

# German-Canadian Studies Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

August 2003

For Your Calendar:

**Z**wischen hier und da: Kulturübersetzung in den Kurzgeschichten von Exilierten in Kanada, Vortrag von Patrick Farges am **Donnerstag, den 21. August 2003 um 19 Uhr Raum 2M70** der **Universität Winnipeg**.

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## Local Culture

### Interdisciplinary project explores local culture and diversity on the prairies before 1939

**Researchers from the Universities of Alberta and Winnipeg have begun a research project that seeks to find out how people in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta experienced life on the Canadian prairies prior to the Second World War.**

The *Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies Project* is funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The initiator of the project is Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky,

who is based in the Ukrainian Folklore Centre at the University of Alberta. Project partners co-directing the project are Dr. Frank McMahon, Dr. Phyllis Dalley, and Dr. Michelle Daveluy of the Faculté Saint Jean at the University of Alberta, Dr. Pauline Greenhill of the University of Winnipeg, and Dr. Alexander Freund, Chair in German-Canadian Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

The project's main goal is to

collect accounts of personal experiences from individuals who lived on the prairies before 1939. The researchers are interested in learning about daily life, local customs and traditions, social activities, and pastimes.

They hope that the gathered information will be useful for the people and communities who are interviewed as well as for researchers of many diverse specific topics in the future.

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## “Zwischen hier und da”

### Vortrag über Kurzgeschichten von deutschsprachigen Exilautoren in Kanada

Kurzgeschichten von Exilanten in Kanada, insbesondere die Geschichten Henry Kreisels, stehen im Zentrum eines Vortrags von Patrick Farges, der am **Donnerstag, den 21. August 2003, um 19 Uhr im Raum 2M70 der Universität von**

**Winnipeg** stattfindet.

Farges, Doktorand im Fachbereich Germanistik an der Universität Paris VIII - Saint Denis, erforscht, wie die Exil- und Migrantenerfahrung “textuell verarbeitet” wird. “Mit welchen literarischen Problemen ist

eine solche Kulturübersetzung verbunden? Eignen sich da besondere Ausdrucksformen?” fragt Farges in dem Vortrag mit dem Titel “Zwischen hier und da: Kulturübersetzung in den Kurzgeschichten von

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# Winner of First GCS Essay Prize

## UW Graduate Robyn Dyck goes on to Harvard

**The first winner of the newly instituted German-Canadian Studies Essay Prize, which is open to undergraduate students at Canadian universities, is Robyn Dyck from the University of Winnipeg.**



Dyck: Essay Prize Winner

Her essay entitled "Speculative Endeavor: Possible Causes for the Emergence of Plautdietsch in Written Form" explores why the Low German spoken by Mennonites became a literary language only in the 20th century. "Plautdietsch as a form of symbolic ethnicity" and

exchange to Germany in high school and hosting seven German exchanges has deepened my interest in the language and the culture," said Dyck. "I am still not sure why I chose to study history, but I am very glad that I did! German-Canadian Studies perfectly complemented my path of study because it combined elements of both majors."

"the loss of stigma that hovered over Low German for three hundred years" are considered; so are "the cultural milieu in which it is being written" and "the unique life-sustaining quality of the dialect itself" (Dyck). The essay was written for the third-year seminar *German-Canadian Identity: Historical Perspectives*, taught by Dr. Hans Werner.

Dyck began her studies at the UW in September 1999 and is graduating this summer with a BA (Honours) in History, a 3-year major in German, and an overall GPA of 4.18. "Having grown up in the German bilingual program at Princess Margaret, Chief Peguis, and River East schools in Winnipeg, studying German at University was an easy decision for me. Participating on the

Dyck has won numerous academic awards, including the UW Alumni Entrance and Isbister Undergraduate Awards, the Charlotte Marie Kennedy Scholarships in German Studies and in Mennonite Studies, the Ganesan Sri Ram Scholarship in German and the Victor Leathers Memorial Scholarship in History, the Gold

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## Local Culture

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During two workshops in Winnipeg in May and in Edmonton in July, the researchers and their seven fieldworkers crafted the overall design of the project and thus completed phase 1 of the project. During the summer of 2003, research assistants have begun phase 2, the process of conducting interviews, which will continue until March 2005.

Later project phases will cover the archiving, analysis, and dissemination of the research data.

### Interviewees needed

Readers of the Newsletter who lived on the prairies before 1939 are encouraged to **contact** the project's research assistants at the University of

Winnipeg at **204-786-9996** or at **local\_cultures@yahoo.ca**. The initial interview will take approximately 30 to 40 minutes; if the interviewee is willing, further interviews may be conducted.

For more information about this project, please contact Alexander Freund: telephone 204-786-9009, email [a.freund@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:a.freund@uwinnipeg.ca).

