



Guest Lecture

Prof. Dr. Theo van Dellen, University of Groningen

Towards a social responsibility theory for educational research (in lifelong learning)

22.1.2013, 2 pm

Kursraum, Liebeneggstraße 8, Institut f Erziehungswissenschaft

Topic: This contribution argues that educational research has (not) mastered the values needed for decision making and change. The main issue is the yawning gap between theory and practice in educational research exemplary in a professional field like lifelong learning. A variety of types of research is presented to show the differences of orientation, process, methodology and goal or focus. Next the issue of the existing gap between theory and practice is approached by contrasting in an exemplary way two extreme types of research: the traditional empirical-analytical and the action research paradigm. Workers within these two opposite paradigms are passionate researchers, lecturers or practitioners but do have different epistemological assumptions and beliefs and moreover feel committed to different professional and scientific or academic responsibilities. Following this reasoning, the need for a social responsibility theory to bridge the yawning gap between theory and practice is discussed thoroughly. Does a theory transcend the affective separation between researchers from the two extreme paradigms? Is there a perspective for such a theory?

Moderation: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Lynne Chisholm, Institute of Educational Science

Speaker: Dr. Theo van Dellen was born in Groningen, The Netherlands in 1953, completed a local High School, and studied Mathematics (candidate-examination) and (Clinical) Psychology from 1971 to 1981 at the University of Groningen. He received his Ph.D. in Psychology at the same university in 1987 with the thesis 'Response processing and movement organization in clumsy children: an experimental approach'.

Afterwards his field of interest changed in the direction of training and development of adults (human resource development). Since 1986 he is working in this field, in the discipline of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences within the Faculty of Behavioural and Societal Sciences of the University of Groningen.

Between 1996 and 2005 he provided extensive advice and consultancy services to external (training) organizations, typically on issues such as management development, professionalism of adult trainers, motivation and emotion in learning and development of adults, and human resource development.

Nowadays his research interests include topics like work(place) related learning, motivation (to learn), emotion and adult learning (adult learning theory), the professional role of teachers, trainers and coaches in the adult learning process and the organizational learning climate.