



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

GALEN MURRAY

BA (University of Victoria, 2014)

“Still German: The Case of *Aussiedler* and the Framing of
German National Identity Through Citizenship in Periods of Transition,
1945-1955 and 1989-2000.”

Department of History

Thursday, December 15, 2016

9:00 A.M.

David Turpin Building

Room A144

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Oliver Schmidtke, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Kristin Semmens, Department of History, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Charlotte Schallie, Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Jamie Lawson, Department of Political Science, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

Traditionally, German citizenship has been viewed as one that embraces a common culture and heritage. The attributes of this culture and heritage are closely associated with the national identity of Germany. However, this national identity has been challenged, both through the tumultuous events of Germany's twentieth century as well as the allegations that the basis for German citizenship is exclusionary and contributes to a racist understanding of German national identity. This thesis investigates such allegations through a particular category of citizenship, *Aussiedler*, those who were considered German based upon their lineage and upholding of German culture and tradition, although they lived in Central and Eastern Europe, sometimes for generations. By analyzing *Aussiedler* from the context of its creation in the aftermath of the Nazi dictatorship through to its modifications following the end of the Cold War the fluid nature of German national identity is traced through a shifting citizenship policy.