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Ten years after its launch, the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations remains committed to the study of contemporary and historical dimensions in the interrelationship between our two cultures. It continues to do so in the wider context of cultural exchange and interaction within Europe. If anything, the curious circumstances that conditioned the EU-Referendum have only illustrated the need for an ever-growing insight into the nature and making of both cultures as well as the refining of what constitutes our connectivity and indeed mutuality in cultural terms.

The Centre regards Anglo-German relations as an integral part of our common European identity, but not as an alternative to European multilateralism and cultural interaction. Recent events have not changed this precondition of the Centre’s raison d’être but rather reinforced it as an absolute necessity, in particular in view of our common historical legacy and today’s challenges.

The activities of the Centre during the last two years have been as thriving as ever. In January 2015, Lord Stephen Green took over the Chair of the Centre’s Advisory Board and then delivered the Centre’s Special Lecture at QMUL on 16th February 2016 under the title Germany and the Making of the New Europe. Another highlight was the ANGERMION Lecture of 2015, given by the Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, Professor Martin Roth on 26th January 2015 and hosted by the German Embassy in London. The lecture provided the audience with a fascinating insight into today’s function of museums and that of the V&A in particular.

The Centre’s academic activities during the last two years partly continued to focus on aspects of Anglo-German memory in relation to the First World War. Following the initial landmark event, the international conference on Perspectives on the Great War (1-4 August 2014), organized by our colleagues Professor Felicity J. Rash and Dr Falco Pfalzgraf, the Director’s Friday Research Seminar examined over two years ‘The Emergence of Cultural Theory in Germany and Great Britain from the First World War’ with guest speakers (on Max Weber and Coudenhove-Kalergi) from the UK and Germany.

The other major event centred on contemporary German literature and its translation into English, with particular reference to some of our distinguished previous writers-in-residence. Under the title Waves of Difference, a series of events, public readings and discussion groups were devoted to new trends in German literary writing. Organized by the Convenor of the Centre’s Literature Section, Dr Astrid Köhler, and generously supported by the Deutsche Literaturfonds and the Goethe Institut London, Waves of Difference constituted the Centre’s 10th anniversary celebrations in May 2015. Through its distinguished academic profile and outreach activities, the Centre enjoys a high degree of recognition from all relevant quarters, which is also reflected in the quality contributions to our peer-reviewed yearbook ANGERMION. Volumes 7 and 8 were launched successfully during the period in question.

It was more than gratifying to see the Centre’s MA in Anglo-German Cultural Relations recognised by way particular forms of sponsorship. The BASF (Ludwigshafen) provided three MA bursaries, the Anglo-German Club in Hamburg as well as the British Chamber of Commerce in Düsseldorf continued to offer research travel bursaries for MA students. Furthermore, the Centre, together with the German Department at QMUL, was successful in obtaining an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award with the Victoria & Albert Museum for a research project on Prince Albert and the Great Exhibition.

On a personal note, I would like to express my warmest gratitude for constructive and delightful collaboration on all aspects of the Centre’s work to Lord Green, the members of the Advisory Board, the Convenors of the Centre’s Sections, the ANGERMION Editorial Board, and Mrs Jana Riedel, MA, who took over from Dr. Isabel Wagner as the Centre’s Secretary.
ANGERMION, Yearbook for Anglo-German Cultural Relations/ANGERMION Lecture

On 26 January 2015 the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Professor Martin Roth, delivered the ANGERMION lecture at the German Embassy. It was entitled “Culture and/or Diplomacy – Risk-Taking in a Safe Environment,” and focused on the ever-growing role of museums and cultural institutions as international agents of diplomacy. He offered fascinating insights into the way cultural events such as exhibitions have shaped and will continue to shape the connection between countries. Outlining the impact of museums in India, the Ukraine, Libya, the UK, Germany and China, he called for an alliance of major museums and cultural institutions in Europe to build bridges across borders and defend the values of the Enlightenment. As “builders of influence,” museums play a pivotal part in today’s society and “can do more when you expect more of them.”

The German Ambassador Peter Ammon introducing Professor Martin Roth

Professor Martin Roth delivering the ANGERMION Lecture 2015 in the German Embassy

Writer-in-Residence Programme

Established in 2005, the CAGCR Writer-in-Residence Programme showcases recent developments in contemporary German literature by hosting authors whose work is representative of critically acclaimed contemporary literature in German. It enables our visiting authors to reside at the College for periods of approximately ten weeks. This initiative is financed by the Deutscher Literaturfonds and, on a regular basis, by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Furthermore, it enjoys the generous support of Queen Mary University of London.

