

ID: 392

Academic paper (20+10 min)

Topics: Artistic and scientific collaborations

Keywords: Concepts of art education, Bildung, international discourse

The bigger picture. Travelling concepts of/in art education

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When discussing concepts of art education, it is of great importance to clarify the general educational goals first. These are based on the respective idea of humankind that we pursue. If we aim at individuals who are capable of self-determination, co-determination and solidarity (Wolfgang Klafki), then that has major consequences for our concepts of art education.

Many students arrive at university with concepts they experienced in school that are far from what could be considered adequate. In order to support the forming of personal attitudes towards art education, these experiences need to be irritated and contrasted by contemporary and historical concepts. Things learned here are likely to travel on for more than a century. Questions of scope and focus arise in the context of limited resources of time.

The presentation outlines a number of German concepts of art education and their relations to each other. Among others, it deals with questions of theoretical foundation, complexity and the trouble it may cause for your own teaching if you succeed in fostering your students' individual strength. Also, attention is drawn to the many missing links to the international discourse. Suggestions are made for further research that could fill this gap.