

Centre for Anglo-German  
Cultural Relations (CAGCR)  
Annual Report for the Academic  
Year 2011-2012



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# Introduction

Be a *hermeneus*! Continue to be a messenger, a mediator between cultures. This appeal emerges time and again from the work of our Centre as it does from all such academic and cultural institutions that devote themselves to explaining, and promoting, the notion of interculturality. In our time, such work has become indispensable in view of global migration and the hybridisation of societies and cultures. The specificity of exchanges between the Anglophone and Germanophone cultures can be seen as a paradigm for such studies.

In ancient Greek *hermeneuein* means to interpret, explain, convey, or translate. The Latin *interpretari* implies the attempt to make something unknown familiar to us. But Anglo-German issues seem generally quite known and familiar. One might therefore be tempted to ask whether there really is a necessity to have a research Centre, with its own MA programme, and an academic yearbook (*ANGERMION*) dedicated to such studies? The very simple answer to this question is a resounding yes, not only because of the necessity to explore, and fully understand the stunning richness of these relations as well as the intellectual, political and economic significance of interactions between these two cultures, but also because we are, once again and contrary to expectations, faced with a resurgence of pronounced bilateralism.

The Europeanisation, and indeed globalisation, of national affairs looked as if it had made bilateral considerations by and large superfluous. The global macroculture had apparently absorbed any microcultural considerations. Recent developments within the Eurozone though, but

also a renewed interest in devolutionary processes informed by an increased interest in regionalism – from the South Tyrol to Catalonia, from Flanders to Scotland – have generated public discussions on the value of regional cultural identities and classical interstate relations. Furthermore, it is impossible not to notice Britain's disenchantment with the European Union with all of its obvious implications. In this political climate bilateralism has reappeared on the international agenda. In view of such developments, the Centre's work, its clearly focussed academic programme and outreach activities, have become more important than ever.

Being able to comprehend how these two interrelated but eminently diverse cultures operate and interact is a precondition for present and future mediation between them. The Centre's vocation is to advance the 'hermeneutics' of Anglo-German cultures, their texts and textures. The Centre's yearbook *ANGERMION*, now an internationally leading periodical in this field, reflects the significance of exploring these intrinsically rich cultural relations.

With two major international conferences, research colloquia, and a series of guest lectures, the Centre has contributed to advancing research in intercultural language studies, philosophy, literature, and art history. The connection with the *Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache* through Dr Pfalzgraf, the current CAGCR's Acting Deputy Director, has become a particularly valuable asset to the academic work of the Centre. The same applies to the Writer in Residence scheme

supported by the DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service) and the *Deutsche Literaturfonds*, Darmstadt. Collaborations with major partners like the Austrian and German Embassies, the German Historical Institute, the Goethe-Institut and the British Library continue to be hallmarks of the Centre's strategy. The same applies to the Centre's engagement in developing its media presence through the postgraduate journal *eTransfers* and the CROSSCHANNEL project.

Conducting research on mutual perceptions and understandings between the Anglophone and German language cultures within the wider context of Europe – with all of its global conditions and implications – remains a vital and rewarding aspect of our Centre.

**London / QMUL, Autumn 2012**  
**Professor Rüdiger Görner**  
**Director of CAGCR**



## The Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations at Queen Mary, University of London, was founded in December 2005

### 1. Aims and Structure of the CAGCR

The Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations at Queen Mary, University of London was founded in December 2005. The Centre is housed in the Department of German, within the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film. The Centre's website can be found at:

[www.qmul.ac.uk/cagcr](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/cagcr)

The CAGCR aims to: facilitate research on Anglo-German cultural relations with special reference to the fields of literature, language, intellectual history and comparative cultural practice; disseminate said research through colloquia, international conferences, and the CAGCR yearbook *ANGERMION*; and provide high quality postgraduate teaching through the Centre's MA Programme on Anglo-German Cultural Relations.

The CAGCR's Director is Professor Rüdiger Görner; Dr Angus Nicholls is Deputy Director; and Dr Falco Pfalzgraf, as Acting Deputy Director, is currently in charge of running the centre for the duration of the sabbaticals of Professor Görner and Dr Nicholls. Dr Martina Dery runs the CAGCR's Writer in Residence Programme. The Centre's research activities are divided into the following four sections of research interest, each of which is convened by at least one staff member in the Department of German at Queen Mary:

- Literature (Dr Astrid Köhler and Dr Elaine Morley)
- Language and Linguistics (Dr Falco Pfalzgraf)
- Intellectual History (Dr Angus Nicholls)
- Cultural Transfers and Drama (Dr Robert Gillett)

## 2. Nietzsche Society Conference

One of the highlights of this year's activities of the CAGCR was the 18th Annual International Conference of the British Nietzsche Society, hosted by Queen Mary and the CAGCR at the Mile End Campus. The conference was entitled "Between Reason and Unreason: Nietzsche – The Enlightenment – Romanticism" and took place from 9 to 11 September 2011. One of its thematic thrusts was the reception and perception of Nietzsche in Britain during the last century.



Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

## 3. The Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache at Queen Mary

The *Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache* (GfdS), Germany's most important government-sponsored language society, has been housed at the CAGCR since its UK branch was opened in March 2010, in the presence of Queen Mary's Principal, Professor Simon Gaskell, and the German Ambassador to the UK Georg Boomgaarden. The chair of GfdS UK/London branch is Dr Falco Pfalzgraf.

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 this, the GfdS bi-annually organises a linguistics-related lecture which is always in German, and open to the general public. Lectures are normally held on Queen Mary's Mile End Campus.

- On 19 September 2011, Dr André Meinunger from the *Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft* / Centre for General Linguistics (ZAS) in Berlin gave a lecture entitled: "Die Deutschen und ihre Sprache – Über Sinn und Unsinn bestimmter Einstellungen" [The Germans and Their Language: On the Sense and Nonsense of Certain Attitudes]. The event was well attended, and the lively discussion was even continued after the event in a nearby pub.
- On 16 March 2012, the GfdS lecture was given by Professor Peter Lutzeier, Linguist of great renown, and Principal of Newman University

College, Birmingham. His talk was entitled “Jedes ausgesprochene Wort erregt den Gegensinn”, and presented the research that led to the publication of a three-volume *Wörterbuch des Gegensinns*, a dictionary of opposites.

Further GfdS lectures will in future be organised bi-annually.



#### 4. Guest Lecture and Reading

On 24 October 2011, John Goodyear, at that time a PhD candidate in Queen Mary's Department of German, organised a one-day event in the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations entitled “Theodor Lessing, Leben im Lärm / Life in Noise”. The event consisted of a guest lecture and reading by Professor Peter Gorny from Oldenburg University, along with presentations by John Goodyear, and the literary composer Marie Dettmer. The lecture was presented in both German and English.

#### 5. Linguistics Lecture

The CAGCR's annual Linguistics lecture took place on 28 October 2011. Professor Torsten Leuschner from Gent University spoke about “The German ‘Drang nach Osten’: Linguistic Perspectives on Historical Stereotyping”. The event was held in Queen Mary's Lock-keeper's Cottage and it was open to the general public.

#### 6. Launch of the fourth issue of *ANGERMION*, yearbook for Anglo-German Cultural Relations

Another highlight was the Annual *ANGERMION* Lecture of the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural relations on 24 January 2012, which was delivered by the art historian, writer and broadcaster Andrew Graham-Dixon. His topic was “Reflections on German Art”, which covered a wide range of thoughts on the ideological disfiguration of art in 20th-century Germany and some British perceptions of this phenomenon. The event was introduced by Professor Rüdiger Görner and by Georg Boomgaarden, the German Ambassador to the UK.



Left to right: Professor Rüdiger Görner, Andrew Graham-Dixon and the German Ambassador to the UK, Georg Boomgaarden.

#### 7. Writer in Residence Programme

Established in 2005, the CAGCR Writer in Residence Programme showcases recent developments in contemporary German literature. This initiative is financed by the Deutscher Literaturfonds and on a regular basis by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Dr Martina Deny, DAAD *Lektorin* in the

Department of German, runs the CAGCR's Writer in Residence Programme. The CAGCR hosts writers whose work is representative of contemporary literature in German and enables visiting authors to reside at Queen Mary for periods of approximately ten weeks. The Centre's Writer in Residence 2012 was David Wagner who actively took place in a number of events:

- From 8 to 10 February 2012, David Wagner held a reading and gave a lecture for undergraduate students at Magdalene College, University of Cambridge. The event was a collaboration between the CAGCR and Magdalene College.
- On 12 March 2012, a public reading with David Wagner took place on Queen Mary's Mile End Campus, Lock-keeper's Cottage, where the author read from his book *Vier Äpfel*. The event was a co-operation with the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).
- On 16 February 2012, a reading was held in the Deutsche Schule in Richmond, for about 60 students and teachers. The event was organised in co-operation with the Deutsche Schule Richmond.
- From 27 to 29 February 2012, CAGCR Writer in Residence David Wagner held a reading and a workshop for undergraduate students at the University of Aberdeen. The event was a co-operation with the University of Aberdeen.
- On 12 March 2012 David Wagner, CAGCR Writer in Residence, gave a public reading in co-operation with the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD.



