

“Migration and Education: The pathways in NYC and Lower Austria”

A cross-fertilizing Dialog dedicated to the
“Long Refugee Day” in Austria

Friday, October 6, 2023



Erwin Rauscher
WELCOME!



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Welcome everyone!

I hope that this event will not be a cozy discussion between do-gooders, but will have consequences that will actually have an impact on our education system. The diversity of our migration society requires a changed understanding of education and structures geared towards it. Integration as a school approach to migration is both a social requirement and an individual effort; there is no alternative to it.



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I would like to share with you three approaches to this, three thoughts – an educational one, a societal one and a very personal one. And I'm afraid all 3 are unfortunately very current and won't be dug out of an old teacher's relic box.



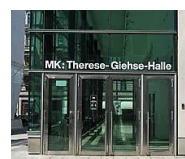
Green Corridors / Зелени коридори

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Vermessung eines Krieges
Uraufführung von Natalka Vorozhbyt
19:30 – 21:20 Theresie-Giehse-Halle



First, I'll take you to the theatre. Everything in the theatre is fake – except the effect! GREEN CORRIDORS is currently being performed at the Munich Kammerspiele. Since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, civilian escape corridors for leaving contested areas have been referred to as “green corridors”.

In her commissioned work for the Munich Kammerspiele, the Ukrainian author Natalka Vorozhbyt describes her own experiences on the run. Four women from Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Bucha and Kiev set off for Europe. They all witnessed rape and death.

The author portrays the people in transit with black humour and shows their hardships and struggles, where they lie, hide something or are haunted by good and evil spirits of the past. In the waiting zone for a new life in Europe, conflicts arise between the characters that go deep into the history of Ukraine and Europe. Who betrayed whom? Who was simply overlooked? Who worked with whom and who benefited from it? Europe wants to do good, but it doesn't make a good impression.



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My second thought reminds me of one of the worst ship accidents on the Mediterranean Sea 10 years ago, namely on October 3rd, 2013. A refugee ship sank in the Mediterranean off Lampedusa. 366 people died. 2 fishing boats had sailed on carelessly. The cutter's captain, a Tunisian tugboat, had soaked a cloth with gasoline and set it on fire. The flames jumped onto the foredeck. José Manuel Barroso, then President of the European Commission, said in shock that he would never forget the sight of the coffins. And he would promise that everything would be done to change the situation in the Mediterranean. “This kind of tragedy that we experienced here so close to the coast,” says Barroso, “must never be repeated.”



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Today, exactly ten years later, we realize: it has repeated itself. So often that this kind of tragedy has become a kind of everyday European life. Thousands of asylum seekers still drown in the Mediterranean Sea every year. In the first nine months of 2023 alone there were 2,517 people, the highest number since 2017. Despite all the ideas and concepts, despite all the summits and reform proposals, despite all the declarations of intent and working groups – and despite all the resources that have since been invested in monitoring the migration flowed.



Let me ask 2 questions: Why doesn't Europe find an answer to dying? And was it human, was it inhuman? Can something sound inhumane but not be inhumane? Is the idea of what is or is not humane negotiable?

Armenien: Letzter Flüchtlingsbus aus Berg-Karabach eingetroffen

Über 100.000 Menschen aus der Südkaukasusregion sind bis jetzt nach Armenien gekommen. Nach Angaben des Roten Kreuzes sind in der Karabach-Hauptstadt nur noch einige hundert Menschen.



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My third thought is a personal one, and I'll start with the most recent present: Because we know and hear it these days: The last bus with refugees has left Nagorno-Karabakh. 120,000 people have fled. History will tell us whether this will one day be called genocide.

Es gibt nichts Neues unter der Sonne.

Zwar gibt es bisweilen ein Ding, von dem es heißt: Sieh dir das an, das ist etwas Neues - aber auch das gab es schon in den Zeiten, die vor uns gewesen sind.

Nur gibt es keine Erinnerung an die Früheren und auch an die Späteren, die erst kommen werden, auch an sie wird es keine Erinnerung geben bei denen, die noch später kommen werden.

Prediger / Ecclesiastes / Kohelet 1,9 - 1,11

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But already in the book of Ecclesiastes, which is several thousand years old, it says: There is nothing new under the sun. Therefore, I would like to remind you of what happened exactly 108 years ago:



The Armenian Genocide 1915

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The Armenian Genocide was the systematic killing and deportation of Armenians by the Turks of the Ottoman Empire. In 1915, during World War I, the leaders of the Turkish government set in motion a plan to expel and murder Armenians. When the genocide finally ended in the early 1920s, between 600,000 and 1.5 million Armenians were dead, and many more were forcibly expelled from the country. Today, most historians call this event a genocide: a deliberate and systematic campaign to exterminate an entire people. In 2021, US President Joe Biden stated that the Ottoman Empire's slaughter of Armenian civilians was genocide. However, the Turkish government still does not acknowledge the scope of these events.



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8 years ago, exactly 100 years after this genocide, the Armenian capital celebrated with deep sadness. And I had

the honour of being able to personally attend the memorial concert for this genocide. Here you can see the small folder and my ticket.

I filmed a few minutes of this concert. And instead of a final word, I would like to play you this recording. You have 2 minutes to listen, so you have one to two seconds for every 10,000 people murdered while trying to escape.



Let me summarize:

Teaching that flees from the past is deaf.

Teaching that flees from the present is blind.

Have a great day without having to flee!



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