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Call for Conference Proposals and Manuscripts

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THE INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PROPOSALS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Special Issue: Competency Orientation in Problem-based Learning to be published in fall 2017

Edited by Claude Müller Werder, Monika Schäfer, and Gerhard Thomann

In recent years competency orientation has become a primary focus of educational debate (e.g., Lozano, Boni, Peris, & Hueso, 2012; Ordonez, 2014; Zlatkin-Troitschanskaia, Shavelson, & Kuhn, 2015). Competencies are understood as cognitive abilities and skills to solve specific problems, associated with motivational, volitional, and social dispositions for using these skills and abilities in variable situations (Weinert, 2001). The focus on competence has shifted attention from the development and assessment of general cognitive abilities to more complex ability constructs related to real-world contexts (Koeppen, Hartig, Klieme, & Leutner, 2008). Problem-based learning (PBL) and related approaches, such as project-based learning and inquiry-based learning, have their strengths especially in long-term retention and skill development (e.g., Strobel & Van Barneveld, 2009), and are seen as promising methods of establishing competency development in educational courses, thereby providing a comprehensive basis for promoting learning, processes, and the skills necessary to operate effectively in professional and private life.

The special issue is directly linked with the conference “Problem-based Learning—Promoting Skills, Shaping the Future,” which will take place on June 16–17, 2016, in Zurich, Switzerland. The publication in the special issue is attached to the following conditions: *Authors submit an abstract for the conference and present their accepted work at the conference PBL2016 in Zurich.* It also is possible to participate at the conference without a publication in *IJPBL*.

The special issue will be published in fall 2017, which gives authors the possibility to revise their contributions after the

conference has taken place. For further information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.pbl2016.ch>.

Topics for the special issue include:

- PBL and competency development and related approaches
- Assurance of learning and competency measurement
- PBL and related approaches for professional development
- Effectiveness of PBL
- Design, implementation, and evaluation of PBL, learning units, and curricula
- Learning technologies and innovation for PBL and related approaches

Conference Proposals for PBL2016

The conference proposal should be a short version of the paper that contains essentials on a completed scientific paper or “Voices from the Field.” The following conference proposal structure is suggested:

- Title
- Author(s) (surname, first name, academic title, job title, work location)
- Contact address (institution, street, city, country, phone, e-mail)
- Abstracts must be submitted in English
- The maximum length of abstracts is 1,000 characters including spaces; no tables, no graphics
- Submissions of conference proposals should be made online via <https://www.conftool.com/pbl2016/>
- By submitting the abstract, the author(s) grant the organizers the right to publish it in electronic form

Article Submissions to *IJPBL*

Scientific papers and “Voices from the Field” (i.e., “good practice,” design concepts, pilot projects, etc.) within the topics should meet the following criteria:

- Offer innovative perspectives, arguments, problem analysis, and so forth to the main topic
- Scientifically sound (i.e., have a significant connection to the scientific discourse on the topic edited)
- Offer a gain in scientific knowledge
- Follow relevant rules of citation (APA style, 6th edition)
- Comprises 3,000–5,000 words

Full paper submissions will only be accepted through the *IJPBL* electronic submission system at <http://ijbl.org>.

- Please include 2017 “Special Issue: Competency Orientation in Problem-based Learning” prior to your title in the submission system and in your proposal/full manuscript.
- Remove any identifying information for review.

Important Dates

- September 30, 2015—Submission of proposals on conference website at <https://www.conftool.com/pbl2016/>
- November 30, 2015—Acceptance/rejection of contribution
- September 30, 2016—Full paper submission: Scientific papers and “Voices from the Field” manuscripts uploaded on *IJPBL* website at <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/ijpbl/>
- February 2017—Deadline revision: If necessary, contributions may be revised according to recommendations of the reviewers
- Fall 2017—Online publication: In fall 2017, the finalized articles will be published in a special issue, Volume 11, Issue 2, at the website of *IJPBL*: <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/ijpbl/>

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Submit proposals at <http://www.ijpbl.org>.

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