



PBL Academy Newsletter – December 2015

Since our last newsletter

Aalborg University has since its establishment in 1974 been a university dedicated to problem based learning. Over the years the PBL approach has been developed and critiqued and attempts have been made to both strengthen and weaken the PBL components. In the newly adopted AAU strategy for 2016 – 2021 PBL has been given significant attention as one of four key areas constituting what we are and how we educate at AAU. In the strategy visions for PBL are stated as:

“AAU is internationally renowned for our problem and project based learning and the documented results of this learning method.

All our students and staff act out our principles of Problem and Project Based Learning, which is a general feature in all programmes at the University. ICT is an integral part of problem and project based learning.”

The strategy signals that PBL will continue to be a characteristic of AAU and hopefully the PBL Academy can contribute to making PBL part of the glue uniting otherwise diverse educations, groups of students and members of staff. This means we need to continue the development of our approach to learning to accommodate general changes in society and more specifically the role of new media and technologies as part of higher education.

Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)

New issue of JPBLHE

We are pleased to introduce the fourth issue of the Journal of Problem Based Learning in Higher Education. Current issue is composed of five research papers and two PBL cases. These address different aspects of PBL in higher education and represent international experiences and knowledge with contributions from Brazil, Denmark, Germany and Morocco. The first three papers and the two cases touch upon the role of the teacher in facilitating problem based learning processes. These papers address the complex questions of how teachers can actually implement and teach PBL to students. The fourth paper reports on students' attitudes towards different types of exams (e.g. individual exams and group exams) in two engineering programs at Aalborg University. The fifth paper compares three different learning designs in an introductory computer science course on programming. The current issue explores a diverse set of aspects related to research in Problem Based Learning: teachers and supervisors roles, implementation of PBL curricular, assessment formats supporting PBL and new advances in combining technology and PBL. Read the issue [here](#).

Call for papers - Blended Learning in Architecture and Design Education

This is a call for papers for a special issue on “Blended Learning in Architecture and Design Education” to appear in Journal of Problem Based Learning in Higher Education (JPBLHE). The special issue is edited by NICOLAI STEINØ. Abstracts due 15/01/2016 · Papers due 01/07/2016



Please circulate this call in relevant networks both at AAU, nationally and internationally.

You find the general call for papers for JPBLHE [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.

On behalf of the editorial board, we would also like to thank the reviews for their excellent work this year.

Upcoming AAU events

To mark the conclusion of work the PBL Academy working group on PBL and progression is organising a seminar on 26 January 2016 13.00 – 16.00. At the seminar the group will present its work relating to three questions:

- How can we understand the terms and interrelations of progression and PBL?
- How may we envision progression and PBL in our educations?
- Which challenges emerge when considering progression and PBL?

The seminar will invite for debate across educational and organisational boundaries and is open to all interested AAU employees.

A separate invite will be sent out however it is possible to sign up following this [link](#).

External events

On June 16 – 17 2016 Zurich University of Teacher Education will host the conference Problem-Based Learning: Promoting Competences – Shaping the Future. The conference will address PBL from all areas of higher education with invited speakers from a range of fields.

Information about the conference can be found [here](#).

On 6 – 8 June 2016 8th, International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education (PAEE) and 14th Active Learning in Engineering Education Workshop will take place in Guimarães, Portugal. See conference info and call for papers [here](#).

Completing another year

A busy and interesting 2015 is nearing its end and with PBL continuing to gain momentum in higher education we look forward to the year ahead. The PBL Academy steering group would like to wish all a happy holiday and a prosperous new year of 2016.

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

Bettina Dahl Søndergaard: bdahls@plan.aau.dk

Erik Laursen: el@learning.aau.dk

Jacob Davidsen: jdavidsen@hum.aau.dk

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