

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HIGHER EDUCATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Thursday, 29th June from 9:00 to 9:55. Lecture by: Patrick Studer, Zurich University of Applied Sciences- ZHAW. Switzerland

EMI in the age of comprehensive internationalisation: New opportunities?

The recent shift in internationalisation focus from mobility to the curriculum and learning outcomes (e.g. de Wit et al. 2015: 29) presents higher education institutions with considerable challenges. They are called upon to develop learning environments that offer opportunities to 'engage students with internationally informed research and cultural and linguistic diversity' so that students can 'purposefully develop the international and intercultural perspectives as global professionals and citizens' (Leask 2009: 209). The present paper reviews the particular role of the English-medium classroom in this context as a site for developing international and intercultural competences in all students (e.g. Beelen and Leask 2011; Beelen and Jones 2015). Based on field research carried out in the framework of English-medium lecture evaluations in a Bachelor's of Science programme in Switzerland, the paper looks at the role of the English-medium classroom from both the macro- and micro-level perspective:

- At the level of curriculum planning, the paper analyses the specific potential and place of the EMI classroom within the comprehensively internationalised curriculum;
- At the level of lecture content development and delivery, the paper investigates didactic and communicative adaptations to teaching that facilitate international and intercultural learning in students.

The paper points to the conclusion that in the spirit of comprehensive internationalisation the EMI classroom has to be re-thought and re-invented as a place where students can learn and demonstrate global citizenship and where teachers take on their responsibility as mediators of linguistic and cultural diversity.

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