Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching

Funding Program: You want to explore new, innovative topics in teaching and develop your teaching skills and teaching approach across disciplines? The Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching program aims at promoting the development of new teaching courses and expand the departmental syllabi. The program is open to young researchers in all faculties of the University of Konstanz, in collaboration with a Zukunftskolleg Fellow. Financial support is given, e.g. to invite guest speakers, organize visits to archives, museums, or perform experiments.

Exemplary funded project: “Science on Stage” – organized by Julia Boll (Literature) in collaboration with Thomas Böttcher (Biochemistry), Gianluca Rastelli (Physics), Andreas Thum (Biology), and Giovanni Galizia (Biology).

Transfer effort
The lecture series, Science on Stage, was of an interdisciplinary nature and relied on the involvement of two academics in dialogue – one theatre scholar and one scholar from the sciences. It also relied on the involvement of several actors and dancers. The format was designed for the university’s public.

The course was listed in the relevant departmental teaching curricula as transferable skills event. An article based on the lecture series has recently appeared in the special issue “Doing Science” (eds. Nina Engelhardt and Julia Hoydis) of “Interdisciplinary Science Reviews”; Boll, Julia. ‘Is Knowledge Performative? Science/Stage: an Experiment in Performance Lectures.’

Motivation
This project of developing a new lecture format was as much driven by a specific research question as it was intrinsically motivated: as a theatre scholar, Julia Boll was interested in determining whether it is possible to make an argument for the theatre as an ‘enacted thought experiment’.

The Fellows of the Zukunftskolleg were curious to find out what is actually possible if they enter a stage environment and try to cover the same ground from two different angles, bringing actors and dancers into the mix.

Videos of the Science on Stage Series can be downloaded here:

More information on the Funding Program can be found here: