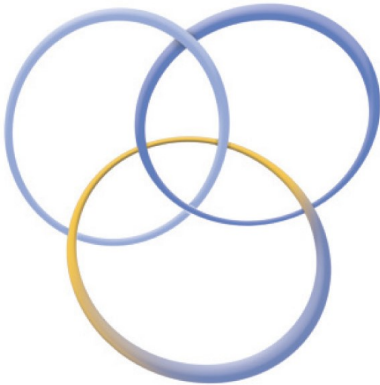
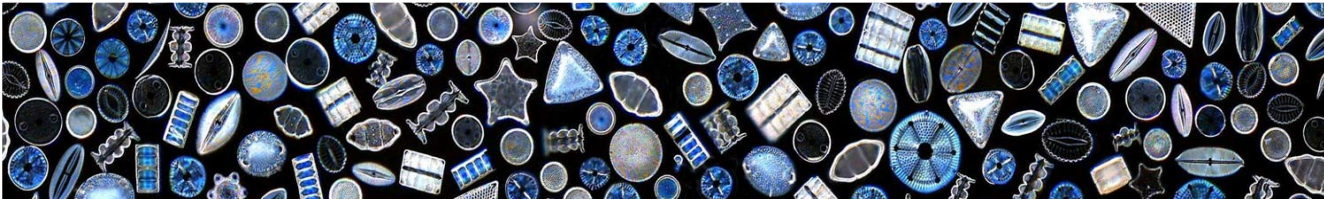


IRTG Diversity

Mediating Difference in Transcultural Spaces

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ABOUT THE IRTG DIVERSITY



Diversity is a central issue in current discussions about cultures and societies. Bringing together scholars and PhD students from the Université de Montréal, Universität Trier, and Universität des Saarlandes, our **International Research Training Group (IRTG) Diversity: Mediating Difference in Transcultural Spaces**—funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—pursues an innovative research program in the contested fields of diversity, multiculturalism, and transnationalism. We do so by examining paradigmatic changes and historical transformations in interpreting multicultural realities in North America (Québec and Canada in particular) and Europe (Germany and France in particular) since the 18th century.

THE IRTG DIVERSITY IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

- Regular transatlantic exchanges between academics and doctoral candidates.
- The exploration of diversity in all its complexities, taking into account the individual, societal, political, and communicative level.
- Taking into account historical developments and path-dependencies shaping current developments and phenomena.

IRTG DIVERSITY: RESEARCH

Diversity is not a new phenomenon, but in recent years the use of the term has exploded in academic as well as public debates about the constitution of modern societies. Yet, the meaning of diversity remains highly contested in both arenas.

THE IRTG'S CORE RESEARCH QUESTIONS ARE:

- How has cultural difference and diversity been mediated in North America and Europe?
- How and when do migration and the mobilization of markers of difference change social configurations?
- What factors and processes account for the transformative power of diversity?



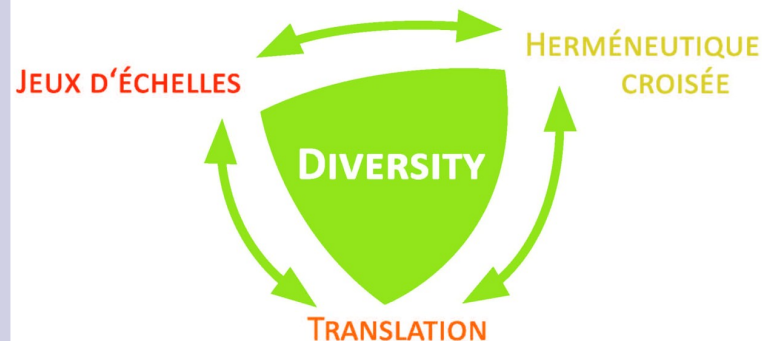
IRTG DIVERSITY: RESEARCH



The IRTG investigates diversity through the lenses of three dominant modes of social action: the politics, the practices, and the narratives of diversity. We make an analytical distinction between these three modes in order to explore the conflictual, the quotidian, and the communicative character of the mediation of difference as a complex social interaction producing distinct, yet often overlapping localities of diversity as well as transcultural spaces.

ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVES AND APPROACHES

Theoretically and methodically our research program and its related framework of analysis are informed by and based on key ideas and methods from the fields of sociology, ethnic and migration studies, literary criticism, human geography, history, and from the field of cultural and media studies. Our research programme is based on the concepts: Translation, jeux d'échelles, and herméneutique croisée.



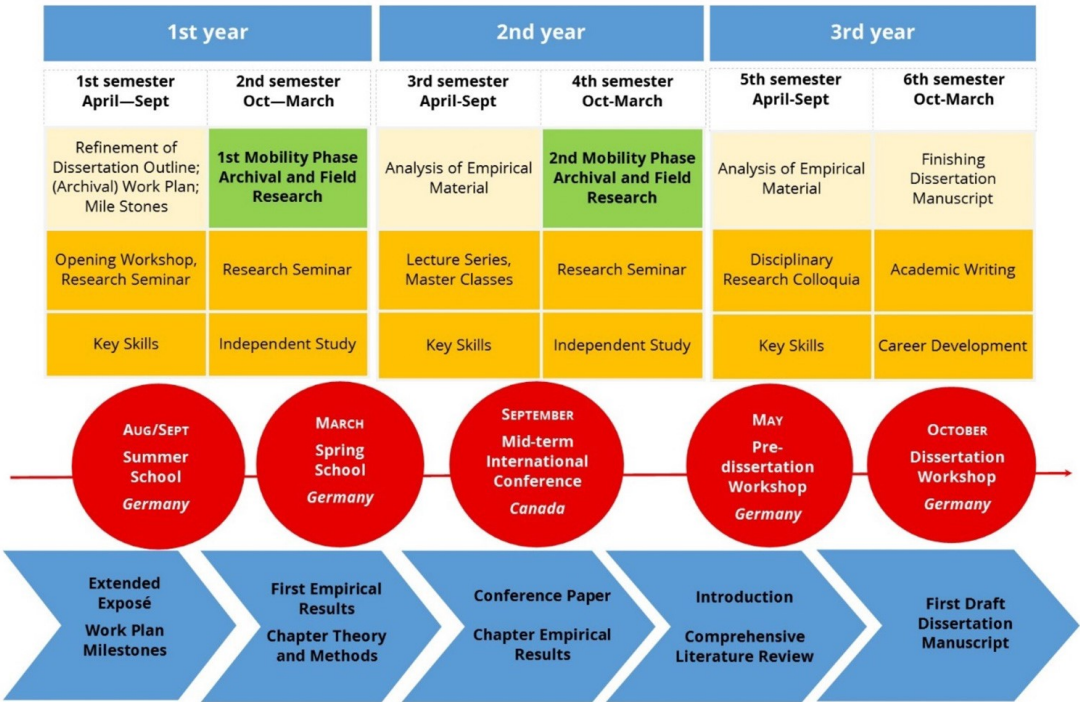
PEOPLE OF THE IRTG



PEOPLE OF THE IRTG



DOCTORAL TRAINING



CURRENT PHD PROJECTS

Marie-Eve Beaulieu: *Decolonizing Contacts: Interaction Practices Between Public Education Institutions and First Nations in Southern Manitoba.*

Paul Carls: *The Morality of Politics: Political Conflicts in the German Refugee Crisis.*

Sophie Devrieux: *La posture politique dans le théâtre postdramatique dans une perspective comparative Montréal-Berlin.*

Marc-Antoine Frébutte: *Création, orientation et évolution du milieu associatif et des espaces sociaux : Le cas des serbes de Vienne et de Toronto.*

