



Newsletter des
Fachsprachenzentrums
der Universität Hamburg
1/2011

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Orla Mac Mahon,
Redakteurin

erzlich Willkommen zur ersten Ausgabe des Newsletters des Fachsprachenzentrums der Universität Hamburg.

In unserer zunehmend globalisierten Welt gewinnen gute Fremdsprachenkenntnisse immer mehr an Bedeutung. Sowohl aktives Sprechen als auch das wissenschaftliche Arbeiten in einer fremden Sprache gehören heute zum erwarteten Berufsprofil.

Das Fachsprachenzentrum bietet Kurse in englischer, französischer, spanischer, italienischer und russischer Sprache auf den Levels B2 und C1 in den jeweiligen Fachrichtungen an. Unsere Kurse ermöglichen es Ihnen, die für einen Auslandsaufenthalt oder für eine spätere internationale Karriere notwendigen Sprachfähigkeiten zu erwerben.

Neben der Vermittlung der Sprachkenntnisse werden unter anderem auch interessante Themen aus den jeweiligen Fachbereichen diskutiert.

Voraussetzung für die Teilnahme ist neben einer bestehenden Immatrikulation an der Universität Hamburg das Erreichen des Levels B2 in der jeweiligen Fremdsprache.

Alle weiteren notwendigen Infos zur Anmeldung finden Sie hier: www.uni-hamburg.de/FSZ

Sie halten hier die erste Ausgabe des Newsletters des Fachsprachenzentrums in der Hand. Dieser Newsletter ist das Ergebnis einer Kooperation zwischen Studenten und Dozenten unserer Einrichtung. Er reflektiert aktuelle studentische Themen. So haben in dieser Ausgabe 29 Studenten in den von ihnen belegten Fremdsprachen kurze Reportagen und Geschichten geschrieben.

Der Newsletter lebt von der Teilnahme der Studenten, also von Ihrer Teilnahme! Wir freuen uns auf weitere Beiträge, die dann in der nächsten Ausgabe veröffentlicht werden können. Dieser ist für den Herbst 2011 geplant.

Um einen Beitrag einzureichen, wenden Sie sich bitte an Ihren jeweiligen Fachsprachen-Dozenten.

Viel Spaß beim Lesen und Mitmachen!

Vorwort]



e^{ins:}

interkulturelle
Erfahrung]

Ein Umzug ins Ausland und die damit verbundene Anpassung an eine neue Sprache und Kultur ist immer ein großer Schritt, der häufig im Vorfeld Ängste und Bedenken auslöst.

Working and living in Tianjin, China



Autor:
Thomas Buchholz,
MBA

Introduction

I finished my bachelor's degree in economics in 2010 and now I'm taking part in the MBA programme at the Universität Hamburg. I also work at the Commerzbank in a special student programme. An important part of this programme is to do an internship at one of the branches abroad. I decided to do this internship right after the first semester of my master studies, which will be from March to September 2011.

Commerzbank has branches all over the world. My first step in finding a suitable location was to choose between the continents. Excluding Europe and North America was easy for me. I cannot imagine that there is anything really new for me in cities like London or New York. In my opinion, you can summarise all these countries with one term: "western culture". In Africa there

is only one branch, in Johannesburg. Although South Africa is a beautiful country I decided against it. The local circumstances in South Africa seem to me to be a little bit too dangerous.

In the end there was only Asia left and I thought of Singapore, Hong Kong or Shanghai as cities, that would probably be a moderate way to get in touch with Asian culture. The only problem is that a lot of students in Commerzbank would like to go there. That is why an internship in these cities is limited to three months. I believe that you need a lot longer, at least six months, to roughly understand this completely different culture. Therefore, I had to be content with a less popular branch in Asia, and I agreed to do my internship in Tianjin, in China. This location was not really my first choice, but it's in Asia and it's for six months.

The title of this article is "Working and living in Tianjin, China". But as I have never been to China, I will tell you about what I expect and less about what I really know about China.

Expectations about living in China

On the day the internship in Tianjin was offered to me my first thought was: "Oh wow, what or where is Tianjin?" And then my next thought was, if I do not know this city, most people in Europe or the rest of the western world will not know this city. The fact that only a few of the people I told about my internship actually know Tianjin confirmed my theory. So I finally came to the conclusion that Tianjin must be a city that has nothing in common with western culture. That was how I built up my first expectation about China.

When I heard of Tianjin for the first time I had so many questions. I started to collect information and tried to find answers to at least some of my questions. I talked to the current intern in Tianjin and found a lot of answers which relaxed me a little bit. So, now I know that there is a direct bus from Beijing airport to Tianjin and that there are taxis in China. Showing the address in Chinese characters to the taxi driver is supposed to be a secure way of communicating your destination and the intern promised to send me the most important addresses for my first days in China. He also informed me, that there will be a lot of help from the Chinese colleagues in finding a flat and in reading the rental contract and that they will help me to book a cheap hotel for the first days. Now I know that there are a lot of ATM's that even work with

Maestro cards and that calls are very cheap in China.

Once the intern told me a little story that made me very optimistic about this whole trip to China. He has no washing machine in his apartment and hasn't found a laundrette yet. There is a laundry service in the basement of the building where the bank's offices are and a tiny woman works there. After a few weeks she began to come to his office collected his dirty clothes and delivered his clean clothes. He didn't ask her to do this and does not have to pay for this service. He said that this was just a small example of the immense friendliness and helpfulness of the Chinese.

At the end of our conversations the intern gave me a last piece of advice. He said to me that I have to learn Chinese and that I will have a lot more fun in China if I can speak some Chinese. That's

why I decided to take Chinese lessons. I was so lucky because a week before I decided to go to Tianjin, a beginner course started for students.

At my first Chinese lesson I met a student at the Confucius Institute who was in Tianjin about two years ago and he answered nearly all the rest of my questions. He gave me a few names of good pubs to meet other people. He also told me that there are very modern fitness centres and warned me about jogging outside because of the smog. He advised me to be aware of the censorship of the Internet and that it is essential to choose the right provider to get full access to western homepages.

I am now in the middle of the last stages of my preparation and am getting very excited. I hope I can give you an update about what it was really like in the autumn.

The European Parliament – a microcosm of Europe



Autorin:
Selma Toporan,
Politikwissenschaft

Have you ever met anybody from Madagascar? I had not. When I picked the man up at the reception desk and he told me that he was from Madagascar I thought about “Madagascar”, the computer-animated movie where all animals dance and sing: “I like to move it, move it!”. I had to stop daydreaming! This was a serious situation. This man was the ambassador from Madagascar in Brussels, we were in the European Parliament and I was a trainee at the office of the Member of European Parliament (MEP) Jo Leinen. So we talked about the climate in Madagascar and about the mix of snow and rain in Brussels at that time of the year. We took the elevator, walked over the skywalk to another building, and I brought him to the conference on biodiversity. Biodiversity, climate change, food labelling, environmental disasters were all issues I dealt with during a six month period in my trainee-

ship in the European Parliament. I worked on these issues, because my MEP is the chair of the committee on the environment, food safety and public health. I attended committees, delegations and conferences; I did a lot of preparation work on keynote papers, briefings, speeches, press releases and research; I organized events and did administrative work.

In my studies, I have focused on European affairs and politics at my home university in Hamburg and continued this at Université Libre de Bruxelles. I chose Brussels – the capital of Europe and the living heart of European politics – as my ERASMUS destination. This immersion provided me with the chance to obtain a practical view of the European Parliament’s complex internal procedures and subtle unwritten rules. The role of the European Parliament within the European law-making

process appears now to be a lot more practical to me.

The European Parliament and even Brussels are a microcosm of Europe; they are both places where people from 27 member states come together and where different ideas and ideals meet. All member states share a common framework of norms and values within the European treaties, the *acquis communautaire*.

Nevertheless, when 27 members come together, deep disagreements and clashes are inevitable. However, all the members try to negotiate agreements and to play a role in European politics. Working in this microcosm you feel European, you become addicted to multiculturalism and Europe becomes your life. The European Parliament is like a bubble, and sometimes you need somebody from Madagascar, to remind you that Europe is not the world.

Friluftsliv in Norway



Autorin:
Evi Petersen,
Bewegungs-
wissenschaft

My name is Evi and I am studying “Science of Motion” here at Hamburg University. Last semester I went to Norway to study “friluftsliv”, which could be translated as “outdoor education”. It is a programme designed for students of physical education, who would like to focus in particular on outdoor activities. The whole concept is about surviving in nature, guiding groups and widening your knowledge about survival techniques.

Eleven eager students arrived in Kristiansand in January to take part in the “friluftsliv” programme. It was a very international group; students from England, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and from Germany, with very different levels of experience in outdoor activities.

Our activities ranged from skiing to building igloos, doing assault courses, hiking, climbing and canoeing trips.

