



Newsletter

August 2008

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News from the Seventy-First Meeting

The Seventy-First Meeting was hosted by the Department of German of the University of Nottingham and the Department of Languages and International Studies of the Nottingham Trent University, 26-28 March 2008. The Meeting was held at the University of Nottingham. The conference was attended by 76 members.

Opening Business

Conferees were welcomed by Dr Maike Oergel and Professor Bill Niven on behalf of the two host institutions.

Apologies for absence were received from Professors Rhys Williams and Sarah Colvin.

Representatives of publishers Peter Lang and Camden House and *German Life and Letters* were welcomed, as were Frau Antje Schlamm and Frau Eva Knopf of the DAAD and Dr Ben Hutchinson of the IGRS.

The upward trend in numbers attending was maintained for Nottingham. Postgraduate membership had increased in the past year and there was a healthy PG presence at the conference.

Promotions

The following promotions were announced:

Dr Jürgen Barkhoff has been promoted to Associate Professor of German at Trinity College Dublin; Dr Matthew Bell was promoted from Senior Lecturer to Professor of German and Comparative Literature at King's College London; Dr Daniela Berghahn was promoted to Reader in Film Studies at Royal Holloway; Dr Ian Foster has been promoted to Senior Lecturer at Salford University; Dr Duncan Large (Swansea) was promoted to Professor; Dr Andrea Reiter was promoted to Senior Lecturer at the University of Southampton; Professor Colin Riordan was appointed Vice Chancellor of Essex; Dr Peter Thompson was promoted to Senior Lecturer at the Department of Germanic Studies, University of Sheffield; he also founded the Centre for Ernst Bloch Studies and serves as its director; Dr Gert Vonhoff was promoted to Associate Professor of German at the University of Exeter.

Retirements:

The following retirements were announced:

Dr Mary E Stewart retiring from her Senior Lectureship at Robinson College Cambridge in September 2008; Professor Rhys Williams, Pro-Vice Chancellor at Swansea and former president of CUTG is retiring in September 2008; Professor Martina Lauster will be taking early retirement in September 2008.

Birthdays:

The following birthdays were announced:

Professor Hamish Ritchie celebrated his eightieth birthday on 10 July 2007; Dr Rosemary Combridge (Queen Mary, London) celebrated her 80th birthday in January 2008; Prof Ian Wallace was 65 in December 2007; also 65 this year: David Hill.

Deaths

Irene Morris died 8 August 2007 in Cambridge. Irene, who would have been 94 later that month, was a Fellow in German at Newnham College, Cambridge, from 1947–1966, and then a Senior Lecturer at the University of Nottingham until her retirement.

Mrs Irene Frowen, formerly Lecturer in German, University College London, d. 2007, aged 92.

Professor Michael Butler (University of Birmingham and former president of CUTG) died on 25 November 2007, aged 72.

Mr Richard J Beckley, formerly Lecturer in German, King's College London, d. December 2007 aged 79.

Professor Claus Victor Bock died on 5 January 2008 aged 81. He was Honorary Director of the Institute of Germanic Studies from 1973 to 1981, and Emeritus Professor of German at Westfield College, University of London.

Report from the DAAD

Frau Schlamm identified four areas for report:

1. Current Projects to promote German Studies in the broadest sense. An essay competition had met with a healthy response, with the various prizes (*Praktika* at inter alia Deutsche Welle, Summer Courses at German Universities, etc.) awarded at a reception at the German Embassy. A similar competition was currently being organised, akin to the party game “Consequences” and billed as “What happens next?”.
2. A successful alumni seminar had taken place in Dublin with the EU as its theme. Government HE minister Bill Rammell and university Vice Chancellor Drummond Bone were among the special guests.
3. A successful seminar for university international officers had taken place.
4. New Framework Contracts for *LektorInnen* had been formulated which made explicit the ‘rotational’, i.e. fixed term (4 years) nature of the terms of employment. The DAAD will be liaising with institutions on the implementation of the contracts. The status quo would be maintained for those already in post.

Thus an issue discussed at previous meetings of CUTG had been resolved. The current number of *Lektorate* remained stable, i.e. there had been no cuts.

Frau Knopf outlined current activities in relation to the *Lektorenprogramm* and invited applications for the *SprachassistentInnen* scheme, as advertised in the DAAD's promotional booklet.