In the academic years 2014/15 and 2015/16, the CAGCR hosted four writers-in-residence:

- Ilija Trojanow (04.02. - 15.04.2015)
- Peter Schneider (21.09. - 29.11.2015)

Each of the authors gave public readings, including Q&A sessions, at QMUL. A special event was the first reading of Trojanow’s novel Macht und Widerstand on 10 March 2015 as well as his participation at the German Summit 2015, organized by the German Society of UCL (12 February 2015).

In co-operation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the authors Meinecke, Trojanow and Schneider went on a reading tour to Oxford (Lincoln College and Wadham College), Cambridge (Magdalene College), Aberdeen (University of Aberdeen) and the German School London (DSL).
CAGCR Language and Linguistics Section / The Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache (GfdS) at Queen Mary University of London

The Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache (GfdS), Germany’s most important government-sponsored language society, has resided at the CAGCR since the opening of its UK branch in March 2010 in the presence of Queen Mary’s Principal, Professor Simon Gaskell, and the then German Ambassador to the UK Georg Boomgaarden. The chair of the GfdS UK/London branch is Dr Falco Pfalzgraf, Convenor of the CAGCR’s Language and Linguistics section. GfdS lectures and CAGCR Linguistics lectures are jointly organised.

The GfdS is a politically independent association for the study, cultivation, and promotion of the German language. Its aim is to deepen the public understanding of the German language, and to make its function visible in a global context. In order to achieve these aims, the GfdS and the CAGCR Language and Linguistics section jointly organise up to two linguistics-related lectures per year. These lectures are mostly delivered in German, and always open to the general public.

Five Years of the GfdS in London

In 2015, the GfdS London branch celebrated its 5th anniversary. To mark this occasion, the Department of Culture of the German Embassy in London kindly organised a lecture in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), which was delivered by Dr Falco Pfalzgraf on 24 September 2014. The lecture was entitled “Grillhähnchen versus Broiler: The German Language before and after Reunification”. It was held in the FCO’s Scott Room, for Civil Servants who work in the FCO and other UK Ministries and who have an interest in the German language. The German Cultural Attachée, Ms Charlotte Schwarzer, was in attendance together with her Deputy, Dr Susanne Frane, who opened the event. It ended with an extensive tour of the FCO, led by Ms Zoë Townsley. The GfdS London would like to thank the German Embassy and the FCO, and especially Dr Susanne Frane for her hard work and continuous support.

GfdS Lectures and Events

On 19 March 2014, GfdS Chair Dr Pfalzgraf gave a lecture titled “Americanisation and Globalisation: Linguistic Purism and Discourses on Anglicisms in Germany Today” to the German Research Seminar at the University of Birmingham. The GfdS would like to thank Professor William Dodd (University of Birmingham) for organising and financing this lecture.

On 15 October 2014, Mr Viktor Nekrassov, MA (St. Peterburg) gave a talk entitled “Deutsch an der Newa” at Queen Mary University of London.

On 21 May 2015, Prof. Dr. Nils Langer (Bristol) talked about “Unsichtbare Sprachen im 19. Jahrhundert – Sprach(en) kontakt in der Geschichte des Deutschen”. The event took place at University College London (UCL) and was organised jointly by Dr Geraldine Horan (UCL German Department) and Dr Pfalzgraf (GfdS London).

On 9 October 2015, the GfdS attended the celebration of the founding of the Greater London German Network. The GfdS has joined this network.

On 21 November 2015, GfdS chair Dr Pfalzgraf was invited to give a lecture for future teachers of German: “Same, same – but different! German and English Consonants: A Historical Comparative Approach for Teachers of German”. The event was organised by The Prince’s Teaching Institute on occasion of the German New Teacher Subject Day, which took place at Pimlico Academy, London.

On 5 February 2016, Ms Erika Erlinghagen, MA (Vienna) gave a lecture entitled “Die deutschsprachige Minderheit in Ungarn. Das Problemfeld der Sprache und Identität in der Literatur”. The event took place at King’s College London (KCL) and was organised jointly by Ms Ulrike Pavelka, MA (KCL Foreign Language Centre) and Dr Pfalzgraf (GfdS London).
The second event was an international symposium at QMUL, entitled Thinking Language: Wilhelm von Humboldt Now, which took place on 29 April 2016 and was organized by Marko Pajevic.

In his contribution to the conference, John E. Joseph explained the reasons for the complex reception of Humboldt's work in the English-speaking world. Joseph showed how Humboldt's rhetorical dialectics often led to misreadings of his argument because what he presented as an antithesis was seen as identical with his own position. In the later nineteenth century, he was misunderstood as an evolutionist. Through his influence on the work of the eminent early twentieth-century American linguist Franz Boas, Humboldt had a strong albeit hardly acknowledged impact on linguistics and anthropology and consequently on the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. Noam Chomsky, the dominant American linguist of the second half of the twentieth-century, invoked Humboldt's thought as a basis for his approach, but this claim is based on a very partial reading. In recent years, however, Humboldt has gained a real presence in theories on embodied language and in Charles Taylor's most recent plea for the Anglophone philosophical tradition to rethink the scope and role of language for how we conceive of the human. This study demonstrates where Anglophone linguistics lose out due to a negligence or misunderstandings of Humboldt's positions.

