



PBL Academy Newsletter – September 2015

The summer is over and this marks the beginning of a new academic year where AAU welcomes thousands of new students and many new members of staff. For everyone dedicated to and interested in PBL this is a particularly interesting and challenging time of year, as all our new colleagues and students present us with questions, observations, critiques and enthusiasm related to issues in PBL. One question often posed by new members of staff is whether students can actually organise their learning of a particular theoretical area by themselves during their project work? The answer derived from AAU's 40+ years of project-oriented and problem-based learning is, yes they can. However, it does require a dedicated supervisor willing to support, encourage, challenge and assist when needed. We therefore wish all PBL teachers and supervisors a joyful and inspiring semester and hope to see many of you at some of the PBL events of the autumn.

Since our last newsletter

Members of the PBL Academy steering committee regularly participate in meetings with visitors from around the world to present the thoughts behind PBL and the PBL Academy. Since the last newsletter we have thus held meetings with visitors from the Japanese Embassy and University Pompeu Fabra, Spain.

We have presented the overall principles of PBL to all our new international students in both Aalborg and Copenhagen in order to make their way into problem-based learning a little bit easier. Finally, Bettina Dahl Søndergaard has facilitated the panel debate "Innovativ evaluering og entreprenørskab [Innovative Assessment and Entrepreneurship]" at conference about Innovation and Entrepreneurship organised by Fonden for entreprenørskab, Aalborg University, and University College of Northern Denmark.

Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)

Special issue on PBL and Creative Processes – out now!

Special issue – PBL and Creative Processes is out now and can be freely accessed [here](#).

Early view

The journal now publishes papers and cases in early view versions. Have a look at the first cases and papers [here](#).

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 at AAU, nationally and internationally.



PBL Academy working groups

Working group on PBL and progression

The working group has identified three key tasks relevant to PBL and progression:

- Identification of examples where progression associated to PBL is visible throughout entire curricula
- Development of a manual which may be used to put PBL and progression into curricula
- Writing a brief concept paper outlining what we may understand by progression in relation to problem-based curricula.

The group continues its work during autumn of 2015 and will present results and considerations at a final seminar.

Working group on intercultural issues and PBL

On August 21st, the first meeting in the group working with intercultural issues took place. There was a lively and nuanced debate on the topic and many problems and possible solutions were identified. In December the group will host an afternoon seminar for all colleagues (date will be announced later). The group consists of Annie Aarup Jensen (HUM), Birgitta Madsen (International office), Olav Jull Sørensen (SAMF), Aida Guerra (TEKNAT) and Mette Dencker Johansen (SUND).

Resources

AAU management has recently revised the leaflet “PBL: Problem Based Learning – The Aalborg Model”. The leaflet can be downloaded from the PBL Academy web page on pbl.aau.dk. Hard copies can be obtained from AAU Communication, Pia Pedersen, ppe@adm.aau.dk

Aalborg University Press has established a book series dedicated to PBL entitled ‘Studies into Problem Based Learning in Higher Education’. Proposals and manuscripts for the series are welcomed. Please have a look [here](#) for more information and guidelines.

The university management has recently decided that Prorektor Inger Askehave in future will focus on education. This sends out a strong signal that education is a priority at AAU. It also signals that we must continue to research and develop our shared pedagogical approach of PBL. If you have any suggestions for events or debates touching issues in PBL we will be glad to hear from you. Please send an e-mail to The PBL Academy on pbl@pbl.aau.dk.

Diana Stentoft – chair – stentoft@hst.aau.dk

Bettina Dahl Søndergaard – bdahls@plan.aau.dk

Erik Laursen – el@learning.aau.dk

Jacob Davidsen – jackd@hum.aau.dk

Jane Bak Andersen – secretary – jba@learning.aau.dk