

Die welt verändern

– how can youth find a place to grown and change the world in church?

EXAMPLE: TRANSFORMATION STUDIES:
PUBLIC THEOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK (M.A.)

Transformation in Society

- ▶ In recent years, the term 'transformation' has become widespread as a technical term in many scientific disciplines. Educationalists talk about 'transformative learning', in business studies it is called 'transformational leadership' and in political science and sociology the term 'societal transformation' is commonly used.

Levels of transformation

- ▶ 1. **macro level:** social changes such as secularization, pluralism or globalization - but also the different social milieus in Europe
- ▶ 2. **meso-level:** Institutional changes such as the increasing rejection of institutions such as parties, unions, and also churches and communities. In recent years it has been observed that trust in the institutional level has declined.
- ▶ 3. **micro-level:** subjectively personal changes in the area of the family, the world of work, leisure activities, the ability to relate and the faith experienced and lived (personal religiosity).

Theological meaning of transformation:

- ▶ Römer 12,2 : „*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*” (μεταμόρφωσις).

Vinay Samuel:

- ▶ „Transformation is the enabling of God's vision to be realized in all relationships, social, economic and spiritual, that God's will be reflected in human society and His love is experienced through all societies, especially by the poor.“

The Challenge:

- ▶ More and more Christians and churches are moving (their faith) into the private sphere and are no longer part of the public
- ▶ Learning from churches from the South (South America, Asia, Africa)

Our History of Transformation Studies:

- ▶ Started in 2007 in Marburg (in cooperation with the University of South Africa/UNISA)
- ▶ Since 2015 at the YMCA University Kassel
- ▶ In the moment: 53 students
- ▶ Fully accredited

What is special?

- ▶ **interdisciplinary:** between social work and theology
- ▶ **project-oriented:** close interaction between theory and practice through own practical project
- ▶ **innovative:** initiating and shaping change and social innovation
- ▶ **double qualification:** for church and society
- ▶ **Part-time:** combining work and study

Start up

- ▶ The new in the old
- ▶ The new in the new
- ▶ The new next to the old

- ▶ Three Examples....

Reformationskirche Berlin (The new in the old)

- ▶ Berlin Moabit (EKBO)
- ▶ Started in an empty church
- ▶ Church for and with the neighborhood
- ▶ Living community
- ▶ Day care center, theater, Etc.
- ▶ Church **with** the people.
- ▶ District work





Polylux e.V. in Neubrandenburg – Datzeberg (The new in the new)

"The quarter of our heart" – started in a district without any church

- *Community: Sharing life*
- *Record Strange friends*
- *Adventure Land*
- *"We can only create family together"*

„Stadtteileben“ Arbeit im Plattenbaugebiet in Gotha-Siebleben (The new next to the old)

- ▶ Context: Evangelical Lutheran parish Gotha-Siebleben
- ▶ Objective: Encounter in the supermarket parking lot
- ▶ Despite limited resources, we want to meet the people where they live, to give them appreciation and strengthen them.
- ▶ "Sharing life with the people" Dare to experiment



Key questions :

- ▶ What do democratic participation structures between church and district look like?
- ▶ What can church contribute to district development?
- ▶ How can we move away from "projectization" and towards changed structures?
- ▶ How can innovation be initiated in concrete terms (social innovation)?
- ▶ What must a "church with others" look like today? (participation models)

Practice project on site:

In addition to the classic lecturers, there are also lecturers who are responsible for accompanying the practical projects:

Practice lecturers: are responsible for and accompany the practical projects, are responsible for the content of the project teaching in the modules, advise and coach students, provide assistance and constructive feedback on the course of the project;

Intervision: takes place through collegial consultation in regional groups;

Innovation Camps: a process-guided workshop in which common innovation challenges are reflected and guided.



