

Jankvist, U. T. & Niss, M. (2020). Fostering an intimate interplay between research and practice: Danish "maths counsellors" for upper secondary school. *Nordic Studies in Mathematics Education*, 25 (2), 99–118.

Abstract

The gap between research and practice is a well-known problem (and topic) in educational research, and not least in mathematics education research. This empirically based article discusses the effects of a particular attempt to foster a closer connection between research and practice by involving mathematics education research findings in the activities of selected Danish upper secondary school mathematics teachers, who (have) take(n) part in a research-based so-called "maths counsellors" in-service teacher programme. A key aspect of the programme is to make the activation of research findings a mere necessity for significant aspects of the maths counsellors' practice. To illustrate the teachers' research-based work, the article presents six characteristic examples from the implementation of the programme, i.e. authentic examples of how prospective maths counsellors have identified students with mathematics specific learning difficulties, have diagnosed the nature of these difficulties, and how they have designed interventions to help the students overcome them. A discussion of how these activities draw upon and are grounded in mathematics education research findings serve as a basis for evaluating the "model" behind this further education programme.

Uffe Thomas Jankvist

Uffe Thomas Jankvist is professor of mathematics education at Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark. His research interests involve the use of history of mathematics in mathematics education, digital technologies in the teaching and learning of mathematics, the role of interdisciplinarity when teaching mathematics, students' mathematics specific learning difficulties, and – more recently – implementation research related to mathematics education. He is currently a member of the board of European Society for Research in Mathematics Education (ERME).

Mogens Niss

Mogens Niss is emeritus professor of mathematics and mathematics education at Roskilde University, Denmark. His research interests focus on mathematical competencies, the didactics of mathematical modelling, the nature and history of mathematics education as a research domain, the justification problem in mathematics education, and – more recently – on students' mathematics specific learning difficulties. He was the secretary general of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction 1991–1998.