# Table of contents

1. Introduction 13  
   1.1 Relevance 13  
   1.2 Theoretical framework 14  
      1.2.1 Quantitative and qualitative studies into the research-teaching nexus 14  
      1.2.2 The importance of variety 16  
      1.2.3 The importance of beliefs 17  
   1.3 Context and research questions 18  
   1.4 Outline 19  
      1.4.1 First study 19  
      1.4.2 Second study 20

2. The relationship between academics’ conceptions of knowledge, research, and teaching – a metaphor study 23  
   2.1 Introduction 24  
      2.1.1 Research-teaching nexus 24  
      2.1.2 Conceptions 25  
      2.1.3 Metaphors 26  
      2.1.4 Research aim 27  
   2.2 Method 27  
      2.2.1 Sample 27  
      2.2.2 Interview protocol 28  
      2.2.3 Analysis 30  
   2.3 Results 31  
      2.3.1 Conceptions of knowledge 31  
      2.3.2 Conceptions of research 32  
      2.3.3 Conceptions of teaching 33  
      2.3.4 Relationships between conceptions 35  
   2.4 Conclusion and discussion 36  
      2.4.1 Conclusion and discussion 36  
      2.4.2 Methodological considerations and implications 38

3. The ideal research-teaching nexus in the eyes of academics – building different profiles 41  
   3.1 Introduction 42  
      3.1.1 Categorisations of the research-teaching nexus 42  
      3.1.2 Research aim 45