Interview with Franz-Peter Griesmaier

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Interview Overview

• Discussed his childhood to start the interview
  o Growing up in Austria
  o Family life
  o Living conditions

• His migration
  o Motive to leave-education
  o His journey to America
  o His first movements in the US upon arriving

• His preconceptions of America
  o Ideas about America from media growing up
  o A bit of Austrian history in the twentieth century
  o Expectations about life in America

• Background on Austria during his migration time period
  o Discussed the educational landscape in Austria
  o Talked about the Austrian philosophical landscape when he was younger

• First experiences in America
  o Initial impressions of food, architecture, culture
  o Restrictions he felt in America

• Comparison of America and Austria
  o Discussed pros and cons of each country
  o 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