Spoken Paper

Disappeared borders - appeared opportunities? The German Reunification in biographical narrations of music teachers

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Even after almost 30 years of reunification, the discourse on cultural unity in the Federal Republic of Germany, which was called for together with political unity, remains highly explosive (cf. Fourouta, Koubiak 2018). Only recently the migration researcher Naika Foroutan provoked with her thesis, that East Germans would share similar experiences of exclusion and marginalization as migrants and thus sparked a media discussion (Fouroutan 2018). The wealth of research on the professionalization processes of East German teachers in the post-reunification transformation process suggests that even in today’s classrooms biographical resources about the social upheaval are still available (cf. Fiedler 2012). What role does reunification play in the narrative construction of the life experiences of music teachers with life-time experience in the former GDR? What is the impact of disappeared borders and consequent political changes on the subject's understanding and orientation of interculturality? Based on biographical narratives by music teachers the data was collected in the context of a study on attitudes and orientations of music teachers towards interculturality. It consists in six interviews with Berlin-based music teachers in secondary schools and is evaluated with the documentary interpretation of narrative interviews (Nohl 2013). In my spoken paper I will present interesting results on biographical cases affected by the disappearance of borders through German Reunification and discuss them in a broader discourse on interculturality and music pedagogy in the 21st century.