

## Why are We Here?

Tensions in the higher education system provoke us occasionally to ask the question “Why are we here?”, “Why do I bother?”. In an ideal world students would view their period at university as an unprecedented opportunity to engage with the rich scholarly environment to learn vital skills and extract as much knowledge as possible before leaving ready for their next stage in life.

Several actors need to work in synchronization for this to happen, including the students themselves. The goal of the series of talks is to increase the understanding of motivations behind how actors in the education arena behave, and thus create a foundation for improvement. A central element will be “identity” in homage of the work done by Anne Peters, who defends her [PhD thesis \*Learning Computing at University: Identity and Participation A Longitudinal Study\*](#), at 13.15 on Friday December 1.

This meeting is open to all and jointly organised by the Uppsala center for STEM disciplinary education research ([MINT](#) in Swedish), the [UpCERG](#) group, and [CeTUSS](#). Presentations address different aspects of the question “Why are we here?”, and ample time will be provided for discussion.

To facilitate catering arrangements we ask participants to register by e-mail to [Mats.Daniels@it.uu.se](mailto:Mats.Daniels@it.uu.se). Attendance is free of charge.

### Program

#### **Thursday November 30,**

Polacksbacken Campus, ITC 2446

13-17 Presentations and discussions

*Aletta Nylén*: Why are we here?

*Lars Ulriksen*: How do students spend their time and why?

Around 14.30 Fika

*Virginia Grande*: Teachers as role models

*Ville Isomöttönen*: For the oppressed teacher: Stay real!

*Arnold Pears*: Archetypes as a mode of meaningful reflection

#### **Friday December 1**

Polacksbacken Campus, ITC 19204

9-10 Fika

Polacksbacken Campus, ITC 1146

10-12 Presentations and discussions

*Matti Tedre*: Disciplinary identities and the importance of understanding how they are transferred or conveyed between generations

*Roger McDermott*: Authenticity, Identity and the importance of the Illative sense FOR Learning

*Mats Daniels*: Aspects of openness

Polacksbacken Campus, ITC 2446

13.15 PhD defence - Anne Peters