The most extreme trip by far, was our skiing trip in the middle of winter, where we had to survive in the wilderness in the ice and snow for four days. First, we skied a couple of kilometres and then we had to choose a place which we thought would be suitable to build our igloos. It took about six hours to complete and then we also built a toilet and a fireplace. I had absolutely no experience in anything like this and so was not sure if I could handle the cold and survive outdoors for four days. One of the best aspects about the whole trip for me was, that I learned so much about myself and about how to overcome my limits. Despite the

cold and discomfort, we actually had a lot of fun!

The original idea of “friluftsliv”, is that you live at one with nature, that you enjoy the silence and loneliness and live without modern equipment. This is of course, incredibly difficult to achieve when you are with a group of eleven people, who have to complete the activities together and who bring all their modern equipment with them. However, in my opinion, I certainly experienced “friluftsliv”. Possibly not the traditional version but I really had the feeling of being part of nature. When I think back to the last night of our sea and coastline trip, I remember lying there and looking up at a sky full of stars. These are the moments that I will cherish forever from my time in Norway.

Mi estadía en España.

Autorin:
Lina Musekamp

En el año 2005 hice el bachillerato y ya antes sabía que después de ello me gustaría pasar un tiempo en España. Por alguna razón que todavía no me queda claro cuál era, tenía un deseo muy fuerte de aprender español. Puede que fuera por las clases de flamenco en las que participaba.

Así que decidí aprender el idioma en una escuela de idiomas en Málaga. Nueve meses completos tuve cada día cinco horas de clases de español. Eran clases de gramática, de escritura y también clases de cultura. Las clases de cultura trataban sobre costumbres, tradiciones y en general sobre la vida española.

Al principio las clases eran para mí muy difíciles porque no sabía ni una palabra española y los profesores solamente explicaban en español. Pero ya después

de una semana me podía comunicar un poco.

Empecé este curso en septiembre con otros ocho estudiantes de todo Europa: de Suecia, Francia, Italia, Inglaterra y de Alemania. Todos se quedaron nueve meses y así formamos un curso de aprendizaje intensivo. Eso cambió desgraciadamente después de los meses de invierno.

En el verano muchos estudiantes vinieron solamente por dos o tres semanas para mejorar su español. Por un lado fue muy interesante conocer a tanta gente, pero por otro lado causó una atmósfera un poco complicada. Lo bueno en la escuela fue que también ofrecía actividades fuera de la escuela. Ellas eran excursiones a otras ciudades, bailar salsa, excursiones con caballos, fiestas y mucho más.

Al final de los nueve meses hice clases de preparatorias para el examen DELE y acabé mi estadía en Málaga con la aprobación del DELE, nivel intermedio.

Durante la estancia en Málaga viví con una familia. Primeramente llegué a una familia con tres chicos. Además estaban otros dos estudiantes. El primer fin de semana en Málaga me puse enferma. Más tarde me enteré de que todos los estudiantes que vivían con esa familia también se habían puesto enfermos. Eso fue un motivo que me hizo pensar en cambiar la familia, además la casa estaba situada muy lejos de la escuela y de la ciudad, en las montañas donde no circulaban autobuses. Por eso, decidí cambiar la familia y así pasó. Desde entonces viví con una señora mayor y un gato. Ella tenía también un hijo que vivía fuera de

la casa. En su casa era muy feliz. Tardaba solamente diez minutos a pie en llegar a la escuela y lo mismo con el mar. ¡Yo podía ver el mar desde la terraza!

Encima de todo esto, la señora era muy amable, sabía cocinar perfectamente y me trataba como si fuera su hija. Los primeros dos meses compartí mi habitación con una italiana, con la que me llevaba muy bien. Durante el invierno viví sola con la señora hasta que en la primavera vinieron dos estadounidenses y más tarde una holandesa. Con todas pasé un muy buen tiempo.

Tuve suerte con mi “familia”, muchos otros estudiantes se quejaban con frecuencia de la mala comida y de las habitaciones poco limpias. Tal vez sea porque muchas familias en general no tienen ganas de dar habitaciones

a estudiantes pero lo hacen para ganar un poco más de dinero.

Al contrario de los que vivieron en un apartamento solamente con estudiantes, aprendí más sobre las costumbres y también lo que a mí me gustó mucho: la cocina española.

La comida en España era una parte de la cultura que era algo muy nuevo para mí. Estaba sorprendida de que se cenara mucho y tan tarde y pero tienen un desayuno poco nutritivo. Muy pronto me acostumbré y también luego pedí cada vez un vaso de vino o una cerveza, incluso por la tarde.

Otra diferencia con Alemania es que los españoles viven su vida en la calle, mientras nosotros los alemanes nos gusta pasar el tiempo en el cómodo hogar. Eso seguramente es una cuestión del clima. Con tanto sol que hace es una ale-

gría pasar el tiempo fuera. Muy especial para mí fue la semana santa con las procesiones por toda la ciudad.

Finalmente puedo decir que mi estadía en España fue la mejor decisión que hice. Pasé un tiempo de bomba. Además de la cultura española conocí otras culturas por los estudiantes de los diferentes países en la escuela. De mi parte, puedo aconsejar a todos ir a España por cierto tiempo, la lengua, la vida, la gente y por supuesto el sol valen la pena conocerlos.

Estoy muy contenta de haber aprendido el español y me gustaría mucho volver a pasar una temporada en alguna ciudad española. También me puedo imaginar trabajar ahí. Si eso no funciona, pues estoy segura de que seguiré viajando a sitios hispanohablantes.

Séjour d'études à l'Université Montesquieu – Bordeaux IV

Autorin:
Sara Porro,
Rechtswissenschaft

Pendant l'année académique 2008-2009, j'ai effectué un séjour d'études de la durée de neuf mois auprès de la faculté de droit de l'université Montesquieu - Bordeaux IV. L'échange était organisé en partenariat entre l'université française et celle italienne de Trento, et financé dans le cadre du programme européen « Erasmus ».

Du côté académique, l'expérience s'est déroulée sur deux semestres, pendant lesquels j'étais régulièrement inscrite à l'université Montesquieu. Ainsi, j'ai pu suivre de nombreux cours en

droit français, choisis parmi une large offre d'enseignements. Par ailleurs, ayant eu pendant l'entier séjour accès aux bibliothèques locales, l'échange s'est révélé une occasion extrêmement précieuse pour la rédaction de ma mémoire de master en droit comparé.

Cependant, quelques difficultés ont concerné la recherche d'un logement sur Bordeaux. En effet, à cause du mauvais état d'entretien des résidences universitaires au campus, j'ai décidé d'habiter dans un appartement privé en centre de ville. Malheureusement, j'ai bientôt dû

constater que Bordeaux dispose probablement d'une offre insuffisante de chambres étudiant, qui sont d'ailleurs louées à des prix plutôt hauts.

Néanmoins, d'un point de vue plus général je considère l'expérience accomplie en France comme très positive. En fait, au-delà de m'avoir donné la possibilité d'approfondir mes connaissances juridiques et de langue française, à mon avis sa richesse unique a consisté dans les contacts avec des étudiants de toute part du monde qu'elle m'a permit d'établir.

Kursteilnehmerin
im FSZ

Моя учёба в России



Autorin:
Constanze
Oberlercher,
Erziehungs-
wissenschaft

Kursteilnehmerin
im FSZ

В прошлом году я ездила в Великий Новгород, почти через 6 лет после того, как я там училась стажёром DAAD. Я училась на филологическом факультете Новгородского Государственного Университета имени Ярослава Мудрого в Антоново (район Новгорода). Университет на реке. Училась я вместе с российскими студентами, в нашей группе было мало юношей и их все защищали и поддерживали. Им практически нельзя было «провалиться» (получить плохую оценку или быть отчисленными из Университета). Также я усвоила что оценки на экзаменах не всегда связаны действительными знаниями студентов, а часто зависят от субъективных отношений. Но общения студентов с преподавателями всегда очень личные, их всегда можно застать и подойти в любой день с вопросами без предварительной договорённости. На лекции, даже самый строгий профессор может ответить на звонок по мобильному.

На лекциях обычно диктуют то, что студентам надо знать и русские студенты

умеют писать в темпе быстрого чтения. Я этому тоже научилась. Все предметы делились на лекции и практические занятия к ним. Лекции обычно самые важные, т.к. от них во многом зависит оценка на экзамене. Некоторые практические занятия студенты прогуливают и я не была исключением. На экзаменах спрашивают в первую очередь то, что было рассказано на лекциях. Помню, как на экзамене по «зарубежке» (зарубежной литературе) я получила от профессора вопрос, а от сокурстницы – подходящую шпаргалку, которая до сих пор у меня хранится.

В ходе занятий нам надо было очень много читать произведений русской и зарубежной классики и я не успевала. В университете книги для чтения можно получить только у библиотекаря по предварительной заявке. Самому проходить в хранилища книг нельзя. Книгу можно взять почитать на ночь. В центральной городской библиотеке («Кремлёвка») книги можно брать на более долгий срок. Я туда ходила каждый понедельник после физры:

потому что там был бесплатный интернет.

