

Newsletter



June 2020

Editor: dag.sormo@hiof.no

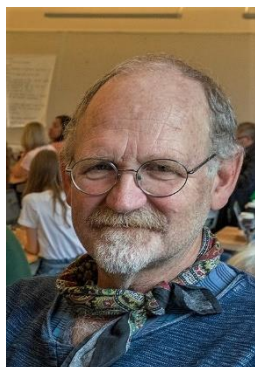
Index:

Dear Colleagues and Fellow ENIRDELMers	2
Hard work in Corona times.....	2
Learning through argumentation in focus	3
A reflection in COVID-19 times.....	3
View from sessions in Ljubljana	5
Fortuna’s song	6
NEWS from FINLAND.....	7
A Free offer to all Enirdelm members	9

NO CONFERENCE I 2020, - BUT FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, SHARING AND NETWORK WILL LAST! WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN 2021 – OF COURSE!

Dear Enidelm friend!

I have the pleasure once again to edit this Newsletter for ENIRDELM. Since last letter so many things have happened and so many things have changed in our daily living that for a while we do



Dag Sørmo

not know much about the future. But friendship will last and the hope will stay. This letter is very short, but reminds us to stay in contact in the ENIRDELM network.

To exchange minds and ideas and take care of friendship and cooperation will be both an issue and a challenge the next months, may be years. We hope we will see you again whether it will be here in Norway or some other place in the future. Time will show.

Dear Colleagues and Fellow ENIRDELMers



Kjersti Lien Holte

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Due to the corona situation the ENIRDELM board have decided to postpone the conference in Norway Fredrikstad 2020. The exact dates of the next conference will be presented on the website by September 2020.

During this tough time, it is more important than ever that we strive to remain connected in our network and continue to seek ways to share experiences, research and different policy approaches however possible. It is very useful for each of us to be provided with new professional knowledge and insight for how different thematic areas are being addressed in your country. The newsletter has for years been an important way of sharing experiences and thoughts in the network. We would like to thank everybody who has contributed to the newsletter this time and to Dag Sørmo for doing the editor job. Without you there wouldn't be a newsletter, so thank you so much for your important contribution.

Since you now have some extra time to prepare for the next conference, please take a look at the conference theme for the conference in Norway; Democracy and Educational leadership here http://enirdelm.si/?page_id=1140

I am looking forward to see you again – please take care!

Love from Kjersti Lien Holte

Conference Chair, ENIRDELM Fredrikstad Norway

Hard work in Corona times

The board was gathered in Norway in February to plan the 2020 Conference. Then there came a pandemic...

*The board meeting in Kjersti's home in Fredrikstad, Norway, in February:
From left Mualla Aksu, Kjersti Lien Holte,
Sebastjan Čagran, Karel Binon and Milan Pol.*



Learning through argumentation in focus



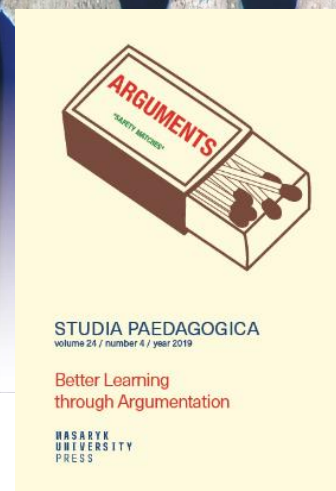
Milan Pol

A new special issue of *Studia paedagogica*, a Scopus-databased journal, has been released.

Its theme is *Better Learning through Argumentation* and it contains 11 interesting texts on this highly relevant topic.

