Dear Donor,

It is the time of year when we take stock of our research projects and our cultural and educational programming of the last twelve months. The 13th year of the WCGS has been an eventful and successful one and we continue to fulfill our mandate:

- To conduct research on the language, culture, and civilization of German-speaking peoples, from both historical and contemporary perspectives
- To provide a wide range of educational and cultural activities for the academy and the broader community
- To engage with German-Canadian heritage

Thanks in part to your support, we’ve been able to further our reach in these areas. Below you’ll find a summary of our activities for 2015-2016.

**German Studies Research**

The WCGS held its annual German Studies Forum (GSF) in December. The GSF allows researchers to network, create research groups, and update their peers on the progress of their various projects. The University of Toronto’s Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures co-hosted the event.

Through the year, we have also supported many research initiatives, including colloquia, conferences, and workshops. In several cases, organizers required the WCGS’s support to apply for and then receive additional support from other funding sources. In addition, two books—one on the history of the German Democratic Republic and one on contemporary Austria—are being edited by Centre members for the WCGS Book Series.

**Educational and Cultural Activities**

We held several events this year, including film screenings, author readings, and lectures. By far our most successful was the 2015 Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Lecture, given by UWaterloo professor Dr. Alice Kuzniar. titled "The Birth of
Homeopathy out of the Spirit of 1800: Medicine as Cultural History. There was standing room only in the lecture hall. Her lecture is available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqNap5Ehao. On the attached list, you’ll find all the events we either hosted or co-sponsored throughout the year.

Engaging with German-Canadian Heritage

Work on the book for the oral history project is coming along. Tentatively titled The Germans of Waterloo Region, the manuscript was in the second draft stage by the end of the fiscal year. It incorporates all 110 interviews conducted from 2013-2015. Twenty-two authors and three editors are diligently working on it in the hope of completing it for a publisher in the coming months.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the Waterloo Centre for German Studies. Because of your donation, the Centre has been able to grow over the past several years, and we hope to offer more events and support more research in the coming years.

Regards,

Dr. Mathias Schulze,
Director, Waterloo Centre for German Studies
List of Events for 2015-2016

Contra Punctus: Author Visit from Michael Götting

Event Type: Reading Date: 1/26/16

Presenter(s): Michael Götting

Description: Michael Götting is an author, journalist and curator. His novel Contrapunctus (Counterpoint) was published in September 2015. He received his MA in North American Studies and German Studies from Freie Universität Berlin. Götting writes for ZEIT ONLINE, Deutschlandfunk and the Tagesspiegel and works as a freelance artist and curator for Berlin’s postmigrant theatre Ballhaus Naunystrasse. Currently, he is living in Toronto, working on his second novel. Excerpts from Contrapunctus will be read in both English and German. Afterwards, the floor will be opened to questions. The discussion will be held in English. All are welcome, and knowledge of German isn’t necessary.

Digging up the Doll: Inherited Memories of the Removal of German Nationals From Eastern Europe

Event Type: Presentation Date: 11/26/15

Presenter(s): Dr. Linda Wharley (University of Waterloo)

Description: In this paper Prof. Warley considers her mother’s experiences as a child refugee in 1945. She was just one of millions of German nationals who were forced from their homes in various parts of Eastern Europe during the final months of WWII when Hitler and Stalin moved the borders. Prof. Warley will discuss how her mother’s story—and those like it—are passed on to their children and become part of the next generation’s subjectivities.
**Digital Games for Language Learning: State of the Art, Research, and Practice**

**Event Type:** Presentation

**Date:** 12/8/15

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Jonathon Reinhardt (University of Arizona)

**Description:** As digital gaming has increased in popularity and become a global practice, computer-assisted language learning (CALL) researchers and second and foreign language (L2) educators have begun reconsidering games as potential L2 teaching and learning (L2TL) resources. To provide an overview of this new field, this talk surveys the history and theory of games in CALL and presents the origins of the field, rationale for the use of games in L2TL, games purposed for L2TL, and major research findings.

**Film screening: Die andere Heimat (dir. Edgar Reitz)**

**Event Type:** Film screening

**Date:** 3/16/16

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Thomas Wortmann (Universität Mannheim)

**Description:** The concluding film (which is also a prequel) to Edgar Reitz magnum opus Heimat. Released in 2013 to great acclaim, “Die andere Heimat” returns to the village of Schabbach, but this time it is the middle of the 19th century.

**German Studies Forum**

**Event Type:** Research Forum

**Date:** 12/7/15

**Presenter(s):** Researchers from universities across Southwestern Ontario

**Description:** The German Studies Forum aims to 1) inform colleagues and graduate students about funding opportunities for German Studies research through the WCGS, 2) initiate new and boost existing collaborative research among colleagues and graduate students of universities in southwestern Ontario, and 3) foster new and extended venues for the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of research. We’ll have very short (1-minute) presentations in the morning, during which individual colleagues and graduate students can introduce their research interests, ideas, and projects. This will be followed by a few presentations about projects in progress. Breakout sessions for groups interested in the same or similar projects will take place in the afternoon.
God's Busted Knee & More: A Visit From Author Marc Degens

Event Type: Reading  Date: 2/23/16

Presenter(s): Marc Degens

Description: Marc Degens, born in 1971 in Essen, Germany, has been living in Toronto since 2014. He’s a writer, publisher, program director of the publishing house “SuKuLTuR”, and e-book dealer (minimore.de). He studied German Literature and Sociology in Bochum, Germany. “Unsere Popmoderne,” his column about fictitious novels, ran from 2001 to 2012 in the “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” and “Volltext.” In 2009, SuKuLTuR Verlag published the novel “Strobo,” which was the epicentre of a copyright infringement case about Helene Hegemann’s debut novel, “Axolotl Roadkill.” Marc Degens has published numerous books, including four novels.

