



PBL Academy Newsletter – June 2015

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2015. This time of year brings problem based learning to the forefront for many students and teachers who now enter the final stages of project writing and supervision and soon face the final evaluation of months' work. During this time students may reflect on their work, if they really captured the problem well, if the depth of theory is adequate, if the meaning they have attributed to the work resonates with the expectations of the internal and external readers of the project. As supervisors many of us will reflect on our role and contributions to the work of the students and if we supported the learning process in the best possible way. This time of year is nevertheless a reminder of the impact PBL has on what it means to be both student and teacher at AAU and this newsletter yet again shows how PBL is high on the agenda in many parts of the university.

Since our last newsletter

Flexible Learning Environments at AAU

On 11 March around 25 people attended the PBL Academy seminar on "Flexible learning environments at AAU". The seminar was held at the Aalborg Campus but video broadcasted to and from the Copenhagen Campus. Academic staff from all four faculties gave talks, including a video broadcasted talk from Copenhagen. Based in the talks from Nicolai Steinø, Janne Bang, Maj-Brit Quitzau, Lars Krull and Jeppe Emmersen a diverse and nuanced picture was drawn on some of the creative and flexible learning around the AAU locations. Following the talks the audience and speakers engaged in a constructive dialogue on some the challenges of having less physical space for teaching and group work. Following the seminar Journal of PBL in Higher Education will seek submission for a special issue on Flexible learning environments and a catalogue of examples will be made available on the PBL Academy intranet, including videos of the talks. The PBL Academy thanks all the speakers for their presentations.

Annual Report

The PBL Academy annual report for 2014 was concluded in March and is available on www.pbl.aau.dk. Finally, it should be noted that the Academy had its first advisory consultation with AAU Learning Lab in February.

Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)

New papers

As a new initiative the journal will very soon be publishing papers when they are ready. Later the paper will be included in an issue.

Reviewers needed

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.



Call for papers

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

PBL Academy working groups

The working group on flexible learning environments and PBL is nearing completion of its work while the two groups on progression and PBL and Intercultural PBL are in the initial phases. Both working groups are expected to invite for broader debate on their specific topics. So keep an eye on the PBL Academy homepage and our next newsletter for more information.

Activities

This spring the PBL Academy has contributed to a number of video clips produced by The Engineering, Science and Medicine Faculties Office showing various aspects of PBL. One of them also includes advice from the AAU principal. Some of them can be seen at the Facebook-site: AAU Engineers - Aalborg University, or directly at AAU Engineers youtube site: [Video clip 1](#) (with the university principal) & [Video clip 2](#) & [Video clip 3](#) & [Video clip 4](#) & [Video clip 5](#). We have also contributed to a short video produced in connection with AAU on Demand. Here university students from AAU visit high schools (STX, HF, HHX, HTX, EUX) and tell about PBL or even take over some of the teaching.

Mona Dahms made a presentation about PBL at a conference organised by 'Det Faglige Fællesudvalg for Murer, Stenhugger- og Stukkatørfaget' on 29-30 April at Munkebjerg Hotel in Vejle. They had asked for the presentation because a project apprenticeship test had been introduced and they are not used to project work in the group of specialist teachers. Approx. 50 – mostly men – participated. The presentation went down well and the following dialogue was good.

Resources and events

With exams nearing do not forget that videos and information on group examination of projects is available on the PBL Academy homepage at www.pbl.aau.dk/resources

And finally registration is still open for participation in the joint conferences of IRSPBL - International Research Symposium on Problem Based Learning, ALE - Active learning in Engineering Education network and PAEE - [International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education](#) to be held in San Sebastian, Spain 6 – 9 July 2015 and co-organised with the Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering, Science and Sustainability:

The PBL Academy aims to create and sustain debate, development and sharing of best practice in PBL and we greatly welcome any suggestion for activities or events that you may have. Please contact the board or our secretary Jane Bak Andersen jba@learning.aau.dk with your ideas and input.

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