



## Walk through Kitchener and Waterloo,

drive the roads of the two cities, or flip through the area phonebook – German names abound. That Waterloo is the region with the highest proportion of German-Canadians in the country cannot be overlooked. For more than 200 years, people of German heritage have contributed to the building of this community, worked towards social and economic progress, and shared their cultural traditions. What better site for a centre dedicated to research in German Studies and a hub for German language and culture in Canada?

## WATERLOO CENTRE FOR GERMAN STUDIES

The Waterloo Centre for German Studies (WCGS) conducts research on the language, culture, and civilization of German-speaking peoples, from both historical and contemporary perspectives, provides a wide range of educational and cultural activities for the academy and the broader community, and engages with German-Canadian heritage. The University of Waterloo established the WCGS to anchor the region's knowledge and expertise of all things German, providing a unique infrastructure for researchers in German Studies. The Centre is a venue for collaborative scholarly research and for disseminating and sharing insights with the public. Since 2004, the WCGS has organized and hosted an outstanding range of cultural and educational events – not only for members of the University, but also for the Kitchener-Waterloo community. Conferences, lectures, festivals, readings, and performances have brought together writers, artists, journalists, politicians, diplomats, and scholars from German-speaking countries to present their work and discuss their views and ideas with audiences interested in German culture, society, and language.

**WCGS DIRECTOR:** Dr. Mathias Schulze, Associate Professor, Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies

**WCGS FOUNDDING DIRECTOR:** Dr. David G. John, Professor, Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies

**MEMBERSHIP:** 42 professors, graduate students, staff

**AFFILIATIONS OF WCGS MEMBERS:** University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Guelph, McMaster University, Brock University, York University, Ryerson University, and University of Western Ontario

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HOSTED IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS:** 2 with 90 presentations and 250 participants

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:** 2

**MAJOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:** Kinofest, Brechtfest, Lessingfest

**GRADUATE STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY THE WCGS IN THE LAST SIX YEARS:** 25

**NAMED AWARDS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:** 2 awarded annually

## ENGAGING GERMAN-CANADIAN HERITAGE

With a membership of researchers and graduate students from the University of Waterloo and other universities in southwestern Ontario and strong community support shown at its public events, the WCGS is truly a centre of German-Canadian heritage. From multi-faceted events on great German writers such as Lessing and Brecht, to a five-day film festival combined with an international conference, many WCGS events bring together scholars and members of the public.

## POISED FOR GROWTH

The WCGS has benefited from a privately funded endowment and the support of the University of Waterloo, as well as successful funding applications to local and national research agencies. The endowment supports the Centre's operation, several graduate scholarships in German Studies, cultural and educational programming, and a student exchange between Waterloo and universities in Germany.

As the WCGS celebrates close to six years of operation, it is extremely well positioned for further development and expansion. With an outstanding record of publications, presentations and events, momentum is building for the Centre to take a leading position as an elite humanities research hub in North America. The WCGS has the goal to raise \$ 5 million for its endowment over the next five years. The increased endowment would enable:

- **Additional student travel scholarships** to allow Canadian students to study in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland
- **Awards in German Studies**, recognizing outstanding accomplishments of scholars in German Studies and people of German heritage in a broad range of fields including literature, history, art, architecture, business and technological innovation
- **Faculty and graduate funding** for research in specific areas of German Studies
- **The creation of a student outreach program**, targeted at Canadian high school students to encourage them to pursue a lifelong interest in German language and culture
- **An additional research chair** in German Studies, supplementing the existing Diefenbaker Chair in German Literary Studies
- **An endowment for major conferences** to be hosted by the WCGS, devoted to the study and dissemination of German language, literature, film, and history



- » **Anne Löchte** (Technische Universität Berlin) worked as a visiting researcher at the WCGS during the 2005-06 academic year to study UW's archival collection of the *Berliner Journal*, a German-language newspaper published in Berlin, Ontario (Kitchener today). Dr. Löchte's research resulted in Volume 1 of the WCGS book series.
- » In 2007 the WCGS hosted the Ambassador's Conference in which German Ambassador to Canada, Matthias Höpfner, and professors **Veronica Kitchen** (Political Science, Waterloo), Donald Bruce (Dean of Arts, University of Guelph), and **James Skidmore** (WCGS) spoke on current affairs of Germany in Europe and the world.
- » *German Diasporic Experiences: Identity, Immigration, and Loss* was published in 2008 as Volume 2 of the WCGS book series, published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press; the book is the first comprehensive and interdisciplinary discussion of German-speaking minorities worldwide.
- » In the spring of 2008 over 700 people attended *KinoFest*, an extremely successful festival of German-language film at the Princess Cinema in Waterloo, presented with the Centre's international conference, *Cinema and Social Change in Germany and Austria*.
- » In 2009, the WCGS celebrated the 60th anniversary of the German Basic Law and the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A one-day German Studies Forum brought together students, professors, and community members for presentations on topics ranging from contemporary German literature and film to labour mobility in Germany, from a comparison of immigration debates in Canada and Germany to a discussion of the legacy of the Stasi.
- » The exhibition *Icons of a Border Installation* – curated by the Goethe Institute Toronto – was shown in the UW Modern Languages Art Gallery. In addition to many visitors from the region, 170 high school students of German and their teachers learned more about recent German history in workshops accompanying the exhibition.

200 University Avenue West  
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

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[www.wcgs.ca](http://www.wcgs.ca)