



Newsletter

August 2007

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News from the Seventieth Meeting (Peter Davies)

The Seventieth Meeting was hosted by the Department of German at the University of Bristol and held at Burwalls Centre for Continuing Education. It was attended by 82 members.

The following announcements were made during the meeting's opening business:

Promotions:

Dr Jon Hughes was promoted to Senior Lecturer at Royal Holloway; Dr Brigid Haines and Dr Duncan Large were promoted to Readerships at Swansea; Dr Nicola McLelland was promoted to Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer at the University of Nottingham; David Rock was promoted to Reader at Keele University; Dr Tim Jackson was promoted to Associate Professor of German at Trinity College Dublin; Dr Paul Cooke was promoted to a Chair in German Cultural Studies at Leeds; Dr Julian Preece was appointed to a Chair at Swansea from 2007/08; Prof. Moray McGowan was appointed Head of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies at Trinity College Dublin; Prof. Colin Riordan will leave Newcastle in September 2007 to take up his role as Vice Chancellor of Essex University; Prof. Roger Woods, Professor of German at the University of Nottingham, was appointed Vice-President and CEO-Elect of Nottingham University's new university in Ningbo, China; Dr Jürgen Barkhoff was appointed Registrar at Trinity College Dublin.

Retirements:

Prof. David Jackson (Cardiff) retired at the end of session 2005-6 and is re-engaged part-time for 2006-7; Prof. Alfred White (Cardiff) retired at the end of session 2005-6 and is re-engaged part-time for 2006-7; Hugh Ridley (Dublin); Herbert Herzmann (Dublin); Godfrey Carr (Warwick).

Birthdays: Emeritus Professor Bill Lockwood (Reading) is 90 this year.

Deaths: Dr David Luke (Oxford) in December 2005, aged 84; Dr Malcolm Humble (St Andrews) in May 2006; Prof. Peter Ganz (Professor of German, Oxford, and formerly of Westfield College, London) in August 2006, aged 86; Prof. John Theobald (Southampton Solent) in September 2006; Prof. Alan Menhennet (Newcastle) on 16 November 2006, aged 73.

The lead theme of the Conference was 'British-German cultural relations', although contributions on Austrian, Swiss and Irish themes were also included under this heading; the theme was pursued through several panels, as well as a round table discussion chaired by Alexander Košenina, which included contributions from: Peter Pulzer (Leo Baeck Institute), Rüdiger Görner (Queen Mary), Antje Schlamm (DAAD), Ritchie Robertson (Oxford), Darius Rahimi (German Embassy) and Johannes Wimmer (Austrian Cultural Forum). The Conference also heard a rousing lecture by Martin Swales on the occasion of the anniversary of the twinning of the cities of Bristol and Hanover, and an excellent plenary paper by Debbie Pinfold of the University of Bristol on conceptions of childhood in the GDR.

Alongside the lead panels, the regular CUTG panels continued to demonstrate the benefits of continuity from conference to conference: Twentieth Century Studies (Chair: Jon Hughes), Nineteenth Century Studies (Chair: Eleoma Joshua), Eighteenth Century Studies (Chair: Dan Wilson), Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Chair: Sabine Rolle), Linguistics (Chair: Nils Langer), History and Memory (Chair: Anna Saunders), Critical Theory (Chair: Steve Giles), and Postmigrant Literatures (Chairs: Jim Jordan and Margaret Littler). The Conference was also delighted to receive a panel from colleagues from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for the History and Theory of Biography, Vienna.

The conference programme was full, and the accommodation perhaps too small for the numbers attending. This led to some inevitable delays and the telescoping of coffee breaks. It was suggested that a more 'relaxed' approach to programming might be taken in future; this, in combination with a stricter approach to timekeeping for individual papers, might prevent any potential problems.

The flexibility and innovations introduced in 2006 are paying dividends: my overall impression was of a pleasing balance between variety and focus. The lead strand allows the host department to demonstrate its strengths, and for a discussion to continue throughout the proceedings. At the same time, the regular panels offer opportunities for other conversations to develop, and for delegates to gain an impression of the range of work being done at UK and Irish universities. Following the success of the Boltzmann Institute panel, I would also hope that other research institutes or research projects will come forward in future to showcase and discuss their work in this way.

