

The German Language and Immigration in International Perspective

Thursday, September 28 and Friday, September 29, 2006

Memorial Union on the UW–Madison campus

Free and open to the public

Sponsored by the Max Kade Institute

in conjunction with the Center for German and European Studies

Description

On Thursday, September 28 and Friday, September 29, 2006, the Max Kade Institute, in conjunction with the Center for German and European Studies, will sponsor a conference on the topic "The German Language and Immigration in International Perspective." This will take place in the Memorial Union on the UW–Madison campus. All presentations are free and open to the entire campus community and the general public.



This conference will explore the German language within the context of global migration, past and present. The empirical focus will be two-pronged. On the one hand, we will consider the social and linguistic consequences of the migration of German-speakers beyond Central Europe, especially to North America, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. On the other hand, we also examine the situation of migrants to Germany after the Second World War and also German unification, especially Turks and ethnic Germans from the East and former Soviet Union. The goal of the conference is to examine the parallels between history and the present to understand better the diverse sociolinguistic situation of German around the globe.

The foundation for "The German Language and Immigration in International Perspective" was laid in a collaborative seminar on the topic sponsored by the Center for German and European Studies, which took place during the spring of 2006. In that seminar, approximately fifty colleagues and students were linked live via video at four universities: the UW–Madison, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Free University of Berlin, and the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany. An important goal of the conference is to link instruction with international scholarship and local outreach, which will afford the students from the four partner universities a unique educational opportunity.

The schedule for the two-day conference is given below. Two events of special interest include a keynote address on Thursday, Sept. 28, 7:30–9:00 p.m., by Prof. Jack Thiessen (U Winnipeg) on

the topic of Mennonite Low German. The following evening, also from 7:30–9:00 p.m., Dr. Peter Wagener, Director of the German Language



Language in Mannheim, Germany, will coordinate an evening workshop and special outreach event titled "In Their Own Words: Migration and Identity in Interviews with German Dialect-Speakers." This event will feature presentation and analysis of recordings made with German dialect-speakers from Eastern Europe and North America drawn from the German Language Archive and the MKI's North American German Dialect Archive. All materials will be translated into English.

Acknowledgments

The conference organizing committee gratefully acknowledges the following institutions for their generous support of this conference: Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany (Chicago); Free University of Berlin; Europa-Universität Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder); Anonymous Fund, Center for German and European Studies, Department of German, and the Max Kade Institute (all from the UW–Madison); Max Kade Foundation (New York).

Organizing Committee

Rob Howell, Julie Larson-Guenette, Mark Loudon, and Joe Salmons (UW–Madison); Paul Roberge (UNC–Chapel Hill); Carol W. Pfaff (John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University of Berlin); and Peter Rosenberg and Harald Weydt (Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder).

Schedule

Please check [Today in the Union](#) for room locations.

(All presenters from Berlin are affiliated with the Free University; those from Frankfurt/Oder are affiliated with the Europa-Universität Viadrina)

Thursday, September 28

8:30 Opening remarks [Mark Loudon and Joan Raducha (Associate Dean, Division of International Studies)]

Session 1—Verticalization and Localization in Language Maintenance and Shift [Chair: Jennifer Delahanty]

9:00 Tyler Luiten (Madison): Verticalization,
Localization, Maintenance and Shift among
Pennsylvania Germans

9:30 Stefanie Vogler-Lipp (Frankfurt/Oder):
Limitations of the Verticalization Process

10:00 Coffee

**Session 2—Structural Phenomena I [Chair: Mark
Louden]**

10:30 Gesche Westphal (Berlin): The Syntax of
Adverbials in Pennsylvania German

11:00 Fiona Schnüttgen (Berlin): Late Outsiders in
Pennsylvania German: A Problem for the 4M-
Model

11:30 Claudia Scharioth (Frankfurt/Oder): Die
deutsche Progressiv-Konstruktion *am* +Infinitiv
im Vergleich (Pennsylvania German,
wolgadeutsche und deutsche Varietäten in
Deutschland)

12:00 Lunch

**Session 3—Structural Phenomena II [Chair:
Helena Ruf]**

1:30 Angela Bagwell (Madison) & Mike Olson
(Madison): Languages in Contact: Uncovering
the Sources of German Imposition on Wisconsin
English

2:00 Shannon Dubenion-Smith (Madison): A
Diachronic Investigation of Pragmatic
Detachability in Pennsylvania Dutch

