



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

GSC  **ÉAC**

German Studies Canada - Études Allemandes Canada
Annual Conference 2026

Preliminary Program

Tuesday May 19

- 16:00 - 17:30 **Board Meeting**
Senate Chamber in Arts & Convocation Hall
- 18:00 **Meet and Greet**
Location:
The Sugar Bowl - Bistro
10922 88 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 0Z1
thesugarbowl.org

Wednesday May 20

- 08:45 - 09:00 **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**
- 09:00 - 10:30 **Classroom Use of AI and Project-Based Learning**
(90 min. Parallel sessions)
KHRA 1-498
- **Kassandra Sharren (Calgary)**
Second Language Learner Reports on Chatbot Authenticity during Spoken Interactions
 - **Alexander Pichugin (Rutgers)**
L'automate, l'artiste et l'intelligence artificielle : l'intégration de l'IA à l'enseignement des Études allemandes
 - **Roswita Dressler (Calgary)**
Project-based Learning: Writing to be read By Learner For Learner

09:00 - 10:30
(90 min. Parallel sessions)

KHRA 2-140

Nationalism, Knowledge, and Myth in Times of Crisis

- **Martin Wagner (Calgary)**
Care and Community Through the Correspondence of Jewish-Austrian Classmates (1938-1944)
- **Sarah Touboul (Sorbonne)**
Structurer l'esprit, structurer l'enseignement: La fondation de l'Université de Berlin et le rôle accordé à la philosophie
- **Alexandra Heberger (Manitoba)**
"A True Apache Is One at Heart": Cultural Appropriation, Colonial Fantasy, and the Persistence of the German "Indianer"-Myth from Der Schuh des Manitu to Das Kanu des Manitu.

10:30 - 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:45
(60 min. Parallel sessions)

KHRA 1-498

The Work of Wounds: Suffering and the Formation of Care in Medieval German Literature

- **Silvia Reuekamp (Münster)**
Structural Wounds: Christian Ruptures and the Production of Care
- **Markus Stock (Toronto)**
Otherworldly Care: Thresholds to Healing in Medieval German Literature

10:45 - 11:45
(60 min. Parallel sessions)

KHRA 2-140

Gender and Crisis

- **Simone Pflieger (Alberta)**
Desires and Nonnormative Kinship in Schwindel (2024)
- **Florian Kappeler (Göttingen)**
The Case of Maria Einsmann. Imaginations and Practices of a Solidary Care Community

11:45 - 13:30

Lunch Break / Grad Student Lunch / Seminar Board Meeting

13:30 - 15:30

KHRA 1-498

Practising Democracy: Memory, Art, and Civic Responsibility in Contemporary German Culture

- **James Skidmore (Waterloo)**
The Zentrum für Politische Schönheit and the Limits of Artivism in Contemporary Germany
- **Joerg Esleben (Ottawa)**
Die Neue Moralische Anstalt: Performing Democratic Values in the Campaign 'Theater für die Demokratie'
- **Kristin Rebien (San Diego State University)**
Complicity, Compromise, and Civic Responsibility: What Young Adult Literature about the GDR Can Teach Young Readers"
- **Gabi Mueller (York)**
1989: Public Memory of/as Democratic Practice

16:00 - 18:00

Film Screening

Telus 150



Neubau

Dir. Johannes Maria Schmit
Germany, 2020, 81 min.

A young trans man is torn between his love for his grandmother in need of care and his longing for a different life in Berlin.

Drama // Family // Rural Life // LGBTQ+

Sponsored by:



Thursday May 21

9:30 - 11:30

Contemporary Literature Approaching Care and Community

KHRA 1-498

- **Karen Bell (Delta State University)**
Anger is an Energy: Female Rage and Solidarity in Recent German-Language Literature
- **Lars Richter, Selma Osmanovic (Manitoba)**
'Das mach ich einfach nicht' – Reimagining the Bildungsroman in Fatma Aydemir's Ellbogen
- **Christian Wilke (Aveiro)**
Between Resonance and Alienation: Depictions of Care and Community in Saša Stanišić's Herkunft
- **Christiane Arndt (Queen's)**
Stories that Matter – Gardening Narratives as Literary-Material Practices towards Communities of Care

11:30 - 13:00

Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:30

(90 min. Parallel sessions)

Philosophies and Imaginaries of Community in the 1960s

KHRA 1-498

- **Paul M. Malone (Waterloo)**
After the Golden Age: Die Sprechblase and the German-Language Comics Nostalgia Community
- **Samantha Grayck (St Benedict and St John's)**
Hannah Arendt's Dialectic of Care
- **Anna Seethaler (Innsbruck)**
Where Families (don't) Work: Care and Imagined Family Spaces in Ingeborg Bachmann

13:00 - 14:30

(90 min. Parallel sessions)

Practices of Care: Memory, Education, and Media

KHRA 2-140

- **Jacqueline Vansant (Michigan - Dearborn)**
Care and Community Through the Correspondence of Jewish-Austrian Classmates (1938-1944)
- **Robert Gary Ryder (Northwestern)**
The Announcer as Outlier of the "Inner Stage": Kolb's Critique of Reinacher's Radio Play "Der Narr mit der Hacke" (1930)
- **Melanie Carina Schmoll (Calgary & CMSS)**
Mandatory Holocaust Education: What can Canada learn from Germany?

14:30 - 14:45

Coffee Break

14:45 - 16:15

(90 min. Parallel sessions)

KHRA 1-498

Language Acquisition Ideologies and Trajectories

- **Hannah A. Uitvlugt-Rafuse (Waterloo & Mannheim)**
Monolingual Ideologies in Second Language Educators: An Analysis of Beliefs and Pedagogical Implementations in Immersion Programs
- **Alexander Suyanto (UBC)**
Multilingual Trajectories: Learner Investment in German as an Additional Language
- **Björn Kaspar (Kobe)**
Citizenship in beginner level multimodal German Language Education; Assistant Professor, Kobe University

14:45 - 16:15

(90 min. Parallel sessions)

KHRA 2-140

DiffRACTive Practices of Care: Relational Ethics and Environmental Attention in German-Language Literature

- **Paweł Piszczatowski (Warsaw)**
Seismic Entanglements: DiffRACTive Listening and Relational Attention in Esther Kinsky's *Romb*
- **Matthias Laux (Independent Scholar)**
Towards an Agential Fictionalism: Care as Interpretative Intra-action
- **Carolin Slickers (Bonn)**
Care as Affective Resonance in Clara Heinrich's *Pusztageold* (2025)

16:15 - 16:30

Break

16:30 - 17:15

Innovate German Award and Reception

KHRA 1-498

Sponsored by:

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

18:30

Banquet / Boeschenstein Medal Award / Best Dissertation Prize

Location:

LUNAR - Private Event Space

8222- Gateway Boulevard, Edmonton, AB T6E 4B2

lunaryeg.com/lunar

Friday May 22

09:00 - 10:15

KHRA 1-498

WCGS Book Prize Keynote

Sponsored by:



10:15 - 10:30

Coffee Break / Best Graduate Paper Award

10:30 - 12:00

KHRA 1-498

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