Universität Basel

Institut für Bildungswissenschaften

Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz
Pädagogische Hochschule

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

Reimaging Education:
Creating More Inclusive Societies Toward Immigrants Using Social Markers of Acceptance

with **Prof. Adam Komisarof** · Keio University, Tokyo

15 October 2026 · 13:00–14:30 · Campus Muttenz, Room 10.S.01

About the lecture

Immigration is one of the most contentious issues of our times. Social markers of acceptance (SMA) constitute the context-based criteria that receiving society members employ when determining whether to socially accept immigrants in their communities (e.g., local language fluency). The SMA framework can serve as an important tool for conceptualizing intergroup boundaries between immigrants and members of their receiving society, as well as a pedagogical means of making those boundaries more inclusive. This lecture has two aims: 1. Explain SMA-related research findings about how to improve immigrant social acceptance in their receiving societies, and 2. Advance evidence-based global recommendations for university educational interventions aiming to enhance immigrant inclusivity. Recommendations include highlighting immigrant social and economic contributions and examining immigrant threat perceptions to reduce their intensity. The lecture concludes with proposals for future research to develop and evaluate the efficacy of these pedagogical approaches to cultivating more inclusive societies.

About the speaker



Adam Komisarof, PhD, is Professor of intercultural communication and acculturation psychology in Keio University's Faculty of Letters in Tokyo, Japan. At the University of Oxford, he was awarded an Astor Visiting Lectureship (2024) and has spent two sabbaticals at the university (Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, 2012–13; Centre on Migration, Policy and Society / COMPAS, 2022–23). He is the author of over 50 publications and four books on intercultural communication and acculturation, most recently The SAGE Handbook of Intercultural Communication (Sage, 2025). He is President Emeritus and Executive Director of the International Academy for Intercultural Research.

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