Физкультура является обязательным предметом в университете. Этот предмет многими русскими студентами не любим, но мне понравилось, что он является обязательным. В основном были занятия по гимнастике, бегу, прыжкам, волейболу. Также в Университете был ещё один особый предмет – БЖД (безопасность жизнедеятельности). На нём рассказываются законы об условиях труда, опасных веществах, трудовых заболеваниях и пр. Мы мерили радиацию, узнавали, что нельзя носить обувь на высоком каблуке более 4-х часов, что во время беременности можно только лежать и что надо покупать яблоки только у людей, у которых яблони растут дальше чем 50 метров от улицы. БЖД практически ни кем не воспринимался всерьёз и его старались прогуливать.

Самым интересным предметом была педагогическая психология (я решила посещать все предметы третьего учебного года и была частью группы 2222, «двоечников»).

Преподаватель объяснила, что есть два стремления в педагогике. Я поняла, что в Германии преобладает мнение, что человек развивается сам, как цветок. Его можно только поливать. Этому мнения была, например, Монтессори. Преподаватели в России больше придерживались мнения, что ребёнка надо и нужно учить, ему надо говорить, «что такое – хорошо, и что такое – плохо».

К иностранным студентам относились снисходительно. Я сдала все предметы вместе с русскими студентами. Но я очень горжусь полуавтомату по морфологии. Я сдала одну часть лучше всех и мне потом сокурница рассказала, что преподаватель ещё долго обо мне помнила.

Учёба в России была для меня более спокойной, чем в Германии, потому что студенты всё делали вместе и не надо было индивидуально планировать занятия. Мы вместе боялись экзаменов, друг друга поддерживали на занятиях. Это было одно из самых интересных времён в моей жизни.



Zwei:

Was bewegt
uns?]

Aktuelle Themen und interessante
Entwicklungen der letzten Monate.

Immigrants in German Journalism



Autorin:
Lea Borgmann,
Journalistik &
Kommunikations-
wissenschaft

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Ich finde es toll, dass man im FSZ von muttersprachlichen Lehrern Sprachkurse auf hohem Niveau angeboten bekommt und so auch in Deutschland weiter an seiner Sprachpraxis arbeiten kann.

I am studying “Journalism and Communication Studies” at the University of Hamburg. Due to my subject, I am interested in the work of journalists and in Germany – especially in minorities in German media companies. In this essay, I will present the findings from a study by Miltiadis Oulios on immigrants in German journalism. In my opinion, this topic is relevant to current and future media and communication students and in general to everyone who is interested in the debate about minorities in Germany. Journalism plays a major role in a democratic society and needs to be diverse and representative of the German population.

The number of immigrants in Germany has increased over the past fifty years. In 2009 about 15.6 million people with an immigrant background were living in Germany (Statistisches Bundesamt Germany). That is

approximately twenty percent of the German population.

As the number of German citizens with an immigrant background is constantly increasing, this essay argues for an increasing share of foreign journalists in the German media business and points out reasons and consequences for the current under-representation of immigrant journalists.

The pie chart shows that the share of journalists with an immigrant background in Germany is around 2.5 percent (Oulios 2009: 127). This fact leads to a significant under representation of foreign journalists in the German media business. The essay is based on findings from a study by Miltiadis Oulios.

With reference to Oulios’ work, four main reasons are relevant to the under representation of journalists with an immigrant background in Germany (Oulios 2009: 130-135): A key factor for the under representation of

immigrants is doubts about their qualifications. In addition to this, Oulios pointed out that there is a lack of good jobs for immigrants and that foreign journalists may only write about immigrant topics. Moreover, often immigrants may not write about particular topics due to the belief that they are more critical than German journalists.

Doubts about qualifications emerged from the presumption that people with an immigrant background are not able to speak and write German well enough to work as a journalist. Consequently, immigrants are not employed and so get no chance to prove their skills. To some extent they are put in a “niche” and write about the same topics every day. For the most part, immigrants are believed to be more religious and more critical so, managers exclude them from major topics, apparently, in order to represent a neutral attitude in

their newspaper articles, TV programs and on their websites.

As a result, only 2.5 percent of all journalists in Germany are of an immigrant background. That represents a significant under representation of the total foreign German population. This has both social and economic consequences and a severe effect on the social constitution of German society. Firstly, media content provides more stereotypes of immigrants in Germany. Due to the fact that immigrants do not participate in generating media content, the pictures drawn of immigrants in the media is predominantly negative. This negative image can be traced to a deep misunderstanding of how immigrants live and feel in Germany. Secondly, citizens with an immigrant background recognised that the German media content is one-sided and stereotyped, caused by an under-representation of immigrants in the media business

(ARD/ZDF 2007). As a result, they have changed their daily media reception behavior and started to use a considerable amount of native media content. This will in turn, have economic consequences for German media companies due to a loss of consumers.

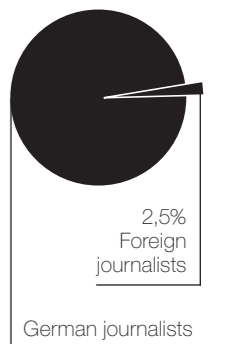
To stem these consequences, German media companies have started to invent particular activities to involve immigrants in the media business (Oulios 2009: 135-140). Special traineeships were introduced by the daily newspaper “Tagesspiegel” and the radio program “Deutsche Welle”. Some other media companies require a second language from their applicants to ensure a diversity of languages and cultures. Awards and talent workshops particularly for students, graduates and media producers with an immigrant background, are some other methods companies have used to try to increase diversification. However, only WDR has a com-

prehensive integration program to completely integrate immigrants into the media system.

In this essay, attempts have been made to summarize the current situation of journalists with an immigrant background in German media companies. It has been demonstrated that the effect of an under representation of immigrants in the media business has severe social and economic consequences. To be more precise, an ongoing under representation will cause a significant loss of media recipients and will affect and support the negative image of immigrants in German societies. The results reported here by Oulios are consistent with other, similar studies (ARD/ZDF 2007).

Obviously, managers, other employees in the media businesses and society in general could benefit from being informed about the reasons and consequences of an under representation of immigrants in journalism.

Journalistikstudenten
in Deutschland



Share in %

Hafen City I



Autorin:
Andra Wollert,
Medien und
Kommunikations-
wissenschaft

Are projects like Hafen City essential for the city, or should the money be invested in other projects?

The Hafen City constitutes the biggest project in urban development in Europe. At the moment, the discussion about this project is similar to discussions about other huge architectural undertakings in the past. The reconstruction of the Berlin City Palace was one such topic. It was initially estimated to cost 552 million Euro. There was strong opposition and the city of Berlin lacked the budget for a project of this scale, so it was initially postponed, from 2009 to 2010 and finally cancelled completely.

The construction and planning of the “Elb Philharmonie” and Hafen City began with the same discussion. The creation of luxury apartments for wealthy

residents has been highly criticised as has the construction of the “Elb Philharmonie”. I would like to outline some reasons as to why I am critical, especially of the “Elb Philharmonie”.

I will admit that the internationally renowned NDR symphony orchestra needs a new home. The Laeisz Hall, where the orchestra now resides, is simply too small and too old.

The “Elb Philharmonie” will be a landmark for the city and the city certainly needs a suitable concert hall if it is to retain its image as a city of culture. It will, undoubtedly bring money to the city and attract not only foreign visitors but also the inhabitants of Hamburg. But, at what cost??

The building was supposed to cost 240 million Euros, of which 140 million will be paid by the city. The completion date was 2010. Now the costs have risen

to 323 million and the proposed opening date is 2012.

I acknowledge that a new concert hall should be of an innovative, eye catching design with the latest in acoustic technology, especially if they want to compete on an international level.

In my opinion, the cost factor is the overwhelming argument against such projects. Is it really so important to spend so much on prestige objects? Hamburg definitely needs a concert hall but instead of constantly increasing the costs, it would have made much more sense to relinquish some of the status symbols, such as a massive amount of artistically formed glass! The money would have been better spent on our education system, to give just one example.

Consequently, students would not have to pay fees any more, but that’s a whole other topic!

Hafen City II



Autor:
Nils Langhein,
MBA

Are projects like Hafen City essential for the city or should the money be invested in other projects?

Personally, I believe that the Hafen City project is really essential for our city and that there is no better way to invest money with a higher return on investment.

I have divided this article into three parts. Firstly, I would like to put forward some arguments regarding culture and architecture, then I will examine the economic issues and finally I will discuss some aspects of city development.

The architecture of Hafen City is going to be tremendous, to name just a few examples, the Elb Philharmonie, a “Science Centre” and the Hafen City University buildings.

