

# AGS Conference 'German in the World' Oxford 2025

Venues: St John's College and the Taylor Institution Library

AGS 2025 committee: Ian Ellison, Henrike Lähnemann, Karen Leeder,  
Bernhard Malkmus, Barry Murnane, Joanna Neilly

With support from the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, the Humanities Division  
*German Life and Letters*, the DAAD UK & Ireland, the German Embassy, and the Austrian Cultural Forum

**AGS** Association for  
German Studies  
in Great Britain  
and Ireland

FACULTY OF  
**MEDIEVAL  
AND  
MODERN  
LANGUAGES**



**German Life and Letters**

## MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

Arrivals from 1pm, Garden Quad Foyer, St John's College

1.30 Welcomes in the Garden Quad Auditorium, St John's College. Welcome by Prof.

Dan Grimley, Head of Humanities Division.

Professor Karen Leeder, AGS 2025 committee



**St John's College**  
Oxford

2.00-3.30 Plenary Lead Panel: German in the World

Garden Quad Auditorium, St John's College

Chair: Bernhard Malkmus

Ian Cooper: 'Critique of pure worldliness: David Blackbourn, the Reformation, and global Germany'

Sophia Buck: "'The Other Germany.'" From Enemy Studies to Counter-canon and Re-education in the UK'

Bill Niven: 'The Metamemorial: Berlin's Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe'



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



austrian + cultural forum<sup>lon</sup>

## BREAK, Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College

4.00-5.30	Critters and Pests (1) North Lecture Room	Speakers of 'Minority German' in the German-Speaking World Prestwich Room	19th-and early 20th-century Larkin Room	Literary and Filmic Explorations of the 'good enough life' (1) Room 2, Taylor Institution
	<p>Chair: Alice Christensen</p> <p>Anna Richards: "“Mit einer einzelnen Schnecke hätte er vielleicht noch Mitleid haben können,... aber mit so einem dicken braunen Batzen?”: Slugs, empathy and individuation in Karen Duve's <i>Regenroman</i>"</p> <p>Katie Unwin: 'Critters and Futures: Trash Animal Teachings in German Language Speculative Fiction'</p> <p>Ina Linge: "“Eine neutrale, geschlechtslose Form”: Nature, Nationalism and Geschlecht in Hanns Heinz Ewers' <i>Ameisen</i> (1925)"</p>	<p>Chair: Nadine Buchmann</p> <p>Joseph W. Moser: 'Herta Müller's Engagement with the Romanian Language in her Literary Oeuvre'</p> <p>Andrea Abel: 'Which German at School? On Dealing with Linguistic Variation in the South Tyrolean School System'</p> <p>Verena Rasp: 'Writing in a language contact situation. Exploring argumentative texts from the German-speaking Community of Belgium'</p> <p>Nadine Buchmann: 'Teaching Minority German: Methods, Perspectives, and Linguistic Realities'</p>	<p>Chair: Margit Dirscherl</p> <p>Sina Stuhler: 'Heroines of Pathos: Emotion, Pathos, and Patriarchy in Emma Vely's <i>Herodias</i>'</p> <p>Katherine Calvert: 'Women's Newspapers as Sites of Activist Community Building in Early Twentieth-Century Germany'</p> <p>Yaroslava Kovalova: 'The Image of Galicia in Joseph Roth's Journalistic Work (<i>Reisereportagen</i>, 1924-1928)'</p>	<p>Chair: Anne Fuchs and Gillian Pye</p> <p>Maria Roca-Lizarazu: "“Infrastructures for Troubling Times” (Berlant): Racialised Violence, Relationality and Futurity in Shida Bazzyar's <i>Drei Kameradinnen</i>"</p> <p>Axel Goodbody: 'Gardening and the “good enough” life: Daniel Schreiber's <i>Allein</i>'</p> <p>Evelyn Preuss: 'Home(less) in Jena, or An Open Ending is Happy Enough in Olivia Vieweg's <i>EndZeit</i> (2018)'</p> <p>Denise Henschel: 'Crip-Queer Temporalities: Navigating the “Good Enough Life” in Selma Kay Matter's <i>Muskeln aus Plastik</i> (2024)'</p>

## BREAK, Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College

6pm President's Guest Natasha A. Kelly in conversation with Kirstin Gwyer, followed by Q&A, Garden Quad Auditorium, St John's College

