

### **Discussion questions for Chapter 3, 'Immigrant languages and education'**

1. What differences were there historically between Germany and the United States in terms of public education, especially before 1879?
2. What was the Wisconsin School Law of 1848? How was it changed in 1858? How did schools deal with these laws 'on the ground'?
3. How did 'Yankees' respond to public schools conducted in German?
4. How did language education develop in Milwaukee?
5. What was the German-American Teachers Seminary?
6. What roles did parochial schools play in German education in the state?
7. What was the so-called "Bennett Law"?
8. German-speaking children going to German-language schools in Wisconsin faced different and sometimes greater challenges than English-speaking children going to English schools. Describe some differences in terms of dialect and standard language, print types and handwriting.
9. What kinds of teaching materials were used? Where were they produced?
10. Consider the pervasive stereotype about education and immigration: Schooling is an iron-clad path to acquiring English and, many assume, shifting to English.
  - To what extent was it true?
  - How does this change over time?
11. How does the historical situation of immigrant education inform your understanding of bilingual and immigrant education today? (We'll talk about contemporary bilingualism and education later.)