Business meeting

President's report:

- Prof Ron Speirs, who is taking a year's sabbatical from the executive committee of the UCML, has asked whether anyone would be prepared to replace him. Prof Dennis Tate declared his willingness.
- The CUTG has been approached by the AHRC for consultation in its review of postgraduate funding mechanisms. Conference agreed that the President should represent it in this consultation.

- HEFCE is reviewing the funding of the School of Advanced Studies, London, including the IGRS. The President has written in support of the Germanic element in the IGRS: it is the only national focal point in research in Germanic studies, with unique resources. Prof Martin Swales proposed thanks to the President on behalf of the conference, and encouraged members to continue to use the IGRS.
- The President requested information about good German and Austrian Magister candidates who may have been turned down for postgraduate funding by the AHRC on the grounds of 'inadequate preparation' for a British PhD. Cases had been reported from Manchester and Durham. The AHRC considers the Magister to be the equivalent of a BA.

Dr Jon Hughes asked whether this might not simply be a result of the competitiveness of the awards process, since many good candidates are turned down. Prof Steve Giles responded that Nottingham had been informed that the AHRC does not consider the Magister as the full equivalent of the postgraduate Masters, in other words, not as a full preparation for the PhD. Dr Katrin Kohl confirmed that the Staatsexamen was also not considered as equivalent to a UK Postgraduate Masters.

The President suggested that applications should make clear the full value of the Magister, and agreed, on the suggestions of Prof Gisela Shaw and Prof Giles, that she would approach the AHRC, with copies to the awards committee for Modern Languages as well as NARIC, and the DAAD.

The conference heard a report from Mr Filippo Nereo, who had made an unsuccessful application for PhD funding from the University of Manchester. Under a freedom of information claim, he found that 8 candidates had been turned down by the AHRC in that year for having foreign qualifications that were considered inadequate. In its response to him, the AHRC stressed that it looked for equivalence of experience, but claimed that too many UK HEIs considered the Magister to be the same as the PG Masters because of the similarity in the name. Conference expressed its outrage at this assumption. In Mr Nereo's view, the AHRC's practice contradicts its published guidelines.

The President proposed to write to the AHRC pointing this contradiction out. Prof Giles stressed that this response needs to be more demanding, since the CUTG's advice on translation of qualifications has been ignored. The President agreed to begin a dialogue with the German representative on the awards committee; in response to this Prof Rhys Williams emphasised that no blame should be attached to the German representative, since the panel does not make this kind of decision, but acts on the advice it receives from the AHRC. Prof Allyson Fiddler suggested contacting the ESRC to establish whether there was an equivalent issue, and the President also agreed to contact the French subject organisation to see whether there are common problems.

Treasurer's report

Conference was asked to approve a change in the accounting year from the tax year to the calendar year. This was approved.

Finances are stable, costs are being covered and the accounts are steadily accumulating in value(see figures below). There is no rise in receipts from subscriptions: numbers are slightly up, but receipts are down slightly, probably due to an increase in postgraduate members.

Volume 5 of the CUTG proceedings has now been paid for; since this was the final contribution, the money will be available for other uses from now on. Support for postgraduates in the form of publication and travel scholarships will continue.

The Leeds conference was subsidised to roughly £2000. The Bristol conference may well break even, so no subsidy will be necessary.

It was proposed that, since departmental assistance to postgraduate students is variable, up to 3 free places could be awarded to postgraduates per conference, on submission of an abstract and an account of the difficulty of accessing funds. The proposal was approved.

Although this facility has not yet been taken up, the CUTG will continue to offer £500 at each conference to support a themed publication resulting from the proceedings, whether based on the lead panel or on other papers presented.

Publication scholarships are currently offered for completed PhDs by young scholars not yet in full-time permanent employment in Higher Education, but requests sometimes come from candidates who are in post, but who are having difficulty financing a publication. The Treasurer requested the view of conference on changing policy on this issue. Dr Kohl stated that the purpose of such scholarships is to start people on their careers, and so funds should be concentrated on that. Conference agreed that the policy should remain as it is.

Details of the publication and travel scholarships awarded recently can be found below.