7pm Drinks reception, Canterbury Quad Cloisters, St John's College

7.30pm Conference Dinner, Dining Hall, St John's College

## TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

9.00-10.30	Staging and Performing in the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century North Lecture Room	New developments and trends in Deutsch als Fremdsprache (DaF) Prestwich Room	German and the Environmental Humanities (1) Larkin Room	Transforming Kafka. Adaptation, Interpretation, Community Room 2, Taylor Institution
	<p>Chair: Pauline Preisler</p> <p>Glen Gray: “‘La destra o sinistra’: Metastasio’s Staging of Political Hierarchy’</p> <p>Luke Beller: ‘Staging Sociability: Schiller’s “Sociable Law” in <i>Kabale und Liebe</i>’</p> <p>Rebecca Stewart-Gray: ‘Staging in the Score and on the Stage: Racialization in Mozart and Schikaneder’s <i>Die Zauberflöte</i>’</p> <p>Pauline Preisler: ‘All the dream is a stage: Staging the unconscious in Jean Pauls <i>Blick in die Traumwelt</i> and Thomas De Quincey’s <i>Confessions of an English Opium Eater</i>’</p>	<p>Chair: Mandy Poetzsch</p> <p>Dorit Fellner-Whitgreave and Hanna Magedera: ‘Games as the Key to Intercultural Communication’</p> <p>Claire O’Reilly: ‘Rethinking Traditional Approaches to Study Abroad, Reimagining SA in the future’</p> <p>Emma Riordan: ‘Developing Plurilingual Identities During Study Abroad’</p> <p>Nathalie Stummer: ‘Gender-inclusive language in the German classroom - Perspectives from speakers with English as L1’</p>	<p>Chair: Anja Rekeszus</p> <p>Clara Busch: ‘Entangled Methodologies and Seismic Writing in Judith Schalansky’s <i>Servus Versus</i> and <i>Schwankende Kanarien</i>’</p> <p>Conor Brennan: ‘Oh Schriftsteller, oh Schutz vor ihnen: Environmentalist “Nestbeschmutzung” in international comparison’</p> <p>Anja Rekeszus: ‘Bark Beetle Devastation and Far-Right Support in the German Harz Region’</p>	<p>Carolyn Duttlinger, Ian Ellison, Katrin Kohl, and Barry Murnane</p> <p>Introducing some of the collaborations developed under the auspices of our AHRC-funded project ‘Kafka’s Transformative Communities’, this panel will discuss the importance of engaging with creative artists as a means of finding bold and innovative routes into the Prague writer’s fiction.</p>

## BREAK, Garden Quad Reception Room, St John’s College

11.00-12.30	Lead Panel German in the World North Lecture Room	Eighteenth-Century Studies Prestwich Room	Germanophone culture in (Habsburg) Central Europe: alternative voices of community Larkin Room	Centring Marginalised Perspectives (W+IGS Panel) Room 2, Taylor Institution
	<p>Chair: Karen Leeder</p> <p>Yejun Zou: ‘Rethinking the GDR through China: The Depiction of the</p>	<p>Chair: Joanna Raisbeck</p> <p>Elystan Griffiths: ‘Kleist’s Palimpsests’</p>	<p>Chair: Martin Lindner</p> <p>Wolfgang Müller-Funk: ‘The end of national literatures? Fragments of an “impossible” literary history of the Central</p>	<p>Chair: Margaret Littler</p> <p>Robin Crawford: ‘Development and its Failures: Reading Klaus Mann’s <i>Der</i></p>

<p>Chinese Rites Controversy in Peter Hacks' <i>Der Bischof von China</i>'</p> <p>Hans Lind: 'Fictions of Homogeneity: The "Sorbian Problem" in Law and Literature'</p> <p>Kemal Sultanov: 'Die Schaubühne in Strasbourg: vom Halleschen Tor zur École déconstructionniste de Strasbourg, 1975-1982'</p> <p>Kiyoko Myojo: 'Conveying Kafka's writing process to a Japanese audience: An alternative to Editionsweisenschaft'</p>	<p>Alexandra Hertlein: 'Becoming Stone. Romanticism, Deep Time, and the Boundaries of the Human'</p> <p>Flavio Auer: 'Platonism and Empiricism in Enlightenment Science. Christlob Mylius and Christoph Martin Wieland'</p> <p>Marie-Christine Alberts: 'Friederike Brun as a woman of letters and transcultural mediator'</p>	<p>European region. Constellations, entanglements, interferences, interactions.'</p> <p>Veronika Jičinská: 'Women's writing in the Czech Lands in the first decades of the 20th century'</p> <p>Clemens Ruthner: 'Realism Rules? On a possible connection between empire, nationalism, genre and epoch in "Kakanien"'</p> <p>Sabine Egger: 'Somnolent memories in Jaroslav Rudiš' novel <i>Winterbergs letzte Reise</i>: A literary act of "Sterbebegleitung" for "Central Europe"?'</p>	<p><i>fromme Tanz</i> (1926) as Queer Bildungsroman'</p> <p>Tobias Heinrich: 'Subverting the Colonial Gaze in German Migrant Cinema: Amel Alzakout and Kahled Abdulwahed's <i>Purple Sea</i>'</p> <p>Charlotta Seiler Brylla and Ingo H. Warnke: 'If a Center Claims to Be the Margin - Considerations on Mimicry of Marginality'</p>
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LUNCH Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College

