

GUEST LECTURE

THE GERMAN CONSTITUTION - AN EXPORT HIT? ON TEACHING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN THE CONTEXT OF GERMAN AS A FOREIGN AND SECOND LANGUAGE

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Although interest has declined in recent years, the teaching and learning of German as a foreign language still plays an important role in Estonian educational institutions. On the one hand, based on the question of what motives, interests and goals are pursued in the teaching of German and, on the other hand, based on the German foreign cultural policy and educational policy, the speech will mainly discuss what role the teaching of democratic values and fundamental rights as formulated in the German constitution can play in learning German. In addition, it should include not only basic questions about the main objectives of language teaching and learning, but also current political challenges (the war in Ukraine, the attitude towards minorities, right-wing populism, the crisis of democratic legitimation). Should German language classes be able to provide cultural content in addition to the directly linguistic aspects and – last but not least – also teach democratic values? And if so, what exactly is meant by 'teaching values'? What values should they primarily discuss, and what are the aims of 'values-oriented' teaching? Are we not dealing here with inappropriate paternalistic instruction?

These and similar issues will be addressed and discussed in the speech. However, one should not expect binding and unequivocal answers.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Prof. Dr. Claus Altmayer since 2005 Professor of German as a foreign and second language at the Herder Institute of the University of Leipzig, from 2011 to 2014 Vice-Rector for Education and International Affairs at the University of Leipzig, since 2023 retired. Numerous publications on the role of culture and cultural learning in the context of German as a foreign and second language, most recently: Cultural Studies. Introduction to the subject of German as a foreign and second language. [Kulturstudien. Eine Einführung für das Fach Deutsch als Fremd- und Zweitsprache] Berlin: Metzler 2023.



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