

## BRIEF RETROSPECTIVE OF THE GKS 2012 CONFERENCE

### OPENING CEREMONY

The three-day conference opened with a speech by GKS President Martin Kuester. Among other things, he raised the question of the survival of Canadian studies. His comparison with Margaret Atwood's novel *Survival* was both humorous and thought-provoking. Mr. Kuester also emphasized the importance of French/English/German trilingualism at the conference. To this effect, the program was translated in the three languages. This was followed by a speech by Peter M. Boehm, Canada's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.



A number of prizes were then awarded to Canadianists. **Friederike Heinze**, from Saarland University, received the Excellence Award from the Government of Québec for her study of interculturality in Canadian documentary films. The *Stiftung für Kanada-Studien* Awards were also presented to four scholars: **Josephine Lenz** from Potsdam University, **Inken Reimer** from FU Berlin, **Josef Tobias Müller**

from the University of Bonn, and **Wiebke Beushausen** from Heidelberg University. The *Jürgen-Saße-Preis* was awarded to **Caroline Ehrhardt** from the University of Kiel. **Kristyna Bufkova** from Saarland University, **Jennifer Dummer** from FU Berlin, and **Finja Desler** from the University of Kiel all received the *GKS Förderpreis*. And last but not least, the *GKS Teacher Education Prize* was presented to **Alexander Lengauer**.

## PANELS

Saturday began with a brief speech by ICCS President Patrick James. Caroline Rosenthal, from the University of Jena, made the opening address on the use of spaces. Next, Aritha van Herk, from the University of Calgary, spoke about the use of space by female and male genders; she presented two advertisements, one on tourism in Alberta and the other on the Calgary Stampede and explained both with a touch of humour.



This was followed by panels on

- The politics of space: urban sites of protest
- The spatial construction of difference
- The crossing of borders in contemporary Canada

The GKS Annual General Assembly was held during the afternoon. In the evening, Aritha van Herk read from novelist Robert Kroetsch in a quiet and relaxing atmosphere.

## SAYING GOODBYE



A number of presentations took place on the last day of the conference, including those by the *Nachwuchsforum* – the Young Scholars' Forum. Presentations focused on multiculturalism in children's literature, the spatial construction of difference in Nicole Brossard, and issues related to nature in Vancouver. The professors' forum was held concurrently. The symposium ended with a round-table discussion with Canadian guests, and a final dinner was held at Hotel Am Badersee.