



Waterloo Centre for German Studies

Annual Report, 2023-2024

As we reflect on the past year, we're excited to recall the various events, projects, and students we've supported and to celebrate the community that is the Waterloo Centre for German Studies.

STUDENT SUPPORT

2023 marked the 10th anniversary of **The Cecilia and the Late George Piller Graduate Research Award**. This generous award has provided \$4,000 scholarships to over 20 University of Waterloo students since 2013. The 2024 awardees are yet another example of outstanding graduate research happening at the University of Waterloo:

- Amanda Hooper, PhD candidate in History – *The “Capital of the Holocaust”: Rethinking the Role of Auschwitz in Holocaust History*.
- Anna Kuhn, Intercultural German Studies MA candidate – *A Call for ‘Widerstand’? Identifying Strategies of the New Right’s Language and Literature Policy*.



It was also another record year for the **Fred and Ruth Stork Award in German Studies**.

We had over **100** applicants for this programming to support student mobility and were able to provide travel awards totalling just over \$30,000 to **65 students** from **16 universities** across Canada. To the right is a picture of The Fred Ruth Stork Award recipients who participated in the Canadian Summer School in Germany run by Professor John Plews at St. Mary's University.

Congratulations as well to the five UW students who received a **Marga I. Weigel German Study Abroad Award** to fund their travels to Germany this year: Alyn Shao (Electrical Engineering), Caterina Boronka (Liberal Arts), Dorothy Chan (Psychology and German), Ethan Wellenreiter (Computer Science), and Jacob Sanders (Sustainability and Financial Management).

RESEARCH SUPPORT

WCGS Diversity and Inclusion Grants

Established in 2021 to aide research and curricula development in German studies, the WCGS Diversity and Inclusion Grants funded **three** graduate student projects:

- Susanna Cassisa, Master of Arts in Germanic Studies, University of British Columbia: Groomer Rumor

The Waterloo Centre for German Studies is a research institute at the University of Waterloo.

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- Ajibola Fabusuyi, PhD Candidate in German Studies, University of British Columbia: *Becoming in Black German Autobiographical Nonfiction and Documentary Filmmaking*
- Christian Zeitz, PhD Candidate in Cinema Studies, University of Toronto: *Between Orientalism and the Posthuman: 21st-Century Television Programming in Multicultural Germany*

and **two** curriculum and programming grants:

- Elizabeth "Biz" Nijdam, Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies, University of British Columbia: *Games for Decolonization* - a two-day hybrid workshop on board games and social justice.
- Sophie Jordan, Germanic Language and Literatures, University of Toronto: *Reading Blackness and Race in Germanic Arthurian Romance* - an open-access online teaching resource on blackness and race in medieval Arthurian texts. To the right is a picture of Sophie presenting her work in 2024.



WCGS Book Prize 2022

Sara Blaylock from the University of Minnesota won the WCGS Book Prize 2022 for her book *Parallel Public: Experimental Art in Late East Germany* (MIT Press). Dr. Blaylock's book was chosen from another outstanding group of new scholarly work in German Studies. Go to our website to see the full shortlist of the wonderful scholarship taking place in German studies today. To the left is a picture of Dr. Blaylock presenting at the annual meeting of German Studies Canada in Montreal this year as part of her prize.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Of course, who could forget the brilliant workshops and lectures of our 2023-2024 year!

- *Hospitality: Refugee Integration through Languages, Spirituality, and Arts* - a lecture by University of Waterloo Honorary Doctorate Recipient Alison Phipps.
- Distinguished Professor Emerita Alice Kuzniar hosted the *Writing Illness Workshop: Women's Experiences in the 19th-Century Sickroom*.
- *Graduate Studies in German* - an online workshop held by students for students open to all current and prospective students interested in pursuing a German graduate degree.

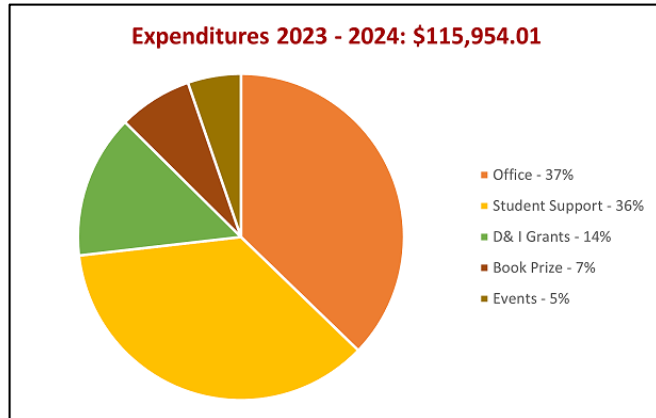
DIES UND DAS

It was another year of administrative changes at the Waterloo Centre for German Studies. Misty Matthews-Roper has resumed her role as the administrative assistant, many thanks to Kira Youngblut and Myrto Provida for the work they did this past year and a half.



2024-2025 will see more events coming your way. If you aren't already, now is the perfect time to start following us on our various social media channels:

- @uWaterlooWCGS (Twitter)
- @WaterlooCentreForGermanStudies (Facebook)
- @uwaterloowcgs (Instagram)
- And don't forget our website - wcgs.ca - where you'll find additional information about all of our activities.



Thanks for being a part of our community. Please get in touch if you have any ideas, comments, or requests.

Sincerely,

James M. Skidmore, Director