

## Geleitwort

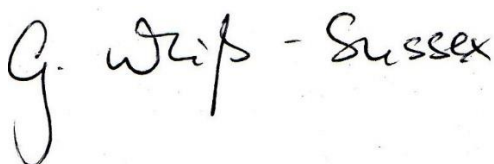
We are truly delighted to announce the 2020/2021 German Writing Competition and hugely look forward to the entries responding to this year's task. This is the seventh time that the DAAD and the Institute of Modern Languages Research at the University of London have joined forces to call for creative engagement with the German language. Each year, we have been impressed with the range of texts provided, the enthusiasm and joy, and the linguistic standard and level of engagement with the German culture that speaks from the entries.

Our first call, jointly organised with the British Museum in 2014, was for 'Dinggedichte', poems on objects, written in German, the 2015 competition concentrated on literary translation, in 2016 we asked for endings to two authors' stories on migration. Varying the genres and media further still; mini-dramas involving a conversation across time were the subject of the 2017's 'Chatting with Luther' competition, short videos 'Auf deutschen Spuren' were asked for in 2018, and in 2019, we celebrated the anniversary of Queen Victoria and her husband Albert with imagined love letters between the royal couple.

The creativity and proficiency we have seen in the entries over the years would be cause for celebration in any case, but the achievement of writing these sophisticated responses in German – a foreign language for most competitors, and even for native German speakers in Britain, a language that is not that of most of their everyday encounters - is very special indeed. The joy of learning and expressing themselves in a foreign language that the winners of these competitions showed was palpable and contagious, and both of our institutions, the IMLR and the DAAD, are proud to have initiated this work. There is no doubt, however, that the competition's success is due in no small measure to the longstanding and close cooperation between us and our European and British partner organisations: this year, we will be supported by German Embassy, the Goethe-Institut London, the Embassy of Switzerland, the Austrian Cultural Forum, and the Spalding Trust. A big **Thank you** to them all - and may there be many more years of collaboration ahead.

Both the IMLR and the DAAD do what we can to help this cultural engagement and dialogue with German culture thrive – through supporting research activities, author readings, online resources, language learning provision at all levels, and much more. If this competition sparks your interest in joining more of our events and activities, take a look at what we have to offer.

We look forward to seeing you.



**Dr Godela Weiss-Sussex**

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