

**2024 Doctoral Conference of DAAD-funded  
Centres for German and European Studies**

**Critical German and European Studies:  
*'International Interventions and the State of The Field'***

**26 - 28 November 2024 – University of Cambridge**

**Call for papers, reading groups, panels and workshops.**

The DAAD-University of Cambridge Research Hub for German Studies is pleased to invite doctoral students from each of the DAAD research centres to participate in a 2.5-day conference dedicated to exploring the future and potential of German Studies on an international scale.

Delegates from DAAD research centres are invited to submit suggestions for individual papers, panels and workshops by **15th August 2024**.

This conference comes at a critical time, as Modern Language and Literature studies, along with Area Studies, face significant challenges including funding cuts and declining student and faculty numbers. Our fields are often questioned in terms of their relevance and impact, while also facing critiques related to exclusionary canons, outdated teaching traditions, and inequitable hiring practices. The conference will take place from the **26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. Travel and accommodation will be reimbursed by the university, lunches and evening meals will be provided and there will be a welcome event on the first evening of the conference to which all delegates are warmly invited.

**Conference Focus**

The conference aims to address these challenges head-on, with a focus on identifying opportunities and pathways for renewal. As the next generation of scholars and potential future university faculty, we must consider how we can contribute to the relevance, potential, and success of humanities departments. We draw inspiration from successful international initiatives such as Diversity, Decolonisation and the German Curriculum, Decolonial Discourses & German Studies, Working Towards an Equitable German Studies, and the Goethe Institute's *Vorzeichen* lecture series.

We welcome a constructive critique of current practices that acknowledges the diversity of Europe, the German-speaking world, and the scholars working within this field. This conference offers a platform to engage with international colleagues and discuss critical questions, including:

- What might research and teaching practices for future German / German and European Studies look like, particularly across language, literature, politics, history, and culture?

- How do we foster diversity in German Studies, and how do our positionalities influence our methodologies and research questions? How do we cultivate a supportive environment for ourselves and others within the university setting?
- What are the possibilities and benefits of interdisciplinary approaches in German Studies?
- Should the political motivations of academic work be made visible, and if so, how?
- How can we enhance the relevance of German Studies to a broader audience?

### **Submission Guidelines**

We invite submissions for papers, reading groups, workshops and panels that engage with these themes. Submissions should include:

1. **Title**
2. **Abstract (300-500 words)** outlining the main argument, approach, and relevance to the conference themes.
3. **Format** (paper, reading group, workshop or panel - if panel, please be prepared to act as a moderator).
4. **Presenter(s)** (name, affiliation (institution), and brief biography).
5. **Contact Information**

### **Inspiration**

Papers and panels should showcase research around the conference topics with a specific view to bringing your insight as international researchers to the table.

Workshops might include, for example:

Outreach and Engagement in German and European Studies (Academia as Public Engagement).

International Insights: Reimagining German and European Studies.

Overcoming Challenges in German and European Studies.

Reading groups can focus on specific books, theoretical texts or recent articles that reflect new developments in the field for discussion at the conference.

If you would like to propose/run a workshop or a reading group, please bring relevant materials with you. We are always happy to help you prepare in the run up to the conference.

### **Important Dates**

- **Submission Deadline:** 15/08/24
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 25/08/24
- **Conference Dates:**

### **Submission Process**

Please send your submissions to [cpsj@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cpsj@cam.ac.uk) with the subject line "DAAD Conference Submission." Make sure to include your name and institution. Please send your submissions by **15<sup>th</sup> August 2024** to be considered for the conference.

### **Contact Information**

For any inquiries regarding the conference, please contact the committee at [cpsj@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cpsj@cam.ac.uk).

Join us at the DAAD-University of Cambridge Research Hub for German Studies to contribute to a vibrant and forward-looking dialogue on the future of German Studies from a graduate perspective. We look forward to your participation and to the innovative discussions that will shape the future of our field.

