



UiO : **Department of Geosciences**
University of Oslo

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Students interviewing researchers

– what happens when you let students interview you?



REAL undervising
University of Oslo
17th of August 2017

New students

What is geoscience?

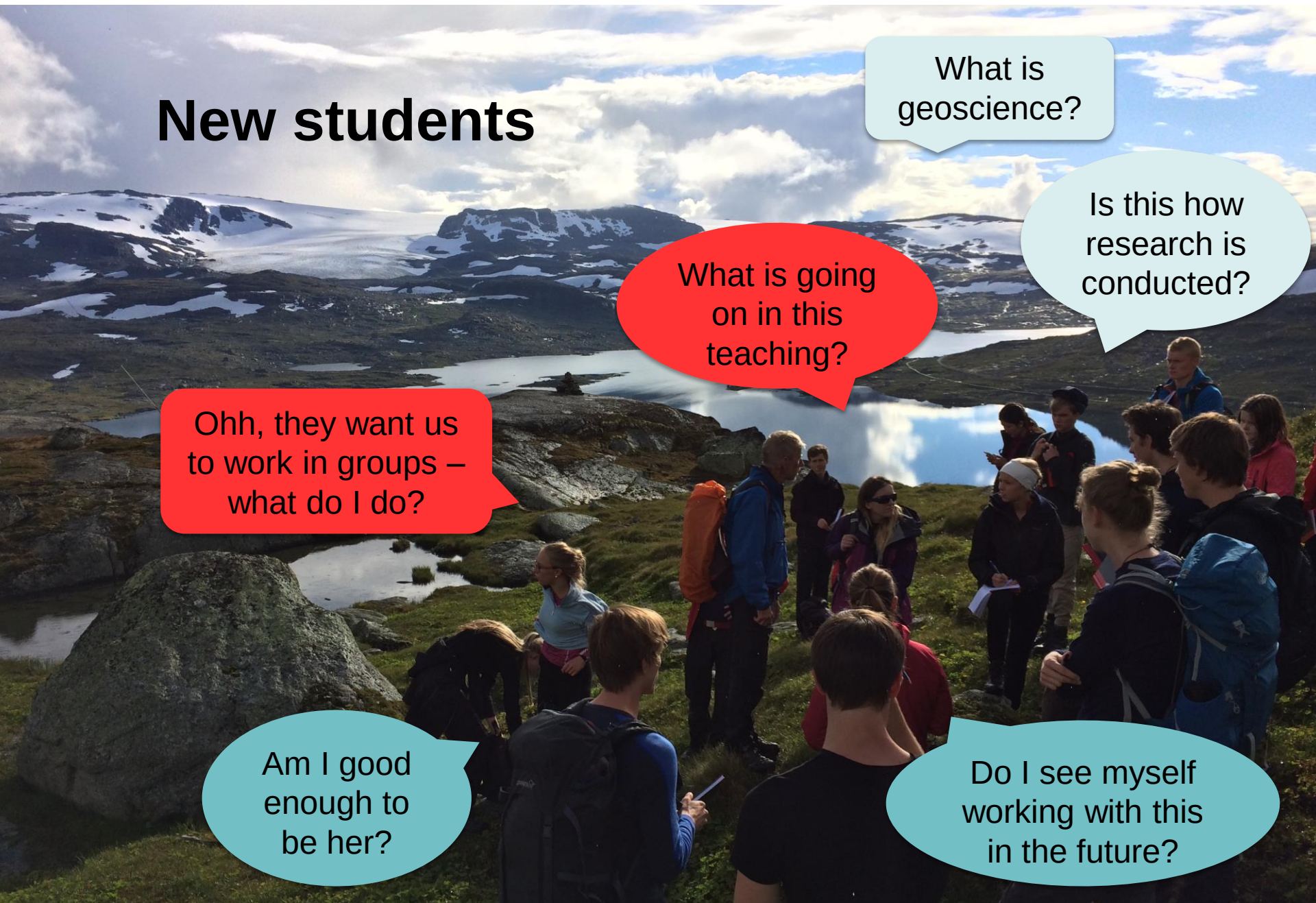
Is this how research is conducted?

What is going on in this teaching?

Ohh, they want us to work in groups – what do I do?

Am I good enough to be her?

Do I see myself working with this in the future?



Staff-student interview project



**Before the interview
the students**

Read one scientific
paper the researcher
wrote

Design the interview
guide

Aims

- 1: introduction to research
- 2: meeting a researcher
- 3: integration in academia



How do we research this?

a. **Survey before** 39

b. **Observation** of presentations

c. **Survey after** 34

d. **Interview** with students 7

*Students in total
by December 2016* 57

Aim 1: introduction to research and meeting a researcher



“Before, when I thought about a **researcher**, I thought about someone in the **laboratory**, but perhaps that is more like a **chemist**, so getting a picture of how they are in **geoscience**, to learn how they work, that was interesting”

Aim 1: introduction to research

Insight into the research process

“I got a better understanding of **how a scientist work and how a research paper is created**. And the education that is required”

“I didn’t think that there were so much data collecting and mathematics.

