In the focus of my presentation is the experience-based relationship between young men and IT as it appears in the “computer-biographies” written by young male IT students at North Karelian Polytechnic (NCP). I consider the idea of (information) technologies as an essential part of hegemonic masculinities in relation to the writings of the young men. I ponder how (hegemonic) masculinities and IT are intertwined in cultural and social processes? How these intertwining relate to experiences of the “real” men? The stories of the IT students partly confirm the understandings of hegemonic masculinities, but there are also some interesting breaches present.

I spread the invitation to participate in the writing of computer-biographies in North Karelia during the years 1998 and 1999. Computer-biographies are freely written texts based on given themes, considering the meanings and effects that IT have on the different areas of life. On the whole I got 129 texts about people’s experiences and opinions about IT. Out of those seventy were written by young men studying IT at NCP. In my presentation I also use children’s drawings that picture their opinions and experiences of information society and computers as an additional material. The drawings are the result of an art competition for comprehensive schools held at North Karelia in the year 1997. Through these materials I look what does information technology mean to the young men? What kind of connection there is between (young) men and machines?