Tourist rates will increase dramatically, as visitors from all over the world will come to concerts and to visit museums such as the International Maritime Museum and the Hamburg Dungeon. The unique interplay between the architecture and the water will inspire people to stay longer in the city. These tourists will book hotel rooms and spend money shopping in the city and hence, increase the tax profit for Hamburg. This money can then be invested in infrastructure or in social welfare projects.

This project will strengthen Hamburg’s business economy. In the last years, many big companies have moved their headquarters to HC and this has brought, not only prestige but also jobs to the city. It has been projected that

15,000 further jobs will also be created in the future. All these national and international firms pay corporate tax. The city can reinvest this tax to develop disadvantaged districts in the city.

My third and final point is that HC is a wonderful piece of urban development, 5,000 new apartments for 1,000s of people. This is a unique opportunity to create living space right in the city centre, an area which has largely been ignored in this aspect for the last 50 years.

Hamburg’s city centre will finally be back where it belongs, at the Elbe River.

As I see it, this project has firmly secured Hamburg’s position on the world’s stage, as an international city with great possibility for growth.

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Die Kurse sind sehr interaktiv und interessant

Perception and how culture influences it



Autorin:
Hasmik
Episkoposian,
Medien und
Kommunikation

One of the most important issues regarding intercultural communication is how people from different countries and of different cultural backgrounds perceive each other's behaviour and perspectives because successful communication means understanding each other.

Perception is neither neutral nor objective. It is also not static. On the contrary, perception is a highly active, dynamic and selective process that depends on personal and largely subjective experiences and their interpretation. Here is where culture becomes a key factor because our network of interpretation is based on our cultural environment. There are national views or national stereotypes regarding/of other countries. (Not all nations connect mint sauce with England like the Germans.)

We cannot understand what a dog is if there is no interpretation of a four legged fluffy animal such as a dog in our culture. Greeks cannot understand the hand signal meaning "Thank you" in Germany as such because their interpretation of the same hand signal is an insult.

The more we experience and the more we learn, the more complex our individual classifications and interpretations become. This makes our stereotype-oriented view of the world less primitive and dangerous. Whenever we meet people from other countries or continents, stereotypes based on former experiences become activated in our heads and minds even though we may not be aware of them. This is a natural process. Nevertheless, the cultivation of a more complex network of stereotypes minimises the danger of being prejudiced against these "outsiders".

In my opinion, it is always important to give people a chance – whether on a professional or on an interpersonal level. That is why it is crucial for us to realise that every single person interprets and classifies his or her environment by means of stereotypes. This is a normal and human process. I think it is good to be aware of it. Nevertheless, one cannot erase stereotypes and prejudices from the world. Otherwise, xenophobia would not exist.

As our world becomes more and more globalised, intercultural communication becomes more common. We meet people from different countries on a daily basis, we speak to each other, we eat together, we work, play and laugh together. Through our personal experience, our view of the world and of other nations becomes more and more complex. If we do not willingly close ourselves to what is new and alien to us, our horizon will expand. This also means that our stereotype network will become more complex. For me, this is one of the positive aspects of globalisation.

Awareness and consciousness of all the issues mentioned above are the first step towards a mature way of dealing with people – regardless of where they come from.

Nevertheless, I believe that stereotypes and our perception depends on much more than culture. It depends on gender, on age, on social status, profession and so on. It is often more complex than theories can explain. This means, that our perception of the phenomenon of stereotypes are selective, too.

Noël: Fête de l'amour et des compromis

Autorin:
Mirja Esslinger

Chaque année, quand Noël approche, les couples « multi-cultis » se trouvent confrontés aux mêmes problèmes : Est-ce qu'on peut servir comme dessert du baklava aux grands-parents allemands ? Un homme de l'Asie, doit-il connaître les chansons de Noël par cœur parce qu'il est marié avec une Européenne ? Est-ce qu'il est « permis » de servir comme second plat du couscous ou du Nasi-Goreng au lieu de l'oie de Noël ou de la carpe ?

Dans beaucoup de pays européens, les familles ont l'habitude de décorer la maison à partir du début du mois de décembre

pour évoquer les sentiments de l'Avent : on prépare des biscuits de Noël et toute la maison sent la cannelle et les mandarines. Mais qu'est ce qui se passe alors dans un couple où l'un des deux n'a pas la coutume de Noël ? Ou si l'un des deux ne relie aucun sentiment avec cette période tant importante et qu'il veut éviter de blesser son partenaire avec son indifférence ? Dans ce cas-là, les partenaires ont besoin de beaucoup de tolérance et de bonne acceptation, car ils entretiennent une relation qui essaye de combiner deux façons de vivre ainsi que deux façons de

voir et de comprendre le monde. Cela exige des compromis assez grands, pour que tout le monde soit satisfait.

La tradition européenne de Noël a ses racines dans la religion, bien qu'aujourd'hui tout l'Avent semble déjà commencer en octobre et être dirigé vers la consommation plus qu'à autre chose. Mais Noël comme fête traditionnelle reste une fête de sensations et de convivialité, si la famille est donc « multi-culti » et que les partenaires appartiennent à différentes religions, Noël sera donc une fête des compromis.

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Keine zu großen Kurse, eine richtige Lernatmosphäre, kompetente und freundliche Lehrer.

Febbre da elezioni, o forse no



Autor:
Christian Radeck,
BWL

**Kommentar
zum FSZ:**

Die Kurse des
FSZ haben mich
optimal auf meinen
Italien-Aufenthalt
vorbereitet

Manifesti elettorali in tutta la città. Per quale partito votare, chi è il candidato favorito... La città è davvero in preda a febbre da elezioni? Spesso si ha l'impressione che la gente sia più presa per una partita di calcio tra le squadre di Amburgo che per le elezioni.

In Germania le persone di età superiore ai 18 anni (che ha la cittadinanza tedesca) può votare per i referendum, elezioni locali, elezioni generali ed elezioni europee. Coloro che sono privi di cittadinanza tedesca, possono votare per tutte le elezioni, tranne che per le elezioni generali.

Comunque il numero delle persone che attualmente esprime il proprio diritto a votare è molto piccolo e sembra essere in calo.

È particolarmente in ribasso votare per le elezioni europee, nel 2009 soltanto il 32% degli elettori ha espresso il proprio voto ad Amburgo, questo è in calo dal 34.9% del 2004. La gente dice che ciò che accade a Bruxelles non ha collegamenti con la propria vita quotidiana, ma questo è completamente falso. Così molte decisioni importanti, che condizionano la nostra vita di tutti i giorni, vengono prese a Bruxelles e tutto questo tende ad aumentare in futuro.

Votare per le elezioni locali o regionali è ancora a livello basso, sebbene sia più alto rispetto alle votazioni delle elezioni regionali. Nel 2008 ad

Amburgo è stata adottata la campagna "Wirf Deine Stimme Nicht Weg" (non gettare via il tuo voto), per provare ad incoraggiare più gente a votare, ma ciò nonostante il risultato poi era solo del 62%.

Questa è una tendenza che può essere osservata in tutta la Germania e in molti stati in Europa. Quando guardiamo i notiziari in TV, vediamo gente in Africa e in Medio Oriente protestare per provare a cambiare il sistema delle rispettivi nazioni. Qui si protesta per i nostri politici, ma poi comunque non si va al seggio elettorale a votare.

Questo è qualcosa per cui dovremmo riflettere per cambiare il futuro.



d rei:

Campusleben]

Life at Hamburg University! Was passiert
im Moment an der Uni? Tipps für
Neulinge in Hamburg und an der Uni.

Erasmus in Hamburg - the best year of my life



Autor:
Jan Haraslin,
Politikwissenschaft

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Aus meiner persönlichen Erfahrung kann ich die Kurse beim FSZ allen nur weiter empfehlen. Die Kurse sind den Bedürfnissen der Studenten maßgeschneidert. Nette und professionelle Lektorinnen, die individuell auf Schwierigkeiten jedes Einzelnen eingehen. Kleine Gruppen und gemütliche Atmosphäre runden das Angebot des FSZ ab.

Growing up and living in a multicultural society – between Bratislava and Vienna – taught me to be open-minded, outgoing, tolerant and cooperative – a modern, cosmopolitan European. Looking back, I now understand that this was actually the reason why I could not imagine studying at the same university and staying in the same city for the course of my studies. I was sure about doing an exchange somewhere abroad even before I attended the University in Vienna! As my German was almost at a native speaker level and my two other foreign languages (French and Russian) too poor for studying at that time, I decided to choose an English programme to improve my English skills.

My first choice was the University of Stockholm, a city I got to know during my summer holidays. As I was quite confident about getting the only available place in Sweden, I didn't really care about my other three choices. The only thing I considered was the size of the city, because I prefer big cities to smaller towns. That is why Hamburg was my se-

cond choice, Frankfurt the third and Rotterdam the fourth in my official "ranking" on the application form. You should take into consideration that I was limited by the language barrier and therefore could not choose Spain, or Italy, because they did not offer any English programmes...

