

**studi
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Editorial

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This is the first issue of “Studi Germanici” to be published online. We came to this decision for a reason that has to do with what we consider the character, quasi the essence, of the Italian Institute of German Studies (or, as it is often known, the IISG): it is first and foremost a research entity, an aspect that cannot but have an influence upon the whole. Naturally, a research entity must make the results of its research available to the greatest number of people possible. “Studi Germanici” is the laboratory and showcase of German Studies in Italy and, more generally, of the research in our country dedicated to German culture and the German-speaking world. If this is the first reason, the second is of a more “patriotic” nature. We translate the contributions of Italian scholars into English, but the only way to make them truly known abroad is to put the journal up online and in the proper way. And the proper way to do so is known as the Open Journal System. It is an open-access (or rather, free-use) system with a great degree of web-indexing, and is the system used by some of the most important universities for digital journals (University of Edinburgh, Duke University, Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, Universität Bielefeld, Universität Hamburg, but also Sapienza University of Rome and the Universities of Florence and Milan) – this of course renders the contributions published in the journal immediately visible and consultable throughout the world. Finally, there are economic considerations. The movement to digital will allow us to save a considerable amount of money on printing costs (the journal in paper form in any event will still be available on-demand), as well as layout, since the system is constructed to guarantee the entire work-flow of the contributions from the moment they are given to the editors on to the final product, which is available for download and readable online.

Keeping the growth of the journal’s audience in mind, it is important to reiterate that the “German Studies” is the scientific organ of an EPR (public research entity), which is to say, the IISG. This means



that we are one of twelve research centers funded by the Italian State through the MIUR (Ministry of Education, Universities and Research), which is also responsible for monitoring what it is we do. The IISG promotes and organizes research projects within its areas of competence by participating in the national program of research (PNR), in European projects (Horizon 2020), in structural funds from the various Italian regions, and in any other source of financing that will allow us to realize our institutional objectives, objectives summarized as follows in our programmatic charter: “The Italian Institute of German Studies, being a center of northern European culture (above all that of Germany and of the Scandinavian countries), remaining rooted in its identity as a European humanistic entity in continuous cultural exchange with the rest of the world, is increasing its openness to all of the human sciences in the conviction that only specificity allows for (and almost requires) the maximum of disciplinary and conceptual openness within the perspective of valuing the human sciences as a non-negligible opportunity for working toward transcendence of its old, if still present, juxtaposition to the so-called hard sciences. The Italian Institute of German Studies, in as much as it is the only humanistic entity amongst the public research entities (EPR), is working in this direction by taking advantage of the argumentative, epistemological, and critical characteristics of all of the human sciences (anthropology, sociology, economy, philosophy, history, psychology, communication theory, bio-ethics, literature, philology, archeology, and the figurative and dramatic arts). In a globalized society where the return of the “hard sciences” ipso facto is transforming itself into human behavior, there really is only one science. Understanding the processes established in being by scientific discoveries as well as technological innovation can and must come about through the contribution of the human sciences”. Naturally, and this always bears repeating, from our being specialized in the area of German, and more generally speaking, Northern European, Studies.

The IISG is headquartered in Rome in a beautiful villa attached to a small park on the Janiculum, and is blessed with a library of close to 70,000 volumes, eighty percent of which are dedicated to



German culture and the other twenty percent to that of Scandinavia. Furthermore, all of the following German institutes and structures are themselves present in Rome: the Goethe Institut, the Casa di Goethe, the German Historical Institute, the German Archeological Institute, the German Academy of Villa Massimo, the Hertziana Library – Max Planck Institute for Art History, and the Korad Adenauer Stiftung. In addition to these, there is also the Austrian Cultural Forum as well as the Swiss Institute. As regards the Scandinavian countries the Danish Academy, the Dutch Institute, and the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies are also located here. Naturally, of course, Rome offers great opportunities for study, if only for its library system and three State universities.

Beyond having relationships with the aforementioned institutions, the IISG also has relationships with the following international institutions and universities: Alexander von Humboldt Universität, Berlin; Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg im Breisgau; Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, Heidelberg; Universität Hamburg; Universität Augsburg; Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Bamberg; Universität Rostock; Universität Duisburg-Essen; Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen; Universität Bochum; Universität Tübingen; Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Bonn; Goethe Institut, Munich; Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft, Berlin; Universität Graz; Österreichische Gesellschaft für Germanistik; Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften IFK, Vienna; Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique CPSSL, Paris; Institut de recherche économiques et sociales, Paris; Université Marc Bloch, Straßbourg; Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris; Danish Metalworkers Unions, Copenhagen; London School of Economics; Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), Madrid; ILR Cornell University. Ithaca (New York); Université de La Manouba, Tunis; TGDV – Tunesischer Germanisten und Deutschlehrerverband; Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah de Fès; AMPA – Association Marocaine des Professeurs d'Allemand; Université d'Oran Es-Sénia; AGDV – Algerischer Germanisten und Deutschlehrerverband; ODV – Oraner Deutschlehrerverband; Helwan University of Cairo; Ain-Shams University of Cairo; ÄDV – Ägyptischer Deutschlehrerverband; Svenska Institutet; Svenska



Akademien; Vitterhetsakademien; and the Konung Gustaf VI Adolfs Fond för Svensk Kultur.

We have provided these lists as a way of inviting individual researchers from every continent to present research projects to be completed here at the Italian Institute of German Studies. All projects are evaluated with the greatest interest and maximum care in order to be able to include them in our programs, which are aimed at obtaining European, national, or regional funding.

Starting with this issue, “Studi Germanici” will be enriched by the critical observatory of the University of Trento, which has decided to become a part of our journal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fabrizio Cambi, Alessandro Fambrini, and Fulvio Ferrari for their work in looking after this very important space dedicated to reviews.

Moreover, this double issue sees the traditional opening divided between “Bussole e Bilanci” (Compass and Analysis). In fact, we have decided to dedicate the “Bilanci” section to three anniversaries (Büchner, Wagner, and Hebbel). Remaining within the area of anniversaries, the single “Bussole” entry is concerned with the influence of Büchner’s work on Italian theatre of the latter half of the 20th century. The essays on literature in the section on the state of German Studies are also dedicated to the last century and focus on: Benn, Th. Mann, Celan, Frischmuth, and Ziegler. This attention to the 20th century is further enriched by the feature “Works in Progress”, which examines German literature in Italy between 1925 and 1950. However, as always, the journal is not exclusively occupied with literary matters; in fact, in this issue Ferrari Zumbini writes on representations of the Battle of Sedan in French and German painting while Fabio Mollica writes about valence and construction in hybrid approaches to syntax. And last but certainly not least, “German Studies Throughout the World” can count on George Guțu’s contribution to inform us on the current state of German Studies in Romania.