Yulia Gordina: *A Boon to Our Quest for Continuity': Cultural Memory and the Construction of Russian Jewish North American Identities.*

Ahmed Hamila: *European Asylum Policy Related to Sexual Orientation: A Common System, Several Implementation Models.*

Lisa Johnson: *On the Move – from Kingston to Montréal: Understanding the Diverse Social Field of Jamaicans Migrating to Montréal.*

Julia Charlotte Kersting: *It's the same difference. Literary Translation as a Medium of Cultural Contact in Québec.*

Judith Lamberty: *Multilinguisme littéraire en contextes pluriculturels (Suisse romande, Québec). Processus de réception et de circulation des écritures plurilingues.*

Pierre Lavoie: *Des migrants en tournée. Étude transnationale de l'héritage pratique et mémoriel des Franco-Américains dans l'histoire de la musique populaire canadienne-française et québécoise (1930-1980).*

From an Interview on Ahmed Hamila's PhD project:

The initial idea for my project came to me after reading the report 'Fleeing Homophobia' presented to the European Parliament in 2011. In this report, the authors highlight the considerable differences in the ways in which European States examine LGBTI asylum applications despite the fact that all Member States have transposed the Common European Asylum System to their national legislation. I was intrigued by the fact that countries bound by the same European directives display so many differences in the ways they process asylum applications, so I decided to seek an answer to this question. [...]

My many discussions and meetings with IRTG Diversity members helped me realize what it was that was really interesting about my research. [...] I took note of the unhelpful constraints I was imposing on myself, and that I could use my data much better by thinking out of the box.



CURRENT PHD PROJECTS



Lisa Johnson on the significance of her PhD project:

The simultaneous encountering of the Jamaican and the Quebecois environment creates a specific translocal, socio-cultural field wherein my major research interest lies. Through the analysis of social links and connections of migratory people I seek to understand their mobile life pathways. In an anthropological manner my project focus lies on the narratives and movement activities of migrants, their ways of acting and their interpersonal networks. As a consequence my study goes beyond the common juxtaposition of “here and there” and of two nation states. With ongoing globalization and medialization processes in mind my research project investigates social activities, interactions and practices of migrants across diverse social spaces. Social links and communication networks beyond national and geographical borders become visible – movement strategies infused by the temporal and spatial experiences of their storytellers are therefore a key to stimulate the current debate about transnational migration.

Geneviève Robichaud: *Translation as Creative Interface: The Innovative Edge of a Mutational Poetics.*

Nikolas Schall: *Cosmopolitan Solidarity in Transnational Activist Networks: An Ethnography of the Production of Global Relations.*

Lisa Schaub: *Territory and Identity: Red River Métis and their Fight for Land and Recognition, 1840-1880.*

Mônica Schlobach: *Migrants brésiliens hautement qualifiés: trajectoires migratoires, familles transnationales et incorporation socioprofessionnelle.*

Lena Schneider: *The Transcultural Feminist Grotesque: Embodiment in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures.*

Nari Shelekpayev: *Imagining Contemporary Capital Cities: Ottawa, Brasilia and Astana (1850-2000).*

Saaz Taher: *De l'assignation identitaire à la (non-) résistance: le cas des musulmans en Suisse et au Québec.*

Anna Weinand: *The Child as ‘Generational Other’: Narratives of Childhood Practices and Children’s (Self-)Positioning During Times of Crisis in Canadian Literature.*

Julia Wurr: *From Tahrir to Terror: (Neo-)Orientalism in European and North American Fiction since the ‘Arab Spring’ (2011-2016).*



You can find out more about the
IRTG Diversity on our website at
www.irtg-diversity.com

**New doctoral positions will be
advertised in 2018**

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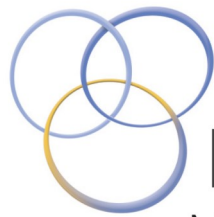


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IRTG Diversity

Mediating Difference in Transcultural Spaces



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