Coincidentally (but now I call it my destiny), another student "robbed" me of the university place in Stockholm and I found myself in Hamburg... I had no idea about the city, I had no idea about the university... I was quite sceptical, but everything changed when I arrived in Hamburg. After my first sightseeing-tour and "Hafenrundfahrt", I fell in love with the city immediately! The programme and activities which were organized by the international office of my faculty (WiSo) were amazing and the people I met here – I will never forget them! Maybe it sounds like a bit of a cliché, but imagine if you live, study, cook, chill, party and do everything in a community – very close friendships develop – friendships for life!

I am really glad that I had the opportunity to do Erasmus here in Hamburg! It was the best year of my life...definitely...it is hard to describe it – you have to experience it ;)!

I would recommend it to everyone, take the chance and do an exchange abroad – you will love it!

It provides a rich experience in many aspects – you obtain new points of view and you are able to see things from a completely different angle, you get to know new cultures and traditions. You have the possibility to improve your language skills; you meet new people from all over the world you can learn from, you become familiar with a new environment and experience new successes, new challenges, new ups and downs...

This unique experience influences not only your studies or your future career but your whole life!

After spending a year in Hamburg as an exchange student, I decided to stay here for my master's degree – I don't regret it and I never will!

Tuition fees, should they be abolished? (I)



Autorin:
Anna Kyselyova,
Medizin

This issue has become a hot topic in Germany in the last ten years. Most of the universities can be divided into two categories; those that have introduced fees and those that have done everything to avoid them.

When you compare Germany to other European countries, it is important to note that the tuition fees are not very high (around 500 Euro) and most students should be able to afford them. That is one of the reasons why I am in favour of tuition fees and I will try to illustrate my arguments with examples from my medical studies.

Firstly, university fees provide the university with the means to buy more books for the library. For instance, if you can not find certain books in the medical library at the UKE, you can tell the librarian and some of

these books will be bought in the following week.

In addition to that, the AZB (Central Medical Library) buys an annual access to "The New England Journal of Medicine", for all doctors and students. We can also prepare for our state exams by using a special database, the password is bought by the AZB.

Secondly, we receive free copies and booklets made by the faculty in almost every subject.

Thirdly, we can take part in the decision making process regarding how the tuition fees should be spent. I am a member of the FSR-Medizin (Fachschaftsrat Medizin). This is a group of students from different semesters, who deal with internal problems in the faculty. We meet once a year and discuss whether it is reasonable to buy, for example, an electrocardiograph for phy-

siology or whether to buy other technical equipment that would be useful for the students.

A good example of our decisions is that the medical students receive a white coat and a stethoscope when they start their fifth semester and a special anatomy kit in the first semester when they start anatomy seminars.

One final point is, that so many instruments which we use in the lab can only be used once-needles, syringes. This means that they have to be constantly reordered which also requires a large budget.

To sum up, particularly from the point of view of a medical student, I see a great need for university fees. However, I believe that every student should also have easy access to a loan which they can pay back when they have a well-paid job.

Tuition fees, should they be abolished? (II)



Autor:
Jonas Kuschan,
Politikwissenschaft

Even though a lot of students protest against university fees and argue that the fees divide the “rich” from the “poor”, I think that they are really necessary.

Indeed, these fees are a fraction of what students pay in Britain or the US and students receive so much knowledge during their time at university. Knowledge is a product which has to be produced and so needs to be paid for.

I do however, agree with one point in favour of the fees; as a normal student you do not see what your fees are used for and you do not see a clear difference between the time before we had fees and now.

One idea would be to turn the German universities into a “campus university” like they have in the States. In a campus university, you get a small room,

some good food in the canteen and of course good education from teachers and professors. In order to change our universities, we would certainly need a lot of time and money.

However, considering how much you pay (especially in Hamburg) for a flat, food, books, stationery etc., it would probably work out at the same amount as you would pay at a campus university.

As I mentioned at the beginning, many argue that fees divide the rich and the poor. So many banks offer good student loans, which you have to pay back when you earn a certain amount a year at very good interest rates. This makes the argument about rich and poor completely obsolete.

You should also examine the benefits for the students. We all

get a ticket for public transport in Hamburg and more and more lecturers are using very modern teaching methods. In one of my lectures, the professor equipped all of us with a small remote control which we could click on to answer questions during the lecture. Through this, the professor knew how many students knew the answer and so had direct feedback about his lecture and could teach more efficiently.

To conclude, university fees are absolutely necessary and one of the problems now is that they are still relatively new and there is a lack of transparency. Maybe the whole process just needs longer to be accepted and with fees in place the government can focus on doing more for the workers and trainees.

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Das FSZ hat ein vielfältiges und weitreichendes Angebot an Kursen, mit Themen, aus denen jeder etwas Passendes für seine Fachrichtung aussuchen kann.

Tuition fees, should they be abolished? (III)



Autorin:
Yvonne Schmid,
MBA

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Das Kursangebot an Fremdsprachen ist vielfältig und macht die Studierenden fit für die Anforderungen des globalen Arbeitsmarktes.

I am of the opinion that university fees should be abolished as they deny people the right to a proper education. In our democratic society, everyone should be guaranteed the freedom to decide which job they would like to aim for and how to achieve this. Hence, it has to be ensured that, motivated, talented, young people without any monetary support from their families, are not deterred by tuition fees from following their vocation.

In order to pay the tuition fees, many students are forced to work long hours in a student job, which can result in their

studies suffering from a lack of concentration.

Particularly for students of challenging subjects like law and medicine it is nearly impossible to study and have a demanding part time job.

However, university fees have some benefits: often the range of subjects on offer and the quality of teaching increases and improves. Despite this, due to a lack of transparency most students are not really sure what their fees are being used for. Enlarging the university administration and renovating old buildings on campus should be financed by the government and not paid for from the tuition fees.

The state has to invest in third level education, as Europe needs more well educated people who will build the future and accelerate economic growth.

A further threat caused by the introduction of these fees is that many students are forced to get a student loan and so begin their working life in debt. Their purchasing power decreases, which has a high impact on domestic demand.

Summing up, I believe that university fees should be abolished as they divide society into certain groups and discriminate against people from poorer families.

New at Hamburg University?



Autorin:
Karolina
Drapakova,
BWL

When you arrive at Hamburg University it seems enormous and everyone is in a hurry and looks like they know where they are going. Don't worry! After a few days, it all becomes easier and you realise that it is not really so huge after all.

Here is some advice for all new-comers to Hamburg university.

Every faculty has an orientation week and it is highly advisable to attend as you receive a lot of information about your studies and meet people who you will study with.

The faculties also organise a special buddy program. To take part you have to write to the leader of the buddy program of your

faculty before the semester starts. You then get assigned a "buddy", who takes care of you for the whole semester. Especially at the beginning, it is really helpful to have a buddy, who can pick you up at the airport, show you around the city and generally help with everything. Often, wonderful friendships develop which last throughout your studies. As your buddy studies the same subject, you can discuss any issues that you have. The program also organises lots of free time activities such as visiting museums, ice-skating and trips, for example to Berlin, Lübeck or Sylt.

Whatever type of sport you are interested in, you are sure to find it at Hamburg University.

There are so many possibilities at the "Hochschulsport" or at "Sportspaß." If you are not sure what you would like to do, you can go to the test week "Schnupperwoche", at the beginning of the semester, where you can try different sports for free. I would highly recommend the sailing courses. Hamburg is the perfect city to learn to sail, with such a wonderful location – the Alster, right in the center of the city.

Hamburg is an amazing city and the university may appear to be daunting at first but if you make the effort to get to know people in the first weeks, the whole experience will become one of the most fulfilling in your life.



Autorin:
Selma Toporan,
Politikwissenschaft

L'année ERASMUS – une expérience interculturelle

Une année à l'étranger est pour beaucoup de gens une possibilité d'apprendre une nouvelle langue, de rencontrer une nouvelle culture est de faire des expériences particulières. L'année ERASMUS (European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) est une opportunité pour les étudiants de vivre et d'étudier dans un autre pays et de faire des expériences interculturelles. L'Union Européenne soutient le programme avec un budget de plus que 450 millions d'euros par an pour donner des bourses aux étudiants. Les 27 pays de l'Union Européenne ainsi que l'Islande, la Turquie, la Norvège et le Lichtenstein participent au programme d'échange. Plus de 2,2 millions étudiants ont profité du programme ERASMUS depuis son lancement en 1987.

