

## **Dr. (USA) Britta Padberg-Schmitt**

Britta Padberg-Schmitt, a native American with German heritage, grew up in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, USA. She completed her undergraduate degree (in German and French Literature and Language with a minor in Mathematics and Computer Science) and her graduate studies at New York University, New York, USA, during which she also studied in Paris, France. Her dissertation, entitled *Theories in Use: A Comparison of Reading Models, their Application in the Classroom and their Influence in German Reading Textbooks at the Intermediate Level of Language Instruction*, takes a critical look at reading and second language acquisition theory with respect to transferable skills from native to foreign and second languages. During her studies at NYU, she taught at the Deutsches Haus and NYU and was also a freelance editor at Burda Media, Inc., working for German Forbes, Focus, Bunte, Holiday and German ELLE. Additionally, she presented her findings at various academic venues, such as the MLA, North East and ACTFL conferences, and took part in the ACTFL Proficiency Training Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, USA in 1994.

In 1995, she studied law at the Westphalia Wilhelm's University in Muenster, Germany. There she completed her legal coursework and obtained an additional certificate from the American Law Program (Fachspezifische Fremdsprachen Ausbildung - FFA), where she subsequently taught for a number of years. Currently, she still assists with the oral and written exams at the end of each semester. She has also taught at various institutions in Muenster, such as the Fachhoch Schule (Medical English), Westphalian Wilhelm's University (at the Law, Business and Medical Schools) and at the Franziskus Hospital (the nutritionists and the nursing staff).

American culture and literature have become her specialty in last 15 years; focusing on the "Founding of the National American Identity in American Folklore," as well as Native American Folklore and Women in Folklore. Her main areas of interest include Teaching Methods in an ESL/EFL Classroom, Reading Theory, Second Language Acquisition Theory, Folklore, Tall Tales, Urban Legends and Literature from New England, amongst others. She has also translated several books, articles and academic texts such as Prof. Dr. Laurenz-Krause's book "Woman's Health Care," Prof. Dr. Schueren's articles on "Employee Leasing," for the Euregio, the "Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe" (euro net, in Brüssel), SAP Systems Integration AG, Ruhrkohle AG Dortmund, for Berlitz and the Benedict Language School in Muenster (ExpertText), to name a few.

### **Conferences**

"The Use of Video in the Proficiency Oriented Classroom," The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, New York, NY, USA, 04/04/1996

"The Ph.D.: To Be or Not To Be Completed (alternatives for PhD candidates in today's market)," Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 12/27-29/1995

"Outlining the Reading Process" (Chapter One from "Theories in Use"), German Graduate Student Dissertation Colloquium, New York University, New York, NY, USA, 04/17/1995

"Pre-reading Activities That Facilitate Cross-Cultural Readings of Literary Texts," The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, New York, NY, USA, 04/6-9/1995

Planning Committee, NYU Graduate Student Association Conference, New York University, New York, NY, USA, 02/12-14/1993 and 04/26-27/1996