

Review: Deciding to Work

Wolfgang Lehmann. *Choosing to Labour? School-Work Transitions and Social Class*. Montreal et al.: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-7735-3306-6.

How do high school students in Canada and Germany decide what kind of work they want to do after graduation? In this qualitative study of 'school-work transitions,' Wolfgang Lehmann, a professor of sociology at the University of Western Ontario, provides answers that are addressed particularly to Canadian educational policy makers and school administrators.

Lehmann interviewed over 100 students in Edmonton and Bremen and concluded that they were neither simply making independent, rational choices about their future employment nor did the structural conditions in which they grew up destine them to seek either vocational training or an academic education. He is especially interested in students deciding to learn a trade. Taking Alberta's youth apprenticeship program, which is informed by the German system, he asks whether such programs really give students a future or whether they channel them into jobs that offer only limited career opportunities.

Lehmann's analysis is informed by sociologists Beck, Giddens, and Bourdieu. The many quotes from the interviews with students make this an engaging read. He concludes that students deciding to learn a trade talk about this decision as their free choice, but they actually do so by justifying and rationalizing their decision in their knowledge that society values academic education more highly.

Nevertheless, although his evidence seems to support the view that the school systems on both sides of the Atlantic favour academically-inclined students (who are often from an academic family), he is somewhat optimistic that students have at least some agency in their decisions about work.

Notizen

Manuel Meune, Germanistikprofessor an der Universität von Montreal, hat einen Artikel über die Beziehungen zwischen Deutschkanadiern und der DDR-Regierung veröffentlicht. Der Artikel ist kostenlos auf der Internetseite von Forum Deutsch (Goethe-Institut) erhältlich: <http://www.forumdeutsch.ca> klicken Sie auf *Die DDR und die „Bürger deutscher Herkunft“ in Kanada: die Rolle der Gesellschaft Neue Heimat (1980-1990)* unter „Peer Review.“

Eine Zusammenfassung von Ulrike Papes Magisterarbeit „In der Ferne zu Hause: Soziobiografische Studien zu Motivation und Lebenssituation deutscher Kanada-Auswanderer von 1983 bis heute“ ist in der Onlineausgabe des *Migration und Bevölkerung Newsletters* erschienen: http://www.migration-info.de/migration_und_bevoelkerung/artikel/070109.htm. Frau Pape erhielt 2006 den German-Canadian Research Scholarship.

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies was established in 1989 with grants from the Secretary of State's Program for Canadian Ethnic Studies and a group of private philanthropists within the German-Canadian community of Winnipeg. It is located in, and affiliated with, the History Department at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Chair promotes the teaching of, and research into the history and culture of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in Canada. It interacts with the German-Canadian community in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the rest of Canada through public lectures and the newsletter. The Chair promotes regional, national and international research through conferences, publications and grants.

Editor/Producer: Alexander Freund

Chair in German-Canadian Studies

The University of Winnipeg

515 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3B 2E9

Phone: 204-786-9009

Fax: 204-774-4134

Email: gcs@uwinnipeg.ca

Unless otherwise stated, all articles were written by Alexander Freund

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<http://germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca>



West German commemorative stamp 'Twenty Years Expulsion 1945 1965'

New Research: Expellees' Heimat

Pascal Maeder has successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation (York University) entitled "Forging a New *Heimat*: The Expellees in Post-War West Germany and Canada." As the title suggests, this is a comparative study that argues that German postwar refugees integrated successfully but in different ways in West Germany and Canada.

Expellees formed complex layers of identities, including distinct expellee identities (*Vertriebene*), regionally specific *landmannschaften* identities, e.g. Sudeten Germans, and broader identities as West Germans and Euro-Canadian immigrants respectively. Maeder argues convincingly that the Sudeten-Germans who immigrated to Canada before the war should be included in a history of expellees, because they were expelled "in absentia."

Maeder conducted extensive archival research and bases much of his social and political history on oral histories, autobiographies, and other personal documents. Thus, even though he focuses on the expellees' political activism, he also extensively describes their everyday lives as migrants and the ways in which they made sense of these experiences. For example, while many succeeded economically, there continued to be feelings of loneliness, isolation, sorrow, homesickness.

This is an important study that contributes greatly to German-Canadian Studies and the writing of Canadian immigration history. Dr. Maeder works at the University of Basel, Switzerland.



Canadian infantrymen passing German refugees, Xanten, Germany, 9 March 1945 by Ken Bell (Library and Archives Canada PA-137462)



Visiting Professor Speaks About Ethnicity and Music

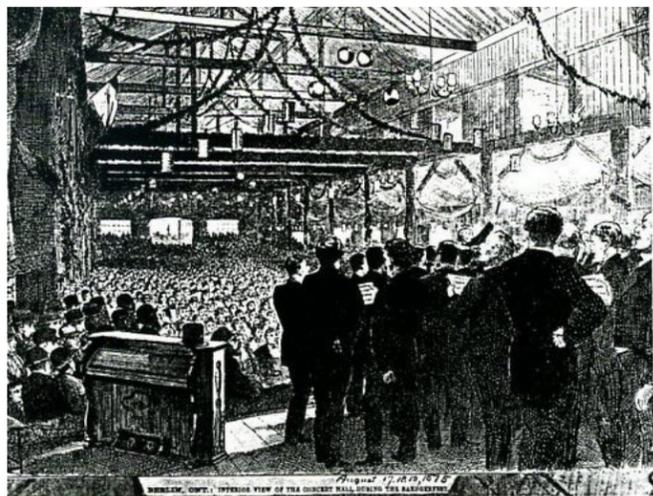


In April, Dr. Barbara Lorenzkowski, a professor of history at Concordia University in Montreal, gave a talk about 'Sounds of Ethnicity: Listening to German North America, 1850-1914.' It was part of the German-Canadian Studies Public Lecture Series.

