

friday lectures

Discussion of the Developments in Higher Education 2010/11: Changes and future developments

The *friday lectures* discuss the fundamental change of universities from the perspective of possible radical changes and future developments.

The lectures start with a critical reflection on the limits inherent to the return to a university ideal of pure education, embodied by the “Humboldt-myth”. Afterwards the question of academic freedom before and after Bologna is brought into focus. A further emphasis is put on the discussion of the relationships between the controversial concept ‘employability’ and possibilities of ‘transformative learning’. The *friday lectures* present theoretically substantiated and practically orientated approaches which focus on research-orientated teaching as well as on the development of didactic designs with the help of digital media. In addition questions of examining at universities are dealt with and a new book series supporting study abilities is presented. Questions of justice with respect to gender and diversity are always integrated as a cross sectional theme into the *friday lectures*. The *friday lecture day* (inter/national contributions and panel discussion) offers a special section of these topics.

The thematic connection to both the state of the international discussion and the requirements of the University of Vienna is ensured by the contributions of experts from other universities as well as by the response of scientists and students of the University of Vienna. The moderators of the *friday lectures* – mostly journalists on science, politics and social topics – offer a professional view from outside of university.

turn it digital

Students of the University of Vienna prepare themselves for the *friday lectures* in the seminar ‘rethinking studying: processes to generate knowledge and audiovisual practices’. They conduct interviews with the experts and produce videocasts which will then be published on the website of the CTL and on YouTube. All *friday lectures* will be published as audio recordings on the website of the Center for Teaching and Learning / CTL.

friday lecture day

“Barrierfree?! - Perspectives of the Disability Studies and the Gender/Queer Studies on the University Landscape”

Gender and queer studies have become internationally established, demanding fields of research. In an international context the same is true for the disabilities studies. Common ground of the studies can be found in their interdisciplinary and cultural studies orientation, their deconstruction of norms as well as their analysis of the articulation of social categories of difference.

Further characteristics are mutual inspirations and also tensions. Questions of disability must not be restricted to a medical discourse but are to be critically debated from the perspective of the social and cultural construction of a variety of barriers. A

striking feature of the discussion of disability is the silent extinguishing of gender and sexuality of disabled people.

The *friday lecture day* intends to contribute to a sensitization for perspectives and questions of the disability and gender/queer studies as a cross-sectional theme and to start a discussion of the possibilities of integration into the development of universities.