

Forschungsplattform - Research Network: Theory and Practice of subject didactics (University of Vienna – across faculties)

Deputy director: Christiane Dalton-Puffer
Time frame: 2009 - 2012

Project sum: €352.000,-

Theory development in subject didactics has emerged as a research field over the last decades but is still characterized by considerable fragmentation and heterogeneity of approaches and models. Overcoming this fragmentation would provide a sound basis for the continuing professionalization of teacher education at university level. The proposed project aims at furthering the development of theory in subject didactics by bringing together the perspectives of different fields of science, disciplines and school subjects in collaboration with educational studies.

The 'Forschungsplattform/Research network "Theory and Practice of Subject Didactics/Teaching Methodologies"' is a joint project of 12 faculties, representing 19 teacher qualification programmes taught at the University of Vienna. It is the explicit aim of the network to develop and disseminate adequate theories in subject didactics at the University of Vienna itself and to feed back the results into the discourse of the international scientific community. Furthermore the activities of this interdisciplinary research group will serve as feedback for the University of Vienna's teacher education curricula and courses. The efforts of the network are thus a crucial component of the University's efforts to enhance the profile of teacher education in the tertiary sector (cf. position paper of Österreichische Universitätenkonferenz, 16 June 2008).

During a period of three years the project-group will investigate the underlying concepts, models and theories in the individual fields, identify commonalities and differences. The aim is to establish a coherent model of subject didactics and/or to identify several subject clusters.

Beyond the aims in theory development and interdisciplinary co-operation, the research network is designed as an initiative to foster young researchers in the field of subject didactics, taking them through several steps of personal qualification from MA thesis into doctoral research.



Speaker of the Research Network:

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Faculties involved/Members of the Project Group:

1. Faculty of Historical-Cultural Studies
2. Centre for Sports Sciences and University Sports
3. Faculty of Life Sciences
4. Faculty of Chemistry
5. Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies
6. Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy
7. Faculty of Computer Science
8. Faculty of Protestant Theology
9. Faculty of Catholic Theology
10. Faculty of Mathematics
11. Faculty of Physics
12. Faculty of Education and Philosophy

And around 40 further co-operation partners at the University departments involved in teacher education