A longitudinal study on professional development in visual arts

AUTHORS

Melanie Troll[1],
Helen Jossberger[1],
& Hans Gruber[1,2]

[1]Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Educational Science, University of Regensburg, Germany,
[2]Faculty of Education, University of Turku, Finland

Contact
Melanie.Troll@ur.de
XING: Melanie Troll

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

- Professional development poses intraindividual challenges (e.g. developing an artistic profile) as well as interindividual challenges (e.g. network extension) to visual artists.
- Budding artists have to develop a profile and think carefully about subject, composition and genre regarding their artworks.
- Therefore, gaining *autonomy in decision making* was identified as a supporting factor of professional development (Sawatsky et al., 2020).
- To expand their *credibility in public* and to achieve social recognition, artists have to take part in exhibitions and spread their names in public (Baldin & Bille, 2021).
- Artists are said to be professional, if they can sell their art regularly and show high levels of competence above the average (Mieg & Evetts, 2018).

MAIN RESEARCH AIMS

- Portray changes of the two variables *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public*

- Examine how beginning artists develop professionally by gaining *autonomy in decision making* and earning *credibility in public* and point out critical incidents

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

(1) Which change processes of *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public* do artists notice during their professional developments and what changes do they find particularly relevant?

(2) Which factors influence the changes of *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public* in the course of the artists' professional developments?

SAMPLE

- N = 25 novices during their academic careers in German art academies

- Novices are students with little experience who just started their academic career and who have only participated in introductory courses.

METHODS

- **Instruments**:

  - **Questionnaire**: We will implement a questionnaire to capture changes of individual perceptions of *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public*.

  - **Qualitative Interviews**: We will conduct qualitative interviews to examine critical incidents and influencing factors of change processes of *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public*.

  - **Oberservations**: We will observe artists during their creation processes and exhibitions to identify critical incidents more precisely. Observation findings will be considered during the interviews.

- **Analyses**:
  - Questionnaire: descriptive evaluation (average, means, standard deviations), regression analyses
  - Interviews & Observations: qualitative content analysis

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Increase of *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public* in the course of professional developments

- Obtaining a better understanding of professional development in visual arts by analyzing the changes of *autonomy in decision making* and *credibility in public*

- Working out decisive factors of becoming a professional artist
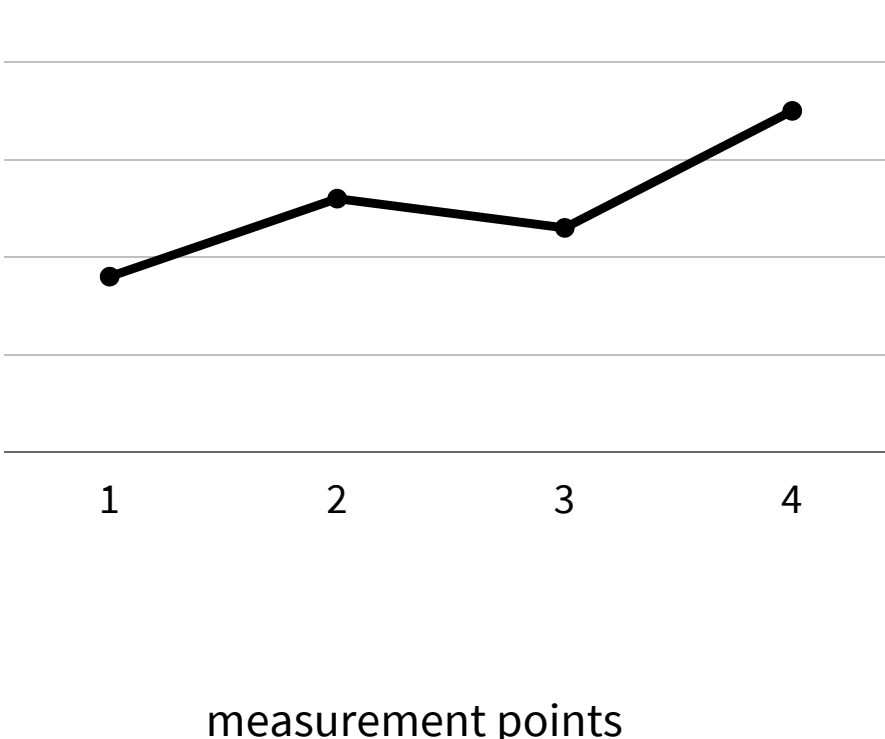
Figure 1 *Expected increase of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public (symbolic image)*

Figure 2 *Examination of influencing factors of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public (symbolic image)*

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