



PBL Academy Newsletter

Since our last newsletter

Spring is in the air and the Easter break is around the corner. It is time for an up-date from the AAU PBL Academy. The PBL Academy continues to follow the process of implementing the new AAU Strategy – Knowledge for the World – and we look forward to seeing the results. One important outcome will hopefully be a comprehensive mapping of research and researchers in PBL which we believe will contribute further to the building of networks across departments and faculties naturally leading to a strengthening in our PBL research and implementations.

In this newsletter you will find information about upcoming events and conferences as well as resources relating to PBL. If you have any information about events or resources which may be relevant to your colleagues across the university please contact us.

Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)

New papers in early view

Make sure to check out the latest papers from JPBLHE in the [early view section](#).

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

Intercultural competencies and PBL

On 5 April the working group on intercultural competencies and PBL will host a seminar addressing the complexities involved in diverse group settings both relating to Danish and international students. Find more information about the seminar and sign up [here](#).

PBL and progression

On 26 January dedicated PBL teachers and researchers gathered to discuss how PBL may be linked to thoughts of progression. The afternoon clearly highlighted the complexity of the issue but also the necessity to address how the implementations of PBL may develop in line with the progressions through entire study programs. Read more about the seminar in AAU Inside [here](#).

As a follow-up from both seminars mentioned above materials and presentations will be made available on the PBL Academy Intranet accessible for all AAU staff from the beginning of April 2016.



New network for AAU staff involved with first year PBL

In the current version of the strategy for AAU PBL is given a central place. For example, all new students should be introduced to PBL. Thus, it seems timely and relevant to bring together teachers and researchers working with or with an interest in first year PBL pedagogy. Although, all students are introduced to the university's wide principles of PBL, there are different ways of conducting the introduction to PBL due to history, profession and 'ways of doing things'. The network will invite all the different experiences across the university to inspire and hopefully contribute towards teaching and learning activities at the first year.

The network will manage its own agenda however the PBL Academy will ensure organisation and initial facilitation of activities.

The networks can serve multiple purposes as for example:

- To collect and share experiences and resources
- To collect and share best practices across the programs and faculties
- To share research and engage in research project on first year PBL pedagogy
- To setup an inspiring network of teachers and researchers

The initial thought is to organise network meetings once per semester, however the exact organisation is up to the network.

The first network meeting will be held 17 May 2016 at 13.00-15.00. Sign up for the first meeting [here](#).

Up-coming PBL conference

The Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability under the auspice of UNESCO (UCPBL) together with Universidad Nacional de Colombia hold the 6th International Research Symposium on Problem Based Learning (IRSPBL'2017) in July 2017. The Symposium is held every two years and previous symposia have been held in Spain, Malaysia, the UK, and Australia. The first symposium was held in Aalborg in 2008. The symposia aim to create a global community of researchers within PBL and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, promote collaboration between PBL research communities and initiate new research projects. The 6th IRSPBL 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. See more about the symposium at this link: <http://www.ucpbl.net/research-symposium/>. The deadline for submitting abstracts is Nov. 21, 2016.

PBL Academy newsletter and resources

We are currently revising our website to make it more informative and to give quick access to relevant PBL news, events and resources. This also means that from the beginning of April 2016 all AAU staff will have access to our intranet, which will contain resources, materials from PBL Academy events etc. It is our ambition to continuously add to these resources hopefully establishing a shared space where teachers and researchers at AAU can find inspiration for their own work.

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