



Symposium “International Comparison of Music Lessons on Video”, 3rd to 5th September 2014

Project idea

„I never saw something like that!“ The verbal reaction of a british researcher for music didactics on an international conference upon watching a recording of a German music lesson.

This exclamation leads to the assumption that not only theory languages differ in speaking about the teaching of music, but also the object that is being talked about: praxis and cultures of music teaching. These practices and the concerning discourse are the objects of the research project. The use of video as a central method of investigation in this setting shows to be of good use as it makes a big field of aspects of music teaching visible.

The main questions are: Is music teaching different in different countries and cultures? What is common and what is different? Goal of the symposium is the finding of a foundation for internationally applicable theories of music teaching.

Short Description of the Project

Preparation: Recording of Music Lessons

The idea is to gather 6–10 ‘good’ music-lessons from different countries on DVDs. The teachers are asked to give a lesson, which they themselves consider a good one. It should not be an extraordinary lesson but typical for a good lesson in their curriculum. Main points of the recording setting are:

- compulsory schools
- secondary level, age 13–15
- three fixed cameras or more
- interviews with the teacher before and after the lesson
- interviews with the pupils in groups from 3–5 after the lesson

In April 2014 the lessons from eight different locations in the world (California, Scotland, Catalunya, Bavaria, Sweden, Lower Saxony, Estonia and China) have been recorded and will be sent to the participants.

Structure of the Symposium

For the symposium we ask two music educators with good knowledge of the concepts and practice of music education in their country to present a comparison, which should focus two of the filmed lessons. Both a strange one (or one with a strange aspect) and the 'own' lesson including its general ideas and specific appearance. The presentation for every lesson consists of a "short cut", a kind of video clip (2-3 min) which shows the main points of the lecture – combined with an explanation of the cuts. After three lectures there will be think tanks ("Fishbowls") about national and international aspects of music education in the classroom. Accompanying researchers will thus produce first theories about these aspects of music teaching. All discussions will be audio-recorded, transcribed and concentrated.

After the Symposium

There are different goals at the same time. The first goal is to publish a book with papers explaining the "short cuts" (see above) and reflections about national and international aspects of music education plus DVDs with all shortcuts and lessons including interviews with the teacher and students. This product – book + DVDs – is both research and teacher training material. A second step will be publishing the material in the internet on an open platform which addresses both research and teacher training interests.

Contact

If you would like to support our project or have further questions, please feel free to contact the project manager, Prof. Dr. Christopher Wallbaum under the following eMail-adress:

international-comparison-of-music-lessons-on-video@hmt-leipzig.de