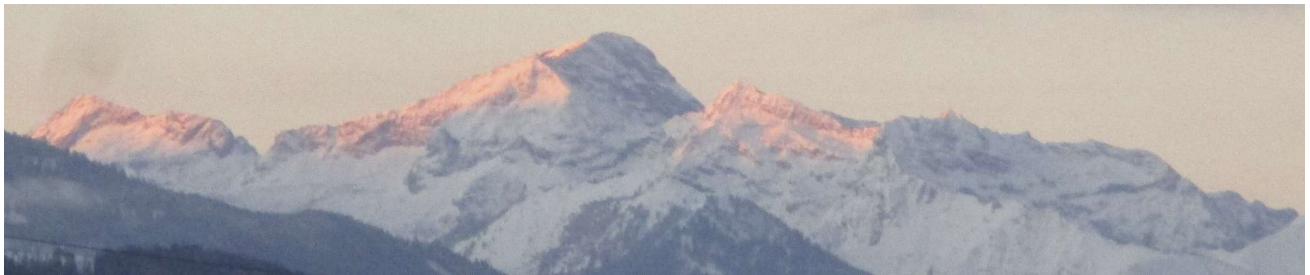


## Göttingen in November 2022



I spent a month at the University of Göttingen, in Germany, giving lectures and interacting with colleagues and students: it was great fun. I indulged in linguistics and historical change and saw a lot of the city (see above picture) and other places in the area. I also travelled to the Netherlands and Austria (see the Lower Tauern below) to visit family and friends.



The [University of Göttingen](#) was founded in 1737 and prides itself on an Enlightenment vision of “democracy, tolerance, and justice”. With 30,000 students, it is one of the larger ones in Germany. Some of the departments are housed in the former university hospital, which itself has moved to more modern buildings. The northern part of the campus houses various hard sciences and MPIs.



Turm mensa, the laundry of the earlier hospital



The linguistics building





The summer garden room: my office



The Solar Systems' MPI

The city itself has beautiful old buildings. In the shopping streets, the first floor is usually modernized, unfortunately.



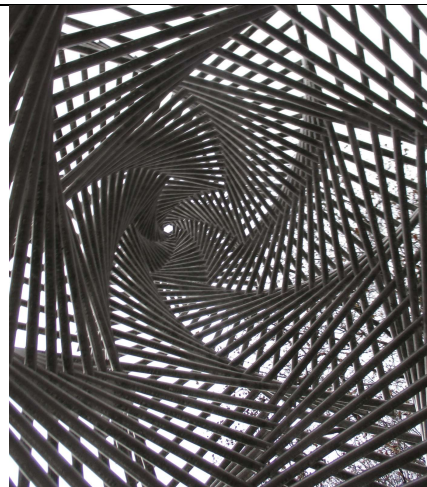
Schröder house



Göttingen has a long and complex history. First mentioned in 953, it received city rights in 1230 and saw the Reformation, Counter-Reformation, and many wars. Below the Mahnmal for the Jewish victims in WW2 on the site where the synagogue was burnt in 1938.



Platz der Synagoge: [Mahnmal](#)



## Kassel

Kassel is about an hour away from Göttingen on the regional train (much faster on ICE). It is a hub for art since [Documenta](#) started in 1955 and has taken place there every five years since. I was sorry to miss its 15<sup>th</sup> instantiation in September 2022. This city 'grew on me' after reading its history! Kassel is very modern, with just a few pre-WW2 remnants, e.g the [Druselturm](#) from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Grimm Museum is a well-done mixture on the life and accomplishments of the Grimm brothers: the dictionary they started (now [online](#)), the grammar, the fairy tales they collected, their scientific, social, and political significance. Kassel was also a Huguenot refuge in the 17<sup>th</sup> century – after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, thousands come to the Calvinist Kassel area.



Druselturm



Documenta buildings and museum; now getting ready for the Christmas markets



Detail on the building

Kristallnacht had just been commemorated and flowers left at places honoring the Jews that had to flee. The community in Kassel numbered above 2000 which was decimated to 200 after the war. Currently, it is back to about 1500, thanks in part to migrations from the former Soviet Union. Records from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries attest to Jews living in Kassel with a synagogue and cemetery.





There is a sizeable Iranian population in Germany so there were protests marches in solidarity with the ones in Iran. I saw them in Gottingen and Kassel. The below is in Kassel.



While I was in Europe, the Soccer World Championship took place in Qatar. This was very controversial, partly because of the way the (foreign) workers are treated there. During one of the train delays, it was fun seeing the entire waiting area watch the Dutch team win and, just as I was leaving Germany, I saw part of the game in which the Dutch beat Qatar (2-0).



Explaining it is ok!



Last few minutes of the elimination of Qatar from the games

The Netherlands: I enjoyed visiting family, nice walks, and wonderful meals! Just a few pictures. It was quite cold and rainy on occasion but walking felt good!



Enjoying an 'ouwe'



Around 's Gravenmoer



De Vesting, [Gorinchem](#)



## Austria

I also went to Austria, visiting Munich on the way and spending a night in Salzburg. The trainride from Salzburg to Bischofshofen and then on to Wörschach is breathtaking. I could see that even with all the low clouds. Once in a while the clouds lifted and, on my second day there, there was sunshine.



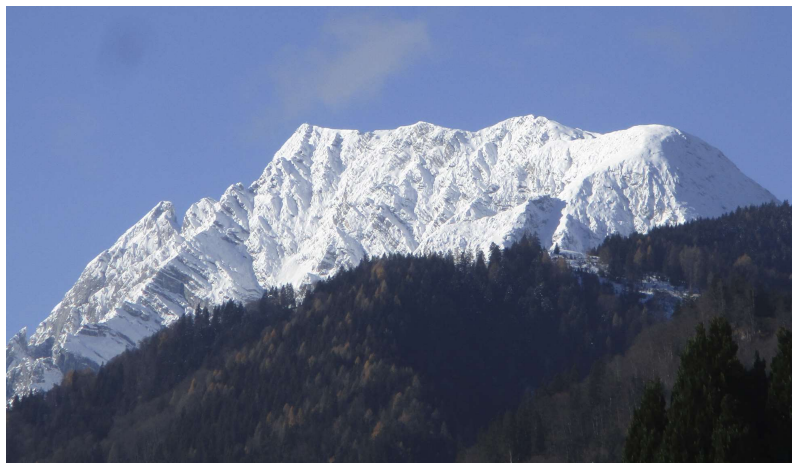
Hops in Ingolstadt, for the Munich breweries



Rainerstasse, MirabellPalace, and Schloss in Salzburg,  
a.o.



Some landscape in Austria follow.



And even the bathroom on the train had a panoramic view of the mountains!



A wonderful trip!