'Bildung' and Artificial Intelligence –
Anthropological Aspects Concerning Higher Education

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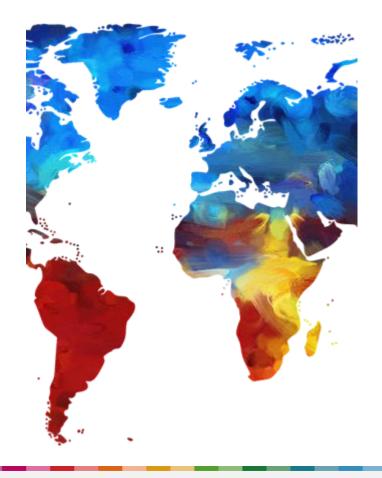Research Assistent, Institute of Culture and Education

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Where is our work situated?

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th.
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ILMENAU

THInKI

Thüringer Hochschulinitiative für KI im Studium

https://tzlr.de/thinki/

What is THInKI?

Institutional framework:
- funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (**BMBF**)
- duration from Dec. **2021** - Dec. **2025**

Goal:
- joint **educational program** that covers the entire range of **AI technologies** and their application in science and practice

Interdisciplinary:
- technical, mathematical and informatic basic knowledge of AI, ethical, social, legal and **pedagogical-didactic topics**

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Parties involved:
- **TU Ilmenau** (five chairs)
- **FSU Jena** (nine chairs)
- University Hospital Jena
- Central Institute for ‚Bildung' of the TU Ilmenau
- Competence Center Digital Research (**zedif**)
- Thuringian Center for Learning Systems and Robotics (**tzlr**)

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Two focal points:

1) What are important aspects of Bildung in the context of AI?
☐ **Fundamental research** from a pedagogic-philosophical point of view
　　at the chair of Historical Pedagogy and Global Education

2) What do all involved parties (chairs) consider ‚Bildung' to be,
　　when speaking about AI in Higer education (‚Hochschul**bildung**')
☐ **Empirical research** on implicit concepts of ‚Bildung'
　　at all participating chairs and institutions.

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Bildung – a german concept?

Initial irritation/idea:
- THInKI's project proposal speaks of 'Hochschul**bildung**' (higher education) throughout.
- We want to know what 'Bildung' means in this context.

- **Bildung is different** from ‚education', from ‚training', from ‚teaching' and ‚learning'.
  ☐ What is it then?
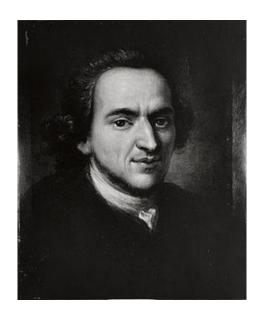 ☐ And how can we describe it as an apprpriate, up to date concept in dealing with AI?

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Traditions of Bildung

Bildung as the attempted perfection of the individual – a **humanistic tradition**.

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Traditions of Bildung

Bildung as taking over responsibility for one's own pre-judgments and biases – an **enlightenment tradition**.

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Conception of a module:
'Digital 'Bildung' and artificial intelligence'

How do AI and ‚Bildung' connect?

- AI is more than just an object of ‚Bildung'.

- AI shapes our pre-judgments, it is a part of the pre-judgments that generate our thoughts and actions. (especially in a postdigital world.)

- AI is an important object of Bildung, and one that will become more important in the future.

- And by inscribing itself into the pre-judgment structure of individuals, into their normality, it changes their understanding of themselves and the world. Therein lies the theoretical potential of AI concerning educational research.

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**Empirical research
on ‚Bildung' and AI:**

Epistemological interest:

- What is the implicit concept of Bildung with which all subprojects of THInKI work?
- What are the consequences for a realistic concept of 'Bildung' that takes into account an everyday-life dealing with artificial intelligence?

Method:

- Qualitative research method
- Narrative interviews with all members
- Reconstructive methods for the analysis

Time to discuss!