



The Wonderful Education Project

Seminar

Wonder, human flourishing, and education

- **Prof. Kristján Kristjánsson** (University of Birmingham)
- **Dr. Jan B.W. Pedersen** (Deaconess UC, Copenhagen)
- **Dr. Helen Kopnina** (The Hague University of Applied Sciences)

VU Amsterdam, MF-A216

Friday, 24 April 2020

15:00-18:00

Followed by drinks

Is a sense of wonder important in education? Does it contribute to human flourishing, and does it differ from awe in this regard? Should it play a role in education aimed at human flourishing? And does wonder also point towards a wider notion of flourishing, beyond human flourishing? *See back for more information about the presentations.*

Participation is free, but registration is required.

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This seminar is made possible by
funding from the John Templeton
Foundation

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Prof. Kristján Kristjánsson

Flourishing, awe, and education

The presentation focuses on the role that awe should ideally play in good education, conducive to student flourishing, and it explores the reasons why it seems to have taken a backseat in today's schooling. I also examine the conceptual contours of awe and how it distinguishes itself from wonder, even "deep wonder". I end with some reflections on how teachers are (or rather are not) prepared for the role of "awe educators".



Dr. Jan B.W. Pedersen

The place of imagination in wonder, human flourishing, and education

Based on his 2019 book *Balanced Wonder* Jan B. W. Pedersen will in this talk explain in what sense the intense use of the imagination is a part of wonderment; how it contributes to human flourishing in a joyful way and why is it a good idea to focus on wonder and not awe in relation to education.



Dr. Helen Kopnina

Wonder and non-human flourishing

Helen Kopnina will offer a reply to the previous two presentations, in order to then extend the notion of flourishing beyond the human realm, highlighting important connections between wonder and ecological education.