

## Discussion questions for Chapter 2, 'Older Immigrant Languages'

This chapter is a short, basic introduction to a huge set of issues of interest for some of our future homework assignments and maybe the big project. Think of it as a springboard to other sources, including these:

- <http://csumc.wisc.edu/wep/other-languages> (connected to the book)
- <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/tp---018/> (19th c. immigration resources)

1. Who immigrated to Wisconsin in the 19th century? What historical trends are there in patterns of immigration?
2. Where did they settle both in terms of parts of the state and in relation to other groups (especially 'Anglos' or 'Yankees')?
3. What institutions did immigrants found that used their languages? (We'll talk about schools next week, so we can leave that aside for now.)
4. The Oehlerts book *Felecia* refers to is very valuable to checking into nonEnglish newspapers and related publications in Wisconsin. Use it if you're looking at the history of a particular community. It's available online: <https://archive.org/details/guidetowisconsin00iloehl> . You can search the pdf for language names and place names.
5. Do the institutions founded by early immigrants still exist? If so, (how) have they changed?
6. More broadly: In what sense should we still think of Wisconsinites with German ancestry as 'German', with Polish ancestry as 'Polish', with Irish ancestry as 'Irish', etc.?

Beyond these questions, we'll spend some time in class talking about newspaper publishing and its history as an important example of an immigrant institution. I've posted an old handout on Learn@UW about Wisconsin German newspapers. Please look at that and ask questions about what you see there.