

## FOREWORD

The fifth regular volume of the *Journal for German and Scandinavian Studies* (2025) presents scholarly articles by academics from the Czech Republic, Romania, Switzerland, Germany, and Bulgaria, covering topics in literary studies, linguistics, translation studies, history and the cultures of the German-speaking countries and the Nordic region.

In addition to scholarly articles and book reviews, the Journal traditionally features creative texts and translations by students of the German Philology and Scandinavian Studies programmes, included in the sections *Award-Winning Texts from University and School Student Competitions* and *Student Projects*.

In 2025, a special volume of the Journal, published in two issues, also appeared under the German title *Wege und Umwege zum Wandel* (in English *Direct and Indirect Approaches to Change*). The issues contain more than 40 scholarly papers presented at a conference of the same name, which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the German Philology programme at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski in 2023. In this way, the Journal broadened its audience and strengthened its reputation as a platform for showcasing the work of leading academics from the German-speaking world as well as from Southeastern and Central Europe.

Another important achievement of the Journal's team in 2025 was the Journal's inclusion in ERIH PLUS, the MLA Directory of Periodicals, the Bulgarian Portal for Open Science, and OpenAIRE – a recognition of the high quality of its editorial work and a further step towards enhancing the visibility of its content in international scholarly databases.

We thank the authors and the editorial team, and we wish you pleasant reading!

*From the Editors-in-Chief*