

## Past projects

### **(Not) Made in Germany? Imagining Germany from the Outside (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/from-the-outside.aspx)**

Through this project the IGS Birmingham will consolidate and expand its role as a primary hub for the support and inspiration of German Studies in the United Kingdom, as well as its reputation as a leading global research centre. Funding is sought to establish a high-profile academic network: (Not) Made in Germany: Imagining Germany from the Outside. The network will bring staff and postgraduate students from German universities and the worldwide DAAD German Studies Centres to the IGS in a series of five research visits focused around the core themes of the project.

### **The German Past and the Contemporary World: The domestic and foreign politics of memory (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/the-german-past-and-the-contemporary-world.aspx)**

The project aims to examine in detail the interaction between collective memory, policy elaboration, and the personal remembering of different individuals and social groups. The project will bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to consider the continuing impact of 20th-century German history, particularly the legacy of fascist and communist dictatorships, on 21st-century political decision-making.

### **Germany and the Future of Europe (2003 - 04) (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/future-europe.aspx)**

The aim of this research project, funded by the James Madison Trust, was to explore the contribution of German ideas and actions in shaping the debate on the future of Europe that has unfolded since the 2000 Intergovernmental Conference, which culminated at the European Summit at Nice.

### **The Search for Solutions: Policy Learning in Britain and Germany (1994 - 04) (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/search-for-solutions.aspx)**

The Institute for German Studies celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2004 with a series of policy workshops. The series brought together high-level invited participants from the UK and Germany in order to discuss and debate common policy challenges and solutions...

### **Political Participation of Young People in Europe' (EUYOUPART) (2003) (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/political-participation-young-people-europe.aspx)**

The aim of the study was to look into youth political participation from the perspective of public policy, NGOs, academic literature, and – most importantly – from young people themselves. Through an analysis of a broad range of studies and through the use of qualitative research (focus groups, individual interviews), the group has produced and tested a quantitative survey on the Political Participation in Young People across Europe.

### **Intergovernmental Relations and the EU (2001 - 03) (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/intergovernmental-relations-eu.aspx)**

This project formed part of the research programme, headed by the Constitution Unit at UCL, on "Nations and Regions: The Dynamics of Devolution" funded by the Leverhulme Trust. It drew on previous work on multi-level governance, which has focused attention upon the relations between different territorial tiers of governance. In the contemporary EU, this includes the links tying decentralised ('regional') governments into the EU policy process.

### **Policy Transfer and Programmatic Change in Communist Successor Parties in East-Central Europe 2001 - 03) (/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/igs/research/policy-transfer.pdf)**

The aim of the project was to analyse programmatic change in the Communist Successor Parties (CSPs) of East Central Europe. In particular the study has sought to pinpoint how and under what conditions external influences have come to bear on these parties, focusing on the party to party transfer from West European Social Democracy to these CSPs. Based on the hypothesis that transfer will be dependent upon 'proximity' (geographical, cultural and ideological), it was expected that German social democracy would have the greatest influence on the Successor Parties.

### **Political scandals and the trust of citizens in German federal institutions (2001 - 02) (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/political-scandals.aspx)**

The relationship between corruption (in the form of 'political scandals') and the trust of citizens in German federal institutions such as the Lower Chamber of Parliament (Bundestag), the Upper Chamber of Parliament (Bundesrat), the Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht) and the Central Bank (Bundesbank) as well as in politicians and political parties.

### **Multi-Level Electoral Competition and Regional Party Systems (2000 - 01) (/research/activity/institute-german-studies/research/projects/electoral-competition.aspx)**

The process of constitutional change that Tony Blair's Labour Government set in motion after its election in May 1997 spawned new arenas of electoral competition environments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In view of these processes of devolution the Leverhulme Trust funded a series of projects with the aim of investigating how, and to what extent, these changes were likely to affect politics in the individual nations as well as in Britain as a whole.