Videos of the papers are available in the following link: http://german.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/Thinking-Language-Humboldt-Now/symposium-videos

The CAGCR Section Intellectual History organized two major events between 2014 and 2016. The first was the International Conference on Friedrich Max Müller and the Role of Philology in Victorian Thought, held at the German Historical Institute, London, 16-18 April, 2015. It was co-organized by Professor John R. Davis (Kingston) and Dr Angus Nicholls (CAGCR, QMUL). Further collaborating institutions were The English Goethe Society and The Modern Humanities Research Association.

This conference was, to the best of the organisers’ knowledge, the first international academic meeting on the Oxford-based German comparative philologist, Sanskrit expert and theorist of myth and religion, Friedrich Max Müller (1823-1900). The purpose of the conference was to reassess Müller’s vast contribution to Victorian intellectual life. Topics discussed included Müller's 50-volume mega-edition of Asian religions texts, The Sacred Books of the East, his debates with Darwin on the origin of language, his influence on British literature, his theories of metaphor, myth and religion, and his controversial views on the Hindu religion in the context of British imperialism in India. Müller’s key role as a cultural mediator between Germany and Britain was also considered. The conference included contributions from scholars from Britain, France, Germany, India, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United States. Selected papers from the conference will appear in a special double issue of the Publications of the English Goethe Society (volume 85, issues 2-3, 2016), which will also mark the fact that Müller served as the first President of that Society, founded in 1886. The organisers would like to thank the German Historical Institute and the Modern Humanities Research Association for their generous financial and logistical support for this event.

In the lead-up to the Max Müller conference, Dr Angus Nicholls, the Convenor of the CAGCR Intellectual History section, also gave a public lecture on Max Müller at St. John’s College Oxford, as part of a series of events to accompany an exhibition on Germans In Britain. The title of his lecture, delivered on 28 November 2014, was “Oxford is Beautiful but one Longs for German Professors: F. Max Müller’s Encounters with British Thought and Culture.”

Friedrich Max Müller (1823-1900)
FURTHER EVENTS

On 29th January 2015, the Centre in partnership with the Migration Museum Project launched the exhibition ‘Germans in Britain’ with a lecture by Dr. Emilie Oléron Evans (QMUL/Strasbourg) on “Nikolaus Pevsner, a ‘Kunsthistoriker’ in Britain”.

On the 4th and 5th of September 2015, the Annual Meeting of the German Historical Society took place at QMUL with a specialist panel of Anglo-German Cultural Relations convened by the Centre with presentations from Dr. Astrid Köhler on the culture of spa towns in Britain and Germany around 1800 and Florian Alix on Stephen Spender and Christopher Isherwood’s German experience.

The Literature Section
The main event of this Section was the festival Waves of Difference – Trends and Tendencies in Contemporary German Literature, which took place between 18 and 20 May 2015. For this occasion six prizewinning former CAGCR writers-in-residents – Angela Krauß, Terézia Mora, Matthias Politycki, Gregor Sander, David Wagner and Michael Wildenhain – gave readings in different locations in and around London, including QMUL, the Goethe Institute London, the German School in Richmond, Bristol, Cambridge and Canterbury. All six writers took part in what was the highlight of the festival: a bilingual reading and discussion at the Goethe Institute London, hosted by the renowned journalist and broadcaster Rosie Goldsmith under the title “Trendspotting. Six German Authors in London”.

Professor Morag Shiach, together with the German Cultural Attaché, Stefano Weinberger, addressing the Centre’s 10th anniversary reception at QMUL (image permission from Isolde Ohlbaum, Frankfurt/Main)
The Centre was main contact and facilitating partner for the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung when it held its first annual conference in London from 20-23 May 2015. Events were hosted at the British Academy, the Reform Club, and King’s Place, where Terézia Mora contributed to an evening of Anglo-German readings. The Patron of our Centre, Alfred Brendel OBE was guest of honour at this occasion.

From 16 until 19 September 1915 the Centre together with the Austrian Embassy, London, and the Ingeborg Bachmann Centre of the School of Advanced Study, University of London, hosted the first ever meeting of the International Rilke Society in the UK. The conference focused on Rilke im Weltbezug (with particular emphasis on Rilke in English Translation and the Anglophone Literature).

The two-part event brought together historical and contemporary perspectives on the poetry of the First World War.

