

The Telenor Research and Innovation Award 2008

PER HJALMAR LEHNE



Per Hjalmar Lehne is Researcher in Telenor Group Business Development and Research and Editor-in-Chief of *Teletronikk*

“The impact of internet and communications technology on the home and consumer environment.”

This was the theme for the Telenor Research and Innovation Award 2008. Sociologist and Telenor researcher *Richard Seyler Ling* was awarded the prize for his ground-breaking work on the social implications of mobile communication.

“Through his work, Dr. Ling has examined the mobile phone in terms of diffusion, ownership, use and social consequences. He has examined how this device changes our sense of coordination, how it affects language use in SMS, how it plays into our sense of social cohesion, how teens adopt and use the device and also how it can be a disturbance in to the public sphere,” the jury says in its statement.

In his research and widely acclaimed publications, Dr. Ling has examined the mobile phone and its social consequences. He has shown how the mobile phone has changed our lives – how we coordinate our daily tasks, change our language through SMS and how young people use the mobile in new ways. The work is relevant, original and of high quality, and his wide-ranging publications demonstrate a deep understanding of both sociological and technological issues. Dr. Ling has contributed to user-oriented service innovation and participated in commercialization projects in Telenor. Dr. Ling has been published and interviewed in a number of media, e.g. the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Der Spiegel* and the *Discovery Channel*.

The Jury has also noted Dr. Ling’s contributions on developing mobile communication studies as an area of academic interest. Both as a researcher, author, peer reviewer, teacher, advisor, editor and conference organizer he has contributed to the broader academic study of mobile communication in the academic sphere.

The winner is a senior researcher and sociologist at Telenor. He has held various academic positions and is currently guest professor at the IT University of Copenhagen, and has been the author of several books.

In his article for this issue he gives an excerpt from his forthcoming book: *Taken for Granted...ness: The Infusion of Mobile Communication into Society*, MIT Press, to be published in 2011.

About the Telenor Research and Innovation Award

The award was established in 1997 to stress the importance of research and innovation in the information of our future society and to encourage efforts in the field. It has been handed out once a year, consisting of NOK 250,000 and a diploma granted to outstanding contributors to R&I. For each year, the international jury chooses a specific scope for the award. The prize will not be awarded in 2009.

The members of the Jury are:

- CEO *Berit Svendsen* (leader), Conax, Norway
- Professor *Erik Bohlin*, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
- Associate professor *Mads Christoffersen*, The Technical University of Denmark
- Professor *Peter T. Kirstein*, University College London
- Professor *Olli Martikainen*, The University of Oulu, Finland
- Professor *Gunnar Stette*, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology



Photo: Carl-Erik Eriksson

Richard Seyler Ling received the award at the *Technoport Festival* in *Trondheim*, Norway on the 22 October 2008. Members of the jury and the prizewinner: *Mads Christoffersen*, *Terje Ormhaug* (secretary), *Richard Ling*, *Berit Svendsen* and *Gunnar Stette*

Themes and winners the previous years have been:

2007	Development of business models, roles and competitive regimes in the converging media, communication and mobile industries	Dr. Bjørn Hansen and Professor Øystein Foros (N)
2006	Innovative solutions for emergency communications	Professor Petri Mähönen (SF)
2005	Enabling technologies and communication based value added services for the home, leisure and professional environments	Professor Ramjee Prasad (DK)
2004	SW of importance for the creation or improvement of communication services	Professor Claes Wohlin (S)
2003	Technologies and systems enabling new communication services	Dr. Haakon Bryhni (N)
2002	Mobility and wireless access to Internet, with respect to technologies, new services or applications	Professor Christian S. Jensen (DK)
2001	Research in Socio-economic impact of ICT	Professor Jon Bing (N)
2000	Enabling technologies for advanced ICT systems and services	Professor Peter Andreksson (S)
1999	Advanced applications of communications and information services	The Telepathology group (N)
1998	Development of internet technology	Professor Stephen Pink (S)
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Coding (main prize) • SW tools and languages (additional prize) 	Dr. Gisle Bjøntegård (N) Birger Møller-Pedersen, Dag Belsnes and Øistein Haugen (N/DK)