1.30-3.00	<b>German Screen Studies</b> <b>Mark Bedingham Room, St John's College Study Centre</b>	<b>Critters and Pests (2)</b> <b>North Lecture Room</b>	<b>Language and Linguistics</b> <b>Prestwich Room</b>	<b>National Postgraduate Colloquium in German Studies and Emerging Scholars</b> <b>Larkin Room</b>
	<p>Chair: Christiane Schönfeld</p> <p>Marco Abel: 'With Nonchalance at the Abyss: The Cinema of the New Munich Group (1964-1972)'</p> <p>Dora Osborne: 'Fur and Fascism in <i>The Zone of Interest</i> (2023) and <i>Finsterworld</i> (2013)'</p> <p>Leila Mukhida: 'Nostalgia in the films of Valeska Grisebach'</p>	<p>Chair: Ina Linge</p> <p>Lee Holt: 'Insect, interrupted - Humans and the silkworm. Three stages of a relationship'</p> <p>Margaret Ives: "'Horcht! Einen Floh! Habt ihr das wohl gefasst?" On the significance of the insects in Goethe's <i>Faust</i>'</p> <p>Alice Christensen: 'Käfer, que faire: The philological beetle and the helplessness of all life'</p>	<p>Chair: Sascha Stollhans</p> <p>Cecilia Berti: 'A critical discourse analysis of populist women leaders of radical right parties between 2012-2021 with Marine Le Pen, Alice Weidel, Frauke Petry and Giorgia Meloni as case studies'</p> <p>Geraldine Horan: "'Kein Nazis he op unser Plätz!" The instrumentalisation of dialect in political discourse in Cologne'</p> <p>Björn Kasper, 'Politik Leicht gemacht - The Potential of "Leichte Sprache" for Cultural Learning in Beginner-Level University DaF Courses'</p> <p>Michael Hofer-Robinson and Janina M. Vernal Schmidt: 'The Societal and Emancipatory Function of DaF/DaZ and Culture-Based Learning'</p>	<p>Chair: Katie Unwin, Pauline Pressler</p> <p>Hesther Farge: "'The coat wants me, and I want it. We have each other": Furlands in the Fiction of Jean Rhys and Irmgard Keun'</p> <p>Danya Harvey: 'Transidentifications: Autofiction and Translingualism in the Germanophone Context'</p> <p>Lisa Hufschmidt: 'Constructing an Analytical Model for Photopoems: Methodological Approaches and Considerations'</p> <p>Anna Hell: 'The Magic Lantern as an Object of Collective and Individual Memory in 20th-Century Literature'</p>

## BREAK, Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College

3.30-5.00	<b>Schools Panel</b> <b>North Lecture Room</b>	<b>Black Literature and Culture in German (1)</b> <b>Prestwich Room</b>	<b>Medieval German in the Modern World</b> <b>Larkin Room</b>	<b>Postgraduate/ECA Roundtable</b> <b>Room 2, Taylor Institution</b>
	<p>Chair: Ian Ellison</p> <p>with Katrin Kohl Ian Ellison Charlotte Ryland</p>	<p>Chair: Kirstin Gwyer</p> <p>Tara Talwar Windsor: 'Resonances across time and space: a festival of literary</p>	<p>Chair: Sarah Bowden</p> <p>Josephine Spelsberg: 'Sexist or feminist? A comparison between the fifteenth-century</p>	<p>Chairs: Katherine Calvert and Joe Prestwich</p> <p>This session is specifically targeted at anyone who</p>

