

## HIGHER EDUCATION PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE 2024

Date: October 11, 2024

### **Academic development as a collective effort: interdisciplinarity, coherence and organizational learning**

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Faculty members as subject experts are key stakeholders in universities. Much of the academic development work is focused on creating supportive conditions for teaching and learning often by way of development programs and coaching focused on the needs of individual faculty. But there is an ongoing discussion about broadening the perspective of academic development by addressing the whole of the academic role beyond teaching (Sutherland, 2018) and actively stimulating increased multi- and interdisciplinary collaborations, coherence, and even organizational learning in the modern university (Stensaker, 2018).

In her contribution, Professor Zellweger will share insights on the collective efforts as well as on the changing role of faculty and academic development in the context of Swiss higher education. In so doing, Professor Zellweger presents research results from a joint project of three universities of applied science to foster team learning with the dual perspective on research and practice, shares ideas on a whole-institution approach to establishing sustainability culture, and briefly introduces the notion of need-based interdisciplinary learning formats of universities of applied sciences in collaboration with companies from the infrastructure sector.

#### **Literature:**

- Stensaker, B. (2018). Academic development as cultural work: Responding to the organizational complexity of modern higher education institutions. *International Journal for Academic Development*, 23(4), 274–285. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1360144X.2017.1366322>
- Sutherland, K. A. (2018). Holistic academic development: Is it time to think more broadly about the academic development project? *International Journal for Academic Development*, 23(4), 261–273. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1360144X.2018.1524571>

#### **Narrative bio**

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Franziska Zellweger studied business education at the University of St. Gallen. In her dissertation (2002-2006) at the Institute for Business Education and Educational Management she investigated the strategic planning of e-learning support at research universities. From 2007-2009, she worked as a junior lecturer at the Institute on research and teaching, always with an organizational perspective on higher education.

This focus also shaped her work at the ZHE Centre for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at the Zurich University of Teacher Education, which she helped to set up from the very beginning. Initially, she designed and managed a continuing education programme for study programme coordinators, which is still running successfully today. She developed special expertise in curriculum development and lateral leadership and was able to support many institutions as an external consultant. From 2014-2019, she led the six-person team and the strategic development of the centre. Since 2019, as a professor for teaching and learning in higher education, her main topics are processes of team learning, curriculum development as well as first year student experience.

## Picture

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[Link to picture](#)