

2nd workshop: ‘Vernunft’ and ‘Diversity’ in Educational Policy A Dialogue across Borders with Reference to Humboldt and Mill

Discussants: Prof. Dr. Ruprecht Mattig (Dortmund) and Prof. Dr. Todd Price (Illinois)

Time

March 22nd 2022

- 4pm – 6pm GMT (German winter time)
- 45’ presentation
- 45’ for dialogue

Exposé

In order to discuss the relationship between philosophy and education policy, one could start a conversation about what education policy actually is: Who is responsible for providing education (e.g., the state, civil society, or the economy)? Who should an education system be aimed at? What structure should an education system have? How should curricula be designed? All in all, we can ask how to address such questions. Following Wilhelm Humboldt (and translated in the American context by John Stuart Mill), we would suggest that we should answer these questions not with reference to particular interests or “transient desires,” but with reference to what Humboldt called “ewig-unveränderliche Vernunft” (“eternal and immutable dictates of reason”). This workshop considers questions of education and educational policy with reference to tensions between the universal and the particular, and between freedom and security. Highlighted will be philosophical connects to problems with definitions such as “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (for example).

Ruprecht Mattig is a professor for Systematic Educational Science and Methodology of Educational Research at the technical university of Dortmund. His main research interest is directed to the tension between empirical educational research on the one hand and theoretical reflection on education on the other. He studies the anthropological difference between the being of the humans and how we should be. This difference shapes the relationship between generations. In these regards, Ruprecht Mattig is currently focusing on Wilhelm von Humboldt.

Todd Price is professor and director of the Curriculum, Advocacy and Policy major at the National Louis University, Illinois. His main research interest is in curriculum studies. Todd Price is currently working on the ways to bridge curriculum studies with teacher education drawing on education theorizing. He is also very interested in the politics of education through the work of John Stuart Mill.

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