Income and Expenditure Account April-December 2006

UK Account

Summary

Balance at 1.4.06	£	5,443.72
Income		11,486.73
		16,930.45
Expenditure		10,387.55
Balance at 31.12.06	£	6,542.90

Income

Subscriptions	£	5,051.50
Conference income		6,360.00

Interest		75.23
	£	11,486.73

Expenditure

Leeds conference	£	8,305.25
Publicity & administration		687.75
Vol. 5 final instalment		1,394.55
	£	10,387.55

Irish Account

Summary

Balance at 1.4.06	€	5,122.83
Income		719.10
		5,841.93
Expenditure		624.92
Balance at 31.12.06	€	5,217.01

Income

Subscriptions	€	719.10
	€	719.10

Expenditure

Bank fees	€	16.12
Committee expenses		258.80
Travelling scholarship		350.00
	€	624.92

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	Yes
Pub.	Bram Mertens	Jan. 06	Walter Benjamin & the Jewish tradition	500	
Pub.	Hanne Boenisch	July 06	Heinrich Heine and Matthew Arnold	500	
Pub.	Robert Pyrah	July 06	Viennese culture and politics	500	
Trav.	Frauke Matthes	Jan. 07	Paper, Maynooth	250	
Trav.	Elaine Morley	Jan. 07	Research trip, Zurich	250	
Trav.	Filippo Nereo	Jan. 07	Research trip, Moravia	250	
Trav.	Regine Standún	Jan. 07	Research trip, Austria	€350	

Date of next conference

The conference would from now on always be in the pre-Easter week. Care should, however, always be taken that the conference did not coincide with other religious festivals, such as Pesach, so that all colleagues are able to attend.

The proposed date for the Nottingham conference is Monday-Wednesday in the pre-Easter week, 2008. The lead subject will be: national identities and minority culture. The 2009 conference will take place in Coleraine, with the GDR as the lead theme. Volunteers will be sought for the 2010 conference.

Other Business

- The Membership Secretary asked conference to make even greater efforts to improve postgraduate recruitment, and to ensure that she is informed of any changes of address or affiliation.
- Duncan Large proposed a vote of thanks to David Clarke and Vania Vitello for the new CUTG website.



CALL FOR PAPERS – SEVENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF GERMAN IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The next meeting of the CUTG will jointly hosted by the University of Nottingham and the Nottingham Trent University, and will take place on 17-19 March 2008. This year, the lead panel will focus on ‘National Identities, Minority Cultures and Their International Contexts: From Medieval Universalism to Postcolonial Globalisation’. There will 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 **30 November 2007**. Any proposals for additional panels should reach Peter Davies by **31 October 2007**.

Lead Panel

National Identities, Minority Cultures and Their International Contexts: From Medieval Universalism to Postcolonial Globalisation

Convener: Dirk Goettsche (University of Nottingham)

dirk.goettsche@nottingham.ac.uk

Proposals are welcome from all areas of German Studies – literature, culture, film studies, history, politics, and linguistics – for papers discussing any aspect of the interaction between minority cultures, national identity discourses, and their international contexts in any period of German, Austrian or Swiss history. Contributions could, for example, address the following themes:

- cross-cultural experience and its impact on domestic culture and identity (in any particular period or across the centuries);
- minority culture, cross-cultural experience and their international contexts in the development of the German language and its variants;
- critiques of national and cultural identity in German critical theory and philosophy;
- interactions between the regional, the national and the international in German, Austrian and Swiss history and culture;
- minority cultures, transnational experience and the rise of German national identity in the 19th century;
- diasporic literatures and cultures in the German speaking world (German-Turkish, Oriental, East European, African, etc.), their national and transnational implications;

- legacies of colonialism and aspects of postcolonialism in German literature, film and culture;
- globalisation and its impact on the culture of the German speaking countries;
- German cross-cultural and postcolonial discourses and their relationship to relevant discourses in Anglophone, Francophone etc. culture and theory.

These are, however, only indications of the range of contributions to the lead strand at Nottingham in 2008; relevant proposals in other areas will be welcome.

Literary and Cultural Theory

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

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, and burning methodological issues, including applications of theory to specific texts, corpuses, materials.

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) 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) L.Marven@liverpool.ac.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 71st meeting on any aspect of Early Modern literature, culture, thought or the visual arts.

Eighteenth-Century Studies**Convenor: Dan Wilson (Royal Holloway) D.Wilson@rhul.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.

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: Debbie Pinfold (Bristol) Debbie.Pinfold@bristol.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.