

3<sup>rd</sup> International Workshop on Transatlantic Degree Programs  
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Report of the Workshop on Language and Curriculum Integration

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Prügl, Florida International University

1. How do you prepare students to succeed in Study Abroad?
  - a. 2-year language preparation in home institution
  - b. In addition: Georgia Tech organizes in addition special bridge program at the partner university.  
Western Ontario organizes immersion programs before students go abroad.
  - c. Language Across the Curriculum
    - i. Georgia Tech offers senior-level courses in the target language in the students' major.
    - ii. Binghamton offers Language Across the Curriculum study groups in different disciplines; these are taught by graduate students competent in relevant languages and offered in 14 different languages.
  
2. Reluctance of Language Departments to be involved in language education, to focus on language use in addition to literature, and to participate in interdisciplinary work.
  - a. Some universities offer language training without the language departments
    - i. Binghamton uses graduate students
    - ii. Drake abolished its language department and reconstituted it as a language acquisition program
  - b. What would an ideal new Language Department look like?
    - i. Offer innovative language learning
    - ii. Integrate digital media (webcams, Second Life)
  
3. Are English medium programs in Europe a boon or a problem?
  - a. A boon:
    - i. Allow students to immediately function in a foreign environment. Allows for immediate mainstreaming into host university, while parallel immersion into foreign culture outside the university. Encouraging study abroad early in a student's career becomes possible and creates interest in further study of culture and language.

- ii. From a German perspective, English medium programs amount to an internationalization of German education.
- b. A problem:
  - i. Being able to avoid learning a foreign language stops short of teaching global competence.
  - ii. There is a huge asymmetry between the need to learn English and the need to learn any other language. Accordingly, those in English-speaking countries are at a terrible disadvantage since there is considerable less motivation to learn a foreign language.