Lorenzkowski described German music festivals in the Great Lakes region in the half century before the Great War, on both sides of the border. She quoted contemporary commentators of a singers' festival in Buffalo, New York in 1860, who "noted bemusedly the 'snatches of song' that tumbled onto the streets from private homes and the melodies that 'floated far and sweetly' into the night infused the urban soundscape, making it 'thoroughly ... Germanized.' Going beyond description, however, Lorenzkowski developed a theoretically saturated argument about music

and its performance as the creator of social spaces. The huge halls built for the singing festivals could hold tens of thousands of people. They, as much as the smaller stages in Waterloo county, became "platforms where German migrants and Anglo-Saxon audiences could, and did, mingle." Music made such cultural exchange possible: "Unlike the German language, the festive tunes were accessible to all. The festivals' offerings of music, mirth and sociability thus offers glimpses into an on-going dialogue' between ethnic groups.

Festivals and music were also means of 'inventing' ethnic identity. "Although the festivals cultivated a German 'national sound,' by the late nineteenth century, celebrants began to look less towards the German Empire and more so towards the nation south (or north) of the Canadian-American border where the many friends and relatives resided who used the musical gatherings as an occasion to renew old friendships and tighten family bonds." The audience appreciated Dr. Lorenzkowski's clear and stimulating analysis and engaged in a lively discussion.



Review: German Albertans

Manfred Prokop. *A History of Alberta's German-Speaking Communities. Volume 1: From the 1880's to the Present.* [Okotoks, AB: Manfred Prokop, 2007]. ISBN 978-0-9687876-3-2.

This book is the result of thirty years of research on the German communities of Alberta, some of which has been previously available in the author's other publications. Manfred Prokop, Professor Emeritus of German at the University of Alberta, begins his narrative by defining 'German' to mean a heterogeneous group of distinct German-speaking communities that include people from Germany, Austria, Russia, Switzerland and many other countries. Chapters two and three survey the 'geographical origin' of these people and examine in more detail the various communities, such as the Germans from Odessa, the Black Sea, the Volga, Volhynia, Russian Poland, Bukovina,

Bessarabia, Dobrudja, Galicia and the Baltics as well as Mennonites, Hutterites, Moravians and Baptists.

Chapters four to six explore the settlement patterns between the 1880s and the present. Chapters seven to nine present statistics, analyses linguistic and cultural retention, and addresses the question whether the German-Albertans have become an "invisible minority." The last sixty of the book's 430 pages provide short biographies of German-Albertans from the time period of the 1880s to 1945. A second volume will provide profiles of German-Albertans from 1953 to 2006.

The book provides a wealth of information about the German-speaking communities of Alberta and will be an invaluable aid to researchers and teachers.

Review: Soviet Germans' Homes

Hans Werner. *Imagined Homes: Soviet German Immigrants in Two Cities.* Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2007. ISBN 0887557015

Hans Werner's book on Soviet German immigrants to Winnipeg and Bielefeld, Germany is a well-written study of integration processes based on interview material, biographies, newspaper clippings, and archival sources. In the first five chapters, Werner, who is a professor of history and Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg, traces the places of origin of these immigrants in Eastern Europe, the situation in the receiving societies in the two cities, and the circumstances and conditions of their arrival. This is followed by detailed discussions of family strategies, religious affiliations, adjustment to languages, membership in organizations, and citizenship. The immigrants to Winnipeg arrived in the late 1940s and early 1950s to a city that experienced an economic boom at the end of the Second World War, while state intervention in the process of settlement and finding work was minimal.

In Bielefeld, in contrast, ethnic Germans came in the 1970s to a well-developed welfare state that provided

housing and extensive support in securing employment at a time when the oil crises had ended the "Wirtschaftswunder." Based on his findings, Werner argues that because of differing expectations of host societies and immigrants, paradoxically, the integration process in Bielefeld, especially with respect to language acquisition, was more challenging than in Winnipeg. However, given that the comparative approach of this study at least partially relies on oral evidence, the question arises whether the time difference of two to three decades between the arrival of Winnipeg's immigrants and those settling in Bielefeld had a significant influence on the self-perceived level of integration into the respective host societies. Similarly, to what degree did the economic conditions at the time of migration affect the host societies' reception of the migrants? Despite these questions, this study is an important contribution to the growing field of postwar migration studies. It adds a valuable emphasis on the significance of migrants' expectations – the "Imagined Homes" – to the discussion of integration processes.

Christian Lieb, University of Victoria