

## CALLING ALL UNDERGRADUATES WITH AN INTEREST IN GERMAN STUDIES!

Submit an abstract for a paper or poster on the theme '**Recognition**' for the 10th Anniversary Cambridge Undergraduate Conference in German Studies, which will take place on 1 March 2025! We invite papers from undergraduates from any discipline, at all stages of research and from any institution to submit abstracts of 150-200 words for 15-minute presentations in English (but citing German material in the original language) on the topic 'Recognition'.

We are delighted to announce that there will be a keynote from culture journalist and researcher **Aida Baghernejad**.

At a time when questions of how we define identity, subjectivity, and community are at the centre of political discourse, the power to recognise, or not to do so, is the power to determine what belongs and what does not belong. Throughout history, this power has shaped our perception of reality and the actuality of our past. How do we recognise ourselves? What cultural value do we ascribe to this recognition, and are we actually what we recognise, or are we shaped according to an idea of what we should be? These questions are fundamental to individual, cultural, and national identities and can be applied to bygone periods just as easily as they can to the modern day.

In responding to these lines of enquiry, speakers could consider the following areas:

- **Cultural and social recognition** (encompassing art, literature, film, photography and other cultural media from all time periods in the German-speaking world)
  - Periodisation of literature/art and the implications of that label
  - Recognition of literature/art as 'German' and the corresponding implications
- **Social recognition in the German-speaking world**
  - Abstract recognition (events, anniversaries, dates, status)
  - Concrete recognition (people, places, things, smells)
  - Recognition as fame or infamy
  - Recognition of individual or collective identities
  - Recognition and democracy
- **Recognising the German-speaking world:**
  - What has been/is recognised as Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland etc?
  - How is Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland etc recognised in the rest of the world?
  - How do German-speaking regions recognise / come to terms with the past?
  - How does cultural memory of National Social impact how we recognise modern political movements?
  - How are other legacies recognised and re/framed: Kolonialismus, WWI, WWII, Kalter Krieg, GDR)
- **Linguistic recognition**
  - What is recognised as 'German'?
  - How does German evolve in service of recognition (e.g. new nouns, pronouns, grammatical structures)?
- **Technology and recognition from a German Studies perspective** (literary, linguistic, social, cultural)
  - Can AI 'recognise' in the same way we can?
  - Recognising the boundary between human and non-human/machine

The Conference is an ideal opportunity to present your own work, perhaps for the first time, in a welcoming and engaging environment. In previous years, students have used work from their dissertation, year abroad project or module essays, for example. You may interpret the title 'Recognition' in any way you wish. If you would prefer not to give a presentation, you can submit an abstract for academic posters of A1 size, which will be displayed at the conference. There will be an opportunity for poster authors to participate in a Q&A. There will not be funding available for poster authors.

We ask that students submit an abstract of between 150-200 words describing their 15-minute presentation or their proposed poster, along with their name, institution and a short bio (50 words), by Wednesday 15th January 2025 at <https://bit.ly/CUCGS2025Abstracts>. We are very keen to hear from candidates from a diverse range of institutions and backgrounds, as well those who might have had an interruption to their studies.

We are glad to be able to offer free accommodation and board **to speakers only** for their time in Cambridge, as well as reimbursement for their travel costs. There will be the opportunity to connect with both members of the German Section and our keynote speaker. Refreshments will be available for all attendees during the conference.

We are looking forward to hearing your insights and seeing you at the conference at the start of March! If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Committee at [CUCGS@mml.cam.ac.uk](mailto:CUCGS@mml.cam.ac.uk).

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