



GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM  
Centre for British Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



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## ANNIVERSARY – HU200

The royal charter establishing a university in Berlin was signed by the Prussian king Friedrich-Wilhelm in the year 1809 and the first students were admitted in the autumn of 1810. So, from October 2009 until December 2010 Humboldt-Universität is celebrating its 200th anniversary.

The programme for the overall 14 months of celebrations and festivities is organized around six fundamental principles which are partly derived from Wilhelm von Humboldt's groundbreaking ideas about how the new university in Berlin should operate, and partly from the university's experience with 200 years of resounding success as well as painful decline. Until 1933, the university was highly successful and with 29 Nobel Prize winners held a leading position in the academic world. In fact, it was widely considered 'the mother of all modern, research-oriented universities.' What followed was a steep decline, first under Nazi rule and, after WWII, although under very different conditions, under the communist regime. With reunification the university was given a new chance to rebuild itself and it is now well on its way to again becoming one of Germany's most attractive places for studying and for research.

The six principles, which guide the bicentenary programme, are: independence, education, freedom, responsibility, research and openness towards the future. Six major events have been organized to highlight these principles. 'Independence' is demonstrated by an installation of the artist Ceal Floyer, placed in the entrance hall of the main university building, to recontextualize the famous Marx-quotation put up there in 1953. 'Education' as a major concern is given an appropriate stage in the opening of the new, spectacular Jacob-und Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum, the new university library which gives access to more than two million books and our state-of-the-art information systems.

'Freedom' finds its adequate representation in the four 'Humboldt Debates' in which researchers, administrators and journalists discuss highly contested topics such as the relation between research and teaching, university governance, access to universities, the structure of studies and so on. 'Responsibility' will be the overarching theme of a large exhibition covering all aspects of the university's history.

'Research' is taken to the streets of Berlin in a project called 'Humboldt on the Move.' It will take the form of movable laboratories, lectures, guided tours, and street seminars and will demonstrate the impact of research on everyday life in six different venues spread all over the city.

Finally, 'openness to the future' will be the topic of a large international conference in October 2010. Participants from all over the world will come to Berlin to discuss the future of the Humboldt-model of a university.

In addition to these major events a large number of special projects will fill the year, among them a Humboldt alumni meeting, for which also a number of M.B.S. alumni will be invited.

Professor Schlaeger, the director of the Centre until October 2008, has been appointed HU200 coordinator and is, in this capacity, supervising the preparations for the programme and helping to find the funds needed for it.

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## THE CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES

The Centre for British Studies is part of Berlin's Humboldt-Universität. It was established in 1995 in recognition of the UK's role as one of the Western powers which protected West Berlin during the Cold War. From the beginning, the Centre was set up as a research and teaching institute with a broad interdisciplinary agenda covering all aspects of British culture both of the past and present times. It is the first of its kind in a German-speaking country and aims to fulfil three main tasks:

1. We carry out a comprehensive research programme focusing on Britain's special position in the modern world and its distinctive and often formative influence on Europe and on global modernisation. Our research focuses on the British Isles as well as on the Empire and the Commonwealth. It covers areas as diverse as history, economics, law, literature and culture, and the media. In addition, our research involves disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary cooperation with experts from Britain and other countries.

2. We offer a Master in British Studies. It is a postgraduate degree for an international student body. This is the only interdisciplinary masters programme worldwide that requires students to engage with British literature, culture, media, history, law, economy and politics. It gives students the opportunity to add competence in British studies to qualifications acquired in their first degree. The 18-month Master course prepares them for positions in firms and public institutions with strong links to the United Kingdom or other English-speaking countries. It involves practitioners from German and British companies, the media, and the arts and includes a three-month internship with a business, public institution or other organisation in Britain.

3. Furthermore, we provide – in the heart of Berlin and close to Germany's political centre – a forum for lectures, seminars and conferences on Anglo-German topics as well as on topics of general interest.

The Centre for British Studies is an independent academic institute within Berlin's Humboldt-Universität. As an interdisciplinary *Zentralinstitut* it operates like a small faculty. The Centre has an academic staff of three professors and five lecturers as well as non-academic staff.

Important decisions are taken by the Centre's Council (*Institutsrat*), which consists of the Centre's three professors as well as of representatives of the other academic staff, the non-academic staff, and the students. The Centre is headed by its Director, who has the duties of a dean and is elected every two years. The Director is responsible for the day-to-day management. However, in practice, many issues are discussed and decided upon at weekly staff meetings. In its general policy the Centre is supported by an Advisory Board that consists of highly distinguished individuals from universities, business, and public institutions in the UK and Germany.

The bulk of the Centre's financial resources is allocated by the university. This allocation covers the costs for staff and operational expenses. In addition, the Centre receives 1% of the total university library's budget for its own library. There are, however, some pressing financial needs which cannot be met by the university.

The award of grants to students from all over the world on a means and merit test, which has been vital for attracting excellent students with modest economic backgrounds, has only been possible through the generous support of donors, in particular the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Alfred Toepfer Foundation. Thanks to the European Commission's Erasmus Placement Programme most of our students receive financial support during their internship in the UK. The Centre has also been successful in attracting funding for its research, publications and lecture series.

### A Recent Find

“25. One promising idea, recently floated by west German academics and so far still in embryo, is for the establishment in Germany of a multi-disciplinary Institute devoted exclusively to British studies. This would be a British equivalent to the highly successful John F Kennedy Institute at the Freie Universität in Berlin. To make maximum impact, a British Institute might now most appropriately be sited in east Germany, perhaps at Leipzig. This could also improve the prospect of attracting funds. We and the British Council will be exploring the idea further, with a view to working up a concrete proposal.”

Sir Christopher Mallaby (British Ambassador, 1988-1993) to Douglas Hurd (Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, 1989-1995), 30 Nov. 1990. P. Salmon, K. A. Hamilton and S. R. Twigge, eds. *German Unification, 1989-1990*. London: Routledge, 2009. Documents on British Policy Overseas, Ser. III, Vol. VII. 496.

