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**VET & Culture workshop**  
**“Current challenges and hegemonic discourses  
on Vocational and adult education”**

June 2022, University of Rostock, Germany



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**Date:** 13th June to 15<sup>th</sup> June  
**Place:** University of Rostock, Germany  
**Organisers:** Franz Kaiser, Claudia Kalisch, Melanie Hoppe (Rostock, Germany)  
Anja Heikkinen (Tampere, Finland)  
Fernando Marhuenda (Valencia, Spain)  
Gabriele Molzberger (Wuppertal, Germany)

*Right after the two years' of global covid-19 pandemic, vocational and adult education institutions and actors are confronted with even more profound crisis. The war in Ukraine with million refugees in Europe. Furthermore, the latest report from the IPCC tells us that the deadline for slow down and adjust to global warming is now.*

*In the current situation, it seems more futile than ever to maintain the tensions between adult and vocational education: the futures of economy and industry cannot be separated from the futures of politics, civil society and welfare. New forms of production, consumption, and interaction between human and nonhuman beings are required across local and global contexts. How are policymakers, practitioners and researchers in adult and vocational education able to react to these challenges?*

*How far the current hegemonic discourses in adult and vocational education are promoting or contradicting attempts to find new solutions for economy, industry and civic life? The slogans, such as employability, entrepreneurship and active citizenship, digitalization and design thinking, continuous and agile learning are advocated both by political institutions and market organizations. At the same time, adult and vocational educators are confronting the realities of precarisation, inequality and individualisation in all areas of life, isolation and erosion of social networks, care and support. Would the attempt to find new ways of work and life, require joint critical analysis of the hegemonic discourses and their local varieties? What are the reactions in the institutions of vocational and adult education on these ongoing changes?*

*The VET&Culture network has always been concerned about the convenience to find room for serene and calm debate, for self-reflection on our own practices as academics in Higher Education dealing with Vocational and Adult Education. The network seeks to provide space*

*for discussion and interrogation. The mission of VET&Culture network has been to provide space for critical and historicizing debate on contemporary political, practical and research discourses, including self-critical questioning of their own responsibility. Network events have invited scholars to intellectual encounters beyond their immediate institutional commitments and to joint exposure with contextual realities and practices of vocational and adult education. The ambition is to create an atmosphere for collective and cooperative knowledge creation, free from competition and individual career aspirations.*

*This is even more necessary at a time of escalation of violent conflict and war even in central Europe, again. Democracies witness the growth of populisms, nationalisms and imperialism as well, and all of these happen embedded in a social discourse that has been taken over by economics as the ruling discipline and competitiveness and productivity as the major driving forces for development, narrowed to economic short-term gain rather than to local, regional, social, human and sustainable development.*

*The release from pandemic-restrictions provides since long an opportunity for VET&Culture networkers and friends to personal interaction, to reunite and to revitalize their aims and connections, in the context of current challenges and hegemonic discourses of adult and vocational education. As always, also the Rostock workshop integrates scholarly encounters with learning from local social and industrial history and culture, from local realities and practices of vocational and adult education, and with time for informal personal interaction. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss further agenda and cooperation within the network.*

### **Call for paper**

*If you are interested in making a more active contribution to the collaborative exchange, please send an abstract of your contribution with a title and a short description (up to 600 words).*

*Mail with the subject header: "Call V&C Rostock 2022"  
to [berufspaedagogik@uni-rostock.de](mailto:berufspaedagogik@uni-rostock.de)  
latest by **April 15<sup>th</sup>** .*

*Keep in mind that the contribution should be different to a report from a current research or development project, but should relate to the considerations outlined above and provide ideas for the collaborative exchange.*

*We will develop a joint program from the abstracts and provide **feedback in May**.  
However, the successful submission of an entry is in no way a prerequisite for participation.  
(If your participation depends on your appearance in the program, because otherwise no funding is possible, please let us know, so that we can list you as a discussant or workshopleader in case of doubt.)*

*In the next weeks we will give additional information about accommodations and travel possibilities.*

## Agenda

Time	Content
<b>Monday 13.6.</b> 9:00h	Come together Contributions and discussions
	Diner
<b>Tuesday</b> 14.6.9:00	Contributions and discussions Including coffee breaks, lunch-snacks
16:00	Guided City tour in the historical part of Hanse city
19:00	Dinner
<b>Wednesday 15.6.</b> 10:00	Visiting local institutions of VET and adult education in Rostock and talks with local players
13:00h*	Lunch break
14:30	Contributions and discussions
18:30	Boattrip with dinner

\* The yellow highlighted part of the meeting on Wednesday will take place together with a group of lectures and researchers from Finland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Spain and Switzerland from the Erasmus + project "[VETteach](#)" (collaboration of Fernando and Franz), that focuses the education of vocational school teachers in the current situation (.

If you are interested in the findings of the project and exchange more deeper you are invited to stay the following day to join the discussions.

### More about the city

<https://www.rostock.de/en/>

### More about the Institute of Vocational education at the University of Rostock

<https://www.ibp.uni-rostock.de/en/>

### More about VET & Culture

<https://vetandculturenetwork.wordpress.com/>