As part of the Kling-event, Catastrophe/Forms four speakers enacted over 30 poems (1911-1919) from fourteen different countries, depicting the turn from preliminary war fever to the shock at the effects of industrialized warfare. The multimedia performance was directed by Johann Reißer and spoken by Iwona Mickiewicz, Carolin Bohn, Julia Trompeter, and Xaver Römer.

The duo-performance Kling-Sichten, arranged and realized by Trompeter and Römer, featured poems by the German poet Thomas Kling (1957-2005) that concern the aftermath and the remembrance of WWI.

**Director’s External CAGCR-related Engagements:**

*The Discords of Harmony or Notes of Transfer On the cultural politics of music in Georgian times*

Keynote Lecture delivered on 20th November 2014 at the St. John’s College Research Centre, University of Oxford, at the opening of the exhibition ‘Germans in Britain’ and the international conference “We’re all half English her: Anglo-German Cultural Transfer during the Reign of the House of Hanover, 1714-1837.

*Anglo-German Literary Transfers today.* Lecture delivered on 16th April, 2015 at the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft in Essen.


FURTHER EVENTS

The Year Ahead: 2016-17

Ecce homo intellectualis – Oscar Levy’s Nietzschean Mission on 31 March 2017

A one-day conference at the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations, Queen Mary University of London, in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy London, the Goethe Institute London, Leo Baeck Institute at QMUL, and Mrs Julia Rosenthal (London/Oxford).

Convenor: Professor Rüdiger Görner (CAGCR/QMUL) Conference Assistant: Ms Richelle Whitehead, B.A. (QMUL)

The date of 28 March 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Oscar Levy, the editor of the first authorised English translation of Friedrich Nietzsche’s works, (1909-1913, 18 vols.). Levy was also the translator of Heine, Gissing and Disraeli, as well as being a poet, essayist and critic in his own right. Together with his essays on Nietzsche, including fascinating studies into the history of the philosopher’s early reception in Britain, this unique body of work is nowadays largely forgotten.

The anniversary provides an ideal occasion for a re-appraisal of his engagement with Nietzsche’s works in the context of his wider European concerns. Together with the Leo Baeck Institute, the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations at Queen Mary University of London will hold a one-day conference on Levy’s intellectual legacy with major emphasis on his Nietzsche studies. Contributors will include Professors Christian Benne (Copenhagen), Duncan Large (UEA) and Dan Stone (RHUL). A new edition of Levy’s letters during the gestation of the Nietzsche translation and its subsequent worldwide diffusion, as well as a facsimile edition of his last, most controversial polemic work, ‘The Idiocy of Idealism’ (William Hodge: 1940) – the blurb for this book written by George Bernard Shaw characterises Levy as a “thoroughly tactless Nietzschean [sic] Jew” – are planned to be available at the conference.

International Conference on Biography in Britain and Germany

Comparing Theories and Practices from 14-16 June 2017 at The London Global Gateway University of Notre Dame, and the Goethe Institut, London

In collaboration with Internationales Kolleg Morphomata (University of Cologne), the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der Biographie (Vienna), the Goethe Institut (London) as host, and the University of Notre Dame’s London Global Gateway.

This conference, the first in a series organized by The Centre for Anglo-German Cultural relations at Queen Mary University of London, The Morphomata Institute for Advanced Study in the University of Cologne and the Ludwig Boltzmann Centre for Biographical research in Vienna, will examine 19th and 20th century examples of biographical writing with reflections on practices in, and resonances of, this genre. Some of the questions that will need to be addressed on a comparative basis refer to the cult of biography, the pitfalls of “hero and hero-worship” (Carlyle) and its ambiguous impact on the culture of biography, individualism and biography, practices of writing biographies in Britain and Germany and their cultural status.

In 2016/17, the CAGCR will welcome Ulf Stolterfoht and Barbara Honigmann as writers-in-residence.

In 2016/17 the Director Research Seminar on AGCR will focus on the monthly Friday The Psychology of Anglo-German Wagnerianism.

Time & Venue: 4-6 pm at Lockkeeper’s Cottage, QMUL/Mile End Campus
Publications on Anglo-German Cultural relations by members of the Centre


Görner, Rüdiger with Steffan Davies, Margit Dirscherl and Robert Gillett (2014/15), Angermion. *Yearbook for Anglo-German Literary Criticism, Intellectual History and Cultural transfers / Yearbook for Anglo-German Cultural Relations* (Berlin and New York: De Gruyter)


For further information contact: Enquiries Concerning the CAGCR can be directed to: Mrs Jana Riedel, M.A. Secretary to the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations

Queen Mary University of London Mile End Road, London E1 4NS
email: j.riedel@qmul.ac.uk

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