



The unexpected: Why and how (mathematics) teaching in Japanese schools has influenced educational research - and my career

By Jacob Feldbak Bahn

Time: Friday, April 29, 13:00-16:00

Venue: Building 1465-120

The unexpected about mathematics teaching in Japan:

Japanese schoolchildren are consistently performing among the highest ranking in the world. Contrary to most people's assumptions, this is not due to old-fashioned discipline, hard-core transmissive teaching and rote learning. Since the 1990es, international research has demonstrated that teaching in Japanese schools has developed into one of the most advanced in the world. Ironically, from a western point of view, this results from the Japanese efforts to convert western ideals of teaching into practice. An effort we never really accomplished ourselves. Naturally, all over the world, researchers, educators and teachers look to Japan for inspiration.

In this presentation, we will see and discuss the fundamental differences between teaching in Japan and Denmark (and other western countries). Be ready to re-live your own mathematics classes! In addition, we will look into and discuss structural reasons of why and how Japan succeeded where the West failed (and hence, why so many of us learned so little).

Based on your prior Japanese studies, I am looking forward to some interesting discussions regarding other historical and cultural aspects or facts, which may have influenced the development of teaching in Japan.



The unexpected about my career with Japan:

Just about everything about my career was unexpected - in general and with Japan in particular. I will outline my study and work relation with Japan from the first meeting until now. While it has turned out well, it was not always so. In fact, I had a hard break from Japan for almost twelve years, but then luck and affection struck again...

Everybody is welcome

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