



Research project

Taboos in ELT



Situated within the context of critical foreign language pedagogy, this research project aims to explore taboos and challenging topics in the context of English language teaching.

Survey 1 Adolescents' perspectives on integrating taboos into ELT (Jeanine Steinbock & Theresa Summer)

In this online survey, our aim was to investigate adolescents' perspectives on integrating taboo and challenging topics into English language education in Germany. We focused on a selection of eighteen topics (see Fig. 1) and distributed the online survey through an advertising campaign online using a meme (see Fig. 2).

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drugs 2. Other addictive behaviour 3. Gender reassignment 4. Illnesses 5. Death 6. Disabilities 7. Poverty and unemployment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Sex and dangers 9. Sex and love 10. Homosexuality 11. Racism 12. Religious conflicts 13. Migration and refuge 14. Radicalism 15. Conspiracy theories & fake news 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Violence 17. Self-mutilation 18. Environmentally destructive lifestyles 	
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Fig. 1: 'Taboo topics' in focus of the online surveys

Fig. 2: Meme for advertising the survey

Survey 2 Addressing taboos in teacher education: pre-service teachers' perspectives (Christian Ludwig & Theresa Summer)

Focusing particularly on pre-service English teachers' perspectives, this survey explores their experience with taboo topics (see Fig. 1) in their everyday lives as well as at school and university. While investigating their perception on various questions related to the potential and challenges in dealing with taboos in ELT, this study aims to make suggestions for teacher education and teaching practice.