

## Introduction to German Culture and Customs

### Objective

Participants familiarize themselves with basic facts and contexts in regard to German history, geography, culture and society.

They develop

- a deeper understanding of the characteristics of present-day Germany and her people.
- intercultural sensibility and awareness of the nature of “critical incidents”.

### Description

This workshop offers necessary knowledge of Germany to international academics from various disciplines. It considers the objectivist and interpretative studies of culture. Situations and questions of the participants will be discussed and analysed. There are two blocks:

1. Understanding how Germany has emerged as a nation:
  - A summary of modern and contemporary German history. The main focus is on anniversaries and dates that have shaped German identities.
2. Knowledge to facilitate orientation in the host country:
  - Geography, e.g. federal states, regional differences and the educational system
  - Society and law, social security, Germany as a welfare state founded on the rule of law (“sozialer Rechtsstaat”), the “Basic Law” (“Grundgesetz”) as constitution
  - Cultural diversity on a regional and religious level, Germany as a “country of immigration”
  - The model of “cultural standards” – How are Germans perceived by people from other cultures? How do they regard themselves?

### Methodology

- Trainer input
- Group work
- Plenary discussions
- Quiz

### Organizational Information

Language	English
Target group	Doctoral Candidates at all stages and Postdocs from all faculties
Date	Monday, 19 February 2018, 9:00–16:00
Registration	<a href="#">For registration click here</a>

### Trainer



**Michael Röder, M. A.**  
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- He has taught German Language, Literature and Culture and is currently lecturer for the DAAD at the School of International Studies, Zhejiang University.
- He has conducted China-related projects for GRADE and the International Office, Goethe University.
- Research focus: literature and film analysis, intercultural issues.
- Certified Psychological Counsellor (Centre for Gestalt Therapy, Bonn)