## THE CENTRE IN 2009

In June 2009 the Centre organized a first workshop conference as part of its new joint research project on ‘Connections and Connectivity: Transnational Exchange and Cooperation of Individuals, Ethnic Groups and Institutions. Great Britain Compared.’ Our interest in this topic grew out of a desire to investigate certain structural problems of international exchange, which have been identified in recent research on cultural transfer. But this interest in connectivity is also a reaction to our own experience with the British public authorities, particularly problems relating to the securing of visas for our non-EU students, which has cost the Centre’s staff much time and effort. Against the background of growing fears of the terrorist threat, on the one hand, and a new policy of protectionism on the job market, on the other, a newly created department, the UK Border Agency, has developed a sophisticated set of rules, which make it impossible, at this time, for the Centre’s non-EU students to complete their compulsory three-month placement in the UK. In the end, we were able to find alternative internships with British institutions and firms in other EU member states and most students were satisfied with their placements. Nonetheless, the students, as a whole, as well as the Centre’s staff became deeply frustrated with the situation and in research and teaching alike, the question of Britain’s connectivity (or lack thereof) took centre stage. British peculiarities such as English Common Law, pound sterling and the refusal to sign up to the Schengen Agreement suddenly appeared in a completely different light.

It would, however, give the wrong impression of 2009 if we only focused on this problem. There were also many enjoyable occasions and events, especially in the area of Anglo-German and international relations. I would like to draw particular attention to the 10th An-

niversary of the Master in British Studies programme, which provided a great opportunity for meeting up with many of the Centre’s alumni and supporters in public life. Likewise, the many participants at conferences and workshops held here at the Centre, our guest lecturers from the UK, the growing number of visiting researchers and, last but not least, our M.B.S. students, who come from all over the world, have greatly enriched our time at the Centre in 2009. Just how much the Centre’s activities have expanded in 2009 is made clear in this annual report, which has proven a particular challenge for its editor, Corinna Radke, due to the sheer number of items to be included. In the end, however, she managed to fit everything in admirably – but what else should we expect from a secretary and administrator who has just successfully completed a two-year further education course in public administration with the best possible grades?

2009 gave us many other reasons to celebrate: The *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* and the Arts and Humanities Research Council awarded Gerhard Dannemann and his colleague, Stefan Vogenauer (University of Oxford), a significant grant to fund their substantial research project “The Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law and its Interaction with German and English Law.” Heather Ellis passed her doctoral viva at the University of Oxford with flying colours and can now add two important letters before her name. Together with Heather, and also with Gesa Stedman, we are looking forward to the upcoming birth of their babies. Both colleagues will be on parental leave for some time and on their return, will put the ‘family-friendliness’ policy of the Centre to the test. In the meantime, their duties will be taken over by two scholars: Dr Sebastian Berg, who currently teaches British Cultural Studies at the University of Bielefeld, and Tobias Becker, a young historian from the Freie Universität here in Berlin. Both have been familiar faces at the Centre for some time now and will no doubt fit in just as well as our new colleagues of this year have – Irene Maier, Christopher Schuller, and Kasper Steensgaard – who are attached to Professor Dannemann’s chair. Kasper and Christopher were recruited as part of the DFG/AHRC project and Irene Maier took over from Dr Marc Stauch, who accepted a post at the University of Hanover. In accordance with the rotation principle, which the Centre’s three professors agreed upon, I will myself be handing over the post of Director of the Centre to Gerhard Dannemann at the end of March 2010.

Christiane Eisenberg



Entrance to the Centre for British Studies in Mohrenstraße, Berlin-Mitte.

## MASTER IN BRITISH STUDIES

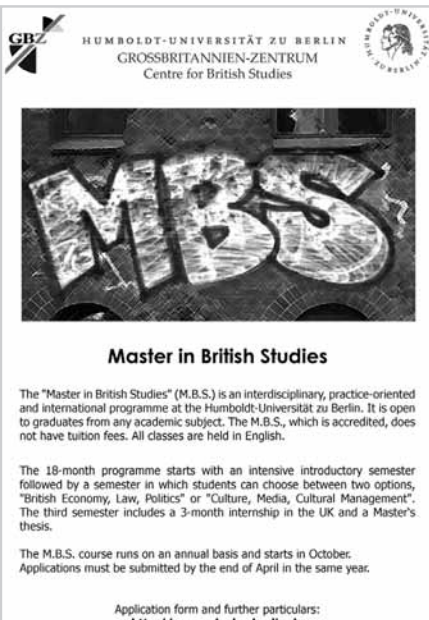
### Course Description

Our postgraduate Master course started in 1999 and has become a resounding success. The quality of applicants' degrees for the 25 places available every year has risen consistently. In 2008 we had the course formally reaccredited by the Accreditation Agency AQAS. The accreditation committee's report was again full of praise and confirmed that the course has developed into a successful and unique study programme. Altogether it is an exhilarating experience to work with bright young people from more than a dozen countries with more than a dozen different first degrees. The magnitude of the challenge in teaching such a heterogeneous group is easily compensated by the degree of pleasure all teachers derive from the experience.

### Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the M.B.S. course are

- to enable students to add competence in British Studies to qualifications acquired during their first degree course
- to prepare students for positions in businesses, organisations, and institutions which require in-depth knowledge of the UK and the way it works
- to promote cross-cultural understanding, communication, and mobility
- to teach students interdisciplinary methods and approaches, enabling them to think and work contextually
- to provide them with an understanding of the characteristic features and the transformations of British identities and institutions in a European perspective.



**GBZ** HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN  
GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM  
Centre for British Studies

**Master in British Studies**

The "Master in British Studies" (M.B.S.) is an interdisciplinary, practice-oriented and international programme at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. It is open to graduates from any academic subject. The M.B.S., which is accredited, does not have tuition fees. All classes are held in English.

The 18-month programme starts with an intensive introductory semester followed by a semester in which students can choose between two options, "British Economy, Law, Politics" or "Culture, Media, Cultural Management". The third semester includes a 3-month internship in the UK and a Master's thesis.

The M.B.S. course runs on an annual basis and starts in October. Applications must be submitted by the end of April in the same year.

Application form and further particulars:  
<http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de>

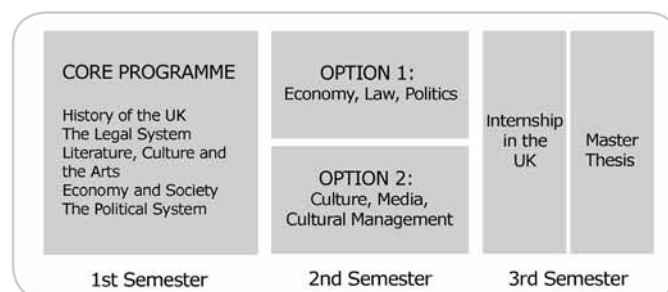
### Admission

Applicants need to have a very good first university degree in any subject. Furthermore, candidates need to speak very good English. The application must contain proof of proficiency in the form of an ETS TOEFL certificate (minimum score of 600 for the paper-based test, 250 for the computer-based test, or 100 for the internet-based test), or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (any grade), or a Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (grade A or B), or an IELTS test (level 7.0). A working knowledge of German is highly advisable.

