

Session B1 - English papers

'Tutorials' in the reform-ridden mass university. Reflections on a desperate attempt

Abstract

Introduction

Co-creators, co-teachers, co-researchers — As testified in DUN's conference call 'co-' is 'in': Since management researchers Prahalad and Ramaswamy popularised the concept 'co-creation' around the turn of the Millennium, it has received increasing public attention, captured the imagination of business leaders, policy makers, and educators – and produced an off-spring of hyphenated siblings like co-learning, co-teaching, co-designing etc. In their original description, the word 'co-creation' means "The joint creation of value by the company and the customer; allowing the customer to co-construct the service experience to suit their context" (Prahalad and Ramaswamy 2004: 8). It thus carries connotations of collaboration and win-win partnerships and is linked to the context of (market) economy. Based on theories of policy and learning (see below) I want to reflect on practices and possibilities of co-teaching in contemporary universities.

Discussion

I will argue that university teachers and educators should treat 'co-creation' with caution as an 'essentially contested concept' (Gallie 1956). This implies investigating how the word is used and where it might take us in current debates about higher education. This is important in a situation, where resources for teaching and supervising – for involving students - are becoming increasingly strained; where Danish universities are put under pressure to make their students finish faster than before (Sarauw and Madsen 2016); and where students increasingly view themselves as 'customers' (Nielsen 2010). Based on experiences from a 10 ECTS course in organisational anthropology, the paper discusses the dilemmas of 'co(operative)- learning' (Millis & Cottell 1998) — and suggests a(nother) way to involve students in planning and teaching.

Method

Document analysis and participant observation

Results

To offer a critical constructive debate about co-learning and suggest an idea how to involve students in teaching.

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Literature

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