

Paper session 4B | Perceptions of quality in education from the viewpoints of students, teachers, and teacher educators

Room: Kullager

Discussant:: Jóhann Örn Sigurjónsson, University of Akureyri

Student questionnaires - an appropriate approach to measure students' use of learning opportunities?

Leonie Gossner
University of Zurich

Affiliated authors: Wida Wemmer-Rogh (University of Zurich, Switzerland); Urs Grob (University of Zurich, Switzerland); Gerlinde Lenske (Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany); Anna-Katharina Praetorius (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

There is very little theoretical and empirical knowledge about the students' use of learning opportunities. Therefore, we created a student survey which provides insight into their learning processes, since classroom observations cannot deduce students' mental processes adequately. Our study explores the question, in what ways the structure of students' learning processes can be modeled based on survey data. The applied INSULA assessment instruments were developed within a collaboration project between the working group for evaluation of schools in German-speaking cantons of Switzerland (argev) and the University of Zurich. The emerging classroom observation framework and the student questionnaire were implemented within the external school evaluation in the school year 2021/22 in one Swiss canton (N = 83 classes grades 4 to 9, N = 928 answered student

questionnaires). Two models were contrasted to examine the structure of student's learning processes using confirmatory factor analysis: the theoretically derived seven-dimensional model and a one-dimensional model. Goodness-of-fit statistics showed poor fit for both models. In a next step we plan to use profile analyses to determine whether different types of learning processes emerge to adequately capture students' learning processes. This research promises important insight on teaching, but several questions concerning surveys, measuring internal learning processes and dealing with systematic variance of the offer in the reported learning processes need to be discussed. The project holds opportunities for evidence-based development of teaching as questionnaires are easy to implement in everyday school life to gain insight into the students' learning processes.