

Betreff: 1. Newsletter of the UNESCO-Chairs in Germany
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UNESCO Chairs Germany Newsletter.

Editorial - UNESCO Chairs as Think Tanks for the North-South-Dialog

The network of UNESCO Chairs in Germany has developed significantly regarding content, structure, and personnel in recent years. It is high time to talk about what is going on in and around UNESCO's Chairs – this new newsletter invites you to do so! From now on, the newsletter will provide insight views and outlook on the work of the UNESCO Chairs twice a year. In the various sections of the newsletter, the work of the UNESCO Chairs, their contributions to implement the objectives of UNESCO, and anchored North-South dialogue become visible.



Members of the UNESCO Chairs in Germany with their guests at the 1st International Conference of UNESCO Chairs in Wuppertal © Bergische Universität Wuppertal | Malte Reiter

There are currently 12 UNESCO Chairs in Germany, two of them just recently established this year, covering a wide range of disciplines – from music and arts to law and education to marine science and geography. But what is it that unites these UNESCO Chairs? It is the goal of the UNESCO of peace, education and sustainable development, as well as scientific knowledge and its transfer. Therefore, the dialogue with the Global South plays an outstanding role and is reflected in the activities of the UNESCO Chairs. The UNESCO Chair Program, which was founded in 1992, nowadays comprises more than 700 chairs in more than 100 countries with different, individual focuses. UNESCO Chairs as think tanks are committed to research and teaching within the targets and thematic sphere of

UNESCO, including cooperation with other countries, especially from the Global South.

In recent years, the exchange between the UNESCO Chairs in Germany has increased significantly, not only due to the annual meetings at one of the Chairs – Lüneburg 2016, Heidelberg 2017, Hildesheim 2018 and this year Wuppertal. This year's meeting from Dec 2 to Dec 4 was embedded in an international conference to strengthen cooperation beyond national borders with the worldwide Chair community. Consequently, the conference was not only a meeting place and a forum for exchange between UNESCO Chairs of 17 different countries, but also a workbench for new science policies and concrete recommendations to UNESCO on standards for international scientific cooperation.

At the internal meeting in Wuppertal of the UNESCO Chairs in Germany, Alexander Siegmund (Speaker) and Christine Volkmann (Co-Speaker) have been elected as the new spokespersons-team and communication hub within the chair network as a link for inquiries from outside. We would like to thank Gerd Michelsen for his contribution as the previous spokesman for the UNESCO Chairs in Germany. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and please feel free to give feedback – whether it is positive, or whether you have suggestions or doubts. Stay tuned.

With best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year

Gerd Michelsen, Alexander Siegmund & Christine Volkmann
(Spokespersons for UNESCO Chairs in Germany)

At the pulse of time

Best practices of the North-South Dialog



First International UNESCO-Chair Conference
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Further information

[Wuppertal Declaration](#)

[UNESCO-Chair in Entrepreneurship and Intercultural Management, Wuppertal](#)

Chair Wuppertal: First International UNESCO-Chair Conference in Wuppertal

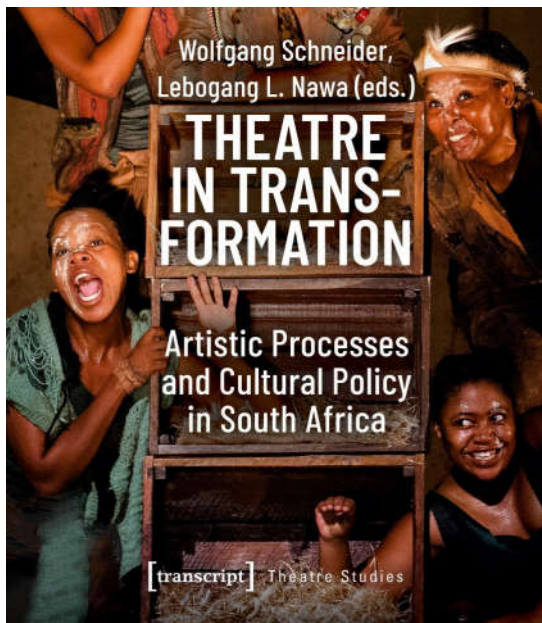
The first international UNESCO-Chair Conference, hosted by a German chair, was held in Wuppertal at the beginning of December with 75 participants from 17 nations. Discussions focused on the contribution of international partnerships and innovative formats for implementing the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

The conference results and goals set by the UNESCO-Chairs are compiled in the "Wuppertal Declaration". "As UNESCO-Chairs, we see it as our duty to use our expertise to tackle global challenges. The conference in Wuppertal demonstrated how much potential and commitment is in our network," said Prof. Dr. Christine Volkmann, holder of the UNESCO-Chair in Entrepreneurship and Intercultural Management, Wuppertal.



Chair Hildesheim: Theatre in Transformation. Artistic Processes and Cultural Policy in South Africa

Leading theatre makers from all over South Africa were invited by the Hildesheim



UNESCO Chair to join a conference in Pretoria. For the first time ever, these people jointly discussed the crucial role of theatre for the society. The discourse was summarized in the publication "Theatre in Transformation. Artistic Processes and Cultural Policy in South Africa" by Wolfgang Schneider, Lebogang L. Nawa (eds.) 2019 transcript Verlag, Bielefeld.