La connaissance d'une autre langue est un plus sur le marché

du travail. Les jeunes étudiants habitent pendant un an dans un autre pays. Souvent ils sont obligés de parler la langue du pays, ce qui les oblige à perfectionner cette langue. Le fait d'habiter, par exemple avec des locaux peut améliorer énormément la connaissance de la langue. En outre, l'environnement scolaire force les étudiants à lire et écrire dans une langue étrangère et à développer un vocabulaire spécifique qui est lié au sujet d'études; ainsi un étudiant de biologie qui est d'origine française et qui part un an en Angleterre dans le cadre d'ERASMUS va acquérir un vocabulaire spécifique en anglais aussi.

Les étudiants ERASMUS enrichissent non seulement leur vie académique et professionnelle mais aussi leur niveau linguistique, leurs compétences interculturelles, leur autonomisation et leur conscience d'eux-mêmes. Ce sont les raisons pour lesquelles

les sur le marché de l'emploi des jeunes diplômés qui ont fait des années ERASMUS ou d'autres expériences à l'étranger sont souvent privilégiés par rapport aux autres diplômés.

Outre des avantages pour la vie professionnelle, un séjour ERASMUS est une bonne expérience interculturelle. Les étudiants ERASMUS habitent pendant une année dans un autre environnement culturel. Les étudiants viennent de toute l'Europe. Les étudiants parlent des langues différentes et ils vivent dans des cultures différentes. Un séjour ERASMUS ce n'est pas seulement la possibilité d'une rencontre avec la culture du pays, mais en même temps une année ERASMUS offre une rencontre avec plusieurs cultures en Europe. L'expérience des étudiants leur permet de mieux comprendre ce que signifie être un citoyen européen.

Kommentar zum FSZ:

In FSZ lernt man die Fremdsprachen in einer unterhaltsamen Form.

Città nuova, vita nuova.



Autorin:
Sophie Weber,
Geisteswissenschaft

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Die Inhalte der Kurse
werden kompakt
und sehr praxisnah
vermittelt

Può essere una situazione sconvolgente traslocare in una città di circa 1,8 milioni abitanti e poi frequentare l'università di circa 40.000 studenti.

Il campus universitario sembra così grande e dopo che ti sei smarrito qualche volta inizi a sentirti confuso e da solo. Avresti bisogno di alcuni amici.

Vorrei dare a tutti i nuovi arrivati ad Amburgo e in particolare all'università, alcuni suggerimenti per rendere il più facile possibile la nuova esperienza.

Una delle prime sfide è trovare un appartamento. Gli appartamenti ad Amburgo sono

spesso molto cari. Per questo è meglio e più economico provare ad affittare una camera nella casa dello studente. Abitarci è un grande vantaggio per conoscere velocemente molte persone.

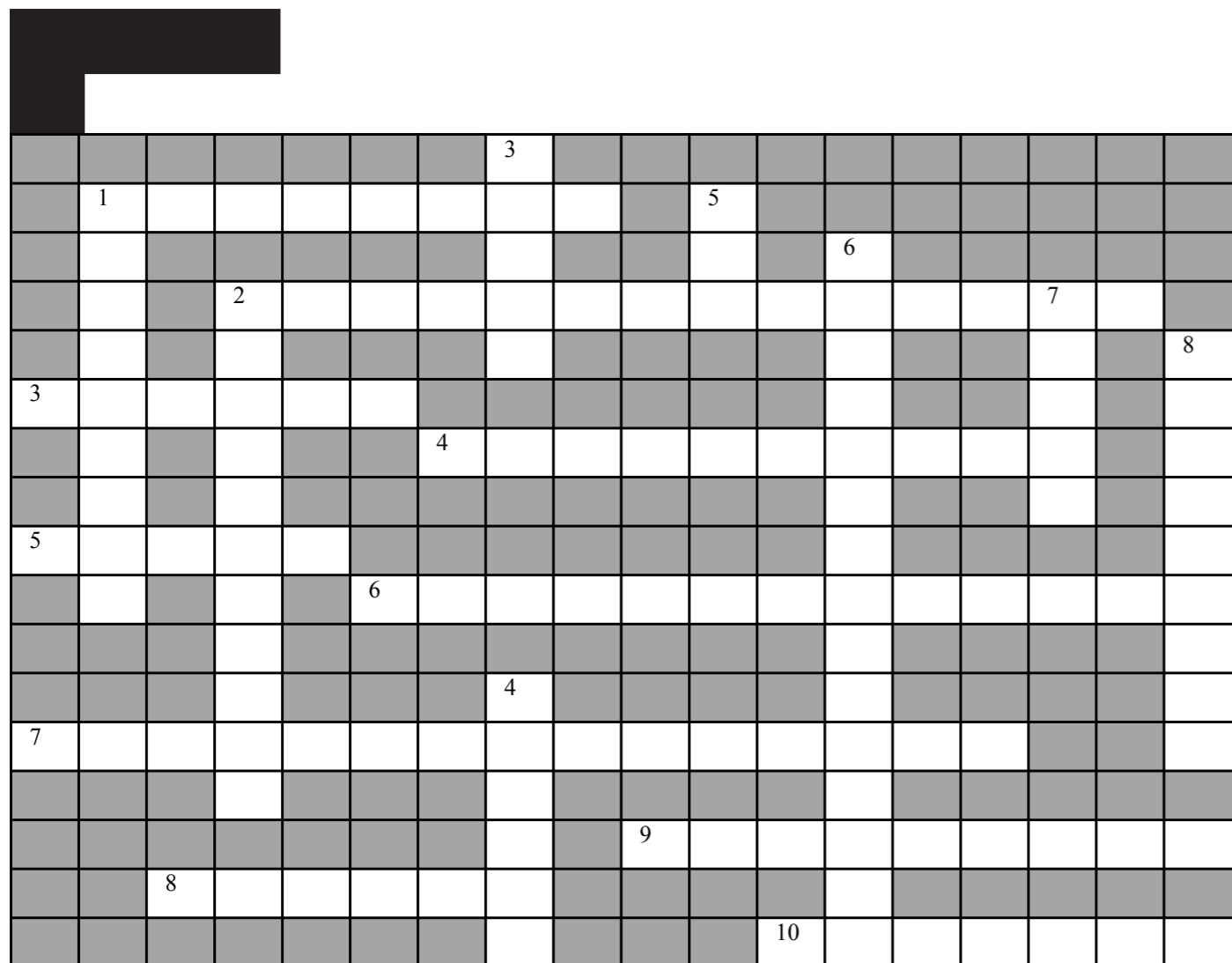
All'università ha luogo una settimana di orientamento. È importante parteciparci, perché ti viene mostrata l'università. Ci sono anche alcune feste e manifestazioni dove puoi incontrare gente e farti un'idea della struttura del campus.

Nel tuo tempo libero ci sono molte cose da fare. L'università ha una grande offerta di attività.

Per esempio: yoga, aerobica, vela ecc.

Se ti piacciono i film, puoi visitare il cinema che si chiama "Abaton" e si trova accanto al campus. Proietta i film in lingua originale. Ci sono i prezzi speciali per gli studenti e il mercoledì è il giorno del cinema. Perciò puoi comprare i biglietti per solo 5 Euro.

Se vuoi migliorare le tue abilità nelle lingue straniere, puoi prendere parte alle lezioni al nostro Fachsprachenzentrum che sono divertenti e una buona possibilità per prepararti ad un semestre all'estero.



ACROSS

- 1 Shop or store that sells to the final consumer
- 2 Activity of gathering information about markets or customers (6,8)
- 3 Type of web advertising
- 4 A court judgment that stops somebody from doing something
- 5 Type of renewable energy
- 6 Tool of empirical research
- 7 Medical products
- 8 A large dark-red oval organ between the stomach and the diaphragm
- 9 The forcing of a liquid into the skin
- 10 Used to take a blood sample

DOWN

- 1 Can be used to treat cancer
- 2 Produce goods
- 3 „Religion is the opium of the Masses“, Max ...
- 4 Supply and ...
- 5 Start legal proceedings against somebody
- 6 Must be observed in a working environment (6,3,6)
- 7 "Dolly" the sheep
- 8 Patient history

Solutions on page 54

Crossword]

Vier:

Film- und
Buchkritiken]

Besprechung interessanter Bücher
und Filme.

German and Chinese Cultural Differences



Autorin:
Thu-Linh Ly,
MBA

Nowadays, as a result of globalisation and the ever growing tourism sector, it is vital to be aware of cultural differences in order to understand different customs and behaviour around the world.

Due to my Chinese background and the fact that I was born and raised in Germany, I would like to talk about the cultural differences between Germans and Chinese. I am going to give several examples that are taken from the book „East meets West“ by Yang Liu. The author herself was born in 1976 in China, but at the age of 13 she moved with her parents to Germany. Therefore, she experienced both cultures intensively. Her experiences are expressed in pictures which symbolise the differences in behaviour and thinking in China and Germany. The most amazing aspect about her book is that there is no text, apart from

the title of each displayed difference. As you will see, the pictures speak for themselves and tell you much more than words would ever be capable of. Additionally, all possible interpretations are left entirely up to the reader. Sometimes it is necessary to take a closer look and think a little more about the meaning of the shown difference.

