

Welcome to NorDiNa 1/12

Welcome to the first of three NorDiNa issues this year. In addition to our two regular issues, the next one will be a special issue with articles from the conference “Nordiskt forskarsymposium om undervisningen i naturvetenskap” (NFSUN), held in Linköping last June.

We would like to give you a status report from 2011, and since it is impossible to process all the manuscripts we receive in the same year, we also include the status for 2010 and 2012. As you see, it was a major increase in received manuscripts in 2011. This might be due to the special issue from NFSUN, however we hope it also is an indication that NorDiNa has become known to a wider audience.

Status NorDiNa per 16.03.2012

Year	2010	2011	2012
Received manuscripts	25	35	6
Published	17	6	
In process	2	20	6
Rejected	4	10	
Sleeping*	2		

* Sleeping manuscripts are in the hands of the authors and we haven't heard from them for a long time

In this issue we present six articles on various topics concerning teachers and students representing all levels from primary school to higher education. Maria Berge, Anna Danielsson and Åke Ingerman focus on problem solving in groups by exploring the ways engineering students approach qualitative mechanics problems and how these approaches are related to norms and expectations within the engineering student communities.

Veronica Bjurulf examines how different arenas contribute to students' learning in Swedish technical vocational education. She concludes that in school the teachers act as role models, whereas at the workplaces the teaching varies between supervisors and is influenced by the supervisor's daily agenda and the way the supervisor gives instructions.

Different perspectives on the environment are illuminated in two of the present articles. Marie Öhman and Johan Öhman focus on the opposing perspectives conflict and harmony related to the concept of sustainable development. In a case study of upper secondary students they explore how the aspects of economic, ecological and social sustainability are expressed. Biological diversity is part of the issue when Martin Eriksson and Carl-Johan Rundgren investigate how upper secondary students argue on the socio-scientific issue of wolves. They explore students' attitudes towards wolves and what types of arguments the students are using about wolves. The results show that more than half of the students have negative attitudes towards wolves and that their arguments are based more on value than knowledge.

Two articles in this issue focus on teachers intentions. Helena Persson, Margareta Ekborg and Christina Ottander have interviewed two teachers on their intentions with integrated science, and recorded their implementation in the classroom. They show that external factors have a great influence on the implementation and make the teachers change their actions. In another article, Birgitta Wilhelmsson, Christina Ottander and Gun Lidestav explore teachers' intentions and objectives with regular teaching outdoors. They report that teachers stress the out-of-school learning drawing on the real world and concrete materials, but the teachers have diverse objectives for initiating these authentic experiences.

In this issue we also bring the abstract of one recent dissertation, and we encourage new candidates to submit their abstracts to NorDiNa.

We are currently working on publishing NorDiNa on an Open Journal System (OJS) and hopefully when the next ordinary issue of NorDiNa is published we are up and running. The main reasons for doing this are that it will ease the review process and the administration of it. Moreover the published articles will be available online at the same time as the printed version and searchable via the large search engines. But don't worry, we will also keep the printed version of NorDiNa.

Finally, we want to give our warmest thanks NorDiNas subeditor, Lise Faafeng, for the great job she has done with NorDiNa from the start in 2005 until the end of 2011. We also want to welcome our new subeditor, Aud Ragnhild Skår, who has done the layout on the present issue.

Enjoy your read!

Sonja M. Mork

Christina Ottander

Svein Sjøberg