



Atle Urdal (1913-1988) was a painter born in Tromsø. **This painting** is typical for his style of art, a spectrum of figures and landscapes represented in rich colors, combined with a constructive and symbolic message. In the left corner of the picture, Urdal has placed the famous priest and poet, Petter Dass (1647-1707). To understand his significance, it is important to understand the historical context and society during his life. Far from the center of society, in the Northern part of Norway, he was in a position of authority as a priest where the church was the main source of information and education for society.

Dass changed the liturgy so it was understood. He was a great educator where he wrote psalms and hymns that rhymed and had a moral underlying that got memorized and spread to all the different parts of Northern Norway. At a time when the northern part of the country was not given any importance he inspired pride and education to the people living in the northern part of the country. It could be that today his legacy carries on and that is why that even in small rural places, far from the power centers in Norway there are possibilities and opportunities to rethink and believe in big projects.

# Challenges and opportunities for R&D as an integrated part of the new Teacher Education program at the University of Tromsø

Annfrid Rosøy Steele

Ph.D. Student at the University of Tromsø, Department of Education

E-mail: Annfrid.R.Steele@uit.no

## Introduction

*University Schools, Research and Development, Professional identity, Action Research*

The University of Tromsø started in the fall of 2010 a project called 'University Schools.' The project's aim is to strengthen the praxis field in the teacher education programs. This involves a clearer focus on research and development, R&D, as a collaborative tool between the theoretical and the praxis field.

My Ph.D. project is based on one of the Teacher Education Program's goals which states that R&D, through all levels of the education, is going to be the tool to stronger connect the ties between theory and praxis and that again will help students to develop a stronger professional identity (Pilot I Nord).

This coming fall, the first group of students who started the new teacher program in 2010, will start their work on collecting empirical material for their bachelor paper. Action research, based on their experience from their praxis periods at the University Schools, is going to be the method for their findings. For the teacher educators it will be important to follow up the students in this process and that will depend on collaboration between the praxis teachers and the teacher educators based at the university.

The intention of this poster presentation is to produce feedback on my article exploring how the cooperation process between the praxis and pedagogical teachers, through the use of R&D with regards to the students bachelor work will be integrated.

## Method

*Qualitative method, focus group interviews, document analysis*

Methodically, the focus will be on document analysis, and participation in meetings regarding the University Schools and how the startup for the first group of bachelor students functions. My approach to the teacher educators will be through focus group interviews. I will put together groups of teacher educators representing both the University Schools and the teachers from the university.

The main purpose of focus group research in general is to draw upon the informants' attitudes, emotions, beliefs, experiences, and reactions in a way that could not have been done by using other methods such as observation, surveys, or one on one interviews (Gibbs, 1997).

## Research questions

- ❖ How can teacher educators, through increased R&D, strengthen their professional identity?
- ❖ How to develop and strengthen professional identity among the students in the Teacher Education Program?
- ❖ How to organize the cooperation between the pedagogical teacher educators and the teachers at the University Schools with regards to the bachelor students guidance?

### Sources:

**Gibbs, Anita (1997):** *Focus Groups*, Social research Update, Issue 19, 1997, the department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford, England

**Hansen, Kåre (2006):** *Petter Dass, mennesket, makten og mytene*, Sandnessjøen, privately published

**Pilot i nord:** [http://www2.uit.no/RRViewer/Content/28165/Laestrublaetter\\_forlag.pdf](http://www2.uit.no/RRViewer/Content/28165/Laestrublaetter_forlag.pdf)

**Urdal, Atle:** [Hhttp://snl.no/Atle Urdal](http://snl.no/Atle_Urdal)