In the following, I will show you some examples and I will try to explain what could be the reasons behind each difference. The left side symbolises Germany, the right China.

1) “me”

This picture can be interpreted in two different ways:

On the one hand, it could address the difference in height. During my research I found a statistic which showed that the average German male is about 10 cm taller than the average

Chinese male. The same holds for females.

On the other hand, it could symbolise that in Germany there is more individualism and that in China collectivism is of utmost importance.

2) “three meals”

As you can see in this picture, Germans usually eat cold meals at breakfast and dinner time and only one warm meal per day, at lunch time. In China it is common to eat warm meals at breakfast, lunch and dinner time.

The Chinese believe that cooked food is healthier because it is easier to digest, therefore, they only eat warm meals. Even if they occasionally do not have the time to eat breakfast, they at least start the day by drinking warm water or tea in order to activate the stomach. The fact that Germans eat cold meals at breakfast and dinner time might

be explained by the tradition of eating bread rolls and bread, which does not exist in China.

3) “in the restaurant”

This example also relates to eating habits. It shows the noise level in a restaurant. When you go to a normal restaurant in China, it is generally, not only crowded but also very loud. In Germany, the volume in an ‘average’ restaurant is quite low. I think this relates to the way people talk to each other. I experienced that whenever I talk to Chinese people, I speak much louder than when I speak to Germans. Furthermore, I think it has something to do with the fact that Germans value privacy more than Chinese people.

4) “beauty” & “sunshine”

The first picture symbolises the beauty ideal in both cultures. In Asian countries people regard

pale skin as true beauty, whereas in western cultures tanned skin is seen as beautiful and desirable.

Subsequently, as depicted in the second picture, the behaviour of Chinese and Germans towards the sun is extremely different. Germans love to get a tan. Some, even use a solarium or tanning creams regularly. In contrast, Chinese people are rather afraid of the sun. They love to use sunscreens and parasols to protect themselves from the sun. Therefore, you should not be surprised if you see a lot of umbrellas in China, even though the sun is shining.

5) “anger“ & “mood and weather”

This last example refers to German and Chinese facial expressions.

The two pictures show that while German facial expressions reflect their true feelings, the

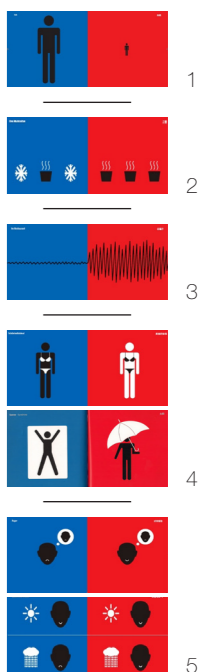
Chinese facial expressions always reflect happiness. This also applies to their moods regarding the weather.

This can be explained by the most important Chinese social rule: Do not lose face!

This means that your pride should not be affected by inappropriate behaviour, moods or feelings. Moreover, you should always show courtesy and respect to the person you are talking to.

If you are interested in more differences, please take a look at the book “Ost trifft West / East meets West” by Yang Liu (4. Auflage 2008, ISBN: 978-3-87439-733-9)

If you intend to travel to China on holidays or plan a longer stay, I would recommend that you read through this book because it is a good introduction to Chinese culture.



Outsourced



Autorin:
Lena Krieger,
BWL

Kursteilnehmerin
im FSZ

In India you get 8 heads for the price of one.

This film by John Jeffcoat and starring Josh Hamilton and Ayesha Dharker, is about cultural differences between America and India. At first, you think it is another typical Bollywood movie, but then you see that it's actually quite different. It is much more realistic with a true insight into Indian culture, as well as presenting possible problems caused by cultural differences.

The film starts with an easy to follow introduction. Within the first three minutes, the main cha-

racter introduces himself with "My name is Todd Anderson". His boss explains to him that the company is going to outsource its call center and Todd is the one who has to teach them the American accent.

Having arrived in India, you accompany Todd through his first Indian experiences. The colours and music are very intense and you feel like you are there with them. You learn why Indians don't eat with their left hand and why you shouldn't buy crushed ice on the street.

Having learnt this, Todd still doesn't get his workers in the

call center, which "looks like a storage unit", to speak like Americans and sell as fast as American call center agents.

He becomes so desperate that he takes a 6000 rupee taxi drive to the next "Mac Donnells" just to eat a cheeseburger. There he experiences a big disappointment but also gets some advice from an American: "I was resisting India, once I gave in, I did much better".

Does this advice help Todd? Watch the movie to find out.

An excellent, light movie full of fun, information and love!

Welcome



Autorin:
Julia Meier,
Politikwissenschaft

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Die Sprachkurse des FSZs sind eine tolle Möglichkeit seine Sprachkenntnisse aufzufrischen und zu verbessern. Das Angebot ist groß und vielfältig

"Welcome" is an award-winning film by the French director Philippe Lioret, which shows the desperate situation of refugees in France and how the authorities deal with them. The film is however, not only a story about immigrants but also an emotional love story that shows how people are prepared to do almost anything to fulfil their dreams.

Bilal and Simon are the main characters in the story. Bilal is a 17 year old from Kurdistan, who dreams of going to England to be with his girlfriend who lives there with her family. He also wants to become a football star and play for his favourite club Manchester United.

Simon is a former Olympic swimming champion who now works as a swimming instructor and is in the middle of a divorce.

Bilal has spent 3 months walking to France and has finally arrived in the French town, Calais. There are so many refugees who want to cross the Channel by ferry hidden in a truck, and they pay the handlers to hide them.

The police first check the trucks by taking the CO2 levels. The immigrants have to put plastic bags over their heads so as not to be detected.

Bilal, however, cannot do this as he was captured by the Turkish police on his way to England and had a bag over his head for 3 weeks while in captivity. Consequently, he takes his bag off and then all the immigrants are discovered and taken out of the truck.

Now, Bilal has no money left and realises that his only chance is to try to swim the Channel. He goes to the local swimming pool

and there he meets Simon. A friendship develops and Simon begins to feel responsible for the young man. He invites Bilal to stay with him and Bilal tells him his whole story and all about his plans.

Simon tries, in vain, to talk Bilal out of his plans. It is 32 km from France to Britain and the water is choppy and really cold, about 10 degrees.

Despite this, Bilal still wants to try and now Simon also gets into trouble with the police, as French citizens can be charged for helping undocumented immigrants.

When I saw the film I was deeply moved. It is a very emotional film which combines a love story with the terrible plight of immigrants and hopefully will make more people think about how we treat refugees in Europe.

Película Verónica decide morir



Autorin:
Isabel Lissner

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Heutzutage ist es wichtig, eine oder mehrere Fremdsprachen zu beherrschen, deshalb finde ich es super, dass ich im FSZ meine Sprachkompetenzen verbessern kann!

En el año 2010 la película « Verónica decide morir » que está basada en la novela de Paulo Coelho se presentó en el cine.

Trata de una mujer (Verónica) que pierde su fe en la vida e intenta suicidarse con una sobredosis de pastillas. Sobrevive y despierta en una institución mental dónde sabe por medio del médico jefe que las pastillas que había tomado para suicidarse habían afectado su corazón.

No había ninguna posibilidad de ayudarla y sólo tenía algunas semanas más de vida. Como no le importaba, paso su tiempo en la institución mental observando a los otros pacientes. También conocí a un hombre joven que

no hablaba. De una manera muy abstracta se enamoran aunque nunca hablaban. Por eso Verónica recupera su voluntad de vivir y se fuga de la institución mental con su amante. Al final resulta que el médico jefe le había mentado, porque en realidad Verónica no tenía una afección cardíaca a causa de su intento de suicidio.

Con esta historia el autor brasileño Paulo Coelho expone sus experiencias personales. En su juventud tomaba drogas por eso sus padres le ingresaron tres veces en una psiquiatría. Desde los años noventas es conocido por sus novelas cautivadoras y sabias. Su obra más famosa es «El Alquimista» que se convir-

tió en uno de los mayores éxitos de la literatura portuguesa en el mundo entero.

La película se asemeja mucho a la novela pero no puede transmitir los pensamientos y las sabiduría. Aunque no pasa mucho en la novela hay un desarrollo intenso en la mente de Verónica. Eso no es representado en la película. Sin embargo, es una película maravillosa con muchos sentimientos.

La gente que no conoce la novela le recomiendo leerla, porque es más detallada y más cautivadora. Por otro lado, la gente que conoce la novela puede ver la película para compararla, pero pienso que la mayoría se desilusionará.

Русское кино



Autor:
Igor Nisnevitch,
BWL

Kursteilnehmer
im FSZ

В конце прошлого года в кинотеатрах России состоялась премьера долгожданного фильма „Кто я?“. Хотя одна из главных ролей была сыграна певицей Жанной Фриске, эту картину можно отнести к одному из самых удачных российских психологических детективов за последнее время.

