

13: Defiance, will and stubbornness

Uma und Aaron:

Hey, we are Uma and Aaron. Participants in the research module "Access - Questions of Access" at the UdK Berlin. As part of this research module, we had the opportunity to talk to the renowned author Lucy Fricke. In her works, Lucy Fricke deals with various aspects of social class and justice. The focus of our conversation was her contribution "Fish Factory" from the anthology Class and Struggle. We asked Lucy to read us some selected passages from the text before moving on to questions and a short interview.

Lucy Fricke:

"Ten years later, I was admitted to a university. I had applied to the few universities that explicitly stated that it was possible to study without an Abitur. That was only the case for artistic courses. It looked like the only thing left for me to do without a school-leaving certificate was art."

Uma:

In your text "Fish Factory" on page 37, you address the ambivalent role of defiance and will as emotions that have facilitated your personal social advancement. Is this primarily your individual experience or do you also observe this in other people?

Lucy Fricke:

That is also the case with others, because this formulation as in the text, that is, defiance and will and stubbornness, I also believe, that is, this drive to always look for new ways and not to let oneself be stopped. That is now also called resilience. So that is, I think, this resistance that is needed. And it is still not clear where resilience comes from, whether it has to do with upbringing, whether it is genetic, whether I can say that I was lucky, that I had good genes, that it was given to me, so to speak. And I don't think you can really choose that. That is, there is a lot that you have or don't have. I think it's also incredibly important to have the will and to have a goal in mind - even if it's a professional goal, which many people don't have. So it's something so vague. I want a good job and I want to have enough money somehow and maybe also be successful and happy and so on. But it's nothing concrete and that makes it very difficult. I see this very, very often in my circle of friends. We are now around 50 and somewhere you are trapped in the wrong job. And especially this freelance creative scene, where it becomes clear at some point. Okay, only a few are making it and the rest are drowning more and more. At some point in your mid-50s, that becomes so, so manifest. Then you know that it's too late to start something completely new. But to what extent you can train something like that, or, I think it is, it is somehow, I have hope that it is there in everyone. You just have to strengthen it, you have to get it out of there. But I'm also afraid that you can only ever pull yourself up. There may be support, but the real driving and strongest force is yourself, unfortunately. That sounds a bit pessimistic, perhaps. But this will, this tenacity and perhaps also discipline. I think that's what it takes to achieve a goal. For that, I have to at least somehow know where I want to go. Then it's also possible to pull myself in that direction, to pull myself up and push myself and so on. But there are also people like that, there's a difference. Who needs to be pulled and who wants to be driven or something. But I think resilience is actually this fashionable word. It's almost a buzzword that's being used again and again and is being researched more and more.

Uma:

Thank you for another good answer. It just fits super well into our seminar.