Musical heritage custodian in Iringa, Tanzania
©fahari yetu – Tanzania Heritage and Culture Solutions

What makes a town? Applied heritage conservation in Tanzania

The project "What makes a town? Applied heritage conservation in Tanzania" traces the history of the Iringa Region in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania through historical restoration, participatory exhibition design and cultural artisanship.

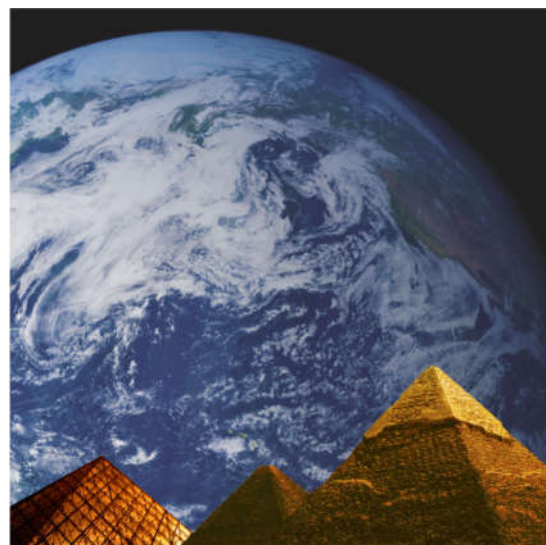
Implemented by: Jan Küver, Director of the Tanzanian NGO *fahari yetu*, in cooperation with Institute Heritage Studies, Berlin.

Funded by: Gerda Henkel Foundation

With profile - introducing the UNESCO Chairs

Chair Jena: Strengthening integrated Sustainability Science

Changing everyday practices towards more sustainable lifestyles involves understanding of global interconnectedness and socio-cultural embeddedness. In order to enhance current sustainability policies, the UNESCO-Chair on Global Understanding for Sustainability therefore promotes the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities into Sustainability Science. Achieving the SDGs thus requires broad human-centered rather than simply technology-focused or purely geoscientific approaches.



© symposium ag

UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies, Cottbus

Heritage Studies in Cottbus approaches cultural heritage as a configuration of cultural, social and material elements that produce social belongings. This perspective includes the reflection of great societal transformations like (post-)colonialism, capitalism, state socialism, border-crossing migrations and globalization. Activities (among others): Training of Heritage Experts (Master in World Heritage Studies); International Workshops; Founder of Research Platform on Migration, Conflict, and Social Transformation.



Prof. Dr. Anna Amelina (front) and her team from the Interculturality Department © Ralf Schuster

Further information

www.b-tu.de/fg-interkulturalitaet/
www.b-tu.de/en/mikowa

Insights - News from research and teaching



Chair Lüneburg - Institute for Sustainable Development and Learning

In September 2019, the Institute for Sustainable Development and Learning (ISDL) at **Leuphana University Lüneburg** was officially opened as an inter-faculty institute whose work focuses on the relationship between countries of the Global South and North. Science and research have a special responsibility to support and promote learning processes in the Northern-Southern context, which are a central prerequisite for shaping transformation processes.

The institute will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in society and to realise sustainable development, enable individuals, organisations and communities to participate in and shape transdisciplinary learning processes in the context of sustainable development and contribute to scientific knowledge.

Chair Hildesheim - Now in Future

Climate change is cultural change. In a current research project, the University of Hildesheim investigates how socio-cultural centres in Germany perceive sustainability. The two-year project is supported by the German Council for Sustainable Development and carried out in cooperation with the Bundesvereinigung Soziokultureller Zentren e.V. Further information can be found on the homepage

www.jetztinzukunft.de





Chair Dresden - Movies meet SDGs

Complementing its activities in research and teaching about the UNESCO and the United Nations, the UNESCO Chair in International Relations has established a SDG film series. It started with the documentary "Destruction of Heritage" focusing on SDG 11.4. The subsequent films focus on gender equality (SDG 5). All film screenings are accompanied by expert introductions and discussions, reaching a broad audience.



Chair Heidelberg - ESD Center Heidelberg

The "Heidelberg Center of Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD Center) was created as a scientific network of various departments at Heidelberg University of Education. As an educational center of excellence, the ESD Center significantly contributes to the multiplier support, postulated by the Global Action Program on ESD. This is particularly envisaged through projects like "Future: NI!" in which e-learning is used to empower teachers as ESD multipliers.

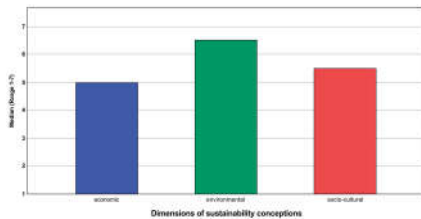


Figure: Dimensions of students' sustainability conceptions at Leuphana University Lüneburg in their first semester (cohort 2013/14 and 2014/15). Our results suggest that especially the socio-cultural dimension of sustainability has a significant influence on how relevant students perceive sustainability for their academic affiliation and their future professional work.

