Waves of Difference – Trends and Tendencies in Contemporary German Literature

18th – 20th May 2015

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Queen Mary's Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations and its Writers in Residence Programme the CAGCR has devised Waves of Difference – a festival which celebrates the Centre and its programme by showcasing contemporary German Literature at its best. For this occasion six prizewinning former residents – Angela Krauß, Terézia Mora, Matthias Politycki, Gregor Sander, David Wagner and Michael Wildenhain – will be giving readings in different locations in and around London.

All six writers will then come together on Wednesday evening for the absolute 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”.

Details of all events are given below. Most events are open to the public, many are bilingual, all are free of charge. If you are interested in, or intrigued by, contemporary German Literature, come and join us as often as you can: you will not be disappointed.

Programme:

16th May
• Reading of Terézia Mora at the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung (Not open to the public)
Terézia Mora will be reading at the London meeting of the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung, Darmstadt.

18th May
• Wine Reception to celebrate 10 years of the QMUL Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations
6.30 pm
Senior Common Room, Queens Building, QMUL, Mile End Rd, London E1 4NS

19th May
• Reading and discussion with Angela Krauß at the Institute of Modern Languages Research
As part of the series “Encounters: Writers and Translators in Conversation” Angela Krauß and her translator Margret Vince will give a reading of excerpts
from Krauß's novel *Im schönsten Fall* (2011) in German and in English translation, followed by a discussion of practical and theoretical issues related to translation and a mini translation workshop for the audience.

5.30-7.30 pm
Institute of Modern Languages Research Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

- **Matthias Politycki** will be reading excerpts from his novel “Samarkand Samarkand” in an English translation by Anthea Bell at the University of Bristol
  Please register in advance by e-mailing Margit Dirscherl (margit.dirscherl@bristol.ac.uk).
  6 pm
  Lecture Theatre 1, School of Arts, University of Bristol, 43 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1UU

- **Gregor Sander** will be reading in the Deutsche Schule London. (Not open to the public)

- **David Wagner** will be reading excerpts from his novel “Leben” and other works at the University of Cambridge
  6 pm
  Parlour, Magdalene College, Magdalene Street, Cambridge CB3 0AG

- **Reading of Michael Wildenhain** tbc

**20th May**
- “**Trendspotting. Six German Authors in London**”
  What’s trending on the German literary scene? Rosie Goldsmith will be discussing this question with Angela Krauß, Térezia Mora, Matthias Politycki, Gregor Sander, David Wagner & Michael Wildenhain – who will also be reading from new, specially translated texts.
  6.30 for 7 pm
  Goethe Institute London, 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PH

**Partners:**

Deutsche Schule London          University of Bristol
Goethe Institute London         University of Cambridge
Institute of Modern Languages Research  University of Nottingham

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The Authors:

Angela Krauß

*Writer in Residence Spring 2009 at the CAGCR*

Angela Krauß was born in 1950 in Chemnitz. She studied advertising at the Fachschule für Gestaltung und Werbung in East Berlin and worked in advertising and communication until 1972. From 1976 to 1979 she studied at J.R. Becher Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Angela Krauß shot to fame when she won the Ingeborg Bachmann prize in 1988. She was visiting Professor for Creative Writing at the University of Paderborn in 2000 and gave the prestigious Frankfurter Poetikvorlesungen in 2004. Besides having been awarded numerous prizes she is a member of the Academy of the Fine Arts of Saxony and the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz. Angela Krauß lives and works in Leipzig.

Terézia Mora

*Writer in Residence 2005 at the CAGCR*

Terézia Mora was born in Sopron, Hungary, in 1971 and has lived in Berlin since 1990. There she studied Hungarian and drama at the Humboldt University and screenwriting at the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie (dffb). Her literary career began when she won the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize in 1999. She is not only a famous novelist, but also works as a translator from Hungarian into German and as a scriptwriter, besides writing both stage and radio plays. In 2013, Mora won the prestigious German Book Prize for her novel *Das Ungeheuer*. In 2013/14 she gave the Frankfurter Poetikvorlesungen.

Matthias Politycki

*Writer in Residence Winter 2009 at the CAGCR*

Matthias Politycki was born on 20th May 1955 in Karlsruhe. He read German literature, philosophy and drama at the universities of Munich and Vienna from 1975 to 1987. In 1987 he completed his PhD at the University of Munich. He was awarded the Bavarian State Prize for literature one year later. From 1988 to 1990 Politycki worked as research assistant to Professor W. Frühwald at the German Department of the University of Munich before becoming a freelance writer and a member of PEN. He currently lives in Hamburg and Munich.
Gregor Sander

*Writer in Residence Spring & Autumn 2013 at the CAGCR*

Gregor Sander was born in 1968 in Schwerin and trained as a metal worker and qualified nurse before taking up his studies at university. He studied Medicine at the University of Rostock and then read German and History at the Humboldt University of Berlin from 1992 to 1996. From 1996 to 1997 he attended the Berliner Journalistenschule. In 2002, Gregor Sander started his literary career with *Ich aber bin hier geboren*, a collection of short stories. In 2013, Gregor Sander was awarded the Deutscher Erzählerpreis. His latest novel *Was gewesen wäre* was published in 2014. He now lives and works in Berlin.

David Wagner

*Writer in Residence Spring 2012 at the CAGCR*

David Wagner was born in 1971 in Andernach. He studied Comparative Literature and Art History at the University of Bonn, in Paris and Berlin. After periods spent for example in Rome, Barcelona and Mexico City, he now lives and works in Berlin. David Wagner became known to the public as a writer through his first novel *Meine nachtblaue Hose* (2000). In 2013 he was awarded the Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse for his novel *Leben*. His latest work *Drüben und drüben* is a joint work together with Jochen Schmidt and deals with their childhoods on both sides of the Berlin Wall. David Wagner is a member of the PEN Centre Germany.

Michael Wildenhain

*Writer in Residence 2006 at the CAGCR*

Michael Wildenhain was born in West Berlin in 1958 and still lives there with his family. After studying economics, philosophy and computer science, he was involved in the left-wing squatter movement in West Berlin, which provided the material for his first literary texts. He is particularly well known as a writer of prose for young adults. He has taught creative writing at the Literaturinstitut Leipzig. His most recent novel *Das Lächeln der Alligatoren* was shortlisted for the prestigious Preis der Leipziger Buchmesse (2015). Wildenhain is a member of the Verband Deutscher Schriftsteller and of the PEN centre Germany.