



Challenging Stereotypes: Guest Lecturer Arturo Arango-Selga Inspires Students to Think Beyond Cultural Assumptions

When you hear the word Mexico, what comes to mind? Was your first thought a stereotype? If so—why? Are stereotypes merely tools of racists and bigots, or do they stem from something deeper? These were just some of the provocative questions explored by students of User Experience, Information Design, and International Programs on April 15, 2025.

They had the unique opportunity to engage with guest lecturer Arturo Arango-Selga, an experienced product manager at Hensoldt Sensors in Ulm, whose global experience brought a fresh perspective into the classroom.

Drawing from his international professional background, Arturo offered invaluable insights into the impact of cultural awareness in today's interconnected world. His talk emphasized the concept of being culturally fit—the ability to navigate, respect, and adapt to diverse cultural contexts in both professional and personal life.

More importantly, he addressed how stereotypes unconsciously shape our perceptions, decisions, and interactions. Arturo encouraged students to recognize their own biases and offered practical tools to help them actively challenge these mental shortcuts.

“Stereotypes,” he noted, “are a kind of necessary evil we all engage with—but we also have the power to reframe and overcome them.”

It was an eye-opening session that sparked meaningful reflection—and reminded us that the first step to cultural competence is awareness.

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Foto: Andreas Stephan