

Marie Therese Schultes



Marie Therese Schultes has recently become a post doctorate research associate at the Gillings School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before this transfer to the U.S., she studied and worked at the University of Vienna and the Danube University Krems in Austria to pursue her interest and expertise in maternal and child health.

How do you say “knowledge translation” and “implementation” in your own language?

For ‘implementation’, we use both “Implementierung” and “Implementation”. The very literal translation of ‘knowledge translation’ into German would be “Übersetzung des Wissens”. We shorten that slightly so a term that is commonly used is “Wissenstransfer”.

What is one of your favourite articles (or other publication) on implementation?

One of the articles that introduced me to implementations science was Durlak & DuPre’s [‘Implementation Matters’](#) – a classic. As the title suggests, the article gives a very good overview on why implementation matters. It also provides results that can be cited in presentations in order to emphasize the importance of implementation science to audiences that are new to the field.

What are you currently working on that relates to implementation?

At the University of North Carolina my job includes supporting the implementation of activities promoting maternal and child health both locally in the U.S. and globally through the WHO Collaborating Center at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. My home country being Austria, I am also currently forming the German Speaking Implementation Association that aims at fostering the communication between implementations scientists from Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

If you were to have lunch with another ‘implementer’, whom would you pick?

I always like getting together with other implementers to discuss their approaches in implementation research and practice. I especially enjoy having lunch conversations with Dean Fixsen and Karen Blase, the founders of the National Implementation Research Network. Their experience with implementation in various contexts and establishing it as a branch of research is so greatly extensive that I am learning something new at every conversation. That always inspires my enthusiasm for the field.

If you had the resources for it, what within implementation science or practice, would you want to work with next?

As a task of the German Speaking Implementation Association, I want to work on making implementation science better available to German speaking practitioners and policy makers. A first step toward reaching that goal would be to provide more introductory publications on implementation science in German and to include the basics of implementation science in applied study programs. When talking about the importance of implementation variables to students or evaluation stakeholders in Austria, I always experience a great interest and people have asked me several times where they could get further information. I think that overcoming the language barrier by providing more classes and reading materials in German could contribute to establishing implementation science in German speaking countries.