2:30 Kristin Speth (Madison): Name-Calling in
German America: Pragmatics and Terms of
Address in a German-American Play

3:00 Coffee

**Session 4—German in Wisconsin [Chair: Karen
Scott]**

3:30 Andrew Kraiss (Madison): The Life and Death
of Wisconsin's German Press in the 20th
Century

4:00 Felecia Lucht (Madison): "Blessed Be the Ties
that Bind": Social Ties, Verticalization, and the
Role of Religious Institutions in Language
Maintenance and Shift

4:30 Geoff Brainerd (Madison) & Julie Larson-
Guenette (Madison): Maintaining Immigrant
Language in Green County, Wisconsin in 1900:
Isolation, Identity, and Inertia

5:00 Steve Hartman Keiser (Marquette U): In-migration and dialect contact in Pennsylvania German

5:30 Dinner

7:30 Keynote address by Prof. Jack Thiessen (U Winnipeg) on Mennonite Low German [Introduced by Joe Salmons]

Friday, Sept. 29

Session 5—German in Latin America [Chair: Shannon Dubenion-Smith]

- 9:30 Elke Schmidt (Frankfurt/Oder): Sprachliche Folgeerscheinungen mennonitischer Migrationen—Ein Vergleich brasilianischer und paraguayischer Mennoniten
- 10:00 Ina Fassbender (Frankfurt/Oder) & Katharina Rosenberg (Frankfurt/Oder): Die deutsche Minderheit in Argentinien—Ein Beispiel für gelungene Integration von Migranten?

10:30 Coffee

Session 6—German in Eastern Europe [Chair: Mike Olson]

- 11:00 Gil Ribak (Madison): Between *Fonye* and *Ashkenaz*: The Images of Slavs and Germans among Eastern European Jews and Their Linguistic Dimension in the Late Nineteenth Century
- 11:30 Sahra Damus (Frankfurt/Oder): Viktor Schirmunski's Theory of Primary and Secondary Dialect Features in Comparison to Concepts of Salience in Dialect Leveling on the Example of German Speech Islands in Russia

12:00 Lunch

Session 7—Immigrant Youth in Today's Germany [Chair: Kristine Horner]

- 2:00 Janet Fuller (Southern Illinois U—Carbondale): Immigration into Germany: Language Use and Identity in a Multilingual Setting
- 2:30 Carol W. Pfaff (Berlin) & Meral Dollnick (Berlin): Issues in the Development and Assessment of Language Proficiency of Immigrant Children in Germany

3:00 Coffee

Session 8—Language Policy at the National and Supranational Levels [Chair: Rob Howell]

3:30 Karen Genz (Berlin): Der Integrationskurs—
Ein Modell mit Zukunft?

4:00 Kristine Horner (U Luxembourg): Old
Language Ideologies, New Global
Dynamics: Language, Citizenship, and the
Discourse of Integration

4:30 Marta Rusek (Berlin): German Language
Maintenance at the EU Supranational Level:
Power Struggle in the Administration of EU
Institutions

**5:00 Concluding remarks/discussion led by Joe
Salmons (Madison)**

5:30 Dinner

7:30 In Their Own Words: Migration and Identity
in Interviews with German Dialect-Speakers;
Invited Speaker, Dr. Peter Wagener (Institut
für Deutsche Sprache–Mannheim)

Invited Speakers

Jack Thiessen is Professor Emeritus of German at the University of Winnipeg, where he taught from 1961 to 1988. He received his Ph.D. in Germanic Philology and Dialectology at the University of Marburg, Germany, in 1963. A native speaker of Mennonite Low German (Plautdietsch), he is the author of numerous publications in and on Mennonite Low German, including *A Sackful of Plautdietsch, Low German, and English* (1983) and the *Mennonite Low German Dictionary* (2003). He has also conducted extensive research on Yiddish, culminating in his 1974 monograph *Yiddish in Canada*. Since retiring from full-time teaching, he has continued to publish and lecture for scholarly and general audiences around the world. In Canada he has advised the national and provincial governments on cross-cultural affairs, including work related to culturally sensitive translation and interpretation in governmental and commercial projects.

Peter Wagener is a Research Scientist at the Institute for the German Language (Institut für Deutsche Sprache) in Mannheim, Germany, where he directs the German Language Archive (Deutsches Spracharchiv), the largest sound archive of spoken German in the world. His published research deals primarily with regional variation in German (especially Low German dialects), language change, and corpus linguistics. In 2001 he was Max Kade Visiting Professor in the Department of German at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.