Aufnahme
des Einflusses

Lustige
Erhaltung
Zwei Such
Erhaltung
Branch
12/23

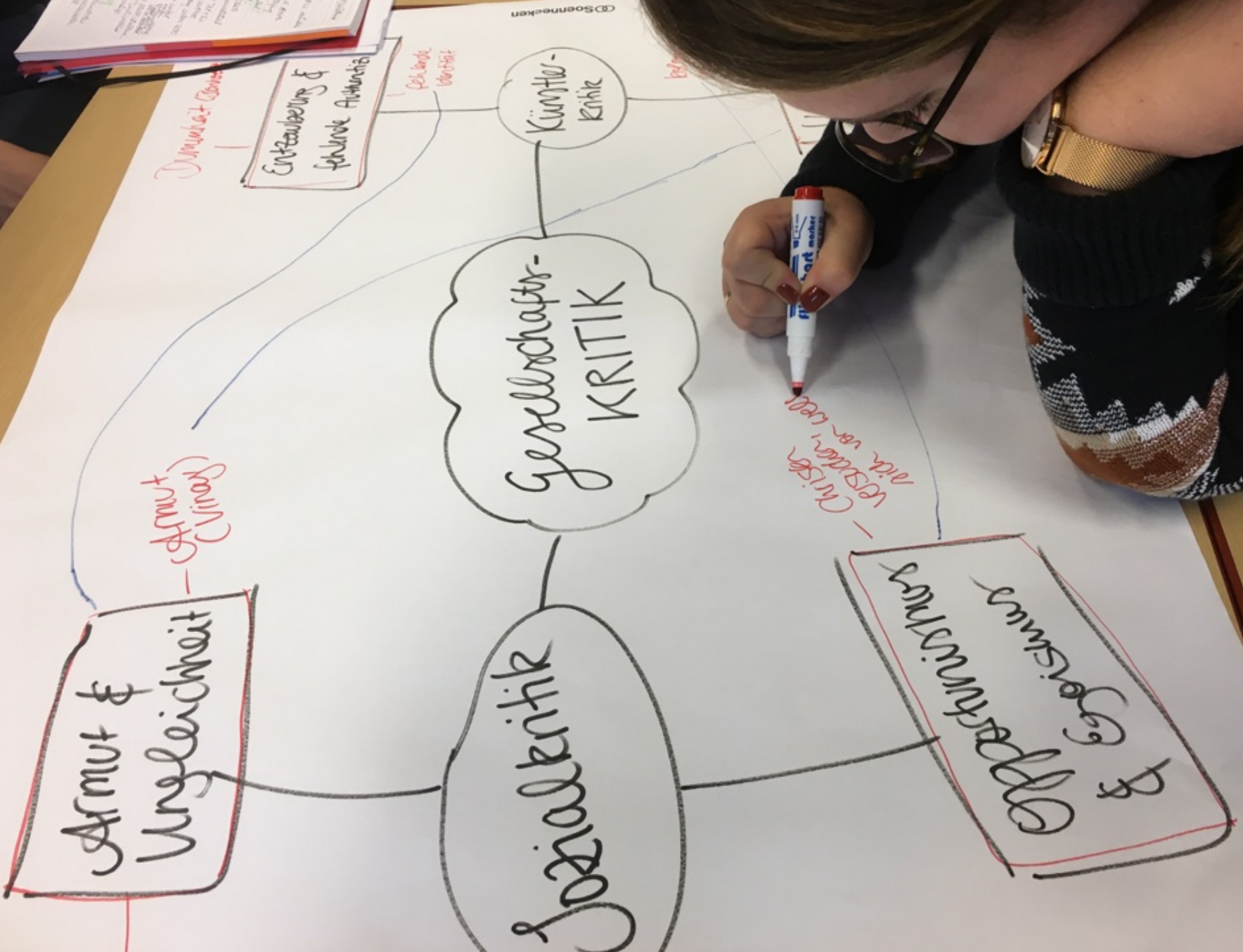
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Actively shaping change

- ▶ Central contents: Transformation & Social Innovation, Public Theology, Missiology, Social Space Orientation & Community Service, Leadership & Entrepreneurship
- ▶ Qualification: future specialists and managers in the social and church sector
- ▶ Type(s) of study: Blended Learning (online modules with four attendance weeks per year)
- ▶ Standard period of study: 5 semesters (90 CP, continuing education master)



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Blue and red marker used for writing on the mind map.

Core competences

- ▶ **Interpretive ability and decision-making competence:** the ability for social diagnostic analysis and ethical decision-making competence in times of accelerated social change
- ▶ **Networking and plurality:** the ability to network heterogeneous actors in the social space across organizational, institutional and milieu boundaries, thus coordinating cooperation and networking in the community and region
- ▶ **Organization and management:** the ability to lead groups, organizations and projects with heterogeneous actors in an independent and effective way

Core competences

- ▶ **Innovation and entrepreneurship:** the ability to shape innovation and develop complex solution strategies for new, unknown tasks on a scientific basis
- ▶ **Contextualization and dialogue:** the ability to communicate the gospel holistically (in word and deed), situationally (in different social contexts and for different target groups) as well as dialogically and to be able to show its relevance
- ▶ **Communication and multilingualism:** the ability to act and communicate in hybrid reference systems and to integrate inter-professional and interdisciplinary research and development processes in planning and conception

W-Wandel
- Freiheit (Autonomie)



Nr. 1177
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Sceneken

Fields of work

- ▶ Churches: Churches, Free Churches, Communities
- ▶ YMCA
- ▶ Diaconia
- ▶ Fields of work of social work: Focus on community and social space orientation
- ▶ christian Initiatives, Foundations and Projects
- ▶ Interspace of church, diaconia, YMCA and community