Applications must be submitted by 30th April of the year in which the applicant intends to start the course. Applicants should use the application form available from the Centre's website. Interviews for selected candidates usually take place in June. Places are allocated early in July. The course starts in October.

### Course Structure

The postgraduate degree course in British Studies is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. It consists of a two-semester Certificate Phase followed by a six-month Master Phase. Having successfully completed the Certificate Phase, students receive a "British Studies" certificate. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree "Master in British Studies" (M.B.S.).



The Certificate Phase comprises about 30 weeks of teaching, divided into two phases of roughly equal length. The first phase ("Core Programme") consists of a series of teaching units which are compulsory for all students. In the second phase ("Options Programme") students can choose one out of two options. On average, they have to attend about 20 hours of classes per week.

During the Master Phase students will spend three months as interns with a firm or institution in Britain. In the remaining three months they are expected to write their M.B.S. thesis. The entire course is taught in English.



## Core Programme

The Core Programme consists of three teaching modules. These modules contain the following teaching units (lectures, seminars, project work etc.):

### Module 1: Introduction

- Research Skills
- Academic Writing Workshop
- Presentation Techniques
- Workshop on Interdisciplinarity
- Business and Academic English

### Module 2: Law, Politics, Economy, and History

- British History
- Empire and Commonwealth History
- The British Economy
- The English Legal System
- Constitutional Law
- The Political System
- Social Stratification

### Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK

- A Cultural History of Literature in English
- Contemporary British Literature in Context I: Crime Novels
- British Identities
- Contemporary Britain

## Options Programme

The Options Programme allows students to specialise by choosing one out of the following two options:

### Option 1

#### Economy, Law, and Politics

Teaching units within the modules are:

#### Module 1: Accompanying Module

- Current Affairs
- Business and Academic English
- Workshop Intercultural Communication
- Workshop Project Management

#### Module 2: Economy

- Postindustrial Britain
- Financial Markets and International Trade
- Marketing
- Mass Media in the UK

#### Module 3: Law

- Contract Law
- Tort Law



Brainstorming.

- Commercial Law
- Law and Literature

### Module 4: Politics

- Politics at the Centre: Monarchy, the Lords, the Civil Service
- Politics Beyond the Centre: Devolution, Local Government, State and Economy
- British International Relations
- Political Parties and Interest Groups

### Option 2

#### Culture, Media, and Cultural Management

Teaching units within the modules are:

#### Module 1: Accompanying Module

- Current Affairs
- Business and Academic English
- Workshop Intercultural Communication
- Workshop Project Management

#### Module 2: High and Popular Culture

- Culture and the Self
- Contemporary British Literature in Context II: The Novel
- Contemporary British Literature in Context III: Performance and Performativity
- Multicultural Britain?

#### Module 3: British Media – Past and Present

- Mass Media in the UK
- The Public Sphere and Popular Culture
- The Media in Consumer Society
- Law and Literature

#### Module 4: Cultural Management

- Cultural Policy and Funding in the Cultural Sector
- The Literary Field in the UK
- Marketing

## M.B.S. Students

Class 2008/2010



Name	Nationality	First Degree
1. Akbas, Safiye Merve	Turkish	Translation and Interpreting Studies
2. Aust, Linda	German	English and German Literature
3. Belyaeva, Julia	Russian	Linguistics
4. Berne, Emmanuelle	French	Applied Languages (Economy and Law)
5. Cheng, Hsiang-Yi	Taiwanese	Foreign Languages and Literature
6. Hadian Cefidekhanie, Ali	Iranian	English Language and Literature
7. Kobyakova, Ksenia	Russian	Linguistics and Foreign Language Teaching
8. Krasutskaya, Natallia	Belarussian	Pedagogical Sciences
9. Perišić, Bojana	Serbian	English Language and Literature
10. Pieck, Justus	German	International Culture and Business Studies
11. Pulyaeva, Daria	Russian	Cross-Cultural Communication; Linguistics and Foreign Languages
12. Repke, Ulrike	German	English and Spanish
13. Rodriguez Ortiz, Leonardo	Colombian	Business Administrator
14. Roman, Cristina	Romanian	Applied Modern Languages: German and English
15. Rozdiel, Amos	Israeli	American Studies and Spanish
16. Sadr Mousavi, Seyyedeh Sona	Iranian	Law
17. Schüßler, Clara	German	Literary, Cultural, and Media Studies
18. Sobiepanek, Katarzyna	Polish	International Relations, BA English Philology
19. Tortosa, Patricia	Spanish	Journalism and Political Sciences
20. Uznadze, Gvantsa	Georgian	English Language and Literature, Sociology
21. Verigo, Elena	Russian	Culture and History Studies
22. Wang, Hengxin	Chinese	English
23. Wittan, Anna-Janina	German	Interpreting for Business, Courts, Civil Services (German, English, French)
24. Wittenberg, Jamie	US American	Associate of Arts degree, BA Literature
25. Yeşilbaş, Emre	Turkish	English Language, Teaching, History of Philosophy

## Class 2009/2011



Name

Nationality

First Degree

1. Beheshti, Marzieh	Iranian	English Literature
2. Bozdoğan, Nezihe	Turkish	English Language and Literature
3. Doig, Jessica	Canadian	English Literature
4. Grama, Oxana	Russian	German and English
5. Jónášová, Laura	Slovakian	English and Psychology
6. Kasparas, Emilis	Lithuanian	English Philology
7. Krasnobayeva, Marina	Kazakh	Teaching Foreign Languages (English, German)
8. Lorenz, Marlene	German	Science, Marketing, and Psychology
9. Menjou, Melinda	US American	English and French
10. Meroni, Ignacio	Argentinean	Law
11. Naselskaya, Victoria	Russian	Linguistics, Cultural and Literary Studies
12. Pickton, Jamie	British	History
13. Qi, Yue	Chinese	Law
14. Rautaoja, Turo	Finnish	English Translation
15. Reuter, Julia	German	Culture, International Culture, and Business
16. Riedling, Kathia	German	English and Philosophy
17. Rilo Rey, Maria Jimena	Argentinean	English Language, Literature and Culture
18. Rubanik, Anastasiya	Belarussian	Radio Physics and Electronics
19. Schneider, Christiane	German	British and American Studies, History
20. Schneider, Sara	German	English Studies, Media, and Communications
21. Schrank, Tobias	German	Special Needs Teacher in English
22. Spieß, Martin	German	English, History
23. Sutherland-Figini, Shirley	British	German and Japanese
24. Teodorescu, Adela	Romanian	Philology, English, and German
25. Toman, Sam	Canadian	History
26. Topchyan, Gohar	Armenian	English, French, British Studies, and Linguistics
27. Wu, Manyi	Chinese	Accounting, Management

