

Interdisziplinäre Vortragsreihe Bildungsforschung

Sondertermin Montag, 11.11.2024,
16:45 Uhr, S06 S00 A40

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Gradeless learning in a measured world.

Is learning possible without numbers – grades, scores, marks, outcome measures? Of course it is, since ‘gradeless learning’ is everywhere around us. You might learn pottery or the Norwegian language without anyone assigning grades, but in most educational contexts, learning is tied to numerical scores throughout students’ educational histories. While this has been the case for a long time, the role of grades has intensified in ‘metric societies’ driven by quantification and competition. Nowadays, students take part in complex assessment ecosystems with demands to increase both testing and student-centred assessment. Such ‘assessment machines’ ensure that in education, it is not possible to learn without grades.

This lecture discussed one form of resistance towards the increasing quantification of learning: gradeless environments. Gradeless learning has historically belonged to alternative schooling settings, but recently, there has been a widespread interest towards ‘ungrading’ in many global educational settings amidst concerns about student motivation and well-being. The lecture will theorise gradeless learning as a form of resistance in metric societies, shedding light on recent policy developments and research findings in this area. How powerful can gradeless learning initiatives be in the measured world? What kinds of social effects may gradeless have on students?