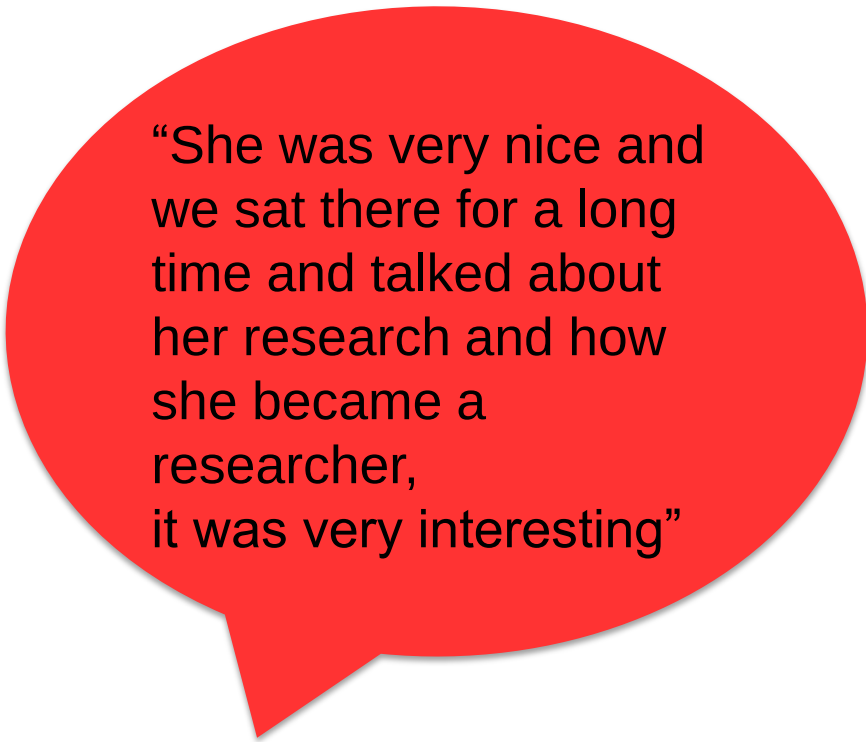
I thought you had a hypothesis first and then **sometimes you collected a few data**”

Aim 2: meeting the researchers

“What surprised me the most was
that the researcher really wanted us to
thrive and do well.

He encouraged us to ask questions in
class – also the “stupid” ones.”

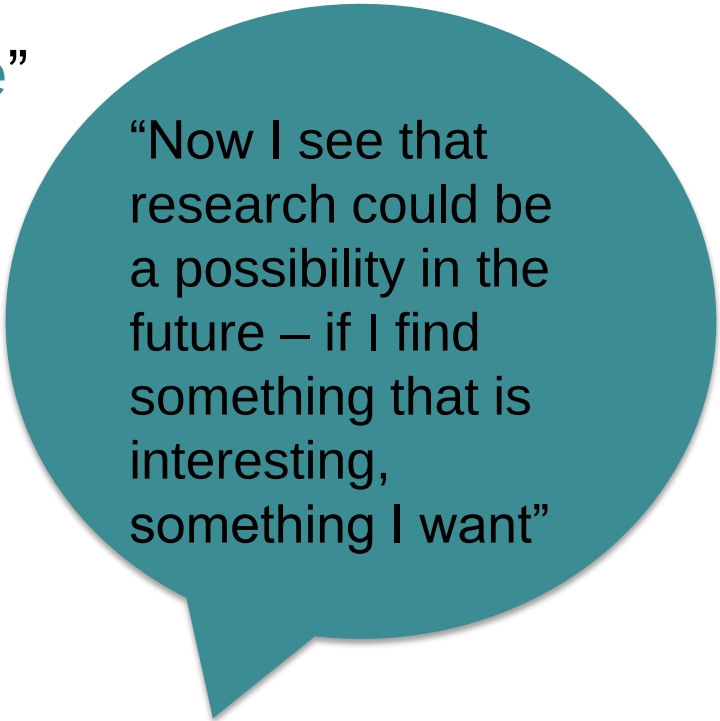
“Now I know more precisely
what you should do, if you want
to do research [in the future]“



“She was very nice and
we sat there for a long
time and talked about
her research and how
she became a
researcher,
it was very interesting”

Aim 3: integration into academia

“It seems like you can do research about almost everything in geoscience. Now I am more keen on finding something that is for me”



“Now I see that research could be a possibility in the future – if I find something that is interesting, something I want”

When you let students interview you...

- You help them get a better understanding of geoscience
- You influence the way they think about their own future in research
- You give them the opportunity to get answers to some of the intangible questions they have





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