## Teaching

### Core Programm 2008/2009 (Winter Term)

Subject	Lecturer
<i>Module 1: Introduction</i>	
Workshop on Interdisciplinarity	Academic staff of the Centre for British Studies
English for Special Purposes	Nick Handforth, Freelance Lecturer of Business English
Academic Writing Workshop	Jens Ennen/Sandra Müller
Intercultural Communication	Babette Gekeler, UCL, Psychology Postgraduate
Presentation Techniques	Jens Ennen/Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
Project Management	Sandra Müller
<i>Module 2: Law, Politics, Economics, and History</i>	
Political and Economic History	Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg
Empire and Commonwealth History	Dr Heather Ellis
The British Economy	Dr Pikay Richardson, Managing Consultant, Manchester
The English Legal System: A Historical Introduction	Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann
Social Stratification	Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland
Constitutional Law and Political Institutions	Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann/Marc Stauch
<i>Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK</i>	
A Cultural History of Literature in English	Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
Contemporary British Literature in Context (I): Crime Novels	Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
British Identities	Dr Georgia Christinidis
Contemporary Britain	Dr Bernd Becker, Political Consultant, Bonn

### Options Programme 2009 (Summer Term)

#### Option 1: Economics, Law, and Politics

Subject	Lecturer
<i>Module 1: Accompanying Module</i>	
Workshop: Project Management	Sandra Müller
Current Affairs	Dr Heather Ellis
Business English	Nick Handforth, Freelance Lecturer of Business English
<i>Module 2: Economics</i>	
Economic Geography	Prof Dr Sebastian Kinder, Tübingen University
The UK Financial System	Jens Ennen
Marketing	Lynn Parkinson, City University London
Mass Media in the UK	Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University in Wales
<i>Module 3: Law</i>	
Contract Law	Prof Dr Helmut Weber, Fellow of the Centre
Tort Law	Irene Maier
Exploring Crime and Social Justice in the Contemporary UK	Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland
Media Law	Marc Stauch
<i>Module 4: Politics</i>	
Politics at the Centre: Monarchy, the Lords, the Civil Service	Prof Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster
Politics beyond the Centre: Devolution, Local Government, State and Economy	Prof Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster
Political Parties and Interest Groups	Dr Bernd Becker, Political Consultant, Bonn
British International Relations	Dr Heather Ellis/Jens Ennen

**Option 2: Culture, Media, and Cultural Management**

Subject	Lecturer
<i>Module 1: Accompanying Module</i>	
Workshop: Project Management	Sandra Müller
Current Affairs	Dr Heather Ellis
Business English	Nick Handforth, Freelance Lecturer of Business English
<i>Module 2: High and Popular Culture in the UK</i>	
Culture and the Self	Dr Georgia Christinidis
Contemporary British Literature in Context (II): The Novel	Sandra Müller
Contemporary British Literature in Context (III): Performance and Performativity	Dr Georgia Christinidis
Film in the UK – Past and Present	Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
<i>Module 3: British Media – Past and Present</i>	
Mass Media in the UK	Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University in Wales
The Public Sphere and Popular Culture	Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg
The Media in Consumer Society	Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg
Media Law	Marc Stauch
<i>Module 4: Cultural Management in the UK</i>	
Cultural Policy and Funding in the Cultural Sector	Dr Andrew Feist, City University London
The Literary Field	Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
Marketing	Lynn Parkinson, City University London

**Core Programme 2009/2010 (Winter Term)**

Subject	Lecturer
<i>Module 1: Introduction</i>	
Workshop on Interdisciplinarity	Academic staff of the Centre for British Studies
English for Special Purposes	Elizabeth Chairpoulou M.B.S., Freelance English Teacher, Berlin
Academic Writing Workshop	Jens Ennen/Irene Maier
Intercultural Communication	Babette Gekeler, UCL, Trainer and Postgraduate
Presentation Techniques	Jens Ennen/Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
Project Management	Sandra Müller
<i>Module 2: Law, Politics, Economics, and History</i>	
Political and Economic History	Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg
Empire and Commonwealth History	Dr Heather Ellis
The British Economy	Dr Pikay Richardson, Managing Consultant, Manchester
The English Legal System: A Historical Introduction	Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann
Social Stratification	Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland
Constitutional Law and Political Institutions	Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann/Irene Maier
<i>Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK</i>	
A Cultural History of Literature in English	Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
Contemporary British Literature in Context (I): Crime Novels	Prof Dr Gesa Stedman
British Identities	Dr Georgia Christinidis/Dr Heather Ellis
Contemporary Britain	Dr Bernd Becker, Political Consultant, Bonn

## Teaching Examples

### Contemporary British Literature in Context I: Crime Novels

Gesa Stedman

This course deals with social and political problems in the UK. It looks at the way in which a highly popular genre – the crime novel – manages to combine suspense, extending the genre boundaries, aesthetically pleasing and challenging writing with current affairs. Crime novels do not only portray the darker side of British society with problems ranging from youth unemployment to racism, the rise of neo-fascism, drug abuse, poverty, homophobia, homelessness or politics spelt with a capital 'P'. The novels also offer solutions to these problems and openly discuss what happens at society's margins. Texts were selected from England, Scotland, London, and the North, from rural as well as urban areas, and novels written by women writers featured heavily on the reading list since crime fiction in the UK sees many more successful women writers than in other areas of literature. Based on student presentations, the class discussed what (genre) literature can do and how audiences and readers work with what fiction has to offer. The course was rounded off with a film from the successful TV series *Cracker*, in acknowledgment of the importance of film and TV for the genre of crime.

### Empire and Commonwealth History

Heather Ellis

This course introduces students not only to the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth but also to the history of empire as an idea. Beginning with an examination of Britain's role as a colony within the Roman Empire, the ways in which the language and idea of empire have been employed in the history of the British Isles is explored over the rest of the course. After an examination of the emergence of ideas of nation and ethnicity in the post-Roman period, the modest beginnings of the British Empire in the sixteenth century are considered. Here, once again, the interaction of the language of empire with other discourses, particularly those of the nation and state are explored. The course goes on to consider the overseas expansion of British power into North America and the East, with a particular focus on the history of British contact with the Indian subcontinent. Later on, students are introduced to the concept of 'new imperialism' in the late nineteenth century and the age of 'high Empire.' Then, we examine the loss of the Empire, decolonization and the emergence of the Commonwealth of Nations in the twentieth century.