Grimm Lecture: The Birth of Homeopathy out of the Spirit of 1800: Medicine as Cultural History

Event Type: Presentation  Date: 9/25/15

Presenter(s): Dr. Alice Kuzniar (University of Waterloo)

Description: Alice Kuzniar, Professor of German and English at the University of Waterloo, is currently working on her fifth book, The Romantic Art of Homeopathy. She reviewed numerous ways in which homeopathy is a product of its time. Referencing German philosophers, poets, physicists, and physicians from around 1800, she looked at the pervasive notion in Romantic science of a “vital life force” and how it informed homeopathy’s concepts of healing and the infinitesimal dose.

Julya Rabinowich's Transnational Poetics

Event Type: Presentation  Date: 10/30/15

Presenter(s): Dr. Christina Guenther (Bowling Green State University)

Description: Even before migration became such an urgent issue in the European Union, it was the focal point of Julya Rabinowich's writing and art. Prof. Guenther explores how Rabinowich transforms practices of cultural transfer and translation into narrative and dramatic art forms that highlight the impact of political persecution and economic developments.
**Lichtgrenze (The Berlin Wall as a Border of Light): A Talk by Creator Marc Bauder**

**Event Type:** Presentation  
**Date:** 5/29/15

**Presenter(s):** Marc Bauder

**Description:** Lichtgrenze is an art installation created by Marc and Christopher Bauder, two German artists and filmmakers. Marc Bauder gave a talk at the Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies’ conference.

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**Mapping educational trajectories: What effect does transitioning between online and on-campus courses have on learning?**

**Event Type:** Presentation  
**Date:** 4/15/16

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Mathias Schulze (University of Waterloo)

**Description:** Online courses can provide students with new forms of social and learning interaction, widen their access to education, and offer an individualized learning experience in large classes. However, little research exists examining how students transfer between online and on-campus courses and what effects this has on students’ academic success. This presentation discusses new data gathered from language courses with online and on-campus counterparts that help to better understand the extent to which online learning enables students to meet their intended learning outcomes.

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**Remediating Nature: Presenting the Natural World in 18th Century Children’s Literature**

**Event Type:** Presentation  
**Date:** 11/21/15

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Nikola von Merveldt (Université de Montréal)

**Description:** Nikola von Merveldt researches children’s literature and its historical context. Her studies focus on the history of the book as a material object and social medium that isn’t only the intellectual product of the author, but also the commercial, technological, and cultural product of an epoch.
**Seminar: Spinoza, Goethe, Deleuze: All is Leaf (or Rhizome--take your pick)**

Event Type: Workshop  
Date: 3/12/16

Presenter(s): Dr. Frederick Amrine (University of Michigan Ann Arbor), Michail Vlasopoulos (University of Chicago), William Morgan (University of Michigan)

Description: The German Romantic Novalis called Baruch Spinoza a "God-intoxicated man." Next to Rousseau, there is hardly a more influential thinker for late 18th-century German intellectual life. Spinoza's belief in the unity of nature and spirit, along with the unity of all that exists, was attractive to Lessing, Goethe, Hölderlin, Novalis, and Schelling, among others. After Gilles Deleuze's re-popularization of Spinoza, the 17th-century philosopher's influence cannot be underestimated for a range of theoretical approaches today, from affect theory to neo-vitalism. This seminar dug deeper into understanding Spinoza by first studying Goethe through Spinoza and then Spinoza through Deleuze.

**The Commodification of Language in Late Modernity**

Event Type: Presentation  
Date: 11/2/15

Presenter(s): Dr. Monica Heller (University of Toronto)

Description: In this talk Prof. Heller will consider some of the ways in which the authenticity of language, culture and identity associated with the nation-state have been destabilized by the conditions of the globalized new economy (sometimes referred to as late or high modernity, or late capitalism). In particular, using examples from francophone Canada, Prof. Heller will talk about some of the dilemmas related to the commodification of language both as symbol of authenticity (as in tourism, or the locavore movement) and as a technical skill (as in call centres, or translation).

**Visual, Cultural and Literary Codes: Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies' Annual Conference**

Event Type: Conference  
Date: 5/29/15

Presenter(s): Students from Germanic & Slavic Studies (University of Waterloo), Dr. Beate Henn-Memmesheimer (Universität Mannheim), Marc Bauder

Description: This is the annual conference of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. Keynote Speakers are Prof. Dr. Beate Henn-Memmesheimer from Universität Mannheim and German filmmaker and artist Marc Bauder.
**Was nützt die Ferne in Gedanken? Edgar Reitz’ Filmepos „Die andere Heimat. Chronik einer Sehnsucht“**

**Event Type:** Presentation  
**Date:** 3/18/16

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Thomas Wortmann (Universität Mannheim)

**Description:** “Hope dies,” summarizes Thomas E. Schmidt in the German national paper Die Zeit, “and yearning outlives it by far.” Reitz’s film can be seen that way. This presentation, however, suggests a different perspective: namely that the film presents a longing to travel as a subtle cultural technique of staying home.

**Workshop: Nature & Education Circa 1800**

**Event Type:** Workshop  
**Date:** 11/21/15

**Presenter(s):** Various Researchers

**Description:** Isis was the veiled goddess of nature who inspired German writers from Schiller to Novalis. Jean Paul Richter, too, fantasized about Isis: once one tried to lift the veil on nature, he said, the veil would continually extend itself. How, then can one come to know and learn about nature? What tropes and language are used to make nature become visible? How does one communicate and disseminate this knowledge? How, in short, is nature re-mediated around 1800? This workshop was organized by the WCGS Research Group on Poetics and Nature circa 1800.