

***Willkommenskultur: A Computational and Socio-linguistic Study of
German Discourse on Migrant Populations (1800/2000)***

An Honors Paper for the German Department

Sabina Hartnett, Class of 2018

Using computational analysis, this project reveals linguistic nuances in the portrayal of migrant populations in German news media in 1800 and 2000. For the 1800s, the metadata for 130 journal articles were collected from the *Journals from the German Enlightenment* database. For the 2000s, over 1,000 articles were collected from *Die Zeit*, *Der Spiegel*, *Berliner Zeitung*, and *Der Tagesspiegel*. The 21st century corpora were then interpreted using topic modeling.

Faculty Mentor: Birgit Tautz.

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The foundations of this study exist in 18th century linguistic norms and the history of German journalism. My visit to the Staatsbibliothek, Berlin, as funded by this research award, allowed me to find a number of sources relevant to my study. I used encyclopedias of German newspapers in the 18th and 19th history of the 21st century newspapers used in this study to contextualize and support my findings.

U s term in this study
(*Emigrant, Ausländer, Flüchtling, Ausgewanderte, Auswanderer, Einwanderer, Migrant, Immigrant, and Aussiedler*) from 1800 to 2000. Finding, in large, that migrants are defined in these newspapers by the German political parties that act on their behalf, the institutions put into place to support them and the ways in which their actions are perceived by the German people. No significant portion of the discourse (and thus, no representative topic in any of the models) reports news *for* migrant populations in Germany or through the perspective of migrants. Rather, migrant populations become a subject for the German people to report on. This sentiment is furthered by the number of overarching and statistically-focused topics in this discourse. Migrant populations are often reduced to the statistics referencing the number of incoming people and geographic locations from which they came. Additionally, the correlation between the influx of