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Preparing Lifelong Learners. Student Learning in Higher Education and Beyond.

Education is facing challenges today in educating students to become life-long learners and versatile experts. Successful learning in this perspective assumes students to be involved for instance in 'deep learning'. Over the past decades, a large amount of research has been conducted on how students approach their learning in (higher) education and in the transition to the workplace. Although students are expected to develop more 'deep learning' during their studies, research concerning the development is not always pointing into that direction. In my lecture, I will discuss the longitudinal research in this field and will argue that both conceptual and methodological factors might be important explanations for some of the contradictory findings. I will conclude with research from our own research group in which we try to take into account these factors by looking to learning at different levels (task level, course level and general level) and by combining self-report measures (such as questionnaires and interviews) with online process measures (such as eye-tracking).

- Prof. David Gijbels, EARLI 2017 Keynote Speaker, January 2017.