Report from UCML

Dr Elizabeth Andersen highlighted some of the recent issues dealt with by UCML, which is now being administered by the Subject Centre for Languages and Linguistics. Conference's attention was directed towards the compensation of fees for students spending their year abroad/term abroad in EU member states.

Papers Presented at the Meeting

The lead theme of the Conference was 'National Identities, Minority Cultures and Their International Contexts: From Medieval Universalism to Postcolonial Globalisation'. Papers on this lead panel covered a wide range of issues, including discussions of ethnic identities within the German-speaking and colonialism. In line with this theme, Professor Margaret Littler gave a plenary paper on 'Cramped Creativity: The Politics of a Minor German Literature'. The host departments were represented by a plenary paper delivered by Dr Dan Hall, entitled '*Märchen*, the Marvellous and More: The Beginnings of the Fantastic in German Literature'.

Alongside the lead panels, the regular CUTG panels continued to demonstrate the benefits of continuity from conference to conference: Twentieth Century Studies (Chair: Debbie Pinfold), Nineteenth Century Studies (Chair: Eleoma Joshua), Eighteenth Century Studies (Chair: Dan Wilson), Linguistics (Chair: Nils Langer), History and Memory (Chair: Anna Saunders), Critical Theory (Chair: Steve Giles), and Gender Studies (Chair: Renate Rechten). There was also a panel on '*Flucht* and *Vertreibung*' (Chair: Bill Niven).

Business meeting

1. Minutes of the Bristol Meeting were approved as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

- German Studies' representative on UCML was confirmed as Dr Elizabeth Andersen.
- HEFCE Review of the funding of the IGRS. As reported by Ben Hutchinson, HEFCE had reconfigured its review of the IGRS with a favourable outcome — the institution future had been underpinned by its recognition and designation as a national centre for 'research facilitation', including the Library. Members were encouraged to make full use of this important resource.
- Date of CUTG meetings. Notwithstanding the alteration made to the date of the present meeting, it was reaffirmed that meetings would always take place annually in the pre-Easter Week. Future hosts (Ulster, Reading) were asked to take note and make the relevant bookings with their own institutions as soon as possible.

3. President's Report

Prof Martina Lauster, at her last conference as President, reported on three research-related issues.

- There had been some rumours of **research-active colleagues excluded from RAE 2008** on the grounds that their units were considered by their own institutions as too small to be submitted. Judging by the feedback presented to the meeting, this would appear to have been a very isolated phenomenon with no cases reported.
- **Recognition of German/Austrian MAs by the AHRC.** Picking up a point raised at the Bristol meeting in 2007 and recorded in its Minutes, Prof Lauster had written to AHRC in May 2007, with copies of her letter sent to NARIC, the body that adjudicates UK equivalence to non-UK degrees, and the members of the AHRC PG-panel in Modern Languages. A reply was received from AHRC only in August, stating that it was obliged to follow NARIC guidelines (from whom no reply has ever been forthcoming). AHRC stated further that in cases where a candidate with a 'continental' MA was considered sufficiently prepared to undertake PhD study by his/her British institution, the ultimate decision is made by the PG-panel. AHRC noted our discipline's concerns and would raise them with the PG-panel, although in the event this did not take place in sufficient time to influence the 2007 round of applications.

Correspondence with the German Studies representative on the PG panel, Prof Gordon Burgess, confirmed that there had been no fault in the system from a purely procedural point of view.

Conference was advised of one spectacular case in the 2007 round involving a candidate with an MA from Freiburg and a pending award of MSt from Oxford who was rejected as having 'insufficient preparation for a PhD'. Dr Kathrin Kohl, on behalf of the candidate, had had a protracted correspondence with AHRC regarding the application of the published selection criteria but to no avail. In light of the change to a very different system of Block Grant Applications in 08-09 it was decided not to take the matter further.

- **Research Excellence Framework (REF)**
A draft response to the details of the scheme released to the Sector by HEFCE had been posted on the CUTG website for comment and feedback from the German Studies community. Prof Lauster recorded her thanks to all those who had contributed and reported that a revised response, now also available on the website, had been submitted to HEFCE. The mechanism used by CUTG for this consultation was welcomed by Conference.

4. Block Grant Applications for PhD study. Feedback was received on the processes at individual institutions for implementing the new scheme.

