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Interview with Franz-Peter Griesmaier

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Interview Overview

- Discussed his childhood to start the interview
  - Growing up in Austria
  - Family life
  - Living conditions
- His migration
  - Motive to leave-education
  - His journey to America
  - His first movements in the US upon arriving
- His preconceptions of America
  - Ideas about America from media growing up
  - A bit of Austrian history in the twentieth century
  - Expectations about life in America
- Background on Austria during his migration time period
  - Discussed the educational landscape in Austria
  - Talked about the Austrian philosophical landscape when he was younger
- First experiences in America
  - Initial impressions of food, architecture, culture
  - Restrictions he felt in America
- Comparison of America and Austria
  - Discussed pros and cons of each country
  - Concerns about America’s future
• Discussed ongoing relationship with Austria
  
  • Enjoyment of life in America
    o Loves teaching at UW
    o America has presented him with career opportunities
  
  • Discussed Philosophy and History
    o Talked about approaches when studying History
    o Related Philosophy to History
  
  • Inquired about his personal life
    o His hobbies and interests
  
  • Discussed language barrier relating to his migration
    o How he learned English growing up in Austria
    o His difficulties understanding television upon arriving in America
  
  • Reflections on his migration story
    o He feels privileged
    o Does not feel like a foreigner
  
  • Thoughts on present-day Austria
    o American culture intertwined in Austrian life
    o Interplay between the two countries