Transculturality as a new paradigm for cultural learning?

Ao. Prof. Mag. Dr. Werner Delanoy

The talk concerns the concept of transculturality and some of its implications for culture and language teaching in EFL-contexts.

In the lecture part, the focus is on Wolfgang Welsch’s definition of the term. According to Welsch, transculturality stands for cultural hybridisation in a globalised world. For him, the concept is a highly productive new paradigm which should help overcome nationalist concepts of culture. Moreover, he has placed his approach in opposition to interculturality, which he views as an outmoded paradigm still clinging to the notion of cultures as closed and homogeneous entities. However, from an intercultural-learning perspective such an assessment is problematic, since interculturality also includes transcultural dimensions. Thus, Welsch’s opposition will be deconstructed to give both approaches due credit for their work on culture formation and to encourage a dialogue between the two. Moreover, attention will be drawn to the limitations of Welsch’s understanding of transculturality to make the concept more inclusive of the diverse and manifold modalities of cultural mixing.

In the workshop part, some concrete examples will be introduced to discuss the relevance of this concept to culture and language learning.

Ort: Unterrichtsraum 40528 (5. Stock Geiwi-Turm, IMoF)

Herr Prof. Delanoy lehrt und forscht am Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik der Universität Klagenfurt im Bereich des interkulturellen und literarischen Lernens. 2008 veröffentlichte er gemeinsam mit Laurenz Volkmann Future Perspectives for English Language Teaching im Universitätsverlag Winter. Er ist Gründungs- und Vorstandsmitglied der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Sprachendidaktik-ÖGSD.