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# Research project and campus Bodø

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#### Introduction

- This study explores how psychological contracts between teachers and students are negotiated in three high schools, aiming to improve the learning environment through enhanced mutual expectations.
- The current study investigates the following question:

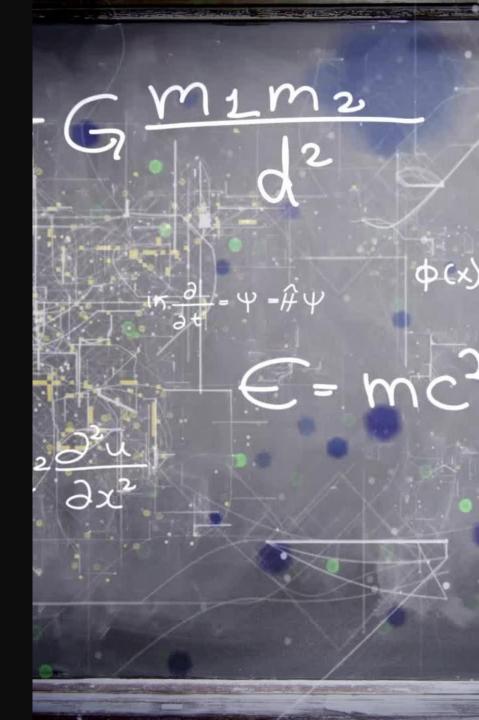
What experiences do teachers have with the use of psychological contracts (as part of relationship building) between teachers and students in high school?

### Background

- Psychological Contract:
   Defined as mutual expectations and informal agreements in relationships.
- Importance in Education:
   Helps bridge gaps
   between formal
   educational requirements
   and actual classroom
   dynamics.

#### **Theoretical Basis**

- Argyris (1960)
- Rosseau (1995)
- DelCampo (2007)
- Schein (1980)
- Schein and Schein (2018)
- Heimly et al (2020)





### Study Details



Methodology: Qualitative interviews with teachers.



Focus: Exploring how teachers' and students' expectations affect the educational process.



# **Table 1**: Students' expectations of the teacher - relational expectations:

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The teacher is clear
The teacher shows respect for the students
Arrives/meets on time
The teacher is fair
The teacher shows understanding for the students
The teacher sees each individual
The teacher is prepared for the lessons
The teacher rewards good effort
The teacher considers the amount of theory
The teacher provides adequate help

# **Table 2**: Students' expectations of the teacher - transactional expectations:

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The subject is relevant
New and interesting content (modern)
A mix between theory and practice
Equipment for the subject
Challenges in the subject
Effective use of technology in teaching
The teacher provides feedback that is useful and constructive
Sets high, but realistic expectations for the students
Encourages independence and creative thinking
What needs to be learned is relevant
Open to suggestions from students

# **Table 3**: Teachers' expectations of students

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Do their best in various tasks

Show respect for each other and the teacher

Contribute to a good classroom environment

Try their best

Participate actively in their own way during classes

Contact and notify when needed

Avoid unnecessary comments

# Central findings

- High Relational Expectations
- Positive Impact of Student Participation
- Dynamic Nature of Psychological Contracts
- Behavior Regulation and Learning Environment
- Enhanced Dialogue and Understanding

## Dialogue Towards Clarified Goals

 The intention of using the psychological contract is to facilitate a dialogue that aims to clarify goals and expectations, define each student's role in the professional learning community, and create productive rules of play

#### Positive Learning Environment

- The teachers we interviewed explain that they encounter various expectations related to the quality of the learning environment.
- The study shows variations in how teachers work with the psychological contract, some contracts have clear traces of relational quality, while others have more transactional clarifications.

# Implications for Practice

- A dynamic psychological contract regulates the behavior of the students, and thus the learning environment as well.
- The findings of the study show that students have both relational and transactional expectations of the teacher.
- The study indicates that the relational relationship is strengthened when students themselves participate and cocreate in shaping the mutual expectations.
- The study also points out that the use of a written and dynamic psychological contract regulates the behavior of the students, and the learning environment as well

