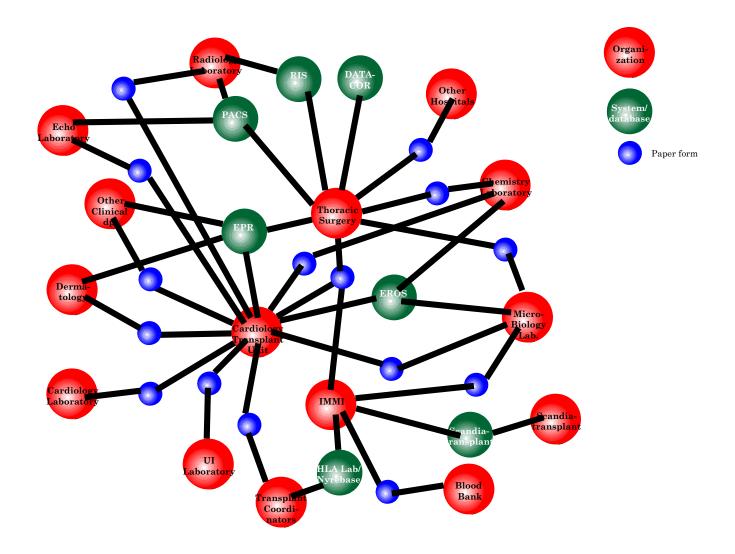












Logics of information use

- 1. Patient-centered logic
- 2. Treatment-centered logic
- 3. Activities-centered logic
- 4. Event-centered logic
- Multiple logics of Information ordering
- Multiple effects

Patient-centred logic

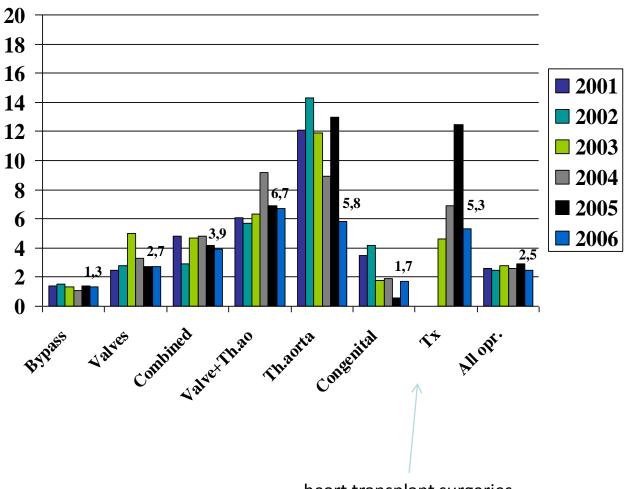
- Medical history of each singular patient
- Chronological order
- Supports the work of:
 - Understanding what has been done, what results, what are the next steps
 - Connecting recipient and donor
 - Main information artefacts: checklists across shifts, EPR, referrals
- Does not support: integration of work across disciplines

«The patient has been at the medical department previously. In March 1989 the diagnosis has been of a dilated cardiomyopathy (...) The patient has been previously evaluated at (...) and in principle he is accepted for transplant. The patient is hospitalized because he has been lately feeling unwell...on the day of hospitalization the patient had pain in the head ...»

Treatment-centred logic

- HTx as specific treatment
- Category of patient
- Not identities of patients but aggregated data
- Supports the work of:
 - Monitoring the quality of the process
 - researchers
- Main information artefacts: EPR as source of info, Datacor, personal databases, Scandiatransplant
- Located in meetings, conferences, research articles, scientific community

Heart operations in Norway 2006 - 30-day mortality (%)



«from 1983 to 1999 317 heart transplants have been performed, an average of 23 transplants per year, 82% of the recipients were males, 50% had heart failure due to coronary heart disease. The survival rate after one and ten years is 85% and 53% respectively with a significant higher survival rate among recipients younger than 50 at transplant, especially if the graft was from a donor younger than 35 years»

«in 2000 there was a discussion because Norway had exported a high number of livers. Usually they export about 10 per year, but in 2000 it was up to 35. Thus the board decided that Norway should be refunded from the recipients' hospitals for the all the medical equipment used like liquids or machines to treat bodies and organs before the surgery»

Activities-centered logic

- Concurrent tasks and patient trajectories
- Logistic issues.
- Supports the articulation work for managing many patients:
 - Different schedules for the same day,
 - Same stage, different places (WL)
- Organize movements in time and space of many patients
- Main information artefacts: Daily patient list in departments, weekly plans

Event-centered logic

- Heart transplantation as surgical procedure
- Specific event
- Supports the work of
 - Minimizing uncertainties
 - Two directions:
 - Define as much as possible temporal and spatial boundaries of the transplant surgery
 - Rely on flexibility of schedules and plans
- Main information artefacts: donation plan, waiting list

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Oppbevares i pasientens journal - kopi hos transplantasjonskoordinator, lokal AMK sentral og pasier



Transportplan ved innkalling av hjerte-, hjerte/lunge- og lungerecipienter til transplantasjon

Venteliste Hjerte	Hjerte/lung	Э Д	Lunge 📮
Navn Adresse Postnr.		Født	
Sted Telefon privat	Mobiltelefon	Personsøker	Andre :
Lokalsykehus Telefon		Pt. innla Div	ngt

Ovenfor nevnte pasient er i dag påmeldt til transplantasjon. Han/hun er utstyrt med personsøker og kan bli innkalt til Rikshospitalet for transplantasjon på kort varsel.

I utgangspunktet benyttes ordinære rutegående kommunikasjonsmidler. Ambulanse for pasienter i sentrale Østlandsområdet.

Pasienter som kalles inn til transplantasjon skal ha absolutt prioritet på rutefly. I de fleste tilfeller har de med ledsager. Flyselskapets plassjef kontaktes ved problemer. Pasienter som innkalles til lungetransplantasjon vil være avhengig av kontinuerlig surstofftilførsel under hele transporten.

Four co-existing logics

1. Patient-centered logic

- Information ordered chronologically,
- Makes visible the medical history of each patient
- Checklists across shifts, EPR, referral
- Not integrating disciplines and professions

2. Treatment-centered logic

- Information is aggregated (no identity of patient)
- Makes visible heart transplant as specific treatment
- Specific category of patients
- Quality parameters, risk factors

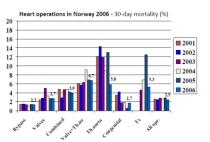
3. Activity-centered logic

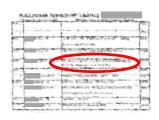
- Information is organized to care for many patient trajectories
- Organize movements in time and space of many patients
- Daily patient list in departments, weekly plans

4. Event-centered logic

- Information is organized to define as much as possible temporal
- and spatial boundaries of the transplant surgery
- Heart transplantation as surgical procedure
- Minimize uncertainties; Donation plan, waiting list







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Conclusion

- Many reasons for 'working' with information in an organization
 - Produce, collect, store, retrieve, share etc.
- Work practices and the use of information are linked in complex way
- No single 'logic'
 - E.g. not sufficient to have a patient trajectory logic, there are many other legitimate needs
- The case shows:
 - 'sociotechnical' quality of infrastructures
 - 'shared' quality of infrastructures
 - And the complexities they generate