

Diaspora Experiences: German Immigrants and Their Descendents

History, Linguistics, Literature & Film



Looking back on a conference and forward to a book

- Lexical analysis of a conference title
- Plans for the book





Diaspora

Greek: διασπορά – "a scattering or sowing of seeds")

- > Greek citizens living in occupied lands to facilitate colonisation
- > Jewish diaspora (semantic shift in Bible translation)
- > dispersion or scattering of people
- > Diaspora Studies in late 20th century (often with connotation of forced dispersion)

Experiences

- Experiences were different and are (re-)interpreted differently
- Cultural, economic, geographical, ideological, linguistic, personal, social, ... factors influenced these experiences and have to be considered in more general discussions



German (speaking)

- German-Canadian as starting point
- ⇒ German world-wide
- What do we mean by ‘German’?
- ⇒ predominantly linguistic definition
- ⇒ a very heterogeneous group before and after the diasporic experience



Einwanderer und ihre Nachkommen

- Einwanderungsfokus vs. Auswanderungsfokus vs. Wanderungsfokus
- Implizierte Metapher der Ankunft, des Findens einer neuen Identität, eines dritten Raumes
- Nachkommenschaft als Begriff und seine Grenzen



The book

- **Working title:** Diaspora Experiences: German Immigrants and Their Descendants. Cultural, Historical and Linguistic Approaches.
- **Editorial team:** Mathias Schulze, David G. John, Grit Liebscher, Sebastian Siebel-Achenbach, James Skidmore



Selection criteria for individual book chapters:

- Quality of the manuscript
- Fit to the book's general theme
- Fit to one or more of the identified thematic threads (next slide)
- Inclusion of examples from all three general approaches
- Representation of a wide selection of geographical, historical, cultural, societal, linguistic contexts



Possible thematic threads

- One diaspora – many groups?
- New avenues of research
- The last sixty years
- ...



Timeline

- 27 August: confirm interest
- by 15 September: all manuscripts must have reached the editors
- by 3 November: all authors of selected papers will be contacted
- 27 August – 3 November: contractual details with publisher will be finalised



Sie haben das Wort...

