CFP: MLA - AATG Panel: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the German Classroom: Approaches and Materials, San Francisco, CA (18.03.2022)

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CFP: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the German Classroom: Approaches and Materials in AATG Panel at the Modern Languages Association Conference, January 5 - 8, 2023 (San Francisco, CA), proposals due Friday March 18, 2022

Please consider submitting an abstract to our session “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the German Classroom: Approaches, and Materials” for the MLA conference taking place January 5 - 8, 2023 in San Francisco, CA. Submissions for the panels are due by March 18, 2022. This session is organized by AATG.

Since March 2020, academic life as it was previously known has been turned on its head. The Covid-19 pandemic has undermined the work and mission of the university on many fronts by precipitating enrollment deficits, instigating budgetary crises and restructuring, and causing staggering attrition rates at the undergraduate and junior-college levels. Perhaps most palpably affected has been the reduced on-campus experience of students, which has led to ambivalence regarding the purpose of completing a traditional four- to five-year degree. All of these crises notwithstanding, the challenge posed by the pandemic and the decreasing enrollments it has caused has led to an opportunity to rethink classroom spaces and practices, particularly with regard to accessibility and awareness of underserved learning communities. While the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing gaps in equity, it has also exposed them more greatly and demanded a response on the part of teachers at all levels.

The purpose of this panel is to explore ways in which educators have been inspired to rethink equity and inclusion in the world-language classroom since the onset of the pandemic and to highlight the materials that they have developed to promote a more inclusive classroom. Topics to consider are:

- reaching underrepresented and at-risk student communities through diversified instruction and outreach;
• adjusting assessment to account for gaps in learning based on the lack of accessibility;
• responding to learner differences in world language instruction during the pandemic and beyond;
• addressing concretely social (in)justice and inclusion in the classroom and at a curricular level;
• incorporating discussions of gender identity and gender-neutral language in the classroom;
• fostering diversity among world language educators and in world language teacher certification programs;
• increasing accessibility through study abroad and virtual study abroad and internship programs.

Presenters are encouraged to consider all aspects of programmatic, curricular, and teaching ingenuity in response to the need for more inclusiveness in world language classrooms, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Please submit 300-word abstracts and a short bio to Priscilla Layne (playne@email.unc.edu) by March 18, 2022. If your proposal is accepted, you must be an MLA member by April 7, 2022. You may only have two roles at the convention.