TP4: Methods Wiki

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1. Initial situation and problem

Since 2017, Henrik von Wehrden's team has been working on a methods Wiki, which is being developed to introduce a diverse and holistic scientific knowledge of methods. In addition to presenting diverse disciplinary and interdisciplinary methods, the core goal of the Wiki is to elaborate the normative dimensions of methods in order to contribute to a reflexive methodology. The Wiki is curated by Henrik von Wehrden and the team who generate all content. The Wiki has been created since 2019 for a Flipped Classroom concept that was tested in April 2020. So far, one lecture with 1,300 students, three other lectures and several master courses based on the Wiki have been successfully delivered.

2. Project goals and idea for innovation

Within the framework of the project, the Methods Wiki is to be offered as a central platform for the teaching of methods at Leuphana. The first goal of the subproject is to develop introductory information on specific scientific methods as well as further entries regarding methodologies for teachers. Based on the great diversity and innovation of teachers and researchers, the expertise for the different methodological approaches as well as their critical and historical reflection will be used. As a second goal, advanced applications of methods will be established on the basis of specific events, and through this, diverse teaching content that can be used in a modular fashion. The focus of Henrik von Wehrden's working group on curating the Wiki ensures a high level of coherence, continuity, and integration. The third goal of the subproject is to establish a peer-review process. The modular principle of the Wiki content thus offers a great variety of methods and also a linguistic and epistemological coherence, which elaborates a novel methodology based on design criteria of methods. The fourth goal of the subproject is the evaluation and reintegration of the teaching experience to the Wiki content, which is thus investigated in terms of competence acquisition of learners and teachers.

3. Project plan (measures, milestones and schedule)

The development of introductory methods builds on an already established structure within the framework of the MediaWiki, and accordingly, based on the needs of the courses as well as the research activities at Leuphana, further basic methods will be incorporated into the overarching structure of the Wiki. In addition, research methods used by researchers at Leuphana will be collected, and the Wiki will be supplemented with corresponding entries on specific methods. In a first step, we will gain an overview on the methods seminars offered at Leuphana to assess the needs for additional methods included in the Wiki. The second step serves the elaboration of advanced methods, which can be distinguished from simple methods by the complexity of their application. For this purpose, video and podcast content will be developed in addition to the Wiki content, as well as annotated sample data sets and analysis examples. Learning success will be captured with course-specific evaluation forms in a pre-post design and exam results. The quantitative results will be examined qualitatively based on SHIFT evaluations. As a third step of the subproject, a peer review system will be developed in which methodological experts will be asked for systematic feedback and suggestions for improvement. This peer review system will be supported by an open feedback system for users of the Wiki. As a fourth step, an external presentation will be developed in which modular access to the Wiki will be systematized for teachers and learners outside of Leuphana. Thanks to the experiences at Leuphana, an evaluation portfolio will be provided. In a final step, the results will be presented at various national and international universities, thus establishing a feedback culture with numerous other institutions. This will serve as a starting point for follow-up projects.

The development and reflection of introductory methods will primarily be created in the first year and will continuously transition into the compilation of advanced methods, which is the focus in year two. After 1.5 years, the establishment of peer review and feedback of the Wiki content will begin, and year three will primarily serve to evaluate, assess, and reintegrate the teaching and learning experience.

4. Interfaces and synergy potentials with other subprojects

The subproject is an integrative part of the focus group Evaluation, and benefits from the diverse experiences of the participating colleagues. Accordingly, a direct link to all subprojects on teaching-learning-innovation makes sense and is actively pursued, since the Wiki is also dedicated to developing and continuously improving online material in order to

convey methodological basics. In the same way, the Wiki will also contain content for the Data Literacy subproject, and will also offer learning basics as a foundation for the Gradskill subproject.

Overall, the Wiki will aim to cover all introductory methodological aspects that are the focus of the respective subprojects in order to provide a scalable basis for further teaching and learning projects. Based on the projects on internationalization, the Wiki will also focus on existing contacts regarding an exchange on methodology via the specific subprojects in year 3. Thanks to the reflexive and interactive character of the lab, the Wiki can thus establish a basis for a discourse on methodology both within Leuphana, but also beyond.