David Wagner (by Alexander Janetzko)



## 8. Second Issue of the Postgraduate Journal *eTransfers* published

The postgraduate journal *eTransfers* (ISSN 2043-829X) is a collaborative project between the CAGCR and the Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) at the Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen. *eTransfers* was initially funded by a Westfield Trust Grant award from Queen Mary. At Queen Mary, the editorial team for the second issue of *eTransfers* consists both of academic staff (Dr Martina Deny and Dr Elaine Morley), and of postgraduate students.

## 9. International Conference Stefan Zweig in Britain

From 6 to the 8 June 2012, the international conference “Stefan Zweig in England” took place at Queen Mary, in cooperation with the Austrian Cultural Forum, The Austrian Embassy, and the British Library. This was the first conference on Stefan Zweig held in Britain since 1981, which was devoted entirely to the significance of British cultural traditions in Zweig’s works. Given the recent surge in interest in the works of Zweig among readers in the Anglophone world, this conference was a timely high-profile event that attracted much publicity. The collaboration with the British Library was a particular highlight given its extensive Zweig collection. The events surrounding the conference included two first performances of musical works from scores collected by Zweig, which were donated to the British Library.



Left to right: Professor Rüdiger Görner and Dr Klemens Renoldner and the Austrian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Emil Brix

## 10. Interdisciplinary Colloquium

On 22 June 2012 the interdisciplinary colloquium “Face to Face – Encounters between the Arts and Sciences” was held at Queen Mary’s Mile End Campus. The event was organised by Dr Annja Neumann and Ms Marcela Pozarkova MA, and brought together scholars from the humanities and sciences at Queen Mary, Jesus College at Oxford University, Swansea University, and the University of Edinburgh. It facilitated very fruitful discussions concerning the notion of ‘A Science of Literature’, along with considerations of science in law, drama, the visual arts and computer science. The colloquium was well attended by both scholars and postgraduate students from Queen Mary, as well as by the general public.

## 11. CROSSCHANNEL project

Project meetings of a working party have taken place in London and Düsseldorf throughout the year in connection with plans to set up an Internet platform on Anglo-German cultural affairs under the name of CROSSCHANNEL. The project has now been registered under [www.crosschannelproject.eu](http://www.crosschannelproject.eu). The project is supported in kind by Roland Berger, Strategy consultants. It is currently expected that the planning phase will be completed by the end of 2013.

## 12. The Year Ahead: 2012-13

One main feature of the Centre's work in the forthcoming academic year will be the further development of CROSSCHANNEL as its landmark media project. A monthly research seminar for postgraduate students will be devoted to "Configurations of Death in English and German Literatures", supported by the Morphomata Institute of Advanced Study, University of Köln. Following A.S. Byatt, Durs Grünbein, Alfred Brendel and Klaus Reichert, and Andrew Graham Dixon, the film director Volker Schlöndorff will deliver the fifth *ANGERMION* lecture to launch the fifth volume of the Centre's yearbook.

For the CAGCR's Writer in Residence programme we are expecting Sudabeh Mohafez to join us for the academic year 2012/13.

We are also looking forward to more lectures and events to be organised by the four sections of the CAGCR, as well as by the *Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache* (GfdS).

Finally, we can confirm that from April 2013 until September 2014 Dr Angus Nicholls will be the Centre's Acting Director. Dr Falco Pfalzgraf remains the CAGCR's Acting Deputy Director.

## 13. The CAGCR on the internet

For further information, please have a look at our website: [www.qmul.ac.uk/cagcr](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/cagcr)

Also, you can now befriend the CAGCR on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/anglo-german>

and you can follow us on Twitter at **CAGCR\_QMUL**



## 14. Publications on Anglo-German Cultural Relations by members of the Centre

Dirscherl, Margit (2011). "Gemilderte Wirklichkeit. Stefan Zweigs Feuilleton Hydepark und die Großstadtliteratur". In: *ANGERMION. Yearbook for Anglo-German Literary Criticism, Intellectual History and Cultural Transfers* 4, pp. 113-123. ISBN 978-3-11-023919-5.

Dirscherl, Margit & Hanuschek, Sven (eds.) (2012). *Alltags-Surrealismus. Literatur, Theater, Film*. München: edition text + kritik.. ISBN 978-3-86916-172-3.

Gillett, Robert (2011). "'Den Kindern erzählt?' Hebel's Biblische Geschichten in the Hands of Ernst Johann and Emily Anderson". In: *Oxford German Studies* 40:1, pp. 94-103.