	Joseph Mehrabian Ed Turner Daniela Havenstein	performance, knowledge production and political intervention' Tom Smith: 'Black Gay Nights: Black Queer Performers around Berlin's Club Scene' Kendra Löwer: 'Linguistic and performative resistance in Stefanie-Lahya Aukongo's, Audre Lorde's and May Ayim's poetry'	epic Salman und Morolf and the twenty-first-century motion picture <i>Jennifer's Body</i> Julia Brusa: 'Memes and Emblems - A Comparative Analysis of Meaning-Making Strategies, Analogy and Metaphor' Sarah Bowden and Almut Surbaum: 'Medieval Literature and Contemporary Creative Practice'	identifies as a postgraduate or early-career academic and is an opportunity to discuss our experiences in a relaxed, supportive environment. The session will take a roundtable format with discussions covering issues specific to postgraduates and early-career academics, including research and teaching opportunities, research-related careers, and managing the challenges faced by PGRs and ECAs.
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## BREAK

## 5.30-6.45pm Opening of the exhibition 'German in the World'

including a musical recital, Taylor Institute, Room 2 and Voltaire Room, with a reception sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum and an introduction by Katharina Rauscher, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy

## 7.30 Dinner, Dining Hall, St John's College

## After-dinner options

Pubs / coffee social in Jericho

9.30 Latin-German Compline in Norman Crypt, St Edmund Hall

## WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

9.00-10.00: AGS Business Meeting in the Garden Quad Auditorium, St John's College

10.00-11.00: The German Ambassador, 'Making the Case for German' in the Garden Quad Auditorium, St John's College

**11-11.30am BREAK, Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College**

11.30-1.00pm	Lead Panel German in the World North Lecture Room	Black Literature and Culture in German (2) Prestwich Room	German and the Environmental Humanities (2) Larkin Room	Elias Canetti and the British in a European Context Room 2, Taylor Institution
	<p>Chair: Joanna Neilly</p> <p>Georgina Paul: 'Hitchcock's Sandmann, or E.T.A. Hoffmann goes to Hollywood'</p> <p>Karolina Watroba: 'Weimar Worlds: A New Cultural History of Interwar Germany'</p>	<p>Chair: Tara Talwar Windsor and Natasha A. Kelly</p> <p>Hannah Scheithauer: 'The Sankofa Bird and the Angel of History: Narrative Temporality and Memory Ethics in Sharon Dodua Otoo's <i>Adas Raum</i> (2021) and Anouar Benmalek's <i>Fils du Shéol</i> (2015)'</p> <p>Lawrence Alexander: 'Looking for the Faces of Black People in Berlin's Empty Centre: May Ayim and Hito Steyerl'</p> <p>Santhia Velasco Kittlaus: 'But what on earth is whiteness, that one should so desire it?' On Race, Silence, and the Legacy of the Good German'</p> <p>Sina Menrad: 'Project-based learning with Postcolonial German Literature'</p>	<p>Chair: Anja Rekeszus</p> <p>Eliott Sturdy: 'A new relationality: nature as subject in Ludwig Fischer's <i>Naturallianzen</i>'</p> <p>Sarah Alicia Schwarz: 'Re-Visiting Nature. Adalbert Stifter's <i>Die Mappe meines Urgroßvaters</i> and the therapeutic practices of eco-conscious living'</p> <p>Tara Beaney: 'Storms and the Spectre of Catastrophe in Theodor Fontane's "Die Brück" am Tay" (1879) and Theodor Storm's <i>Der Schimmelreiter</i> (1888)'</p> <p>Nicholas Jones: 'Anticipating the Crisis: Alfred Döblin and Interwar Ecological Thought'</p>	<p>Chair: Margit Discherl</p> <p>Julian Preece: 'Crowds, Politics and Power: Canetti's Observations on Current Affairs, 1945-1990'</p> <p>Magdalini Makres: '<i>Das Buch Gegen Tod</i> und "Death shall have no dominion": Canettis kuriose Faszination an Dylan Thomas'</p> <p>Jack Arscott: 'Trials of a Translator'</p>

**1pm LUNCH AND GOODBYE Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College**

For those staying on:

4pm-5.00pm Ulrike Draesner and Caroline Bergvall, 'Echoes and Voices from the Medieval in Contemporary Writing', introduced by Karen Leeder and Almut Suerbaum in Floar Anderson Hall, Somerville College, followed by drinks, as a bridge to the Anglo-German Colloquium starting on Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Oxford.