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Title

Challenges in collective academic supervision : supervisors' experiences from a master programme in guidance and counseling / Gitte Wichmann-Hansen ; Rie Thomsen ; Helle Merete Nordentoft

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Abstract

The idea of peer and group learning is not new in higher education. It has been applied and studied extensively in courses, programmes, and other formal classroom contexts. However, there is not, as yet, a correspondingly large body of research into peer learning in supervision contexts. In this article we address the challenges experienced by supervisors practising Collective Academic Supervision (CAS) as part of a Master Programme in Guidance and Counselling. The data stem from a research and development project and consist of video footage from three collegial development seminars in which five supervisors at master's level watched and discussed video footage of their own supervision of practices. The article, therefore, adds to existing literature on supervision in higher education by illuminating supervisors' perspective on collective supervision processes. Our analysis reveals three major challenges experienced by the supervisors: (1) facilitating equal participation within heterogeneous student groups, (2) balancing between providing answers and involving

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students, (3) identifying and developing the students' analytical skills. We discuss the practical implications of these challenges and conclude that metacommunication regarding individual expectations and group behaviour should be part of supervisors' repertoire of strategies when practicing CAS. However, more research is needed regarding supervisors' dilemmas, roles and responsibilities in collective supervision, as well as modes of interaction between supervisors and students in different study contexts. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Eichmann-Hansen, Gitte, E-Mail: gwhansen@tdm.au.dk