Pre-1939  
Prairie Life

# 2003- 2004 Fellowship Program

## The German-Canadian Studies Fellowship Program at the University of Winnipeg again offers four kinds of financial support for the year 2003-2004:

The **Research Scholarship** Program offers two annual international graduate research scholarships of \$6,500 (M.A. level) and \$8,500 (Ph.D. level) to promising young scholars working on theses and dissertations in German-Canadian Studies.

Every year, four international **research grants** of up to

\$1,000 each are offered to a variety of researchers studying the past and present experiences of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in Manitoba. Both academic and non-academic researchers as well as community, school, and other collaborative projects are welcome to apply for a grant. There are two competitions each year.

Two annual **Undergraduate Prizes** of \$500 are awarded to University of Winnipeg students with the highest marks in courses relating to German

and German-Canadian culture and history.

A new annual \$500 prize for the best **Undergraduate Essay** on a German-Canadian topic was awarded for the first time in 2003 (see page 2) and will again be awarded in 2004. The competition is open to all undergraduate students enrolled at a Canadian college or university.

For more information, please visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca/~germcan](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/~germcan) or contact the Chair in German-Canadian Studies at [gcs@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:gcs@uwinnipeg.ca).



## Farges: Exilautoren

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Exilierten in Kanada." Er vergleicht Autoren im kanadischen Exil mit solchen im amerikanischen und schwedischen Exil.

Ihn interessiert zudem, ob Exilautoren wie Kreisel als Wegbereiter postmoderner Ausdrucksformen gesehen werden können: "Situationen der kulturellen Zerrissenheit, der 'Hybridisierung' von Kulturen und der 'Ent-stell-ung' stehen im Mittelpunkt der postmodernen Debatten in den Kulturwissenschaften," sagt Farges, der diese Begriffe in seinem Vortrag erklären wird. "So spricht Edward Said z.B. von den 'dis-persed and dispossessed', deren Situation der Entwurzelung neue Aus-

drucksformen ins Leben ruft." Ob sich solche postmodernen Ausdrucksformen bereits in den Texten deutschsprachiger, aber englisch-schreibender Exilautoren in Kanada finden, versucht Farges in seinem Vortrag zu klären.

### Wie erfahren Exilierte ihre Einwanderung?

Farges forscht in kanadischen Archiven und interviewt Exilanten für seine Studie zu *Hyphenated Canadians: The Split Identity of German and Austrian Exiles to Canada after 1933*. Geleitet von der Frage, wie "eine Exilsituation in eine permanente Immigration verwan-

delt" wird, untersucht er die bislang wenig beachteten Akkulturations- und Identitätsprozesse von Exilanten.

Vor Beginn seiner Dissertation war Farges Gastforscher an der University of California - Berkeley und schrieb an der Universität Paris und der Freien Universität Berlin seine Magisterarbeit über die Treuhandanstalt. Zudem arbeitete er als stellvertretender Wirtschaftsattaché der Französischen Botschaft in Berlin.

**Alle Interessierten sind herzlich** zum Vortrag und einem kleinen Imbiss danach **eingeladen**. Es wird um **Voranmeldung** unter (204) 786-9009 oder [gcs@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:gcs@uwinnipeg.ca) gebeten.

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[www.uwinnipeg.ca/~germcan](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/~germcan)

*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, grants and publications.*

**Editor/Producer:** Alexander Freund

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(Unless otherwise stated, all articles were written by Alexander Freund)

Submissions of articles, news, reports, and reviews as well as artwork and photos for publication in this newsletter are welcome.

## German Diaspora Research

How can the new analytical concept of 'diaspora' be used fruitfully to illuminate worldwide German-language migrations of the past and present? Bremen historian Dr. Dirk Hoerder investigates this question in "The German-Language Diasporas: A Survey, Critique, and Interpretation," published in the Spring 2002 edition of *Diaspora. A Journal of Transnational Studies*.

Hoerder, who received the Diefenbaker Award in 1996, recently re-wrote Canadian history as immigration history in *Creating Societies: Immigrant Lives in Canada* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 1999) and surveyed the world history of migrations in *Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in*

*the Second Millennium* (Durham, N.C.: Duke UP, 2002).

Copies (offprints) of the article may be requested from Dirk Hoerder, Universität Bremen, Fach-bereich 08, Postfach 330440, 28334 Bremen, Germany or [hoerder@uni-bremen.de](mailto:hoerder@uni-bremen.de).



Hoerder: Diaspora research

## Essay Prize Winner

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Medal in Honours History, and the Swiss Ambassador Book Prize for distinction in German Studies.

Dyck, who recently married, is moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts this fall. There, she will be enrolled in the two-year Master's of Theological Studies program at Harvard's

Divinity School, for which she received a full tuition scholarship. "After that I hope to go on to earn my doctorate, but that is still a couple of years away."

For information about the 2004 competition for the \$500-Award, visit the German-Canadian Studies website or contact the Chair.

