InHouse Workshop

**Tacit Knowledge and (Intercultural) Cooperation**

17 March 2014, 15:00-18:00

*Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Duisburg*

How does tacit knowledge relate to the possibilities and difficulties of cooperation? The concept of tacit or implicit knowledge rests on Michael Polanyi’s famous assumption that “we can know more than we can tell”. It may thus refer to bodily performances such as cycling or playing music. But it also points to culture-specific performances and pre-reflective capabilities that constitute the way we interact with the world and with each other – without being explicitly acknowledged. Thus, most dimensions of tacit knowledge normally stay implicit and are socially and culturally shared.

Any trial to take a grasp on tacit knowledge is confronted with a paradox: If such embodied and pre-reflective 'knowing how to do something' is the basis for all of our (inter-)actions, how can we access and describe it in the propositional language of scholarly discourse?

In the workshop we will mainly discuss how tacit knowledge enables or obstructs intercultural cooperation. Intercultural communication is of special interest because we can assume that it poses the problem of how to coordinate different forms of culturally specific forms of tacit knowledge. How is communication and cooperation possible if the implicit and practical knowledge (and not only explicit forms of knowledge that are related to propositional language) differs so much? In the workshop we intend to explore what we know about these issues and which research gaps still exist.

The workshop is organized as a roundtable discussion with each participant starting with a rather brief statement. The aim is to discuss and wrap up openly and participatory the research state of the art in the social sciences as well as possible future research. The afternoon will be concluded with a buffet dinner at the Centre.

**Contributors:**

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**Organization:** Frank Adloff & Frank Gadinger

Please register for the workshop at events@gcr21.uni-due.de