

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin –
Nordeuropa-Institut**
Network partner of j o l n e s –
Joint Learning in Northern European Studies



An interview with **Dr. Clemens Räthel** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – Nordeuropa-Institut)

Transcription

Dr. Clemens Räthel

In the winter semester of 20/21, I taught a course called "Body, Space, Time – Theoretical Approaches" and we actually had quite a few students from the network there. That was very, very nice. First of all, it was a theoretical course with a practical component, and it was really exciting to have students who simply had a different background, who had studied somewhere else, who had different experiences, but also because online teaching was relatively new for us, or was still new at that time. And especially, because it was our first semester in the Master's programme, I had the feeling that the students who are familiar with this e-Master's form were totally helpful, not only in terms of content, but also in terms of form and in terms of cooperation in the virtual space, because they had good tips. And they did it with such a matter-of-factness that I think the other students who were in the first semester of the Master's programme, who don't know the department at all, who have never been here before. And that somehow gave it a certain normality, because it was the same for everyone. So of course that was also due to the circumstances, but I think that helped a lot, in my experience, that it became a very, very nice and fruitful seminar.

So from my concrete experience I can now say that I notice when I have students from the network, from other locations, in my seminars, it's great because they bring something with them that I don't have or that is not taught at our department. They can say, "Hey, I did this course in Cologne last semester and from it I can contribute this and that," or "I'm doing a seminar there and there and we are doing this and that," or there's an event that might be exciting and helpful for us in this context. So I think that makes it possible to get to know more about what is happening in different places and, of course, in my experience from the seminars, it gives students here in Berlin the chance to broaden their horizons a little beyond our department and to see that Scandinavian studies can also be done somewhere else, perhaps with other approaches and other focuses, and that they might then become curious and think: "Oh, then maybe I'll do a seminar somewhere else or could also look again, perhaps also at the place of study again, to broaden my view".

Credits

The interview was conducted on June 02 2021 via Zoom.

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