Finally, students are encouraged to explore what remains of the British Empire - how much of today's world order has somehow been shaped by the British Empire and what this might mean for the future.

### Culture and the Self

Georgia Christinidis

This course explored the representation of selfhood in writing and the constitutive role autobiographical or confessional forms of writing can play for the formation of the self. The seminar drew upon the theory of selfhood presented by Charles Taylor in *Sources of the Self* as well as Michel Foucault's theorisation, in *The History of Sexuality*, of the role played by confessional narratives in constructing a modern subject. Students read and discussed a wide range of autobiographical and fictional texts, including de Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* and Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, but also twenty-first century blogs. Furthermore, the contribution of life writing to self-formation was discussed both in the context of Taylor's theory, and with reference to life-writing assignments completed by the students themselves.



Looking for a solution together.

### Excursions

As part of her course on the literary field in the UK, Gesa Stedman took her students on a number of excursions – among them were a visit to Marga Schoeller Bücherstube in Charlottenburg, an independent bookshop with a strong Anglo-American angle, a visit to Berlin Verlag, an imprint of Bloomsbury, where the group were allowed to visit the editorial department, production, marketing, and sales, and a visit by the well-known travel writer Rory McLean. As part of her course on British film, Gesa Stedman and her students were given a guided tour of Babelsberg Film Studio, with a special emphasis on British films which were made at the studios.

## M.B.S. Student Project

### Covent Garden: a Window into Modern British Culture

After being acquainted with the theoretical part of project management, we were immediately given a chance to put it into practice by organising our own event. A fair voting on all the suggestions for a topic was conducted and the class chose the topic “Covent Garden: a Window into Modern British Culture” for the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*. The topic was the perfect basis for displaying many facets of British popular culture such as music, art, theatre, entertainment and pub culture. We even planned to sell drinks and snacks just as they do at the famous London piazza.



The next step was dividing the students into over ten groups, including fundraising, PR, IT and several exhibition/performance groups. Soon after, the real work began and in no time the Long Night came. Building and later dismantling the exhibition was probably the most strenuous part of the event. Our pub, photo exhibition, and live performance acts were the highlight of the night for many visitors. *Romeo and Juliet* in 10 minutes topped all expectations and was a fantastic



Romeo and Juliet in a modern adaptation.

opportunity for many Shakespeare lovers to re-discover this classic in a modern adaptation. We planned a performance act every 30 minutes which made our exhibition very lively. It was a great experience, a lot of effort, but also great fun and we were delighted with the result. We learned a lot about organisation and teamwork and it proved once again that practice is the best of all instructors!

Activities: Pub Scenery and Decoration, Pub Quiz, Photo Exhibition, Living Statues, Singing (Anna-Janina Wittan), DJ, Food, Kid's Corner, Book Table and the infamous *Romeo and Juliet* (performed by Justus Pieck, Emre Yeşilbaş, Gvantsa Uznadze and Elena Verigo).

Emmanuelle Berne and Bojana Perišić  
Project Managers



The 'pub' offered drinks, nibbles and entertainment.

## Internships

Bojana Perišić

### University of Copenhagen, Denmark

After the UK Border Agency introduced new regulations at the end of 2008, some students of the M.B.S. programme unintentionally became “more equal than the others.” Although having studied and worked as hard as our fellow students, on the basis of our non-EU citizenship, a direct view into British culture and lifestyle was denied to us. Nevertheless, in such unfavourable, stressful and delicate circumstances, the GBZ staff were very forthcoming and open to new ideas and challenges.

I got permission and support in my intention to find an internship placement in the neighbouring country of Denmark. The Translation Centre, which is a part of the English Department at the University of Copenhagen, accepted and heartily welcomed me as an intern. With quite an international background (a Serbian woman, studying British Studies in Germany, doing her internship in Denmark), I received the task of

researching for an illustrated intercultural dictionary for children, whose aim is to raise consciousness of different languages, customs, and traditions at an early age. Apart from that, my wonderful and ambitious supervisors asked me to collect and organise data for a climate dictionary, in connection with the UN conference, which took place in Copenhagen in December 2009. The dictionary received great academic and public attention and I am really glad I had a part in making it. In addition to the placement at the translation centre, in my free time I volunteered for an English theatre in Copenhagen. The artistic British-American-Danish team were quite happy to have me as an additional help at the rehearsals and I really enjoyed their company.

Now, with the wisdom of hindsight, I understand Alexander Bell's words, "when one door closes, another opens." My internship experience in Denmark taught me that it is very important to believe in yourself and your hard work, to never stop being curious and always look forward.

Anna-Janina Wittan

### Birmingham City Council

I did my internship with the Regional, European and International Division of Birmingham City Council. During the internship, I assisted in organising and running the Frankfurt Christmas Market. The market is a project between Birmingham and its partner city Frankfurt am Main which has grown over the course of 13 years. In 2009, the market included roughly 100 stalls and attracted about three million visitors. My work involved a wide variety of tasks such as daily translation/interpreting, administration, planning meetings, coordination, liaising with stallholders and their staff etc. For this work, my B.A. in Translation and Interpreting, and the Master course in Berlin beforehand were a big help, in particular project management and politics. The internship allowed me to get an insight into international cooperation and work, project and event management, and local politics in the UK. It was an experience I appreciate a lot and I am convinced that it will help my future career.

