

## Report, Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant

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My thanks to the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Family and the selection committee for the gift of support made in Scott's memory. This financial assistance helped me begin my dissertation research in Germany about migration, national identity, and contemporary film production. I used the grant to begin work that I am continuing with a UW-University of Bonn Exchange Fellowship. The committee gave me permission to use the grant beginning at the end of the summer of 2002, so long as travel would be completed by the end of 2002. I returned to Wisconsin December 23, 2002, and have now returned to Bonn.

During the four months during which I used the grant, I was able to set up a base for my research in Bonn. I advanced to near-fluency in German, passed my general Ph.D. preliminary examination, researched documents pertinent to my dissertation topic, tracked down contacts in Germany, and wrote a draft dissertation proposal. In the first few weeks in addition to studying German intensively, I spent much time organizing my city and university registration and housing. I learned to navigate the German system, including the libraries, communications, transportation, bank, housing, and university services.

At the University of Bonn, I discussed my plans with faculty in the Germanistik department. David Martin, the instructor for the course I had planned to take on multicultural literature in Germany turned out to be taught by an American, and he recommended a seminar with Prof. Jürgen Fohrmann, who specializes in national identity and literature. Prof. Fohrmann's graduate-level seminar has been challenging but helpful. The German course I had originally planned to take turned out to be too expensive and involved too much English-language instruction. I decided that my time would be better spent speaking German constantly and

exclusively. I immediately joined a community choir and found German conversation partners. More than from formal research, I have learned most about German identity and attitudes toward foreigners from the people I have met informally. This basis of cultural understanding will be invaluable when I begin more formal aspects of my research. Additionally, my language skills are now sufficient for conducting all types of research. To this end I studied government documents on film policy and articles on participation of Turkish-Germans in German society. I additionally contacted several faculty members in the area to discuss research in the spring. I also passed my general prelim examination. As a product of this work, I have written a dissertation proposal that I plan to revise and defend in Madison in May.

Now that I have returned to Germany, I will benefit from the preliminary work I have set up during the fall and look forward to a productive spring. Many thanks to the Scott Kloeck-Jenson Family for making this work possible.