



+ + + KALEIDOSCOPE STUDY + + +

The Kaleidoscope Study is a three year project (2009 – 2012) which investigated the impact of living abroad monitoring approximately 2500 sojourners.

Presentation of the results of the Kaleidoscope Study

November 30, 2012 at 11:00 am

ProjektZentrum Berlin, Stiftung Mercator

Neue Promenade 6, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Findings of the study will be discussed with regards to four main research areas: cultural adaptation, cultural learning, interpersonal & intergroup contact, and cultural distance.

Program

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| 11:00 am | Welcoming and introduction by Mick Petersmann, National Director of AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V. and Annette Gisevius, Head of Intercultural learning Department, AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V. |
| 11:30 am | Interactive presentation and discussion of the key findings of the study by Dr. Nicolas Geeraert |
| 01:00 pm | Snacks and refreshments |
| 01:30 pm | Panel discussion of the results by members of the Advisory Council of AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V. |
| 02:30 pm | Closing |

Registration:

Please let us know by **November 11, 2012**, if you would like to attend or not by replying online via the following link: <https://www.netigate.se/a/s.aspx?s=94526X8992>

Contact person:

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mirella Simeonova (e-mail: Mirella.Simeonova@afs.org, tel: +49 40 399222-451).



Facts and Figures

About AFS

AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

The German organization for youth exchange and intercultural learning is part of the worldwide AFS network with more than 60 equal partners in over 50 countries.

The headquarters and a regional office are located in Hamburg, additional regional offices are situated in Berlin, Wiesbaden and Stuttgart. AFS is an educational organization promoting intercultural competences and global learning through and beyond its exchange programs to improve global understanding. Besides student exchange and host family programs, AFS offers participation in social, cultural and ecological voluntary services as well as intercultural training programs.

About the Kaleidoscope Study

In this study the researchers from the University of Essex monitored approximately 2500 exchange students, all of whom participated in an intercultural exchange program for 10 months. These sojourners travelled to and from around 50 different countries. Measures were recorded at multiple points in time: pre-exchange, during the exchange and post-exchange. The study included substantial samples of German students travelling abroad and international students being hosted in Germany. The findings from these sub-samples will also be presented.

The study focused on several research areas. For cultural adaptation, it examined how the exchange students adapted to living abroad, how this adaptation affected their well-being (e.g. stress and self-esteem), and what the most effective coping mechanisms were. For cultural learning, the researchers looked at whether and how the exchange impacted on different aspects of learning, including bi-cultural knowledge, cross-cultural competence, interpersonal skills, and language proficiency. The third topic, interpersonal & intergroup contact, focused on social identity, interpersonal contact, and whether the exchange was effective in reducing intergroup anxiety. Finally, the influence of cultural distance on different aspects of intercultural travel was considered.



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About the Advisory Council of AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V.

The Advisory Council of AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V. consists of 7 experts from research organizations, universities and practical areas. Its aim is to advise the board, the office as well as conceptually working committees strategically as well as through input of expert knowledge from different disciplines.

Current members of the Council are as follows:

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bolten	University of Jena, Faculty of Intercultural Business Communication
Prof. Dr. Monika Keller	Max Planck Institute for Education Research, Berlin; Freie Universität Berlin, Department of Education and Psychology
Stefanie Nothnagel	Technical University of Chemnitz, Department of Education
Arne Gillert	Partner at Kessels & Smit – The Learning Company, Utrecht
Steffen Henkel	CEO at change.project GmbH, Stuttgart
Dr. Klaus Koopmann	former University of Bremen, Institute for Political Science
Barbara Seibert	Director at FORUM - Young Migrant Talents e.V., Hamburg

About the researcher: Dr. Nicolas Geeraert

Nicolas obtained his graduate degree in Psychology at Ghent University (Belgium) and his PhD in Experimental Social Psychology from the Catholic University of Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium). Since 2004, he is working at the Department of Psychology at the University of Essex (UK). His main research interests are acculturation, intercultural contact, and social cognition. Nicolas is currently leading the AFS YP2010 Research Project (The Kaleidoscope Project).

The event will be facilitated by **Ulrich Zeuschel**, board member of AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V. (Psychologist; Organizational Consultant and Trainer at osb Hamburg GmbH).