Influences and Perceptions: Studying Abroad in Germany

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Background

Wyoming/Hopkins
Benedikt
Germany
Getting Started

- Deciding was a struggle
- What fascinates me?
- Original thesis idea
- HSIRB – Human Subject Internal Review Board
- Change in thesis topic
What is a “stereotype”?  
Three main influences  
1. Family, society/ culture (country of origin)  
2. Society/culture (host country of study abroad)  
3. Individual experiences from home and while abroad  

Target group
# Cities of Study and Duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>City of Study</th>
<th>Duration of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>6 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paderborn</td>
<td>7 Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paderborn</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tübingen</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bonn</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What part of the U.S. are you originally from?

Yes.

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Results Continued

- 14 responded, 18-22 years old, Southern Michigan, wanted to better German language/experience new culture
- Opinions before study abroad: beer, bratwurst, sauerkraut, Lederhosen, rude
- Differed from those who previously visited/had family ties to Germany: intelligent, clean, punctual, hard-working.
- Similar to parents opinions
Results Continued

Experiences while abroad that influence opinions and transition into new culture
1. Language
2. Living accommodations
3. Travel
4. Relationships *
Opinions started to change: realized that Germans are more private, are sometimes late, don’t all like beer

Not much different than Americans
Living in a new society/culture can change views of home country

Noticed that Americans were loud, have poor eating habits, lack of interest in other cultures, lack of public transportation

All wish to go back (or have already) to study, work or live