

Keynote speakers at the EAPRIL / PBPR conference 2009

Michaela Brohm, Germany
'Self regulation concerning social interaction: Theoretical and empirical foundations';

Maarten de Laat, The Netherlands
'A networked learning perspective on professional development';

Filip Dochy, Belgium
'Learning in teams and networks in education and professional practice: Results of Research and Theories';

Otto Herz, Germany
'Regional landscapes of education and learning - A concept for educational practice'.

Michaela Brohm

Text: Arjen de Wit

Scientific research should always change the practice of education, according to Michaela Brohm. The chair of the upcoming EAPRIL conference is enthusiastic about EARLI's practice-minded sister-organisation. "This is the future of educational research."

Next PRPB conference will be chaired by Michaela Brohm, professor for empirical research on learning and instruction, and didactics at the University of Trier. "Trier is a great place to organise such an event, with old Roman buildings and wine at the Mosel", she proudly tells.

What are the differences between the two conferences, in your opinion?

MB: "I had just the experience of last year's PRPB conference. There are much more discussions on the development of schools, of universities, of kindergarten. The aim is to strengthen the practice and to

book progress in the field of education. The PRPB conference is relevant to the practice. The EARLI conference is relevant to methods, to sets of data, etcetera. There is a lively atmosphere at both conferences, although 2000 people attend EARLI versus 300 at PBPR. Hopefully PBPR will grow through. I have a vision of PBPR being as big as EARLI."

Doesn't a practically-minded conference decrease the quality of it?

MB: "There are many researchers on the PRPB conference. The connection with the practice is the power of the conference. We can learn from

"We have to humanise schools"

practice, and they can learn from us."

Why is it necessary to act more practice-based?

MB: "The scientific approach never reached the basis. The core of EAPRIL is to combine research with practices. The educational system has to be developed. Good research is research that changes the educational system. We should include practitioners, and do

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more practical research. This can make a practical link. This will be the future of educational research."

You taught yourself. Can you link your own experiences in the classroom to the idea of bridging the gap between theory and practice?

MB: "Teachers can not read outcomes of studies, can't interpret it. The problem is that we have to underline the practice. When I was a teacher I would have wished to have a framework for orientation."

After her teaching career, you got into the academic world. Why was that change?

MB: "I wanted to develop myself, and have more space. Nevertheless, I never lost the



Michaela Brohm (wind-force 5)

link with the educational field."

Brohm does a lot of projects, always linked with the educational practice: "I have two foci: social competences, and achievement of motivation, because there is a big problem at schools to motivate students. I link my research always to didactics."

In the light of your research, what is your message to visitors of this EARLI conference?

MB: "Development of social competences is much, much more important than has been considered so far. There is too much focus on factual competences. We have to humanise schools. Factual and social competences should be at the same level in the development of schools."

Important dates:

Submission deadline:	Friday 4 September 2009
Review results:	before Friday 25 September 2009
Early bird registration deadline:	Friday 16 October 2009.
Registration deadline to be included in the conference programme:	Friday 23 October 2009
Final registration deadline:	Monday 9 November 2009

Quote of the day

"I am under the impression that eighty per cent of the people present wear glasses"

- Anonymous