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Amelie: “Call me Peter!”
Participant representation in research projects

ABSTRACT
In the course of research representation of participants often takes place within a limited space of possibilities. In particular the use of pseudonyms, gendered pronouns and identity markers often lack the complexity of our participants’ identities and experiences. If a body understood as female chooses a male considered pseudonym, what questions does it present and why? This query provides the opportunity to look at methodological implications and also to theorize the practice of Amelie/Peter him/herself. Through constructivist and deconstructive perspectives, future implications in my research - focussed on how “differences”, in relation to gender, race, ability, class, are constructed and disrupted in the school context - will be addressed. The data discussed in the presentation is drawn from a one-year field study in two Austrian public elementary schools. An overview of the primary project and a description of the discussed data will contextualize the main questions of this presentation.

BIO
Beatrice Partel is a PhD student at the Faculty of Education in Innsbruck, Austria. Her research interests range from post structural theories, gender studies, and intersection of ‘differences’ to qualitative research methodologies. Beside her research she also engages in educational work with youth.