

Press release

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Shared heritage - contradictory heritage? An international project asks about cultural heritage in migration societies

The Institute for Cultural Management and Beit Berl College, Israel, launch student research laboratory - Baden Württemberg Foundation supported

Ludwigsburg, 18. Oktober 2019 (IKM) – In the winter semester 2019/20, the Institute for Cultural Management at the University of Education Ludwigsburg is launching a joint project with the Master's degree program in Art Education at Beit Berl College near Tel Aviv on the topic of "Shared and Contradictionary Heritage? Perspectives on German and Israeli Arts, Museums and Societies". It is a project within the framework of the Baden-Württemberg-STIPENDIUM for Students - BWS plus, a program of the Baden-Württemberg Foundation. The project will be supported over two years with a sum of 57,000 €.

The core of the collaboration is a student research laboratory in which around 20 German and Israeli Master's students will work together as part of their curricula from the 2020 summer semester onwards. The project has a model character: On the one hand, the students exchange views on a relevant social issue in a comparative cultural context. On the other hand, the content work will be combined with new forms of teaching and learning and student mobility: The students each spend one week in the partner country. At the same time, the project underpins the 30-year strategic partnership between the two universities.

Israel and Germany have a lot in common - not only with regard to the long Jewish cultural tradition in Europe and the Holocaust, which has forever interwoven the memory of both countries. Also the societies of both countries have a lot in common: In the 20th century, Israel and Germany became countries of immigration and emigration, and their societies are now presented as migration societies. The reaction of both states on this fact is not entirely comparable, but similar in parts: Here and there, migrants and refugees live in the countries for a longer period of time and leave their traces; in doing so, they also make a contribution to the culture, history and everyday life in these societies. This takes place in the form of material and immaterial heritage such as personal memories and stories, but also art and artefacts, which institutions are often responsible for preserving.

For cultural workers in both countries, the question arises, albeit under politically different auspices: How does the contribution of migrants and minorities to the cultural heritage of these societies become visible - and who is responsible for it? The student research project takes those questions as its starting point: After a content-related preparatory phase, the students will work together in tandems from the summer semester 2020 onwards, learn about the cultural heritage of their countries, interview experts on the origin of artefacts and the importance of mediation in museums, and analyze the structures of institutions and their cultural-political mission. The assessments thus obtained will be published in a study in the form of workshop reports, which can be supplemented by contributions from participating lecturers and interested experts.

The idea for the project originated from a mutual ERASMUS guest lecturer exchange between the two project leaders Dr. Christiane Dätsch (Institute for Cultural Management) and Dr. Chava Brownfield-Stein (Master's degree in Art Education, Beit Berl College). Beit Berl College, founded in 1946, has been a teacher training college since 1981 and an academic college since 1987. It comprises the three faculties of Education, Arts and Culture and Social Sciences. The project is carried out in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts (Hamidrasha).

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