Gillett, Robert & Downing, Lisa (eds.) (2011). *Queer in Europe. Contemporary Case Studies*. Farnham: Ashgate.

Gillett, Robert & Preece, Julian (eds.). (2011). *Remembering Johann Peter Hebel: Anniversary Essays. Oxford German Studies Special Issue* 40:1.



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Gillett, Robert & Downing, Lisa (eds.) (2012). *European Culture, European Queer. Sexualities Special Issue* 15/1.

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Görner, Rüdiger (2011). *Dem lebendigen Geist. Britisch-deutsche Interventionen zur Hochschulpolitik*. Forum 81. Bonn: Deutscher Hochschulverband, 84 pp. ISBN 978-3-92406-696-3.

Görner, Rüdiger (2011). "England, ein Abschied. Ingeborg Bachmanns böhmisches Meer". In: Wilhelm Hemecker & Manfred Mittermayer (eds.). *Mythos Bachmann. Zwischen Inszenierung und Selbstinszenierung*. (Profile 18). Vienna: Zsolnay, pp. 284-296. ISBN 978-3-55205-553-7.

Görner, Rüdiger (2011). "'Schlechte Wörter' in 'Dover' und 'St. Ives' oder ein poetisches England-Bild als Mosaik". In: *Wort-Anker werfen. Ilse Aichinger und England*. Rüdiger Görner & Christine Ivanovic & Sugi Shindo (eds.). Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, pp. 121-131. ISBN 978-3-82604-780-0.

Görner, Rüdiger (2011). "Sheerness oder Eine Verunglückte Skizze". In: *Literatur und Kritik* 457/458, pp. 36-39. ISSN 0024-466X.

Görner, Rüdiger (2012). "Marbots englisch-deutsche Verhältnisse. Biografie einer Fiktion". In: Rüdiger Görner & Isabel Wagner (eds.) (2012). *Wolfgang Hildesheimer und England. Zur Topologie eines literarischen Transfers*. (Jahrbuch für Internationale Germanistik. Reihe A Kongressberichte 106). Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien, pp. 103-113. ISBN 978-3-0343-1082-6

Köhler, Astrid (2011). "On Peter James Bowman: The Fortune Hunter. A German Prince in Regency England. (2010) & Christian Friedrich & Ulf Jakob (eds.): '...ein Kind meiner Zeit, ein ächtes, bin ich...' Stand und Perspektiven der Forschung zu Fürst Pückler. (2010)". In: *ANGERMION. Yearbook for Anglo-German Literary Criticism, Intellectual History and Cultural Transfers* 4, pp. 183-189. ISBN 978-3-11-023919-5.

Morley, Elaine (2012). "'Both Sides', Review of Elias Canetti and Marie Louise von Motesiczky: Briefwechsel 1942-1992, ed. By Ines Schlenker and Kristian Wachinger (Munich: Hanser 2012)". In: *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 April.

Morley, Elaine (2012). "Iris Murdoch and Elias Canetti: Towards a Reassessment". In: Anne Rowe & Avril Horner (eds.). *Iris Murdoch: Texts and Contexts*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Morley, Elaine & Deny, Martina (2012). "The Aesthetics of Security in Literature and Visual Media: Editorial". In: *eTransfers. A Postgraduate eJournal for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies*, 2.

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Nicholls, Angus (2011). "Scientific Literary Criticism in the Work of Wilhelm Dilthey and Matthew Arnold." In: *Comparative Critical Studies* 8, no. 1, pp. 7-31. ISSN 1750-0109.

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Pfalzgraf, Falco (2011). "Anglizismen als Thema der Sprachwissenschaft und Sprachkritik". In: *Aptum. Zeitschrift für Sprachkritik und Sprachkultur* 2, pp. 160-176. ISSN 1614-905X.

Pfalzgraf, Falco (2011). "Linguistic Purism in the History of German". In: Geraldine Horan & Nils Langer & Sheila Watts (eds). *Landmarks in the History of the German Language*. Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien: Peter Lang, 2009 (British and Irish Studies in German Language and Literature 52), pp. 137-168. ISBN 978-3-03911-890-8.

Isabel Wagner (2012). "Faszination Mary Stuart: Die Inszenierung eines historischen Mythos". In: Rüdiger Görner & Isabel Wagner (eds.) (2012). *Wolfgang Hildesheimer und England. Zur Topologie eines literarischen Transfers*. (Jahrbuch für Internationale Germanistik. Reihe A Kongressberichte 106). Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Oxford, Wien, pp. 115-132. ISBN 978-3-0343-1082-6

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