ENIRDELM readers are most welcome! More to be found at

<http://www.phil.muni.cz/journals/studia-paedagogica>



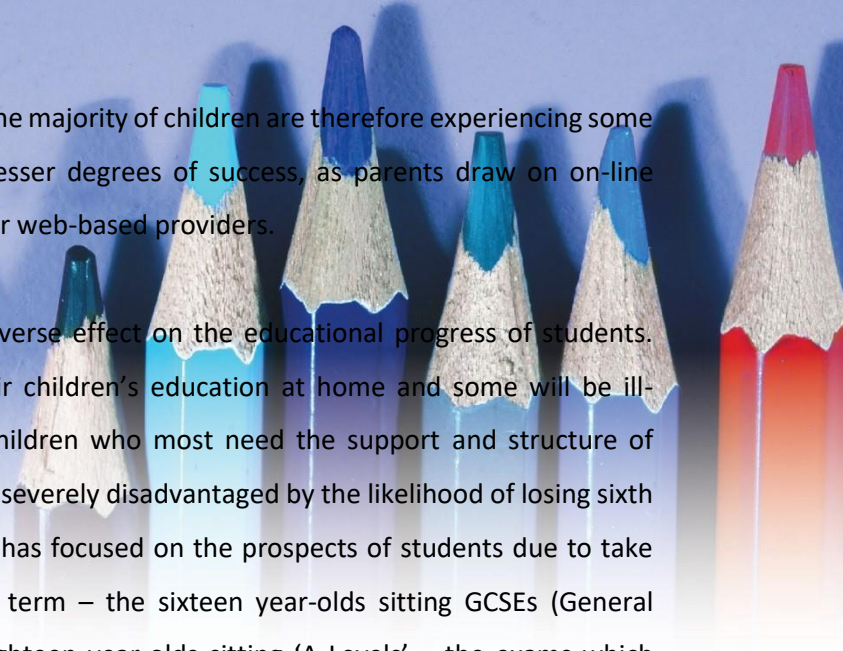
A reflection in COVID-19 times



Gerald Dunning

I suspect that the state of play in Wales (and the UK more generally) is very similar to that applying across the wider ENIRDELM network. Normal patterns of education have been put on hold as the compulsory closure of schools to most children came into effect on March 20th – later than in all other European countries except, I understand, Belarus.

Closure followed growing public concern about the safety of children and their potential as carriers of the COVID19 virus and criticism that the government's initial reluctance to take that measure was incompatible with its advice to the public to avoid social contact as much as possible. Closure also reflected the fact that an increasing number of schools faced staffing problems as teachers self-isolated with possible symptoms affecting themselves or family members. Schools are now open only for children with educational needs requiring specialist provision, those deemed at risk and those whose parents work in the health and emergency services, or in vital roles such as delivery drivers and supermarket staff and for whom alternative care arrangements cannot be made. Any return to normal schooling will depend on the course of the pandemic in the UK but it seems unlikely that it will occur until the



start of the new school year in September. The majority of children are therefore experiencing some form of home-schooling, with greater or lesser degrees of success, as parents draw on on-line resources made available by schools or other web-based providers.

This disruption must inevitably have an adverse effect on the educational progress of students. Parents are not compelled to support their children's education at home and some will be ill-equipped to do so. Consequently, those children who most need the support and structure of school-based provision are likely to be most severely disadvantaged by the likelihood of losing sixth months of schooling. The greatest concern has focused on the prospects of students due to take national examinations during the summer term – the sixteen year-olds sitting GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) and eighteen year-olds sitting 'A Levels' – the exams which determine access to higher education or some professional training courses.

It has now been decided that their grades will be determined by a mixture of course-work assessments completed to date and teacher assessments of likely examination results. While that solution may advantage some learners it may also disadvantage others who perform well under exam conditions and it has been suggested that students unhappy with their outcomes under the emergency arrangements may have the opportunity to achieve better grades by sitting postponed examinations in the autumn.

These circumstances will inevitably pose some complications for university admission processes affecting new student intakes this coming autumn. Almost all universities had shut down face-to-face teaching before school closures were introduced, switching to on-line provision of learning resources – at least for undergraduates - and encouraging students to return home wherever possible. My former campus at the erstwhile University of Glamorgan is therefore eerily deserted when I pass it on my early morning walk.

A fortnight ago, after prolonged prevarication, the government began to encourage self-isolation with everyone who could do so being encouraged to work from home, though as yet it is not enforcing these measures as rigorously as has been the case in other European countries. People are supposed to leave home only for essential food or medical supplies, to go to work if absolutely necessary and for reasonable exercise. As someone who is retired and who worked from home regularly during my university career I am perfectly used to this sort of regime but notice that many of my neighbours and on-line friends are finding it very strange. Fortunately, I have large gardens and easy access to quiet countryside for exercise.

My new daily routine has me setting out at 7.00 a.m for a 6K walk which takes in a disused railway line from my village to the deserted university and a climb up a particularly steep hill (some of the more vigorous attendees at the 2006 ENIRDELM conference may remember scaling it – I wonder if their legs are still aching!) to return home via a lane along the hill top with excellent views. I typically encounter only two dog walkers, a couple of joggers and the occasional squirrel – all at a safe distance.

