Insights into, and prospects for, research on teachers’ professional development
7.5 hp (25%, 200 h) Course on doctoral level
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Karlstad University

Content
The focus of the course is to study research in relation to (mathematics) teachers’ learning and professional development, teachers in-service training and professional development culture, but general aspects of teachers’ professional development are also treated.
During the course research reviews and articles are discussed. Key concepts like design principles, sustainable learning, peer learning, as well as different perspectives on teachers’ professional development (individual, subject, school, society) are studied.
Teaching and learning takes place during seminars where teacher and student-led discussions are key. Time is assigned to students for pre-session reading and reflection and they are expected to prepare to present orally and in writing during the seminar.

Examination
Five course assignments and active participation during the seminars
The course is examined through three written assignments (including a popular science text), two oral presentations, as well as active participation during all four seminars.

Tentative reading list


Plus, 3-4 papers chosen by the participants, approx. 50 pages.
Tentative seminar program
Place: Karlstad University
(*=brief descriptions of course assignments)

Seminar 1 *An overview of the field*
(August 25)
Sowder (2nd handbook) 75 pages
*oral presentation of the text

Seminar 2 *Design Principles*
(September 15)
Rösken-Winter et al. (a, b) 12+12 pages, Zehetmeier 11 pages
*Write two replies from Sowder one to Rösken-Winter et al. and one to Zehetmeier in which the reported research and its design principles are reflected upon and problematized.

Seminar 3 *Peer learning*
(October 20)
White et al. 37 pages
*Choose two references used in White et al., that are of interest for your own study and prepare an oral presentation in which you link White et al., the two chosen articles and your own study.

Seminar 4 *The individual and the system: different perspectives on professional development*
(January 19)
Liljedahl 12 pages, Wemke 20 pages
*Write a popular science text for teachers & principals aimed at informing them on issues that affect professional development, connecting question 9 (Sowder), the local and global influences described by White (p397), the individual perspective described by Liljedahl and the role of the system as described by Wemke.

All previous literature
*reflect upon the course literature in the following way: make a table where you list all the articles and state for each article two things you can connect to regarding your own study, two things you will not connect to in your own study and motivate/argue your choice.