



Newsletter

June 2006

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News from the Sixty-Ninth Meeting

Conference Report (Ian Foster)

The Sixty-Ninth CUTG meeting was held at the Catholic Diocesan Centre at Hinsley Hall in Leeds. 60 members attended. As a result of scheduling problems, the meeting was held from Friday afternoon to Sunday.

The opening panel involved presentations on two major AHRC-funded projects involving German studies, “Discourses on German Wartime Suffering” and “Representations of Women and Death in German Literature, Art and Media from 1500 to the Present”. Colleagues found the descriptions of the projects and their outcomes and personal accounts of the entire process of bidding for money very useful. Above all, it was clear that such projects, because they involve the allocation of public money, can attract potentially useful but sometimes problematic publicity.

As representative of the host institution, Sally Johnson gave a paper on the visual representation of the 1996 German spelling reform in *Der Spiegel* that was accompanied by a lively debate. The lead panel running through the conference bore the title “Film and Memory”. This posed some technical challenges because of the diversity of the media used by the participants. Presentations focussed particularly on Berlin and contemporary reflections on German history through cinema. Other panel sessions included Gender and German Studies, aspects of cultural theory and “race” in literature and culture. These sessions benefited from the work put in behind the scenes by their conveners, who in most cases also chaired the panel. Colleagues particularly appreciated the opportunity to discuss work in progress or recognise shared interests. In my time as secretary, the CUTG has prided itself on offering a genuine forum for debate and the new format seems to have improved this aspect of the conference.

On Saturday evening the Berlin-based filmmaker John Burgan introduced his film *Memory of Berlin* (1998). This prize-winning autobiographical documentary weaves together reflections on the subjective narrative of an adopted child’s trip to Berlin with his parents and the history of the divided German capital. Colleagues very much enjoyed the film and John Burgan’s willingness to answer questions afterwards.

In the final session, members of the sub-panels for German and European Studies answered questions about the forthcoming RAE.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting proved to be well-attended and productive. In discussion the members present arrived at the following decisions.

- At future meetings, the CUTG will continue to develop strong themed panels to allow members with common interests to discuss their work and engage with the wider German Studies community. There will be a number of standing panels that will be regular features of meetings (such as Gender and German Studies, history, linguistics, critical theory, and panels relating to the Early Modern period, the medieval period, and the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries), but there will also be scope for members to propose themed panels relating to their research from year to year. Each meeting will also have a lead panel proposed and convened by the host institution. Panel conveners will be given greater responsibility for defining the scope of panels, seeking out and selecting contributions.
- Following the discontinuation of the CUTG Proceedings series with Peter Lang, it was agreed that the CUTG would encourage the host department of each meeting to organise the publication of papers in a themed volume based on that year's lead panel. The CUTG will offer a subsidy of up to £500 for possible publishing costs.
- The date of future meetings will be fixed where possible at Easter week, so that the CUTG members will be able to plan their year more easily if they wish to attend meetings.
- Following on from the announcement in the last newsletter, members present at the Business Meeting were happy to approve the new pattern for the newsletter, which will appear in June, containing a report on matters from the recent meeting and a Call for Papers for the following year's meeting. A second newsletter will appear in February with a draft programme for coming meeting.
- The membership fees for postgraduate research students were clarified. These students will now make a one-off payment of £15/€22 for three years. Members are encouraged to make their research students aware of this change and to remind them that they should be paid-up members if they wish to apply for grants offered by the CUTG. Further details of membership fees are available at <http://www.cutg.ac.uk/joining.htm>.

Apologies

The Leeds meeting received apologies from the following members who were unable to attend: Dr Elizabeth Andersen (Newcastle), Professor Helen Chambers (St Andrews), Professor Margaret Littler (Manchester), Professor Peter Lutzeier (Surrey), Dr Ray Ockenden (Wadham College, Oxford), Professor Nigel Reeves (Aston), Dr Mary Stewart (Robinson College, Cambridge), Professor Edward Timms (Sussex), Professor Rhys Williams (Swansea).

Apologies were also received from members of RAE panels invited to attend a discussion session on the RAE at the Leeds meeting: Professor Lesley Sharpe,

Professor Ron Speirs, Dr Roel Vismans, Professor Helen Watanabe, Professor David Yeandle, Professor Galin Tikhanov.