Chair Lüneburg - Higher education for sustainable development in longitudinal section: What are students learning?

How does sustainability become professionally relevant? The project "Longitudinal study on the integration for sustainable development in higher education" was conducted by the UNESCO Chair in Higher Education for Sustainable Development from 2012 to 2017. This September a new project publication on the role of students' sustainability conceptions for students perceived professional relevance of sustainability has been published in the Journal Sustainability.

Reference:

Sundermann, & Fischer. (2019). How Does Sustainability Become Professionally Relevant? Exploring the Role of Sustainability Conceptions in First Year Students. *Sustainability*, 11(19), 5155.

(<https://doi.org/10.3390/su11195155>)



Chair Weimar

In April 2019, Prof. Pinto, UNESCO Chair Holder from the University of Music Weimar, was invited to Milano by Mr. Masto, director of the Milanese Institute for the Blind, to present the German UNESCO nomination of organ building and organ as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind. The institute's organ plays an important role in Milano. It is the aim to maintain the original plans of the organ,



Prof. Dr. Tiago de Oliveira Pinto (right) with Mr. Rodolfo Mastro (left)
© UNESCO Chair Weimar

which is currently being restored and will be inaugurated in summer 2020.



© Own Image: Postcolonial and Postsocialist City Walk, July 2019

Chair Cottbus - Provincializing Cottbus – A Research Project on Local Sites of Remembrance of Colonial and Socialist Histories

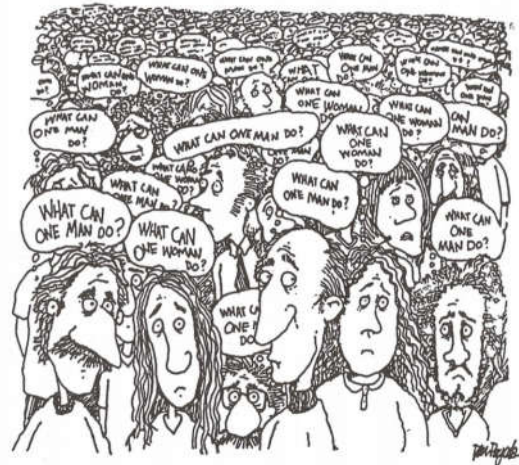
In an ongoing research project, the UNESCO Chair focuses on local sites of remembrance that represent colonial and socialist traces in the city of Cottbus. The project is based on the methodology of postcolonial history workshops and city walks. It aims at decolonializing knowledge about the city towards an antiracist and more inclusive local heritage.

Tell the inside stories

Chair Jena - Global Citizenship Education

Understanding one’s own life in a global context is a crucial challenge that individuals face today. As the world continues to change dramatically, simplistic traditional geographical imaginations of the world, and our place in it, can no longer sustain. **Global citizenship education**, as fostered by the UNESCO-Chair at Jena, helps establishing new geographical understanding of today’s hyperconnected world.

“What can one man do?” (© Giddens, A. (1993): *Sociology*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press, p. 536)



Chair Heidelberg - modern, innovative and healthy

The UNESCO Chair Heidelberg constantly works on the improvement of working conditions for its researchers. The current **operational health management** offers many possibilities, like Yoga classes, activity breaks and department bikes up to shared “Hokki’s”. This not only improves health and satisfaction of researchers, but also the motivation and working effectiveness.



Chair Lüneburg - Professionalizing students' engagement for sustainability - oriented university transformation

In an unique collaboration between a non-profit, student-initiated social business organization (**rootAbility**) and an academic institution (UNESCO Chair 'Higher Education for Sustainable Development'), hands-on information materials are provided to systematically support enthusiastic students in starting their own initiatives. Both, the peer-to-peer character of the Green Office Model and its adaptability, make it a promising factor for reorienting higher education institutions towards sustainability.

What is a Green Office?



rootAbility and Leuphana University (2017) 'Green Office Model e-book', Derived from www.greenofficemovement.org

Reference: Adom̂sent, M., Grahl, A. and Spira, F. (2019) Putting sustainable campuses into force: Empowering students, staff and academics by the self-efficacy Green Office Model. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 20, <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSHE-02-2019-0072>

Video clip of the UNESCO Chair Weimar

Students of the Bauhaus University Weimar produced a video clip of the UNESCO Chair. Other versions of the clip will be produced in ten languages and are available in English and German so far. In addition, translations into Ukrainian, Portuguese and Urdu have been completed. Soon the clip will also be made available via the official website of UNESCO in Paris.

**Link to the Video:
UNESCO Chair on Transcultural Music Studies Weimar**

Upcoming Events

1st Quarter 2020

- Özden Terli: Education for Sustainable Development - Our Future in Climate Chance (14th January 2020, UNESCO Chair Heidelberg)
- Workshop on Utilization of Digital Geomedia for UNESCO Sites (05 - 06th March 2020, UNESCO Chair Heidelberg)

2nd Quarter 2020

- 10-years anniversary of the GIS-Station - Competence Center for Digital Geomedia (Summer 2020, UNESCO Chair Heidelberg)

Registration for the Newsletter

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