Keynote EAPRIL2019

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"Grasping learning: a mission not fully completed yet"

Successful learning and studying in higher education today is expected to involve students in deep approaches to learning towards more meaningful and critical learning instead of just repeating knowledge. The rationale behind this expectation seems to be largely based on the idea that higher education is increasingly required to deliver work-ready graduates that are prepared to a life as lifelong learner and that, given the scholarly nature of higher education, part of that should be the development of deep approaches to learning. In order to foster such deep approaches to learning, research and development programs have been initiated in the past decades that have resulted in feedback-tools to assist both students and employees to gain insight in their own (approaches to) learning. In my keynote, I will on the one hand present such feedback-tools and the research behind these tools and try some of these tools with the audience. On the other hand I will also discuss potential problems and pitfalls with such tools that are largely based on self-report data and present ongoing research from our team in Antwerp in which we make use of eye-tracking technology in order to try to take these problems into account.

David Gijbels is full professor of learning and instruction and associate research dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Antwerp. His research is situated within the researchgroup EDUBRON and he teaches different courses in the master 'education and training sciences' (OOW). He is co-ordinating the scientific research network on 'learning strategies in informal and social learning contexts'.

He graduated from the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences of the University of Leuven, Belgium and started his professional career at the University of Maastricht in The Netherlands were he also defended his PhD on the 'effects of problem-based learning environments'. Before his current position, he was a researcher and professional developer at the Center of Excellence in Higher Education (ECHO) of the University of Antwerp.