

AUTONOMY AND ASSESSMENT

TESTING, EVALUATING AND CERTIFYING IN CLASSROOM AND AUTONOMOUS LEARNING CONTEXTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH 2011 – SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH 2011 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN

CALL FOR PAPERS

The widespread movement to establish educational standards has led to a remarkable increase in efforts to evaluate learner performance through various types of objective testing procedures. This is not only true in the German education system, but in most other European countries as well. Language teaching – not only at universities – has been greatly affected by these developments. At universities throughout Europe, it is the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF) that has primarily set new standards. It is increasingly the case that the entrance requirements for many degree programmes, as well as further study requirements for foreign language competence, have to be verified by certificates that are based on the CEF. However, the descriptors of the Common European Framework have become a basis for more than such diagnostic testing; individual language courses increasingly stipulate that the improvement in language competence achieved be ascertained and documented through a process of continuous quality management. In the light of these developments, language teachers are being increasingly confronted with the task of testing language accomplishments, often without any substantial training that could serve as a point of refer-

ence. The same can be said of the task of helping learners develop their ability to evaluate themselves in autonomous learning processes. There is a correspondingly high demand among many teachers for more information and the opportunity to share experience and expertise on this topic.

The 3rd Bremen Symposium 2011 will respond to this demand with its main topic: Autonomy and Assessment. The symposium will be concerned with all aspects surrounding the central question of which areas of language competence can be measured by which procedures (as put into practice in language classrooms at universities and other language teaching institutes), as well as which areas of language competence can be related to self-imposed or predetermined standards. In keeping with the tradition of the Bremen Symposium, the implications of the main topic for autonomous learning should be given particular attention, e.g. by including the question as to which evaluation procedures are appropriate either to be made available to learners for self-evaluation or to support learning advisors as they accompany learners through the self-learning process.

ANTICIPATED WORKING GROUPS

Tests and Evaluations I:

Receptive Language Competence

Tests and Evaluations II:

Productive Language Competence

Standards and Certificates

Autonomy and Self-evaluation

Diagnostic Assessment and Advice

LENGTH OF EACH TALK

25 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion

TALKS MAY BE HELD IN

German or English

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR TALKS

Please visit our website to submit an abstract by the deadline of October 15th, 2010:

www.fremdsprachenzentrum-bremen.de/symposium

CONFERENCE FEE

There is a reduced fee for conference attendees who are giving talks: € 45 (instead of € 60, or € 75 after December 31st, 2010)

REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

www.fremdsprachenzentrum-bremen.de/symposium

(Registration will be possible as of September 1st, 2010)

HOSTING INSTITUTIONS

Fremdsprachenzentrum der Hochschulen im Land Bremen (FZHB) in cooperation with the Arbeitskreis der Sprachenzentren, Sprachlehrinstitute und Fremdspracheninstitute (AKS)

ORGANIZERS

Prof. Dr. Dr. Hans Krings (University of Bremen / Fremdsprachenzentrum Bremen)

Dr. Bärbel Kühn (Fremdsprachenzentrum Bremen)

CONTACT

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FREMDSPRACHENZENTRUM

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Land Bremen