

Cultural taboos in foreign language education

Taboo symposium (Part III) at the University of Bamberg, Wednesday 28/09/2022

- Part of the BaTEG summer school 2022 –

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This international and interdisciplinary event focuses on cultural taboos in the context of teacher education and school teaching. We would like to initiate an international exchange between university students, researchers, and educators, focusing on cultural taboos worldwide, how they are reinforced, and how prevailing taboos can be broken in an attempt to increase social justice and overcome cultural stereotypes. By inviting speakers from different European countries and beyond, our aim is to discuss cultural taboos from several perspectives – from the perspective of foreign language education and other related disciplines. Intercultural communication requires an understanding of taboos among different cultural groups and we would like to provide an opportunity for participants to dive into the world of others by exploring which cultural taboos exist and why, how these manifest themselves in discourse, and how we can overcome stigma and the formation of stereotypes. Especially within the context of intercultural versus/and transcultural learning, we would like to explore to what extent specific cultural taboos still exist, how they differ regionally and culturally, and to what extent these may be broken in a time of globalisation and digitalisation. More specifically, we want to focus on the following key questions:

- What are cultural taboos and how can they be delineated from other taboos? How are they intertwined with other taboo categories?
- What role do cultural taboos play in education in different countries?
- Which cultural taboos are relevant and important for (foreign language) education?
- How (through which methods/approaches/tasks) can cultural taboos be approached in foreign language education?
- How can cultural taboos be integrated into curricular guidelines?

This interdisciplinary symposium is part of the international summer school organised by BaTEG (Bamberg Teacher Education for a Global World, <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/zlb/k-r/bateg/>) taking place from 25/09 – 02/10 2022 at the University of Bamberg. It aims to provide a platform for discussing cultural taboos in the context of foreign language education. We invite university students, researchers, and educators to take part in the summer school and the cultural taboos symposium.