


Canada in the Classroom 
Teacher Training Seminar
at the German American Institute Tübingen
May 8, 2007

Agenda

- 9 a.m. Welcome remarks by **Dr. Ute Bechdorf**, Director of the GAI
Representative of the Embassy of Canada (tbc)
- 9.15 a.m. Prof. Dr. **Konrad Gross**, University of Kiel:
"English-Canadian Literature from Colonial to National to Postcolonial."
Starting with First Nations oral literature this lecture continues with the traumatic pioneering experience of Susanna Moodie, a 19th century English upper class lady in the Canadian wilderness, then examines 20th century texts dealing with problems of an all-Canadian identity (proximity of the U.S., English-French dualism, regionalism etc.), and finally embarks on texts from the post-national/postcolonial phase which since the end of the 1960s has been marked by the growing multicultural orientation of Canadian society.
Discussion
- 10.15 a.m. Coffee break
- 10.45 a.m. Dr. **Birgit Däwes**, University of Würzburg
**"Native Theater in the Classroom:
Introducing Canada's First Nations Through the Stage"**
When German students think of North America's indigenous people, they will immediately come up with stereotypes and the clichéd images of *Winnetou*, *Dances With Wolves*, *Pocahontas*, or with the most successful

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German movie of all times: *Der Schuh des Manitu*. In these embraces of what Hartmut Lutz calls "Indianthusiasm," the actual people are relegated to the background or rendered entirely invisible. With the help of a genre that is at once the oldest and most innovative of North American cultural expressions, I will show how "alterNative" access can be gained to the First Nations of Canada.

Drew Hayden Taylor's plays will be discussed. ... His play, *Toronto at Dreamer's Rock*, has been edited for German high schools, together with a teacher's book, by Albert-Reiner Glaap and is available from Cornelsen (ISBN 3-464-66574-7). (For further information, pls. see attached pdf.)

Discussion

12 a.m.

Lunch break

1.30 p.m.

Robert Harding, Ph.D., University College of the Fraser Valley, B.C.

"Modern Representations of Aboriginal People in the Canadian News Media"

Techniques of content analysis were applied to 188 headlines of news items about Aboriginal issues published in both of Canada's national newspapers, two major "dailies" and a total of five community newspapers. The dominant news frame that emerged was that of *Aboriginal People as a Threat to Euro-Canadian Values*. Aboriginal people are situated as being in conflict with the normative fabric of Canadian society. Headlines constructed Aboriginal people as at odds with representative democracy, individualism, private ownership, family values, and equality – as embodied in the principle of identical treatment. Lexical and semantic choices in headlines emphasized the negative consequences of Aboriginal self-governance initiatives and treaties for Euro-Canadians. Indeed, these initiatives were constructed as a threat to the lifestyle of "ordinary" British Columbians, the economic vitality of corporate interests, and to the democratic fabric of "our" society.

Discussion

2.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3 p.m. Prof. Dr. Udo Sautter, University of Tübingen

"Kanada - ein amerikanisches Land?"

Kanada und die Vereinigten Staaten beziehungsweise ihre kolonialen Vorgänger sind seit fünfhundert Jahren Nachbarn auf dem nordamerikanischen Kontinent, sind von Beginn an Einwanderungsländer gewesen und werden noch heute in Wesentlichem durch ihr britisches Erbe bestimmt. Und trotzdem entwickelten sie sich in vielfacher Hinsicht in deutlich unterschiedlicher Weise. In dem Vortrag werden wichtige Wegstationen der speziellen kanadischen Geschichte aufgezeigt, wobei vor allem besondere Faktoren wie die Andersheit der Verfassung und die Problematik der Existenz des französischsprachigen Bevölkerungsteils beleuchtet werden.

Diskussion

4 p.m. Summary - End of Seminar

We are grateful for the generous support of the Embassy of Canada.

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