Language, culture, and society... it’s all here.

Through presentations, performances, and exhibitions from around the world, the Waterloo Centre for German Studies offers a host of events for the general public to interact with the languages, cultures, and societies of the German-speaking peoples.

We answer questions like these and many, many more through our research and public events. Have a look at what we’re all about.
Previous Public Events

JACOB-AND-WILHELM GRIMM LECTURES
Our flagship lecture series is named after the Brothers Grimm, who first defined German Studies as a subject of research.

• Citizenship in Germany: From Mono-Cultural to Multi-Cultural Society
• Recent Developments in Post-War Austrian German: A Case Study on Genre-Related Language Change
• The Birth of Homeopathy out of the Spirit of 1800: Medicine as Cultural History

MOVIE SCREENINGS AND PERFORMANCES
• Festival of German and Austrian movies
• Free movie screenings as part of German film courses
• Faust in a Box, a one-woman show
• Voltaire & Frederick: A Life in Letters
• Author readings with German-language writers from Waterloo Region, Mongolia, and India

FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS
• Language learning through rap music
• Professional development workshops

EXHIBITIONS
• The Life and Art of Gustav Klimt
• Dictatorship and Democracy in an Age of Extremes
• Names Instead of Numbers: Documenting Prisoners of the Dachau Concentration Camp

PUBLIC TALKS
• 100 Years Since WWI: Dictatorship and Democracy in an Age of Extremes
• Austrian Immigration to Canada - 1938 to 1970
• Deutschland und die Deutschen im Berliner Journal
• What Do Language Learners Do, Exactly?
• Guttenberg to Google Street View - Germany Today as Seen by its Cartoonists

Research

The WCGS’s members cover many different areas of research related to the languages, cultures, and societies of the German-speaking peoples: politics, history, linguistics, language learning, literature, and film studies, to name a few.

The WCGS’s largest project to date is an oral history project. Between August 2013 and March 2015, over 30 WCGS members conducted and transcribed 110 interviews with ethnic Germans and Austrians and/or their children. Processing the interviews is still continuing and will culminate in an archive available to researchers in history, culture, linguistics, and more.

The WCGS also supports research groups, which allow members to meet and share their knowledge. Previous groups have organized conferences, workshops, and movie screenings.

Scholarship & Travel Grants

Travel grants help undergraduate and graduate students to participate in a university exchange program. Research grants help graduate students focus on their academic projects.

As receiving the Piller Award freed me up to focus primarily on my own work, I was also able to secure my first publication [...] , which was in the Fall 2014 issue of Die Unterrichtspraxis, a well-respected journal in the field of German Studies.

Darren Jones,
Undergraduate student in Environmental Studies
2015 RECIPIENT OF THE FRED & RUTH STORK AWARD IN GERMAN STUDIES

“This past year has been, without a doubt, the most eye-opening and educational of my life. Through this opportunity I have learned to adapt to a completely different way of living, I have met so many interesting people from all walks of life, I have tried countless new things and I have greatly improved my German language skills.

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Find out More!

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If you’d like to support the WCGS’s activities, consider making a donation. Please contact Kim Bardwell, Office of Advancement, at 519-888-4567, ext. 37310, or kim.bardwell@uwaterloo.ca.

WATERLOO CENTRE for German studies

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