



‘Back to Basics in Language Teaching and Learning: WHAT to teach and HOW to do it’

Keynote speaker at workshop 2:

Dr Marion Grein, University of Mainz

TITLE: The challenges of modern foreign language teaching

ABSTRACT

The changes in the field of learning can be categorized into three major areas: "agile learning", so-called "learning 4.0", and what is known as "new learning". The starting point for all these fields is the changes happening in the world, linked with the so-called VUCA world. The term "VUCA world" refers to an environment characterized by Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity. In a VUCA world, conditions and situations are unpredictable and constantly changing, making it challenging to plan and make decisions. Individuals need to develop flexibility, resilience, and adaptive strategies to navigate the complexities of a VUCA world successfully. At the core of learning, including language learning, learner autonomy and the development of a growth mindset come into focus. In the realm of foreign language learning, this includes methods that place stronger emphasis on students' opinions – specifically methods and approaches such as projects, cooperative learning, and concepts of outdoor learning. This presentation will introduce an overview of these approaches and hopefully be critically discussed afterwards.

BIO

Professor Dr. Marion Grein is the head of the Master's program in German as a Foreign Language/German as a Second Language at the University of Mainz. Her areas of expertise include language teaching research (neurodidactics), cultural studies, and digital teaching. She is actively involved in various committees and serves as the chairperson of the Languages Advisory Board at the Goethe-Institut, among other roles.