

[BLOCK A - SPLIT EXERCISE]

Academic Carousel

Toolbox: Character Cards and Event Cards

Character Cards:

Persona 1

Single mother; 35 years-old; Migrant biography.

Persona 2

Early 20s; European citizen; Lives in a shared house.

Persona 3

30 years-old; raised in Giessen; trains a dog.

Persona 4

19 years-old; daughter of South American migrants; lives in a nearby village with the parents.

Persona 5

Late 20s; migrant; low-level of German skills.

Persona 6

Moderator; he/ she is in charge to guide the game, he/ she reads out loud the Event Cards, pays attention to the time management, ensures respectful communication and makes notes on the respective moves (so that the results of the game can be discussed easily afterwards).

Event Cards:

Event 1

You want to apply to university. Your certificates must be submitted in one month.

Questions for reflection

- What language is my diploma in?
- Is my diploma valid in Germany?
- Does the university have a guideline for the process of diploma validation?
- How much is the cost of diploma validation and can I afford the validation?

Connection to Tool

Eurocentrism

Event 2

The professor invites the class to a dinner after a lecture about Arab spring. The lecturer, who will attend the meeting, does not have an Arab biography.

Questions for reflection

- Will I feel comfortable?
- Would there be reasons why I would feel uncomfortable?
- If I decide to go, how will I engage in the process of networking?
- What are my expectations of this meeting?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance, Eurocentrism

Event 3

During work sessions of your research group pejorative comments (perceived as comic comments) about Migra*BPoC and LGBTQI+ have happened. The professor responsible for the research group engaged in the comments.

Questions for reflection

- How do I feel about it?
- How can I react?
- Which consequences can appear with my reaction?
- (Where) can I denounce this at the university? Who can support me in the denouncing process?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance Resistance

Event 4

There will be a demonstration in the city center against a statue of a person accused of crimes during colonial times tomorrow. You have an important test the same day and time.

Questions for reflection

- Do I feel personally touched by colonialism?
- How do I feel about other students protesting? What could (not) happen?
- How do I feel about political activism at university?
- What consequences could it have for me to be visible as a political person at university?
- How can I manage if I miss the test?
- What would happen if I get arrested?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance Resistance

Event 5

You engage in a politically. This will take about 10 hours a week.

Questions for reflection

- In which political context are you engaged?
- How will my engagement influence my networks?
- How will my engagement influence my relationship with the professor, staff etc.?
- What are the costs and benefits of voluntary political engagement for my academic future? (e.g. for scholarships)
- What may be costs and benefits for being seen as a politically engaged academic?
- Can I afford the time?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance Resistance

Event 6

There is an application for a scholarship open, but the form must be filled in German.

Questions for reflection

- Why do you think the application can only be submitted in the language of the country?
- What would be the challenge for the application? How could I handle them?
- Is it worth the effort?
- Do I have the time to apply?
- Do I fit in in a German speaking position/scholarship?

Connection to Tool

Eurocentrism

Event 7 - Group work!*

The examination performance in a seminar is a term paper. A group house work is favored. The term paper must be submitted in German.

*** in order to step forward, you have to master the event collectively**

Questions for reflection

- What is my availability to meet for extra hours?
- How do I feel about this group work? What are the costs and benefits of it?
- How do I feel about writing in German? What other options do I have?
- How do I feel about other people reading what I wrote in German?
- There was a chance to discuss with the professor about different options?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance, Eurocentrism

Event 8

Your supervisor tells you about an internship during the semester break that is linked with your research topic. The internship is unpaid. In your studies an internship is compulsory.

Questions for reflection

- What would be the benefits of the internship?
- How can I financially sustain myself during this period?
- Is there anyone who depends on me financially?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance, Eurocentrism

Event 9

Your class is offered to attend a field research trip to Morocco for two weeks.

Questions for reflection

- Can I leave my house unattended for two weeks?
- Can I pay for the travel?
- Is it possible for me to take vacation from my work?
- How would I benefit from this trip?
- What happens if I don't go?

Connection to Tool

Eurocentrism

Event 10

A large company offers an assessment center in your department for a paid internship during your studies. In addition to professional and academic knowledge and skills, good capacities in other languages than the country's official language are an asset, and your general education about the country's history will be tested.

Questions for reflection

- Do I know the country's history?
- Am I familiar with the process of an Assessment Center?
- Do I have time to prepare myself for the test?
- Am I comfortable to write a test and make an interview in German?

Connection to Tool

Neoliberal Compliance, Eurocentrism