

# 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, the Austrian Embassy and the  
Cultural Forum

# AGS

Association for  
German Studies  
in Great Britain  
and Ireland

FACULTY OF  
**MEDIEVAL  
AND  
MODERN  
LANGUAGES**



Austrian

German Life and Letters



**St John's College**  
Oxford

## 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 Professor Dan Grimley, Head of Humanities Division  
and Professor Karen Leeder, AGS 2025 committee

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  
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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' 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 Discherl</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: Joanna Neilly</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 Editions-wissenschaft'</p> <p>Georgina Paul: 'Hitchcock's Sandmann, or E.T.A. Hoffmann goes to Hollywood'</p>	<p>Chair: Joanna Raisbeck</p> <p>Elystan Griffiths: 'Kleist's Palimpsests'</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>Chair: Martin Lindner</p> <p>Clemens Ruthner: 'Realism Rules? On a possible connection between empire, nationalism, genre and epoch in "Kakanien"'</p> <p>Veronika Jičinská: 'Women's writing in the Czech Lands in the first decades of the 20th century'</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>Chair: Margaret Littler</p> <p>Robin Crawford: 'Development and its Failures: Reading Klaus Mann's <i>Der 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>

LUNCH Garden Quad Reception Room, St John's College

1.30-3.00	German Screen Studies Mark Bedingham Room, St John's College Study Centre	Critters and Pests (2) North Lecture Room	Language and Linguistics Prestwich Room	National Postgraduate Colloquium in German Studies and Emerging Scholars Larkin Room
	<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>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: 'The Societal and Emancipatory Function of DaF/DaZ and Culture-Based Learning'</p>	<p>Chair: Katie Unwin, Pauline Preisler</p> <p>Zara Fahim: 'Urban linguistic practices in the German-speaking world: exploring linguistic variation among Austria's youth'</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	Schools Panel North Lecture Room	Black Literature and Culture in German (1) Prestwich Room	Medieval German in the Modern World Larkin Room	Postgraduate/ECA Roundtable Room 2, Taylor Institution
	Chair: Ian Ellison with Katrin Kohl Ian Ellison Charlotte Ryland Joseph Mehrabian Ed Turner Andrea Pfeil	Chair: Kirstin Gwyer and Natasha A. Kelly Tara Talwar Windsor: 'Resonances across time and space: a festival of literary 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'	Chair: Sarah Bowden Josephine Spelsberg: 'Sexist or feminist? A comparison between the fifteenth-century epic <i>Salman und Morolf</i> and the twenty-first-century motion picture <i>Jennifer's Body</i> ' Julia Brusa: 'Memes and Emblematics - A Comparative Analysis of Meaning-Making Strategies, Analogy and Metaphor' Sarah Bowden and Almut Su-erbaum: 'Medieval Literature and Contemporary Creative Practice'	Chairs: Katherine Calvert and Joe Prestwich This session is specifically targeted at anyone who 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.

## BREAK

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

Exhibition curated by Henrike Lähnemann with Emma Huber, Christina Ostermann, and Santhia Velasco Kittlaus, including a musical recital by Stephanie Franklin (mezzo soprano), curated by Anhad Arora (piano), Taylor Institution Library, Room 2 and Voltaire Room.

Reception sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum and the Austrian Embassy, London.

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

## After-dinner options

Pubs / coffee social in Jericho;

## 9.30 Latin-German Compline in the Norman Crypt of St Edmund Hall

## WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

9.30-11.00: AGS Business Meeting 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	<b>Elias Canetti and the British in a European Context</b> <b>North Lecture Room</b>	Black Literature and Culture in German (2) <b>Prestwich Room</b>	German and the Environmental Humanities (2) <b>Larkin Room</b>
	<p>Chair: Margit Discherl</p> <p>Julian Preece: 'Crowds, Politics and Power: Canetti's Observations on Current Affairs, 1945-1990'</p> <p>Magdalini Makres: 'Das Buch Gegen Tod und "Death shall have no dominion": Canettis kuriose Faszination an Dylan Thomas'</p> <p>Jack Arscott: 'Trials of a Translator'</p>	<p>Chair: Tara Talwar Windsor</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>

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

For those staying on:

4pm-5.00pm Ulrike Draesner and Hazel Gould, 'Post-human/pre-modern voices in contemporary writing'. Ulrike Draesner and Hazel Gould in conversation, introduced by Sarah Bowden, Karen Leeder and Almut Suerbaum in Flora 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.

