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Pre-service music teachers reflecting on their education: the beginning of a longitudinal research project

This paper presents results from the first cycle of data collection of a ten-year longitudinal research project with the aim to investigate the following research questions: How does the career of a group of generalist music teachers develop over ten years? How do they value their education, and how does their evaluation change over time? The background for this project is the new five-year, integrated master generalist teacher education in Norway, that was introduced in 2017. It is of great interest to investigate the impact this quite radical change has had on teaching and turnover. Moreover, to improve and develop music teacher education, it is important to investigate which parts of their education (in music) the students find useful over time and contributing to their professional development. There are indications that teachers' evaluation of their education changes during their career (Conway, 2012), and therefore this will be asked for in all cycles of data collection. As all students are now required to write a master's thesis, their thoughts on the value of this work will also be covered in the project. This project rests on previous longitudinal work in the field of music education, most notably the work of Bouij (1998) and Bladh (2002), as well as other studies concerning the working life of (music) teachers (Bailer, 2009; Fredriksen, 2018; Huberman, 1989). In the first cycle of data collection, group interviews were conducted in spring and fall 2022. Further data collection is planned in 2023, 2027 and 2032. The paper will include preliminary findings and suggestions for the next cycles of data collection.

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