Perspectives for Art Education in Promoting Information and Media Literacy in an Interdisciplinary Teacher Training Project

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The project “Information and Media Literacy (IML)” at the University of Passau (Germany) develops innovative concepts for interdisciplinary team teaching seminars explicitly addressing future teachers. Leading to an IML certificate, these courses offer opportunities to explore and understand how media construct meaning, how they transfer information and how we access and decode the world in the age of digitalization. As future teachers, our students have to become competent and critical recipients as well as reflected producers of information to participate and orientate themselves in today’s mediatized society and also develop appropriate pedagogical and didactical perspectives of action. Since a major part of digital media consists of visual content, and visual strategies as well as imagination play an important role in learning processes, art education can provide various vital approaches and methods to promote mentioned 21st century skills for teachers - regardless of their subjects. This paper presentation will point out those perspectives in practical seminar examples by situating art education in our project’s interdisciplinary view on the IML discourse.

The IML project is a part of the SKILL initiative that aims at defragmenting and demarginalizing university teacher training by providing a range of inter- and transdisciplinary courses in a digitally equipped “future classroom” at the University of Passau (Germany). The initiative is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).