Georg Wenker and his *Sprachatlas*: Transferring dialect geography from the 19th into the 21st century

Within the field of Germanic studies dialect geography—the collecting of uniform data from a contiguous area, their analysis, and their plotting onto maps—begins with Georg Wenker (1852–1911). Working as a librarian at the University of Marburg, between 1879 and 1888 he sent written questionnaires to all schoolmasters of then German Empire, using 40 sentences that were later named after him (*Wenkersätze*). Wenker’s survey was extended, covering eventually the entire German- and Dutch-speaking territory and even some neighboring Germanic and non-Germanic languages.

The talk will outline the context of Wenker’s 19th century endeavor and its primary results and then show how new insights can still be gained from this rich material. While Wenker and his successors focused on phonology and morphology, it will be shown that many results for syntax are yet to be obtained.

Max Kade Visiting Professor Jürg Fleischer

**Location:** Faculty Room, University Club, IMU from 5-7, Friday, Oct. 13th.