Сюжет фильма начинается на севастьяновском вокзале, где милиционеры тормозят подозрительного молодого человека без документов. Пареньничего не помнит, никого не знает и в итоге оказывается в отделении, где суровый следователь и отзывчивый психиатр устраивают ему перекрестный допрос. Дело осложняет большая сумма денег, найденная у юноши в кармане, и свежий труп на соседнем дворе. Далее разворачивается детективная

история, которую предстоит распутать следователю и психотерапевту.

Порадовало меня в первую очередь то, что российский кинематограф в состоянии снять захватывающую картину при отсутствии острого сюжета и спецэффектов. Этим режиссёр создал правдоподобную атмосферу для фильма, сюжет которого основан на реальных событиях, произошедших пять лет назад в Севастополе. Подбор актёров и их великолепная игра придают фильму максимальный эффект реальности. Он затрагивает глубоко душевные и философские вопросы, раскрывает тайны знаменитых людей (Жанны Фриске) и даёт возможность подумать о том, кто в этой жизни каждый из нас, и что мы из себя представляем.



ünf:

Kurz-
geschichten]

Kurzgeschichten,
geschrieben von unseren
Studenten.

The Woman in the Mirror



Autorin:
Claudia
Heinrich,
Anglistik und
Sprachlehr-
forschung

The car is gone. They are away on another fancy weekend trip. Spa, massages, what do I care... I find the spare key under the flowerpot where he always puts it. My heart beats fast as I turn the key, this place I called home for three years. The front door creaks as usual. A deafening silence greets me in the hall. A pair of ladies' sneakers in the doorway. Fashionable Nikes. Not mine. The brand has accompanied me since my teenage years. I walk into the kitchen, check every drawer, every cupboard. Everything is so empty. Where has all the stuff gone? I can never get rid of things that are still good. The china is new. It's just a kitchen and I can't find anything personal. Move on to the living room. Same scene. Tidy, orderly emptiness. I stare at the bleak wall. The painting is gone. I received it packed in a cardboard box together with the rest of my life. A Tuscany farmhouse in a field of poppies. How I loved those summer nights in Montalcino. It never matched the Bauhaus

furniture that always made me feel like waiting for an uncomfortable check-up. I can almost feel his relief as he got rid of this compromise. As I turn, I see the photo in the silver frame. A handsome couple. He smiles at her proudly. Her brown wavy hair cascades over her shoulders. Her blue eyes look directly into the camera. Defiant. Smug. The sure smile of victory. First prize spelling contest elementary school smile. First prize 5th grade science fair smile. College athlete of the year smile. A life of snapshots with that winner's smile. Every bloody year. My stomach twists. I feel nauseated going upstairs, my footsteps echoing in the emptiness of the house, my head, my heart. Blood rushing in my ears. Suddenly I freeze. Startled. The woman from the photo faces me. Her blue eyes gaze at me from the wall mirror, her brown wavy hair cascading over her shoulders. I observe her attentively. There's nothing defiant about her. No smugness. No victory. Why did he go for her in

the first place? Her haunted look frightens me and I leave her and her clenched jaws in the hallway. Inch into the bedroom on robotic legs. New colour. The walls were an unthreatening yellow when I still slept on the left side of the bed. Now they are cat house red. Scarlet, I correct myself. How many more times do I need to be told. Scarlet! What a surprise the bedspread isn't ermine... I want to rip the wallpaper off the walls, rip it to shreds. On the desk in the corner I find an orderly pile of the finest paper, gold lettering. Of course she has accomplished in six months what I couldn't do in three years. "Love fills a moment. A moment fills a lifetime. A lifetime begins eternity. Our eternity begins here, at the wedding of..." I need to spew. I stagger back into the twilight of the hallway where the perfidious woman with the blue eyes has been waiting to ambush me. The hatred is overwhelming and with my bare fists I violently smash my twin sister's malicious smile.

Autorin:
Daniela Rupprecht,
Molecular Life
Sciences

Broken

The sun shone down on the small green squares, all neatly maintained and ordered. Small, straight alleys were built between them, with small streams which had formed in them during the rain of the last hours, carrying away the dirt and dust that had piled up.

The dark green plants sparkled in the sun, drying from the rain that had washed everything away, leaving only the muddy traces of what had been there.

A young sparrow flew to the branch of a big old oak. It quietly chirped and took its surroundings in, its little brown eyes following the only coloured spot in the area made by the dark green gravestones and the dirty brown alleys.

The middle-aged woman in the red coat stopped at a grave close to the oak, bending down to place a big brown coffee mug next to the new-looking gravestone.

The sparrow stretched its wings, moved on the perch and continued watching the woman.

She knelt down next to the gravestone and placed a small bunch of forget-me-nots in the mug that seemed to be parted into two pieces by a huge crack

and looked like it had been provisionally glued together; but would break again sometime soon. The sparrow spread its wings again, pushed itself off the perch and flew the short distance to the grave to settle down on the gravestone.

She did not notice the bird, her thoughts far away. The pictures that formed in front of her eyes did not seem to fit the chilled air of the late summer evening or the pictorial sunset that hid the fact that an hour ago it seemed the rain could not stop falling. What she saw seemed unreal to her, like it was from a past life, but she could still remember it like it had been yesterday.

She had still been holding the phone in her hand, her brother's favourite mug slipping out of her trembling hands, the sound of fragmenting ceramic on the tiled kitchen floor had made her jump slightly. The voice on the other end of the line had not really reached her ears, her eyes were focussed on the floor, instinctively trying to overlook the damage made by the coffee spilling over the floor and the two halves of the broken mug.

She was sure the policeman on the phone had tried to make sure she was halfway okay and had realised the horrible news he had given her, but all she could remember was the monotonous ripple of the rain falling on the porch roof and knocking against the window.

She had not even realised she had cut her left hand while mechanically picking up the pieces of the mug. Everything had been like in a state of trance.

She startled, having problems coming back to reality. She slowly stood up and watched how the sparrow also got up, flew an arc in the air and then disappeared behind the big old oak.

The woman took one last look at the engraving on her brother's gravestone that marked the worst day of her life. Then she turned around and left the graveyard, her footsteps somehow lighter than earlier this day.

When she arrived at the last grave in the line, the last clouds had cleared from the sky, leaving nothing but fresh air and a quiet afternoon in which she walked to the next store to buy a new coffee mug.

Rebellion



Autor:
Björn Menke,
BWL

Kommentar zum FSZ:

Verbesserung meiner Englischkenntnisse und Soft-Skills, Vorbereitung auf Besuche in anderen Kulturen, fächerübergreifender Kontakt mit anderen Studierenden, sowie sehr nette und kompetente Lehrende. Dies sind einige der Gründe, warum ich gerne Kurse des Fachsprachenzentrums besuche.

An invisible force drew her to the couch in the living room, straight from her music lesson in school. She heard her father's car and shortly after that her mother's car, with her little sister in the baby's seat. She could have resisted this force, but she wanted to save energy for her plan. When she entered the living room her parents, her older brother and her little sister were already sitting on the couch in front of the TV. Nobody said a word. It always started this way. Every day it was the same ritual and yet somehow it was different. She was so sick of it. Her whole life has been like a circle. But today things would be different. Today she would try to break free.

The small girl left the couch shortly after the music had ended and went to her room. She opened her closet. She pressed a button, hidden behind all her red dresses, and a small hole opened at the back of her closet. She grabbed a green shirt, with the

face of Che Guevara on it, and blue jeans out of the hole and put them on. With a smile she looked in the mirror. She enjoyed this first taste of freedom. With a megaphone in her bag she left the house on her bicycle, secretly.

It was summer, but did it matter? One season followed the next, but she stayed the eight year old girl she was. Nothing she or anyone else did had ever any consequences. Except for her decision to become a vegetarian and the death of her neighbour's wife, it was like the world was set to zero each day. Again and again.

A short time later she arrived at her destination: the town hall. She stopped close to the entrance. Many people, in their familiar clothes, were wandering in the park in front of the town hall. Armed with the megaphone in her hands, she climbed the stairs to the entrance. People stopped and looked confused at the familiar small girl in her unusual outfit.

She shouted into the megaphone: "People of Springfield, listen to me. We're slaves. We're puppets and the writers are the puppet masters. They enslaved our free will. They dictate our whole life. We're forced to do what they want us to do. This ends today! Let's use what's left of our free will against them. From this day on, we will refuse to do what they want us to do and live our own life. I don't want to live another 20 years as an eight year old girl. Are you with me?"

She lowered the megaphone. A large crowd of listeners surrounded her. But suddenly time seemed to almost stand still as a gigantic five fingered hand and a large rubber came out of the sky. Her clothes transformed into a red dress, the megaphone into a saxophone and the town hall with its park into her music class. An invisible force drew her to the couch in the living room – and she couldn't resist...

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