

Zeit zur Vorstellung: Past and Future Projections
Graduate Student Conference
Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures, University of Toronto
May 8-9, 2023

“*Now* has no duration, so how can you talk about its being, how can it be said to exist at all? As soon as you fix on it, it’s gone, it’s a has-been, and we’re onto the next *now*. In fact the *now* is never purely there at all: it is a transition, always divided between no longer and not yet; each present *now* is stretched out and spanned by a past now and a future now.”

-Carolyn Dinshaw, *How Soon is Now? Medieval Texts, Amateur Readers, and the Queerness of Time*.

The past, present, and future are constantly shifting lenses through which we understand the world. The transitory nature of our perception of time raises many questions: Does the past shape our future, or our future shape the past? In what ways do memories and commemorations, national or personal narratives, expectations, utopias and hopes, among many other attitudes to past and future times, affect our daily lives? How do these issues relate to the perception of reality? Can the transitory nature of the present be challenged? This conference is an opportunity for graduate students to examine these and other questions related to perceptions of the past and the future in German and Yiddish literature, language, culture, and history.

The Graduate Conference Committee at the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Toronto invites papers presenting original research on these and related issues for its conference on May 6-7, 2023. In addition to those from German studies, papers from the field of Yiddish studies are also welcomed, as the committee plans to form a full Yiddish panel. Applications can be in either English or German and can include, but are not limited to, fields such as:

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| -Literature & Comparative Literature | -Diaspora & Transnational Studies |
| -Translation Studies | -History |
| -Linguistics & Language Pedagogy | -Environmental Humanities |
| -Cultural Studies | -Philosophy |
| -Religious Studies | -Media Studies |
| | -Political Sciences |

Paper presentations should be 15-20 minutes in length. Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to germangradconference@utoronto.ca by **February 20, 2023**.

The Graduate Conference Organizing Committee,
Maria Harutyunyan, Sophie Jordan, Astrid Klee, and Virginia Shewfelt