

*Name and position today and a short background*

## **Prof. dr. Manfred L. Pirner**

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### **1. Short CV (only relevant for your profession in RE and for other colleagues and practicing educators)**

1989-1992 High school teacher of English and Religious Education, PhD in 1996 on 'Music and religion in school education'; Post-doc PhD (second book; 'Habilitation') 2000 on 'TV myths and religious education'; 2000-2008 Professor of Protestant Theology and RE at the University of Education at Ludwigsburg; since 2008 Professor of Religious Education at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

### **2. Research and interest fields**

#### **2.1 The Media Culture Approach to RE.**

I have developed this approach on the insight that young people's life world is more and more influenced by the media and by popular culture. Socialization has to a considerable part become media socialization. On the sociological level the approach draws on transformation theories and research on religion which shows that media stories and media presentations in popular culture contain a lot of (often transformed) religion. If media socialization is an important part of present socialization and if media culture implies religious dimensions and elements, we can, I believe, speak of a 'religious socialization by the media'. In my opinion, RE should take these socialization processes in the context of the media and popular culture more seriously and as a basis for educational work. This also means to take more seriously and appreciate the self-socialization of young people in youth cultures in which the media play an important role. Conceptually, I see and have elaborated on the close connections between media education and religious education.

Short summaries of this approach can be found in:

Pirner, Manfred L.: The Media Culture Approach to Religious Education. An Outline with a Focus on Interreligious Learning, in: S. Miedema, W. Meijer & A. Lanser-van der Velde (Eds.), *Religious Education in a World of Religious Diversity*, Münster/Berlin/New York/Munich: Waxmann 2009, 149-164.

Pirner, Manfred L.: Besondere Chancen einer medienweltorientierten Religionsdidaktik, in: M. Wermke / G. Adam/ M. Rothgangel (Hg.), *Religion in der Sekundarstufe II. Ein Kompendium*, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2006, 328-356.

See also: Pirner, Manfred L.: Religious Socialization by the Media? An Empirical Study and some Conclusions for Practical Theology, in: *International Journal of Practical Theology* 14 (2010) (in press)

#### **2.2 Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)**

Another field of RE theory is that of **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** or, as we call it in Germany, 'bilingual RE'. This means teaching RE in a foreign, mostly the English language at German schools. I have developed theoretical perspectives which show that this way of teaching RE is not only

profitable for the students' language learning but also holds special chances for religious learning. I have been able to support my theoretical deliberations by empirical research.

Pirner, Manfred L.: Empirische Unterrichtsforschung zum bilingualen Religionsunterricht und Konsequenzen für den "normalen" Religionsunterricht, in: Theo-Web. Zeitschrift für Religionspädagogik 6 (2007), H. 2, 42-52. (Online-Zeitschrift: www.theo-web.de)

### **2.3 The role of RE at religious schools and its relationship to other school subjects**

A third field of theory and research is the role of RE at religious schools and its relationship to other school subjects in the context of a Christian theory of education. In my book 'Christliche Pädagogik' I have developed theoretical perspectives and guidelines for such a theory of education. In an edited book we have tried to explore on the relationships between the theory of RE and the theories of other school subjects.

Pirner, Manfred L.: *Christliche Pädagogik*. Grundsatzüberlegungen, empirische Befunde und konzeptionelle Leitlinien, Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2008.

Pirner, Manfred L. / Schulte, Andrea (Eds.): *Religionsdidaktik im Dialog - Religionsunterricht in Kooperation* (= Studien zur Religionspädagogik und Praktischen Theologie, Bd. 2), Jena: IKS Garamond 2010.