Announcements

The following announcements were made at the Leeds meeting

Deaths

Professor Frank Fowler on 29 October 2005

Promotions

Margaret Littler (Manchester) – personal chair

Stuart Taberner (Leeds) – personal chair

Jonathan Long (Durham) – personal chair

Treasurer's Report Summary 2005/6 (Jim Jordan)

<u>UK account summary</u>		<u>Irish account summary</u>	
Balance at 1.4.05	£ 7,358.67	Balance at 1.4.05	€ 4,228.76
Income	16,431.93	Income	1,108.73
	23,790.60		5,337.49
Expenditure	18,346.88	Expenditure	214.66
Balance at 31.3.06	£ 5,443.72	Balance at 31.3.06	€ 5,122.83

Points to note:

- We were able to return with thanks to *German Life & Letters* £1,500 of unused assistance towards our publication scholarships.
- The travelling and publication scholarships have been restarted.
- The balance in the Irish account is steadily accumulating to help cover future conference costs in Ireland.
- The final instalment for the publication of the CUTG proceedings is to be paid in June 2006.
- In broad terms, our UK income is likely to remain at ca. £6,000 p.a. We currently aim to pass on £2,000 annually in scholarships, and our administration, postage and publicity costs are around £1,000. This should leave us approximately £3,000 to subsidise our conferences, see through projects and make donations.

Summary account for Exeter conference

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Fees	£5575.00	Conference booking	£7878.48
		Guest's travelling costs	£ 244.00
		Stationery, copying	£ 45.89
			£8168.37
<u>Subsidy:</u>	£2593.37		

Scholarships awarded since resumption in July 2005

Schol.	Holder	Date awarded	Description	Amount £	Paid/ Report?
Trav.	Sheridan Burnside	July 05	Paper, Lublin	250	Yes
Trav.	Sarah Guest	July 05	Research trip, Berlin	250	Yes
Trav.	Charlotte Ryland	July 05	Research trip, Bucharest	250	Yes
Trav.	Ben Schofield	July 05	Research trip, Passau	235	Yes
Trav.	Elaine Martin	Jan. 06	Paper, Florida	250	Yes
Pub.	Jerome Carroll	July 05	The aesthetics of Wolfgang Welsch	500	
Pub.	Bram Mertens	Jan. 06	Walter Benjamin & the Jewish tradition	500	

For further details of the CUTG's travelling scholarships, and to read reports by the recipients, please visit <http://www.cutg.ac.uk/trvschol.htm>. Details of publication scholarships are available at <http://www.cutg.ac.uk/pubschol.htm>.

Committee News

Changes in the Committee

At the Leeds meeting Ian Foster stepped down as Conference Secretary after six years in the job. Members attending the meeting expressed their gratitude to Ian for all of his work on behalf of the CUTG. Peter Davies was elected as Ian's successor and will be responsible for the organisation of the next meeting in Bristol (see call for papers below).

Also at the Leeds meeting, Jim Jordan was re-elected unopposed as Honorary Treasurer for a second term.



CALL FOR PAPERS – SEVENTIETH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF GERMAN IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The next meeting of the CUTG will take place at the University of Bristol, 2–4 April 2007. In keeping with the last two meetings at Leeds and Exeter, the conference will feature a key panel, proposed by the host department. This year, this panel will focus on British-German cultural relations. There will also be a number of other panels, detailed below, and members are also encouraged to suggest their own panels, which should contain a minimum of three papers. The selection of panels on offer this year is not intended to limit the scope of this or future meetings.

If you are interested in contributing a paper to any of the panels, please send your proposal directly to the e-mail address of the conveners listed below. If you would like to propose a panel or if you would like to offer a paper that does not fall within the remit of any of the listed panels, please contact the Conference Secretary Dr Peter J. Davies (Peter.J.Davies@ed.ac.uk). Proposals for papers should be 150-200 words, panel outlines 50-100 words.

Proposals for papers should reach the relevant conveners by **29 December 2006**. Any proposals for additional panels should reach Peter Davies by **31 October 2006**.

British-German Cultural Interrelations

Convener: Anne Simon (University of Bristol) a.simon@bris.ac.uk

The interplay between Great Britain and Germany has always been fruitful and lively. This panel seeks a closer look at cross-cultural influences between the two countries during different time periods and in various fields. Possible contributions could concentrate on:

- The reception and transformation of intellectual concepts in English and German Literature
- Questions of translation and translators, including different media such as books, newspapers, theatre, prints, films, TV etc.
- Travel literature, letters and diaries of ‘tourists’, collections of artefacts
- The problem of exile and questions of cultural enrichment, integration and identity
- National stereotypes, fashion, taste, wit and their reflection in the Arts
- Specific literary styles and forms such as the English tradition of the essay, philosophical letter and dialogue or the German encyclopaedia, system, treatise
- Linguistic aspects of language transfer, foreign words in each language, youth language
- Images of ‘Englishness’ and ‘Germanness’

