

KONFERENZBERICHTE

"Culture and Development in Japan and Germany" Protocol of the 8th Meeting of the German-Japanese Society for Social Sciences

Hildesheim, July 23-25, 2004

As agreed at the last meeting in Yokohama, this year's meeting of the German-Japanese Society for Social Sciences took place at the Institute of Psychology, University of Hildesheim, Germany, organized by Prof. Dr. Hede Helfrich-Hölter.

The German-Japanese Society for Social Sciences was founded in 1989 in Tokyo. Its members consist of an approximately equal number of distinguished German and Japanese social scientists as well as those from related disciplines interested in social processes. The Society strives to contribute to the advancement of knowledge about present cultural, social, and psychological processes and phenomena in Japan and Germany that is acquired from Japanese and German perspective and also from a multidisciplinary approach. Thus, a conference is held every two years in Germany and Japan in turn. All participants and guests were welcomed on the first evening in the historical ambience of the "Barocksaal" belonging to the university. This special atmosphere helped to get in contact with each other and to begin first discussions.

The meeting's theme "Culture and Development in Japan and Germany" was effectually discussed from interdisciplinary perspectives. Sociologists, philosophers, linguists, psychologists and political scientists gave an overview on different aspects of the main topic. Also young scientists took the opportunity to present their results and views. The expected mutual exchange of ideas was successful and satisfying for all participants.

The main topic "Culture and Development in Japan and Germany" was divided into the following three subgroups: "Ontogenetic development in Germany and Japan", "Social and economic change in Germany and Japan" and "Models of ontogenetic and culture-genetic change". In the next paragraph, we try to give a short summary of the contributions subdivided into the three thematic groups.

Topic 1: Ontogenetic development in Germany and Japan

In this thematical unit, the contributions included the development of cultural and individual identity in Japanese and German society (Kusune), the conditions for forgiveness in German-Japanese comparison (Kobayashi) as well as the understanding of the own and other cultures (Hany) and an evaluation of a German-Japanese exchange program (Chang & Ehret).

It was discussed how the social and cultural environment influences the individual development in terms of values, self-concept and reasoning, and how exchange programs in general may help to cope with prejudices, anxiety and uneasiness.

Topic 2: Social and economic change in Germany and Japan

The second topic dealt with the sociological aspects of social and economic changes. It was pointed out that current changes in social and/or economic systems demand more cross-cultural communication with respect to school education (Eswein), new social norms for the individual course of life (Chiavacci), and a gradual transformation of hitherto prevailing

cultural patterns, especially in organisation structures (Fürstenberg). Social and economical changes are closely linked to other components of a society: politics, religion, moral, and ethics (Mori, Tokuyasu, Oberländer). Some of them may be helpful for a renewal of society but others may obstruct necessary redevelopments (Namba, Ishitsuka). Despite of changing societal conventions it should not be forgotten that there are still continuities in traditional frames established over centuries (Loiskandl).

Topic 3: Models of ontogenetic and culture-genetic change in Germany and Japan

The third group of contributions dealt with conceptual models of individual and cultural change serving as guidelines for future cross-cultural applications.

Starting with a more abstract mental model of growth (Klapproth), the subsequent contributions concerned the background of performance of international academic Olympiads (Heller & Lengfelder), individual differences in abilities, learning-motives and learning pre-conditions (Kornadt). In addition, the developmental expectancies toward children in Japanese and German school contexts (Tomo) were discussed. Finally, a theoretical concept on development of intercultural competence as a professional qualification (Thomas) was presented.

The final discussion addressed open issues and perspectives of future research. The outcomes of this meeting will be published in *Proceedings*, edited by Hede Helfrich-Hölter assisted by Thorsten Horenkamp and Melanie van Ark. All contributions will be cross-cultural peer-reviewed, which means that each German contribution will be reviewed by a Japanese colleague, and vice versa. The 9th meeting of the German-Japanese Society for Social Sciences will be organised by Shigekazu Kusune at the university of Kanazawa in the year 2006.

Melanie van Ark, Thorsten Horenkamp

Korea im Zeichen globalen Wandels – politische und wirtschaftliche Antworten

Roundtable Workshop der BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt

München, 11. Oktober 2004

Während der Einbruch in Folge der Asienkrise angesichts der konstanten wirtschaftlichen Aufwärtsentwicklung Koreas nur als kleine Delle erscheint, verläuft die politische Kurve des Landes deutlicher unruhiger: Die Parlamentswahlen im April 2004 und ihre turbulente Vorgeschichte werden vielfach als Zäsur in der noch jungen Demokratie gewertet. Die politische und wirtschaftliche Entwicklung Koreas im Inneren wie im Äußeren war das Thema des diesjährigen Roundtable Workshops, den die BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt und das Seminar für wissenschaftliche Politik der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg am 11. Oktober in München veranstalteten.

Patrick Köllner (Institut für Asienkunde, Hamburg) bewertete die spektakulären Parlamentswahlen im Frühjahr 2004 als Ausdruck sowohl der Reife als auch der Unreife des politischen Systems. Die Unreife sah er darin, dass mit der von Präsident Roh Moo-hyun angekündigten Volksabstimmung über seine Amtsführung und der darauf folgenden Amtsenthebung durch eine Zwei-Drittel-Mehrheit des Parlaments den demokratischen Institutionen in Südkorea in kurzer Zeit gleich zweimal Schaden zugefügt worden sei. Zur Beilegung der Krise hätten dagegen das Verfassungsgericht mit seiner Entscheidung für eine Wiedereinsetzung des Präsidenten im Mai 2004 sowie die Wählerschaft mit ihrer radikalen Neubesetzung des Parlaments beigetragen.