

Fasching und Karneval: Grüße und Narrenrufe (greetings and fool shouts)

der Brauch, die Bräuche: custom
 das Gruß, die Grüße: greeting
 der Ausdruck, die Ausdrücke: expression, saying
 der Narrenruf, die Narrenrufe: shouts, screams, calls from a fool

THE CALLS YOU'LL HEAR AT CARNIVAL—AND WHAT THEY MEAN

In Saarland at the French border, they shout "Alleh hopp!", which according to language researcher Cornelissen is a phrase borrowed from French.

"Some of the battle calls have a proper history, they are derived from historical events or are deeply embedded in mythology," explains Euler-Schmidt.

"Many refer to the places where they are called. And sometimes it's just an expression; a saying that has always been used."

In Paderborn, North Rhine-Westphalia during carnival season, people shout "Hasi Palau", a call with its origins in the window of the city cathedral, which shows three hares - *die Hasen* in German.

"The 'Palau' is another form of 'Helau'," says Euler-Schmidt, explaining that it's a combination of Helau and Paderborn.

"Ahoi", on the other hand - which is used in Ludwigshafen am Rhein in Rhineland-Palatinate as well as in the Thuringian town of Wasungen - goes back to the late medieval moral satire play *Das Narrenschiff* (Ship of Fools) by Sebastian Brant.

Residents of Wuppertal call "Wupp-di-ka", in Regensburg they shout "Radi-Radi", and in the Bayreuth it's "Wau-Wau".

The number of carnival calls in Germany cannot be quantified, says Daniela Sandner, director of the German Carnival Museum in the Franconian town of Kitzingen.

"In fact, almost every village has its own," she says.

So the calls are about a feeling of home, a sense of belonging to a place. Carnival is a part of identity, just like other regional customs.

Many fools will goad each other with the fools' calls.

"These calls are a carnival ritual, but there's also something liberating about it," explains Sandner. "It is about leaving everyday life behind."

"You encourage others to participate, to be joyful, with the call," Euler-Schmidt says.

"And some of them, who may be showing signs of fatigue, are awakened again."