Postmigrant culture in German-speaking countries

Conveners: Jim Jordan (Warwick) and Margaret Littler (Manchester) margaret.littler@manchester.ac.uk / jimjordan@onetel.com

This panel aims to explore a newly cosmopolitan German culture which has resulted from global migrations of the 20th century. Proposals are welcome on any aspect of literature, film, and popular culture, treating issues such as the significance and relevance of diaspora for those who, voluntarily or otherwise, are categorised as

migrant or diasporic artists, but whose relation to the experience of migration itself may be indirect, mediated, or problematic. Equally, we are interested in discussing connections with other cultural contexts and fields of study. We therefore also welcome proposals which explore the relevance to German culture of notions such as transculturation, diaspora space, and creolisation, as the potential outcomes of cultural contact.

Literary and Cultural Theory

Convener: Steve Giles (Nottingham) Steve.Giles@nottingham.ac.uk

The much loved CUTG Critical Theory panel is to return as a standard feature of future meetings, starting with Bristol in 2007. Papers are invited on any and all topics that fall within the remit of Critical Theory, broadly conceived: aesthetics, cultural theory, social and political theory, literary theory, any burning methodological issues – all theoretical life is there, including applications of theory to specific texts, corpuses, materials.

We will follow the traditional format for this panel, viz two 25-30 minute papers followed by 30 minutes discussion; at the Bristol meeting I would also like to inaugurate a discussion of future themes the panel might address. So please put on your theoretical thinking caps and let me have some stunningly brilliant and pyrotechnic proposals for Bristol.

History and Remembrance

Convener: Anna Saunders (Bangor) mls202@bangor.ac.uk

This panel will focus on the mobilisation of history and practices of remembrance for the purposes of identity construction. Papers could address issues such as *Erinnerungspolitik* and processes of memorialisation and musealisation, the reappraisal of historical narratives for political and ideological purposes, questions of ownership and history, or the preservation of collective memory through national traditions, rituals and anniversaries.

Linguistics

Convener: Nils Langer (Bristol) and Christian Fandrych (Kings College London) Nils.Langer@bristol.ac.uk

This panel invites papers on any aspect of German and Germanic linguistics. In particular we welcome papers on systemic and sociolinguistics as well as the interface between linguistic analysis and practical language teaching. Papers which contain a comparative element are keenly encouraged.

Gender and German Studies

Convener: Lyn Marven (Liverpool) [lmarven@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lmарven@yahoo.co.uk)

This panel focuses on literary and filmic representations of gender; theoretical and fictional constructions of masculinity / femininity (and anything in between / beyond); and ways of approaching texts/films which take account of gender (of author / characters / reader/viewer). Proposals are welcome for papers dealing with any period from the Medieval to the 21st century.

Medieval Studies

Convener: Sabine Rolle (Edinburgh) s.rolle@ed.ac.uk

The exact format of this panel on 'Germanistische Mediävistik' is open to discussion, but it could be used to either present research and/or to discuss the current situation of

medieval German studies at British universities: approaches, tools, aims and objectives. Proposals are welcome for papers on any aspect of medieval German studies or the reception of the German Middle Ages in later periods, and, as usual, contributions by postgraduate students will be particularly welcome.

Early Modern Period

Contact Peter Davies (Peter.J.Davies@ed.ac.uk)

The CUTG encourages members with an interest in the Early Modern Period to volunteer to convene this panel, or to offer papers to the 70th meeting on any aspect of Early Modern literature, culture, thought or the visual arts.

Eighteenth-Century Studies

Contact Peter Davies (Peter.J.Davies@ed.ac.uk)

The CUTG encourages members with an interest in the Eighteenth Century to volunteer to convene this panel, or to offer papers to the 70th meeting on any aspect of Eighteenth-Century literature, culture, thought or the visual arts.

Nineteenth-Century Studies

Convener: Eleoma Joshua (Edinburgh) Eleoma.Joshua@ed.ac.uk

Papers are invited on any aspect of the culture of German-speaking countries in the nineteenth century, including literature, theatre, visual culture and thought.

Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Studies

Convener: Jon Hughes (Royal Holloway) Jon.Hughes@rhul.ac.uk

Papers are invited on any aspect of twentieth-century and contemporary German cultural studies. Appropriate subjects for this panel include literary, film and media studies (including work on the intersection between media), cultural history, and area studies. We would particularly welcome papers demonstrating innovative theoretical, methodological, and interdisciplinary approaches.