Universität Paderborn – Fakultät für Kulturwissenschaften

Forschungs- und Jahresbericht 2015

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Allgemeine Forschungsschwerpunkte
• Intercultural Education
• English for Academic and Specific Purposes

Forschungsprojekte
1. The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters (AIE)
2. The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters through Visual Media (AIEVM)
3. The AIE online resource
4. The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters through the Internet (AIETI)

Kurzbeschreibung der Projekte
zu 1)
The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters (AIE, http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/default_en.asp) has been developed by an international team of academics for the Council of Europe. This pedagogical instrument aims to foster the development of a number of components of intercultural competence (including respect for otherness, empathy, tolerance of ambiguity, behavioural flexibility, communicative awareness, skills of interpreting and relating, and critical cultural awareness) by supporting learners’ critical reflection on encounters with people from other cultures which they themselves have personally experienced. The Council of Europe perceives the development of intercultural competence as the essential prerequisite for fostering understanding and facilitating dialogue between peoples.

zu 2)
The first companion tool to the AIE, the Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters through Visual Media (AIEVM) was published in December 2013 (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/default_en.asp) and is designed to assist learners to reflect critically on specific images depicting people from other cultures which they have encountered in the media (for example, on television, in a film, on the Internet, etc.). Both the AIE and the AIEVM have been widely disseminated through presentations, papers and teacher training. Two online exchanges have been held between pre-service teachers at
the University of Dortmund and pre-service teachers at the University of Jaén in Spain in 2013 and 2014 to examine these future teachers' reactions to the AIEVM. The results of the exchange were submitted for publication in two papers in 2014. The first paper was published in 2014, the second is forthcoming in 2016.

zu 3)
Furthermore, an online resource for teachers wishing to use the AIE in their classrooms has been developed. The AIE online resource went online in December 2013 at http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/default_en.asp. A French version is due to go online in 2016.

zu 4)
Currently the Council of Europe's Autobiography development team is working on the Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters through the Internet (AIETI). This timely development in the overall project started in autumn 2014 and aims to help users reflect on mediated encounters that involve online interaction, for example in a social network, in a forum or in a blog. At the end of 2015 we are in the piloting stages of the new tool and collecting feedback.

Veröffentlichungen zu den Projekten
All Council of Europe publications on the AIE and related projects are available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/autobiography/default_en.asp.

The results of the University of Dortmund and University of Jaén online intercultural exchanges using the AIEVM are available in the journal 'Language, Culture and Curriculum' in the paper: "The Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters through Visual Media: Exploring images of others in telecollaboration":


Veröffentlichungen

Vorträge, Tagungen, Kolloquien
Conference: Language Centres in Higher Education, 15-17 January 2015 at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
Conference paper: Developing communicative competence in global virtual teams: A multiliteracies approach to telecollaboration for students of business and economics (Publication forthcoming in 2016.)

Workshop held at Münster University, 12 June 2015: Interkulturelle Kompetenz im Fremdsprachenunterricht fördern

Conference paper: Mobility for Young People An intercultural awareness-raising resource for facilitators of mobility programmes

Presentation at Masaryk University, 8 October 2015 at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, within the framework of an Erasmus teacher mobility 5-9 October.
Title of presentation: (Inter-)cultural learning in foreign language education

Weitere Angaben
• Co-editor of Scripta Manent, the journal of the Slovene Association of Languages for Specific Purposes Teachers (http://www.sdutsj.edus.si/ScriptaManent/index.html)
• Associate Lecturer of English Language Didactics at the Department for English and American Studies of the Technical University of Dortmund in Wintersemester 2015-6.
Title of seminar: Language Learning and Teaching with Educational Technology