

Abstract

Design-based research:

An alternative approach to combine innovative educational practice and research

Design-based research is a recently developed paradigm within the educational research landscape which describes the systematic study of designing, developing and evaluating educational interventions (such as programs, teaching-learning strategies and materials, products and systems) as solutions for complex problems in educational practice. By exploiting this design experience, it also aims at advancing our knowledge about the characteristics of these interventions and the processes of designing and developing them. The presentation will touch the following issues:

- How does design-based research differ from other approaches and which is the rationale of design-based research?
- For which research questions might design-based research be an adequate research methodology?
- How should design-based research projects be designed?
- How can reasonable design-based research goals be developed and which methods fit best to reach these goals?
- Which quality criteria should be used to guide design-based research projects?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of design-based research?

The presentation will also contain a concrete example of how design-based research has been used to change educational practice, and at the same time to gain new insights within a specific field of activity.