5. Research Excellence Framework (REF) subsumed in President's Report, above

6. Treasurer's Report

Dr Jim Jordan presented his last report as Treasurer.



Income and Expenditure Account January-December 2007

<u>Summary</u>		<u>Income</u>		<u>UK Account</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance at 1.1.07	£ 6,542.90	Subscriptions	£ 5,615.50	Bristol conference	£ 10,083.80		
Income	15,418.10	Conference income	9,653.67	Publicity & administration	1,045.67		
	21,961.00	Interest	148.93	Scholarships	2,500.00		
Expenditure	13,629.47		£ 15,418.10		£ 13,629.47		
Balance at 31.12.07	£ 8,331.53						

<u>Summary</u>		<u>Income</u>		<u>Irish Account</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance at 1.1.07	€ 5,217.01	Subscriptions	€ 675.25	Bank fees	€ 26.90		
Income	910.85	Conference fees	235.60	Committee expenses	199.97		
	6,127.86		€ 910.85	Travelling scholarships	700.00		
Expenditure	1,026.87			Conference expenditure	100.00		
Balance at 31.12.07	€ 5,100.99				€ 1,026.87		

Jim Jordan, January 2008

Publication & travelling cholarships 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	Yes
Pub.	Hanne Boenisch	July 06	Heinrich Heine and Matthew Arnold	500	
Pub.	Robert Pyrah	July 06	Viennese culture and politics	500	Yes
Trav.	Frauke Matthes	Jan. 07	Paper, Maynooth	250	Yes
Trav.	Elaine Morley	Jan. 07	Research trip, Zurich	250	Yes
Trav.	Filippo Nereo	Jan. 07	Research trip, Moravia	250	Yes
Trav.	Regine Standún	Jan. 07	Research trip, Austria	€350	Yes
Trav.	Elaine Martin	July 07	Paper, Krakow	€350	Yes
Pub.	Andrew Cusack	July 07	The wanderer in C19 German literature	£500	
Pub.	Katharine Griffiths	July 07	The literature of exile & inner emigration	£500	
Trav.	Jeanine Tuschling	Jann. 08	Research trip, Frankfurt am Main	£250	

Summary account for Bristol conference

Income		Expenditure	
Fees	9,821.96	Conference expenses	10,155.23
Subsidy:	£333.27		

7. Dates and Lead Panels for Forthcoming Meetings

Ulster, 6-8 April 2009 (The GDR)

Reading 2010 (Representations of *Alltagskultur*) – exact date tbc

8. Constitution of the New Committee

At Closing Business, Professor Frank Finlay took up his post as President of CUTG. Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh was elected to succeed him as Vice President. Dr Matthew Philpotts was elected to the post of Honorary Treasurer and Dr Christiane Schönfeld and Dr David Clarke were re-elected to the posts of Membership Secretary and Publications and Publicity Secretary respectively.

9. AOB

Conference received and enthusiastically endorsed a suggestion from Professor Julian Preece that an annual CUTG book prize should be established. Professor Preece was willing to approach possible sponsors.

It was agreed, on the suggestion of Prof Perraudin to revisit the relationship between CUTG and HOGMEET at the next meeting of the latter.



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

The next meeting of the CUTG will be hosted by the University of Ulster in Coleraine, and will take place on 6-8 April 2009. This year, to mark the upcoming sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic and the twentieth anniversary of the *Wende*, the lead panel will focus on the GDR. 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 2008**. Any proposals for additional panels should reach Peter Davies by **31 October 2008**.

Lead Panel

The German Democratic Republic

Convener: Pól Ó Dochartaigh (University of Ulster)

p.odochartaigh@ulster.ac.uk

To mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the GDR and the 20th anniversary of the *Wende*, this lead panel will include papers on the history and culture of the GDR. Papers which deal with the representation of the GDR since unification and controversies relating to the GDR and its history are also welcome, as are discussions of the place of GDR Studies within the contemporary German Studies curriculum in Higher Education in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

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: Renate Rechten (Bath) R.A.Rechten@bath.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 and Early Modern Studies

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

Proposals are welcome for papers on any aspect of medieval German studies, the early modern period, or their reception in later periods. Contributions by postgraduate students will be particularly welcome.

Eighteenth-Century Studies

Convener: 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

Contact: Peter Davies (Edinburgh) Peter.J.Davies@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. The CUTG is also looking for a colleague willing to convene this panel.

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.