

Giving Meaning to Interdisciplinarity in the Organization of Universities
A Symposium on the Occasion of Helmut Schelsky's 100th Birthday

April 12/13 2012

Convenors:

Peter Weingart (Bielefeld University), Britta Padberg (ZiF)

This conference will be organized on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Helmut Schelsky, the sociologist and 'planner' of Bielefeld University at the end of the 1960s who conceived the particular structure of the university as a combination of interdisciplinary centers and disciplinary departments. The top of the former was supposed to be the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF) fashioned after the Princeton Institute of Advanced Study and designed to develop innovative ideas that were to diffuse into the university. Celebrating Schelsky's birthday the occasion should be used to take a fresh look at the options a university like Bielefeld has, once considered a very modern 'reform university', now situated in a completely different landscape of higher education institutions. Therefore the conference will focus on interdisciplinary structures in universities and interdisciplinarity as a guiding theme for entire universities.

Programme:

Thursday, 2012-04-12	
13.00 – 13.30 <i>Snack</i>	
13.30 - 14.00 Welcome by Gerhard Sagerer, President of Bielefeld University Opening by Peter Weingart	
14.00 – 15.00	Michael M. Crow (President of the Arizona State University): <i>The new university and its local and global challenges</i> Discussion
15.00 – 15.30 <i>Coffee Break</i>	
15.30 – 18.00	
<i>Interdisciplinary structures in research and education</i> Sascha Spoun (President of Leuphania University Lüneburg) Louis Boon (Liberal Art and Sciences Program Maastricht) Detlef Löhe (Vice Rector of Karlsruhe Institute for Technology) Discussion	
18.00 Dinner at ZiF	Welcome by Philippe Blanchard (ZiF Director)
19.30 Abendvortrag	Hermann Lübbe (University of Zurich): <i>Zeitdruck, Disziplinierungsschäden und Erfahrungsverluste. Helmut Schelsky als Soziologe universitärer Forschung</i>

Friday, 2012-04-13	
9.00 – 9.45	Robert Frodeman (University of North Texas): <i>The modernity of interdisciplinarity</i> Discussion
9.45 – 10.00 Coffee Break	
10.00 – 10.45	Jürgen Enders (University of Twente): <i>The European universities and their political legitimacy</i> Discussion
10.45 – 11.30	Uwe Schimank (University of Bremen): <i>Opportunities and obstacles of university reform</i> Discussion
11.30 – 12.15	Wolfgang Marquardt (Chair of Wissenschaftsrat, Köln): <i>"Cross the border, close the gap!" - Reinventing the university as an interdisciplinary enterprise</i> Discussion
12.15 – 12.30	Peter Weingart: Conclusion
Snack / Departure	