## Info for Delegates

Oxford is easily accessible via train and air. Direct trains come from London Paddington, London Marylebone, and Birmingham. The major London airports (Heathrow and Gatwick) are accessible by direct coach (the [Airline](#)). There is also a regular coach service from London, the [Oxford Tube](#) which runs very frequently and all night. St John's College is about a 15-minute walk from Oxford railway station or there are direct buses up to St Aldates which is a 5-minute walk from St John's. From the coach station, Gloucester Green, it is a 5-minute walk to St John's College. It is not advisable to come by car (ZEZ, bus gates and limited and expensive parking). The city runs an ebike and scooter scheme via Lime and Voi.

We are looking forward to seeing you. But if anything goes wrong and you need to withdraw from the conference, please contact (oxfordags2025@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) as soon as possible. We will do our best to be flexible but can only guarantee refunds on withdrawals up to **FRIDAY 15th August.**

## St John's College

Any last-minute queries about accommodation should be addressed to events@sjc.ox.ac.uk (marked clearly AGS conference) and copied to the [German in the world address](#) (oxfordags2025@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk). They have their own refund policies for rooms.

- For those staying in St John's, rooms are officially available for check-in from 2:00 PM. We kindly ask that guests check out by 10:00 AM on the day of departure. However, we hope all rooms will in fact be available on arrival, so it is worth checking. The Lodge can store luggage for you.
- **Breakfast:** Breakfast for B&B guests will be served in the Hall from 8:00–9:00 AM.

Attached is a plan of St John's College and also instructions for wifi (but all buildings are also on Eduroam).

Once there, the Porters' Lodge is first port of call for your keys, directions and general queries. It is manned 24/7 and the telephone number is 01865 277300

## Other Venues

**The Taylor Institution Library** (where one strand of panels takes place in Room 2, as well as the exhibition, recital and drinks on Tuesday, is the rather grand building opposite St John's and attached to the Ashmolean Museum. Access is up the ramp on St Giles. **You will need to wear your lanyard to be assured access.**

**Somerville College** where the session with Ulrike Draesner and Caroline Bergvall will take place on Wednesday afternoon is on the same road (St Giles), same side as the Taylor, c. 5 minutes' walk from St John's. Ask at the Porters Lodge there for access to the Flora Anderson Hall.

**St Edmund Hall** where the compline takes place on Tuesday evening is a nice 15-minute walk through Oxford.

## Books

Peter Lang and Boydell and Brewer will be in attendance. Do bring along copies of books and journals from the last year or so for display if you wish or leaflets advertising new publications or conferences as there will be a spare book table in the foyer.

## Presentations

All the conference rooms in St John's are equipped with smart screens. We have been told that the most reliable way of displaying a presentation is for it to be run from a laptop, which will be provided in each room. We are therefore collecting all presentations in advance and preloading them by room.



Make sure any links to audio or visual clips are properly embedded from a video/audio that is stored on the computer and not online. Please send/bring in power-point and also as a PDF. If you use a mac, please send in PDF as **keynote does not work**.

We would ask you therefore to send your presentation **in the appropriate format(s) clearly labelled with your name, day and your panel** to the [German in the world address](mailto:oxfordags2025@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) (oxfordags2025@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) by **Friday 22nd August** and to bring your presentation on a memory stick too (zur Sicherheit). Any queries can be addressed to Maria [Rodríguez Barrantes](mailto:events@sjc.ox.ac.uk) on events@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

There will be helpers on hand in the rooms at the beginning of each session to make sure all is in order.

## Chairs

You will be in charge of introducing and running your panels. Please keep introductions brief and keep an eye on timing. Each session is 1.5hours: that is if there are 3 papers, speakers have 20 minutes each; if there are 4 papers, speakers have 15 minutes each. Please keep speakers to time to be fair to everyone (also in case colleagues want to move over to another session), and finish sessions promptly.

## Oxford

There is a nice pub next to St John's The Lamb and Flag. Many other pubs, cafes and restaurants are 5-10 minutes' walk away. The Indoor Market between High Street and Market Street offers cafes, fresh food etc. The pedestrianised Cornmarket and The Westgate Shopping Centre (off Queen's Street) have all the main chains. There are nice walks nearby in Christ Church Meadow, the University Parks, and the Botanical Garden. And the famous Ashmolean Museum is directly opposite, attached to the Taylorian, while the Natural History Museum is also close by.

We look forward to seeing you!

Oxford AGS committee