

Cornelia Gerhardt (Saarland University, Germany)

Teaching Mediation with a Project-Based, Transfer-Oriented (third mission) Perspective



This talk presents a mediation class for university students of English at Saarland University (Saarbrücken, Germany). As part of a major university project on strengthening digitalisation it offers students the opportunity to play a part in the development of an application fostering entrepreneurial thinking. The app, which will be developed in the framework of this project, will allow non-German speakers to simulate starting a business in Saarland. While this app may be helpful for immigrants in Saarland in general, it is mainly focused on helping the growing start-up scene at Saarland University. The app will simulate all necessary steps, but it will also provide links to institutions that offer advice and support. Moreover, the app can be used for start-up simulations and it can be integrated into classes on entrepreneurship. It will be developed in cooperation with the Career Center of Saarland University. Students will be partly responsible for the content of the app. As part of the mediation class, their task will be two-fold: on the one hand, they will have to find German specimens of text types that are necessary or recommended in the process of starting a business in Saarland. On the other hand, they are supposed to make the process accessible for non-German speakers, e.g. by translating texts or providing explanatory texts. Students from this class generally are on a B2/C1 level of English according to the European Framework of Reference and are expected to reach C2 in the process of their studies. By integrating students into this project, we hope to (1) raise their awareness of mediation processes and (2) motivate them by means of an applied digital project with an actual product as its outcome. This refers to the *third mission* of universities, i.e. knowledge exchange and transfer.

Key words: *Mediation, digitalization, project-based learning, transfer, third mission*

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Biodata

Dr. Cornelia Gerhardt teaches English linguistics at Saarland University (Saarbrücken, Germany). She is interested in teaching methodology in academic contexts and in professionalizing her teaching, also with a view to digital developments. Her main publications in linguistics discuss (mediated) language use in the fields of food and football.

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