Name of Student	Placement Institution
Akbas, Safiye Merve	The British Council Istanbul, Turkey
Aust, Linda	Hyperlaunch New Media, Bristol, UK
Berne, Emmanuelle	Move It 2010 – Upper Street Events Ltd., London, UK
Cheng, Hsiang-Yi	Beam your Screen, Mannheim, Germany
Krasutskaya, Natallia	Express News Media, Hamburg, Germany
Perišić, Bojana	The Translation Centre, Department of English, German and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Pieck, Justus	The German-British Chamber of Industry and Commerce, London, UK
Repke, Ulrike	Pearson plc, London, UK
Roman, Cristina	National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK
Rozdiel, Amos	Robert Walter MP, House of Commons, London, UK
Sadr Mousavi, Seyyedeh	Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, UK Section, Freiburg i.Br., Germany
Schüßler, Clara	The Irish Book Publishers' Association CLÉ, Dublin, Ireland
Sobiepanek, Katarzyna	The Conservative Friends of Poland, London, UK
Tortosa, Patricia	City Socialising, London, UK
Uznadze, Gvantsa	ExBerliner Magazine, Berlin, Germany
Verigo, Elena	Age Concern, Málaga, Spain
Wang, Hengxin	Processing and Packaging Machinery Association, China Office, Shanghai, China
Wittan, Anna-Janina	Birmingham City Council, Birmingham, UK
Yeşilbaş, Emre	The Hellenic National Centre of Theatre and Dance, Athens, Greece



## M.B.S. Theses

During the final part of the M.B.S. course the students are required to write their M.B.S. thesis. They must show analytical and critical competence and transfer knowledge and skills acquired in the different modules and courses by focusing on a chosen subject that is explicitly related to the United Kingdom and, if convenient, may also be related to their placement in Britain. The following is a list of topics chosen by the class of 2007-2009.

Name	Thesis Topic
Avalos, Etna	Evolution of Hyperfiction in Great Britain
Berger, Juliane	How National are National Museums? A Comparison of the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin
Cao, Yun	Regulation of the UK Financial System: Maintaining Financial Stability
Chairopoulou, Elizabeth	“Feloniously Stealing 3 Holland Aprons”: English Women and Crime in the Long Eighteenth Century
Exarchou, Maria	Jazz Culture in Britain and the Liverpool Poets
Feitsch, Victoria	Culture as a Brand. Britishness, a Cultural Commodity?
Feser, Nina	Prisons in Scotland. The Problem of Overcrowding in Scottish Prisons and Community Sentencing as an Alternative to Custody
Floren, Julia	The UK’s Nuclear Deterrent and Post-Devolution Scotland: Legal, Political and Economic Implications
Friebel, Helena	Devolution Forever? Calman Commission Versus National Conversation: the Constitutional Debate in Scotland
Goredema, Prue	Charting Language Change, 1400-1900
Guan, Wie	The Future of the BBC as a Public Service Broadcaster
Karagöl, Jessica	Information-Communication-Power: Great Britain in the Global Telegraph Network of the 19th Century
Korepanova, Julia	Student Mobility Patterns in the United Kingdom, Germany, The Czech Republik and the Russian Federation
Kostadinova, Stanislava	How Strong is the Voice of ‘The Man Booker Prize’?
Kotlarz, Małgorzata	A Comparison of Higher Education Marketing in the UK and Germany
Kovale, Oksana	The UK Model of Building Energy Policy
Kropaite, Zivile	The Image of “New Immigrants” in the British Media: Views Surrounding EU Enlargement
Peretyagina, Tamara	Westminster vs. Holyrood: Devolution and Institutional Framework
Samsonova, Maria	What Makes Fairtrade a Recognisable Brand?
Shteyn, Anastasia	Young British Art and the Transformation of the British Art World, 1990-2008
Tkach, Anna	Britain and Germany in NATO: Analysis and Comparison of the British and Germany Membership of the Alliance
Uluşık, Barcin	The Third Runway at Heathrow: A Public Affairs Analysis
Zucotti, Francesca	Examining the Relationship between the Arts, Cultural Events and Cultural Tourism in the United Kingdom: from the General to the Institutional Level

This year’s best Master Theses were written by Julia Floren and Elizabeth Chairopoulou. Their papers have been published on the Centre’s website <http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de> (Working Papers).

## M.B.S. Alumni

The Centre for British Studies is keen to keep track of its alumni for a number of reasons: we like to know what became of those we have been teaching and got to know over a period of almost two years. At the same time we like to inform them about what is going on at the Centre (e.g. via our Alumni Newsletters) and in the field of British Studies more generally. Furthermore, we are interested in having up-to-date contact details of our alumni, since we regularly receive job offers with the request to forward them to those who may be interested in the relevant position. Finally, staying in touch with our alumni has proven to be beneficial to our respective current intake of students in terms of helping them find attractive internship positions and sometimes even permanent positions.



Back for the Christmas Party: former (and future?) M.B.S. students.

Presently we provide career information for 137 of a total number of 184 former students, which equals a coverage of almost three quarters. The largest group of alumni (34%) work in the business sector, which comprises the commercial sector, media and publishing and translation services. The commercial sector is the largest, covering 19% of the overall number of alumni who work for large international companies such as Google, Coca-Cola or Vodafone, as well as a number of smaller enterprises. 17% of our alumni work in the field of media and publishing, e.g. for Pearson or Klett, while about 3% are active in the field of translation services, either as employees or freelancers. Next to the business sector, the second-largest group (17%) work in the educational sector as university lecturers, (primary and secondary) school teachers, or managers and administrators of educational institutions. About 9% of our graduates continue with further studies (Master as well as PhD-programmes) or work in the field of cultural management (e.g. for Cheltenham Festivals). A little more than 7% have dedicated themselves to foundations and NGOs or have been recruited by institutions of the general public

sector (e.g. national government departments or ministries). Roughly 3% are working with EU-institutions (in Brussels, Luxembourg, and Strasbourg) or for the diplomatic service (e.g. the British Embassy in Berlin). Three alumni have decided to put full-time effort into caring for their families. As evidenced by our usually very low number of jobseekers, the M.B.S. has proven valuable in terms of meeting the requirements of the working world. This year, however, the percentage of jobseekers is relatively high, equalling almost 9% of our overall number of former students. By far the largest group (three quarters) among those are our most recent graduates who have not yet managed to secure permanent positions in these difficult economic times. However, this is probably only a temporary phenomenon and we are optimistic that matters will improve in the long-run. We keep our fingers crossed.

## What happened to ...

### Timothy Roecker

Class 2006-2008

A definite highlight in the M.B.S. course was my internship in the House of Commons. This is undoubtedly a great door opener to get into the world of British politics. My first step after graduating though was a stint in a public relations agency working on an exciting campaign for the European Parliament. That job had, in fact, been facilitated through the Centre's good contacts. The multi-disciplinary nature of the M.B.S. course was certainly a good preparation for that, as well as being a definite bonus for getting myself a really good UK government job today.

## TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES AND UNIVERSITIES

### International and Comparative Contract Law

Prof Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter term 2008/09. The lectures treat core issues of contract law from a comparative perspective with particular reference to English, German, and French law, and provide an introduction to conflict of law issues (applicable law and jurisdiction) in matters relating to international contracts, with particular emphasis on the EC Regulation on the Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations, and the EU Regulation on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters.

