

Submitted abstract

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Proposal Type:	Round Table
Domain:	Communities of learners
SIG:	Comprehension of Text and Graphics
Scheduling category:	Comprehension of Text and Graphics
Equipment	Slide projector

Paper Details

Title	INTEGRATED LEARNING – CONCERTED PLANNING OF A CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH STUDY REGARDING A DIDACTIC LEARNING MATERIAL AND PLAYGROUND
Abstract	<p>Constructivist approaches in teaching and learning have renewed interest in the theory and practice of integrated learning. In this context, teaching materials that engage students in multidimensional situations easy to differentiate for heterogeneous classrooms and individual ways of thinking are especially interesting.</p> <p>creafon® is an open and creative playground that appeals to all kinds of intelligence. It encourages to spontaneous discoveries and motivates the experimentation and composition. The experiences already performed show that creafon® can be pedagogically valuable and actually suitable for an artistic approach in supervision and in supporting learning difficulties.</p> <p>Our goal is to create a well-defined research project to be presented, discussed and further developed at following research conferences. As a first step some scholars around the world are exploring the material in the way that fits best to their situation. A first exchange already happened and the findings will be presented in this Workshop. Our experience with the material and the information about these small pilot studies will be the basis to discuss the developing of a cross-cultural research study regarding creafon®.</p> <p>In the first part of this workshop, participants will be confronted in an interdisciplinary and action-oriented way with their own thinking paths. Together with the audience the presenters will describe a Transformative Practice Zone (TPZ) and provide the working environment and tools to engage collaborations across disciplines and institutions. In the second part, we would work with the audience as in a TPZ to discuss this pilot research studies concerning creafon®. Our aim is to look at intercultural differences of reactions to this specific material in order to understand some of the problems of cross-cultural communication in education.</p>
Summary	<p>Note to the organizers: We have submitted the following proposal to both Workshop session and Round Table (90 minutes), because we think it can work in both cases. We would like the organisers to decide which one is the most suitable and convenient for the conference. Thank you very much.</p> <p>Markus Cslovjecssek, School of Teacher Education, University of Applied Sciences Aargau, Northwestern Switzerland markus.cslovjecssek@fhnw.ch</p> <p>Laia Viladot Vallverdu, Faculty of Sciences of Education, University Autonomus of Barcelona (UAB), Catalonia, Spain laia.viladot@uab.cat</p> <p>Albert Casals Ibanez, Faculty of Sciences of Education, University Autonomus of Barcelona (UAB), Catalonia, Spain albert.casals@uab.cat</p>

The understanding of learning processes has been fundamentally changed by scientific conclusions of the psychology and the neurophysiology of learning. It is imperative to create corresponding learning fields in order to be able to learn efficiently. Constructivist approaches in teaching and learning have renewed interest in the theory and practice in integrated learning. Teacher in every subject are looking for teaching material that engages pupils in multidimensional situations easy to differentiate for heterogeneous classrooms and individual ways of thinking.

creafon® is a recently developed learning material. According to the inventor, it is an open, creative playground composed of time, sound and shape. creafon® works according to the principle of "low skills - high sensitivity". It encourages to spontaneous discoveries and motivates to experimenting and composing. Through its multiple stimulus it appeals to all kinds of intelligence: linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, figurative-spatial, kinaesthetic, intrapersonal, and social intelligence. creafon® seem to be therefore pedagogically valuable and actually suitable for an artistic approach in supervision and in supporting learning difficulties. Depending on the user and the actual situation it can be seen as a mathematical device, a tool for innovative language creation or experiences in science, as an art puzzle or a musical instrument (Cslovjecsek, 2007). See www.creafon.ch

In the first part of this workshop, participants will be confronted in an interdisciplinary, action-oriented and participative way with their own thinking paths. Practical impulses will show possibilities of how to implement the material in math-, language-, science-, arts- and music-classes from kindergarten to university. Together with the audience the presenters will describe a Transformative Practice Zone (TPZ) and "provide spaces to share and listen to others' ideas, visions and commitments, and to build relationship in collaboration across disciplines and institutions" (Bresler, 2002).

In the second part, we will work with the audience as in a TPZ on a concerted planning of "a cross-cultural research study regarding a didactic learning material and playground":

The multi textual approach, the openness of the material to different school subjects but also to instructional and constructivist learning theory, enables teachers and learners to going different paths of learning and teaching. We are interested to looking at intercultural differences of reactions to this specific learning material. Out of this research we expect to understand more exactly some of the problems of cross-cultural communication in educational practice and research.

As a first step some scholars from different parts of the world are exploring the material in the way that fits best to their situation and possibilities. A first exchange already happened and the findings will be presented in this Workshop. Some of the research issues are:

- Analyzing reactions of experienced and inexperienced music and non-music teachers in relation to the didactic material creafon
- Research study on reactions of children in an after school club exposed to the playground creafon
- Learning material creafon? - Definition and evaluation of several tasks for primary school classrooms

The experience with the material in the first part and the information about first small pilot studies is the basis to discuss the developing of a cross-cultural research study regarding this particular didactic learning material and playground. The aim is, to create a well defined research project with outcome to be presented, discussed and further developed at following research conferences.

The creafon research group is open for other interested colleagues in joining the project; please take contact at the workshop.

Keywords Cognitive Skills
Comprehension of Text and Graphics
Integrated Learning

Appendices

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