I suspect that ENIRDELM 2020 may fall victim to a continuing need for us all to maintain safe distances. That would be a pity but, if it is the case, ENIRDELM members will no doubt have much to share about good educational practice in troubled times when the network next comes together. May you all live long and prosper.

Gerald Dunning (Chair 2005-06)

View from sessions in Ljubljana



Fortuna's song



Knut Ove Æsøy

Fortuna stands silence
Human hubris is high
The creativity of mankind
as something we can buy

But, sometimes it feels
when the fate turns away
My vital virtue vanish
as science with no gay

Cause, she laughs at my dream of security
Singing Sartre is wrong on human worth
Demanding me down, down on my knee

Only Fortuna brings changes by birth
The pipes of Pan may heal my plea
Knowing, that human living is on the earth

NEWS from FINLAND

Hello Dear “Enirdelmerns”

We all live extra special time also in our Schools in every European country. In Finland all schools have been closed now over two weeks. Our early childhood education is still going on almost normally. “Almost” means that if it is possible every families have taken their children away from

kindergartens. Among other things healthcare personal

and teachers can have their children 5 days a week in kindergarten. The same among pupils of special needs and in grades 1 to 3. In practice only 10-15 % of younger pupils are in schools. All elderly pupils work at home in primary, lower and secondary schools and in vocational schools. All universities are also closed.

In general, our media thank teachers and schools more and more every day. As usual during the crisis time in societies also here we have seen some “specialists” who want to tell how authorities must do their job.

School teachers work very diligently like distance teachers. Big majority of pupils and parents are very satisfied and principals tell that teachers’ acquirements are in a high level. Schools have computers enough so everyone can loan the laptop if it is needed. Our government has decided that schools will be closed until the last week in May. Principals, teachers and every adult in school sector are worry about pupils who have difficulties in schools during normal time. Naturally student welfare work hard all the time. Afterword we can see how we took care of this whole situation.

A short loan from the websites of our authority: “The Finnish National Agency for Education is supporting schools by providing support materials and instructions to schools on how to work under these exceptional circumstances. We have also opened an information service, where education providers and schools can ask questions they may have.”



Jukka Ahonen

Southern part of Finland is also closed. It means for instance that people from Helsinki area can not go to their summer cottages in other part of Finland. Let's see how long this decision will be in effect. Just now (4.4.2020) 20 people has died in Finland cause the corona. Citizens has been quite calm and has been responsive. Our young prime minister Sanna Marin and the whole government (five female party leaders and others) have inspired huge confidence. Because the orders we put all meetings into effect via internet (Teams, Meets etc.). It works better than many of us thought beforehand. I for instance supervise principals and leading teams that way. Normally everyone has her/his own coffee mug with and we lift the mugs when somebody say something clever 😊. It seems to be very important to see each other at least in a computer screen.

I really hope that this situation will be over until September and we will meet in Fredrikstad, Norway.

I'm sure we will have a very interesting conference in the nice City. Our friends' theme "Democracy and Educational Leadership" can not be better just now. Hereby I will send warm greetings to you and "Next Year in Paris" or in other words "Next Autumn in Fredrikstad"!

Jukka Ahonen

FINLAND

From an interesting session in Ljubljana 2020



A Free offer to all Enirdelm members



Herman Siebens

With 35 years of diverse educational experience on my counter (20 years teaching + 15 years director and general manager + 10 years educating principals at Brussels University) I was allowed to retire two years ago. Well, as we all know, rest rust. With a parallel academic career of about 30 years (with several articles and almost 30 books published - see google and Enirdelm annual publications since 2013 - and presentations at dozens of European conferences), including a

PhD in Educational Science, I'm not really resting yet.

The annual opportunity to present new studies at our Enirdelm conferences is a stimulus to further research and publication. There are still some books on the scaffolding for coming years. That is why I gladly offer all interested Enirdelm members guest lectures to students, teachers and school boards. My field of expertise lies in the field of responsible school policy. In particular: leadership, school governance, stress at work, participation and shared leadership, dilemma-solving, quality care, people management, change management, bullying between staff members, coaching, empathy, responsibility and integrity (ethics at work), policy-pursuing competence, resistance and destructive behavior among school staff, and so on. And we're open to new subjects and issues. For each of the subjects, both a general introduction and a specific interpretation to educational institutions are offered.

Guest lectures can be either teaching or in dialogue (workshops).

You always can contact me on:

Herman Siebens, PhD
siebens-marckx@skynet.be
+32 477 941685
Europastraat 31
2850 Tree, Belgium