



Cultural Identity in Contemporary Germany - Hamburg between Global Modernity and Local Patrimony

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Organized by: Le Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes at Université de Montréal and The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies at York University

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Graduate students from across Canada are invited to apply to participate in an interdisciplinary ten-day study tour to Hamburg and the surrounding region providing unique first-hand insights into present-day Germany. Successful applicants will be awarded a DAAD travel grant which largely subsidizes their transatlantic travel, have their accommodation provided during the tour and be given the opportunity to complete an internship in the region related to the themes of the study tour or tie the trip to their own research interests.

The "Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg" is Germany's second largest city with a bustling economic activity, a vibrant modern art scene and a deep cultural heritage. Having connected Germany with the wider world ever since it took a key position in the medieval *Hansabund*, Hamburg remains both one of Europe's most important ports and an important economic engine for Germany. Hamburg's population is diverse, and includes conservative groups, which are presently rediscovering traditional values of the city's historical elite merchant classes ("*Neue Bürgerlichkeit*"), large ethnic communities and highly engaged civic activists. Not surprisingly, conflicts between these groups with their differing perspectives and priorities have often been heated. Also, Hamburg's status as an independent *Stadtstaat* (federal city state) and its leading role in efforts to implement direct democracy ("*Bürgerentscheid*") make it a fascinating lens through which to consider contemporary German politics. Interesting recent cultural, economic and socio-dynamic developments in the city include the contested plans to gentrify and modernize such historical quarters as *Schanzenviertel* and *Gängeviertel* and rebuild swaths of the city harbour. Even plans to build a new opera house and being named the European Green Capitol of 2011 have not escaped criticism with opponents charging that high profile initiatives and projects are taking place at the cost of cuts to the local arts and culture scenes.

Our study tour will explore the political, economic, structural and cultural changes facing the Hamburg region by meeting with leading individuals, institutions and organizations over the course of the ten day trip and is organized around these four themes:

- 1. Political Agendas between modernization and conservatism**
- 2. Germany, Europe and the World**
- 3. Industry, Infrastructure and Environmental Challenges**
- 4. Culture and History in a Commercial Centre**

Applicants

The Study Tour is open to all students currently enrolled in a graduate program at a Canadian university. If you do not have a legal status in Canada as citizen or permanent resident please contact us before you apply.

Students with a strong background in German may be favoured. However, would-be applicants with little or no language ability, but a keen interest in the tour themes, are also encouraged to apply.

Interested participants may also extend their stay in Germany by opting to complete an internship with a German institution or company after the Study Tour. Funds are available to help defray much of the cost associated with completion of an internship.

Study tourists contribute a \$500.00 participation fee to help cover the costs of their travel and accommodation during their ten days in Germany. Meals will be participants' responsibility. Although some restrictions to booking flights may apply, students should note that they are free to travel to Europe before the tour begins or remain there after it concludes in order to meet their own research, work, or other needs.

Successful applicants will be provided an extensive introductory reader and are obliged to prepare for the Study Tour by participating in an online-seminar about four weeks ahead of departure. Moreover, they will be expected to make a substantive contribution to the success of the tour both by serving as a discussion facilitator during one of the tour's half-day modules and by contributing to some kind of joint publication upon the tour's completion. (The form of such a contribution is open and potential participants are encouraged to contemplate what form this might take (text, photos, film, etc.).

Please indicate in your application if you're seeking course credit for participating in the Study Tour. While this has been possible in the past, it is each student's responsibility to clarify the requirements with his/her home institution well in advance of the tour.

A complete application includes:

- Letter of Interest outlining why you wish to participate and how the tour would complement your graduate program (2 pages max.)
- Transcripts from Post-Secondary Study (print-outs or copies acceptable)
- Documentation demonstrating German-language facility (e.g. high school or university transcripts, DaF test results, etc.)
- In the event that you are interested in an internship (at least four weeks of duration) following the study tour, please indicate your specific field of interest in your application.

Applications should be submitted electronically **before February 15th, 2011** to the coordinator of the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies at York University

Mr. John Paul Kleiner: jkleiner@yorku.ca

Questions about the content of the tour can be addressed to the organizers:

Dr. Matt Bera: mbera@yorku.ca and

Prof. Ulrich Ufer: ulrich.ufer@umontreal.ca