



# PBL Academy Newsletter – December 2016

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## Since our last newsletter

Another year is running out and soon we will be in 2017. For many the beginning of the new year means examinations of projects and in that process perhaps reflections on supervision, group collaboration and PBL. Supervision of students in the first year will be the theme of the next meeting in the First Year PBL network, read more below. For the PBL Academy, 2017 will be a busy and exciting year where we continue to work on our contributions towards the AAU Strategy. You can read more about these contributions in this newsletter. Finally, it is worth noticing that 23 PBL development projects across all faculties will be running in 2017 supported by the university leadership. This is a clear and strong signal that PBL is and should continue to be the anchor of our educational perspective at AAU.

## Inspirational meeting in the new network on first year PBL

15 researchers and teachers shared their experiences from their work with first year PBL (10th of November). The primary focus of this meeting was “how do students at first year learn how to learn?”. The presenters shared their pedagogical designs, and engaged in an inspiring dialogue on the theme with the audience. The PBL Academy would like thank Casper Feilberg, Rasmus Løvenstein Olsen, Jan Holm Ingemann, Claus Monrad Spliid, Pia Bøgelund and Jette Holgaard for their presentations – the PowerPoints are available on the PBL Academy [intranet](#).

At our next meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 the participants decided to discuss supervision at 1st year. There will be a call for presentation, but you are more than welcome to contact us if you want to give a presentation or have some ideas for the format of the meeting. If you want to make sure to be a part of the new network, you should send an email to [pbl@pbl.aau.dk](mailto:pbl@pbl.aau.dk).

## PBL Academy contributions to the AAU Strategy – Knowledge in the World

Currently the PBL Academy is working on three distinct contributions all related to the communication and dissemination of PBL at Aalborg University.

### Internal PBL communication Strategy

At AAU communication about PBL is a daily activity across the organisation. However, what and how we communicate PBL is currently not coordinated. This means that students and staff may meet very different and maybe even conflicting statements when they study, attend meetings or navigate AAU web pages. Each situation may require a specific approach but preferably taking into account AAU principles for PBL and their implications. Therefore, a communication strategy for internal communication about PBL at AAU is under development. The strategy will take into consideration the diversity in who is communicating, the purpose of communication and the multitude of media in which communication occurs.



### **Systematic registration of AAU research in PBL**

The PBL Academy is collaborating with AUB and VBN to find a way in which researchers at AAU can register those of their publications relating to research in PBL. Currently much research is being done at various centres and departments across faculties. However there is at present no common system in place to give an overview of existing research in PBL at AAU. One of the challenges is that researchers use different terminologies for PBL and that publications are not affiliated to one distinct tag or organisation for PBL research. We are therefore in a process in collaboration with AUB and VBN to identify a joint platform or procedure which will allow researchers throughout AAU to easily register their PBL related publications and which will make it possible to search for all PBL research across AAU.

### **Collecting and registering unregistered/unpublished materials about PBL at AAU**

In addition to improving the cross-faculty visibility of PBL research at AAU many departments, schools and individual researchers and teachers have through the years written reports, evaluations and papers on PBL from which we could learn. We are currently in a process of identifying and registering these materials and thus urge anyone who may have contributed towards such materials to contact the PBL Academy on [pbl@pbl.aau.dk](mailto:pbl@pbl.aau.dk).

## **Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)**

### **New issue out!**

Just before the end of 2016, a new issue of the journal will be published. Many thanks to the authors and reviewers for their contributions to the issue which is available at [the journal site](#).

### **Reviewers for the journal**

The journal is gaining recognition and for this reason we are constantly looking for dedicated reviewers. Therefore, if you are doing research in PBL and would like to contribute to the consolidation of the journal please contact journal editor Thomas Ryberg, [ryberg@hum.aau.dk](mailto:ryberg@hum.aau.dk).

### **Call for papers**

You find the general call for papers for JPBLHE [here](#). Please circulate this call in relevant networks both internally and internationally.

## **6th International Research Symposium**

From 3 to 5 July 2017 the Sixth International Research Symposium on PBL will take place. This symposium aims to bring together researchers studying all aspects of the learning process in problem based and project based learning, and those involved in the implementation of these approaches across the disciplines from all over the world. The IRSPBL is organized by the Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability under the auspice of UNESCO and Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and REES organized by Universidad de los Andes and is being held in Bogota in Colombia. For more information please visit: <https://www.ingenieria.bogota.unal.edu.co/irspbl2017/>



## **Making resources available also in 2017**

PBL is very much alive and kicking at Aalborg University, as the above newsletter, 23 PBL development projects and a substantial number of research publications demonstrates. In 2017 our aim in the PBL Academy is to contribute to making all these great resources more easily accessible and the communication about PBL at AAU even more coherent and nuanced.

We cannot achieve this without the engagement and contributions from colleagues across all of AAU. We would therefore like to thank everyone who have participated in events, working groups, meetings or via e-mail towards our work. We wish all at AAU a peaceful end to 2016 and an enjoyable entry into 2017.

### **The PBL Academy steering group**

Diana Stentoft, chair - Bettina Dahl Søndergaard - Erik Laursen - Jacob Davidsen