Founded in 2004, the Waterloo Centre for German Studies supports research on the languages, cultures, and societies of the German-speaking peoples, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Our members research a range of subjects: political science, history, language pedagogy, film, culture, literature, applied linguistics, and more. To share our work with the public, research talks, cultural exhibits, and performances take place throughout the year.

Take a look at what we’ve already done
Connecting Researchers
The WCGS facilitates communication among scholars in German Studies, broadly conceived. To that end, we offer the German Studies Forum, an annual gathering for researchers that takes place each December in Southwestern Ontario. We’ve also supported member-organized research groups focused on applied language studies, the environment, Austrian studies, and German-Canadian studies, to name a few. Members who wish to form ad-hoc research groups may also apply for funding to support their activities.

Conferences & Colloquia
The WCGS has held many conferences and colloquia over the years. Here’s a sample:

- Diaspora Experiences: German-Speaking Immigrants and their Descendants (2006)
- Conference on Cinema and Social Change in Germany and Austria (2008)
- 15 Years of United Germany: The Effects of Unification (2005)
- German Language Didactics Colloquium (2006, 2008)
- Romantic Ecology Symposium (2011)
- Transitions and Traditions: German Curricula (2010)
- Dream of the Other Europe: Rethinking Germanistik through the Balkans (2012)
- Austrian Studies Association Annual Conference (2013)
- Power and Daily Life in East Germany (2013)

Oral History Collection
From October 2013 to March 2015, WCGS members interviewed over 100 people of German descent to record the oral history of the German community in Waterloo Region. The participants ranged in age from 28 to 94, and either they or their parents were born in Europe. The transcripts are currently being archived and will be made available to researchers in Linguistics, History, and Cultural Studies.

WCGS Book Series
The WCGS has published the following books under the WCGS Book Series:

- Liberty is Dead: A Canadian in Germany, 1938. Wegenast, Franklin Wellington. Derry, Margaret, editor (2012)
- Traditions and Transitions. Curricula for German Studies. Schmenk, Barbara and John Plews, editors (2013)

Funding
Members are able to apply for funding for various projects and conferences. Please contact us for more information.

For questions, or to become a member, contact us:

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Stay up-to-date on our events, our Oral History Project, and more.

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