## Connections and Cooperations – Barriers and Blockades

British Social, Economic and Legal Structures in a European Context (19th Century)

In this lecture course, taught by Prof Eisenberg to Humboldt-Universität's History students in the summer term 2009, comparative investigations of British and European history with a focus on the mode of communication and cooperation between the British and other Europeans were undertaken. What forms did communication take with each other? Under what conditions could differences be overcome? Why did such differences sometimes function as barriers and blockades of communication? The course familiarised the participants with comparative methods and taught a variety of reading and analytical techniques.

## What is the political function of the Culture of Entertainment?

Recent Research in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century German and British History

Prof Eisenberg offered this course to students of Humboldt's History Department during the winter term 2009/10. Relevant publications which have appeared in recent years in the areas of sport, film, and music were analysed. The aim was to explore how and with what intentions the authors interpreted the interactions between entertainment culture and politics, as well as to examine whether their arguments were empirically grounded and comprehensible. The aim of the course was to develop a sensibility for precise definitions and differentiated arguments.

## The Age of Revolutions

In the winter term 2008/9 Dr Heather Ellis taught this first-year history module for Oxford Brookes University. The module gives first-year history students an introduction to the revolutionary processes in the transformation of European societies in the period 1789-1848. It offers students the chance to develop a long-running perspective on some of the main developments and debates in European history. Beginning with an examination of the idea of revolution and its historical significance, the course goes on to consider the political, socio-economic, and cultural background of the American and French Revolutions as well as the revolutions of 1848. It also introduces students to some of the key types of sources available to the historian of this period, and some of the challenges in using and interpreting them.

## RESEARCH

### Current Research Projects

#### Connections and Connectivity: Transnational Exchange and Cooperation of Individuals, Ethnic Groups and Institutions. Great Britain Compared

Comparative research in the humanities, especially in the area of social research, both contemporary and historical has enjoyed a significant upturn since the 1970s, and a great number of comparisons have been made between Great Britain and Germany in particular. In addition to comparative research, further studies since the 1990s have dealt with the phenomenon of cultural transfers which – often unintentionally – go along with encounters between 'indigenous' and 'foreign' countries. This branch of research transcends the comparative tradition insofar as scholars do not simply enquire into similarities, differences and, from time to time, increases or decreases in distance. They also conduct an analysis of exchange relations, media and mediators between states and societies in the course of the growing interest in questions concerning Europeanisation and globalisation.



Dr Mackay and Prof Eisenberg at the interdisciplinary workshop to launch the new research project.

Academics at the Centre for British Studies have worked in both fields. In future we want to include a further aspect which, as a result of the connection between comparative and transfer research, will increasingly force itself into the foreground of research practice: connectivity problems. What we mean by this are failed cultural transfers and broken-off communications, as well as strategies of avoidance and rejection in the course of transnational processes. The multifaceted dimensions which such studies can open out, become clear when we try to translate the English word "connectivity" into German: "*Verbindung*", "*Vernetzung*", "*Verbundenheit*", "*Verbindbarkeit*", "*An-*

*schlussmöglichkeit*” etc. When we systematise the many possible different translations we see that there are at least three dimensions to ‘connectivity’: the successful working of a connection, the connecting mode, and the density of connections.

An interdisciplinary workshop conference to launch this new research framework took place at the Centre on 25 June 2009 (see page 23).

## DFG/AHRC Research Project: The Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law and its Inter- action with English and German Law

Professor Dannemann has joined forces with Professor Stefan Vogenauer of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford, for a research project which is co-funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). A team of 38 British and German legal scholars co-headed by Professors Dannemann and Vogenauer will, over a period of three years, investigate the Common Frame of Reference for European Contract Law (CFR) which has been announced by the European Council, European Commission, and European Parliament, and its likely interaction with existing national laws of EU member states, as exemplified by English and German law, representing the common and the civil law traditions. Until this CFR is adopted, the research group will use the contract provisions within the recently published Draft Common Frame of Reference of European Private Law (DCFR), in the formulation of which Professor Dannemann has been involved through his work for the Acquis Group (see “Existing EC Private Law”), as basis for their research.



The project's website on <http://cfr.iuscomp.org/>

Researchers work in pairs of one English and one German lawyer each to examine the repercussions which the adoption of the CFR would have not only on ex-

isting contract and consumer law, but also on a wide range of other areas of law, including liability in delict or unjust enrichment, property law, unfair competition law, and procedural law. One part of the research project will specifically deal with so-called “blue button contracts” which would allow consumers in cross-border sales to choose CFR rules rather than the domestic law of the business. It is hoped that the outcome of this research project, which involves all lawyers affiliated with the Centre (Gerhard Dannemann, Irene Maier, Christopher Schuller, Kasper Steensgaard, and Helmut Weber), will find its way into the final version of the CFR. The generous support by the DFG and AHRC, amounting to some €650,000, will pay for one researcher each in Berlin and Oxford, three conferences bringing together all contributors, one student assistant to compile a database on the CFR, and one year replacement each for Professors Dannemann and Vogenauer.

## Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

### Existing EC Private Law

Professor Dannemann is one of the founding members of the European Research Group on EC Private Law (Acquis Group). Founded in 2002, this Group currently consists of some 50 legal scholars from some 20 EU member states. The Acquis Group aims to achieve a systematic arrangement of what already exists in Community law in the area of private law. The Acquis Group bases its work on this *acquis communautaire* of private law rules and aims to distill from this principles and rules which will help to define the common structures of an emerging Community private law. Within this group, Professor Dannemann heads both the Redaction Committee and the Terminology Group. During 2009, the Acquis Group published *Principles of the Existing EC Contract Law (Acquis Principles)*, *Contract II: General Provisions, Delivery of Goods, Package Travel and Payment Services* with Sellier publishers, München. Further information can be obtained at: <http://www.acquis-group.org>.

### Unjust Enrichment and Restitution

Professor Dannemann has completed his work on a monograph which places the German law of unjust enrichment and restitution in a comparative context, with a particular focus on English law. The book *The German Law of Unjustified Enrichment and Restitution: a Comparative Introduction* was published in 2009 by Oxford University Press.

## Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Professor Eisenberg prepared her manuscript on the rise of the market society in England for publication (the book came out in the series *Kritische Studien für Geschichtswissenschaft* in December 2009). Focusing on the example of England the study reconstructs the century-long process of commercialisation that gave birth to a modern market society. It shows how certain types of markets (for real estate, work and capital, and also for example for copyrights) came into being, and how the social relations mediated by markets were formed. The book deals with the creation of institutions like the Bank of England, the stock exchange and Lloyd's insurance, and the way the English dealt with the uncertainty and risks involved in market transactions. The argument developed in the book is that the creation of a market society and modern capitalism in England occurred under circumstances that were utterly different to those on the European continent. Therefore, an overhasty generalisation would lead to mistakes in interpretation. In addition, the author shows that the process of commercialisation of business, society, and culture in England did not directly lead to an industrial society, as has been suggested in research to date, but to a service economy. The book emphasizes the singularity of the English case and thus challenges the idea of a Western pattern of commercialisation.



Eisenberg, Ch. *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2009.

In 2009 Professor Eisenberg continued to do broad reading on the market society as well as on problems of historical sociology. The focus of these studies was on methodological problems and the applicability to the British case of recent models and theories.

She also continued her research on 'International Sport in a Society of Nation States' – a project that integrates British, European, and global perspectives and is part of the Centre's overarching research project on 'connections and connectivity'.

## Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Gesa Stedman has continued her research on cultural exchange, in particular in relation to England and France, and the early modern period. In this context, she has prepared a book manuscript for publication which is due to be published by Ashgate in 2010. It is entitled *17th-Century Cultural Exchange between England and France* and is based on her 'Habilitation'.

Gesa Stedman also began a new cultural exchange studies project, together with Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford), entitled 'Turn-of-the-Century European Literary and Cultural History: A New Approach'. In addition, her interest in food and food history led to the special issue of *Hard Times* on food and drink, edited together with Sandra Müller.

### Cooperation with the HU English Department

Various forms of cooperation have been set in motion between the department of Culture and Literature at the Centre, and the English Studies Department at the Humboldt-Universität. Sandra Müller was invited to a seminar and follow-up conference on migration and literature organised by Prof Eveline Kilian. Prof Kilian herself took an active part in the Connections and Connectivity Workshop which took place at the Centre in June.

In the future, a joint Interdepartmental Colloquium or Study Day will be organised, and shared readings by contemporary authors are also part of future plans of cooperation. In addition, M.B.S. culture and literature alumni whose PhD projects cannot be supervised by the Centre's staff are increasingly finding a home within the English Department of Humboldt-Universität.

## Dr Georgia Christinidis

In 2009, Georgia Christinidis continued her research on cultural agency, the constitution of agents and personal identity. While revising her dissertation on 'The Concept of Cultural Agency from Modernism to Cultural Studies' for publication, she began to explore the importance of narrative openness and narrative closure for representations of agency – or of its absence – in a wide range of texts, including Angela Carter's *Nights at the Circus* and the film *Slumdog Millionaire*. She is now planning to pursue this interest further in investigating instances of narrative openness in nineteenth-century novels.

## Dr Heather Ellis

In 2009 Heather Ellis completed her doctoral dissertation entitled 'Young Oxford: Generational Conflict and University Reform in the Age of Revolution' and has begun revising it for publication. She also started work on her post-doctoral project which will explore intellectual and scholarly transfer between Britain and Germany in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In particular, the project will focus on the development and significance of trans-national academic and university networks in shaping Anglo-German relations in a period of increasing globalisation. In addition, she is preparing a conference with Lily Chang (Oxford University) on the history of adolescence in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain to be held at the Centre for British Studies in March 2011.

## Jens Ennen

Jens Ennen is currently doing research on the role of Human Resource Management (HRM) techniques in British and German Universities. Reform movements within institutions of higher education are put in the context of wider changes of the public sector. The perception that public institutions do not fulfil societies' needs and do not use resources efficiently have motivated policymakers to modernise the public sector along principles of 'New Public Management' (NPM). Universities in the UK have been changing along the NPM paradigm for a longer time than their German counterparts. The question arises as to which implications such changes have for teaching and research. Reform components that may have been omitted or were unfeasible in one country may have had beneficial or adverse effects in another. Furthermore, side-effects and unintended consequences are to be scrutinised.

## Jessica Fischer

Jessica Fischer is working on her dissertation. She is interested in constructions of identity in the UK, especially in politics and postcolonial literatures of the 21st century. Debates on global migration, citizenship and integration, religion and terror, racism and multiculturalism were intensified through 9/11 and 7/7. Discriminations against ethnic minorities increasingly turn into religious discriminations and further an ignorance towards the plurality of a citizen's cultural affiliations. At the same time, literary texts create complex worlds which deconstruct dominant representations, offer differentiated models of identity and raise awareness for multiple perspectives. Here the research focuses on British novels and cases with an Asian background.

## Irene Maier

Irene Maier's research interests lie in the area of English and German private law, legal history and jurisprudence. She is currently researching the formation of contracts in the context of the Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law and English and German law, and the choice of Common Frame of Reference based rules for electronic distance consumer sales contracts in the context of English and German law, for her contribution to the Centre's DFG/AHRC research project 'The Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law and its Interaction with English and German Law' that is headed by Professor Dannemann.

## Sandra Müller

Sandra Müller continued her work on her PhD thesis 'Cultural Exchange and Literature in Contemporary Britain' (working title) and spent three months on research leave in Oxford.



Not getting lost in Oxford ...

In her thesis, she investigates how cultural transfer theory can add to literary and cultural studies, especially to the contextualisation of literary works. Cultural transfer theory analyses the creative and selective appropriation process of cultural elements between members of two or more cultures, i.e. the transfer of culture and the transfer between cultures. It has a number of contact points with postcolonial theory and it offers some additional benefits, for example, tangible concepts (as opposed to an overuse of metaphors), concise categories of analysis and close connections to the social and historical context, for example, migration.

The thesis will analyse the following novels in detail: Monica Ali's *Brick Lane*, Nadeem Aslam's *Maps for Lost Lovers*, Julian Barnes' *Arthur and George*, Maggie Gee's *The White Family*, Gautam Malkani's *Londonstani*, and

Rose Tremain's *The Road Home*. It will show how a combined approach based on cultural transfer theory, narratology, and an analysis of the literary field can provide valuable categories of analysis and results for an interdisciplinary approach to contemporary British literature and its contexts.

## Academic Exchange

Sandra Müller was invited as an Associate Member at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. She spent three months in Oxford conducting research at the Bodleian Library and other relevant libraries in Oxford as well as at the British Library in London. She also seized the opportunity to meet other researchers, and to discuss and exchange ideas. Sandra plans to go back to Oxford in February 2010 to present the results of her research at the MCR/SCR colloquium of the college.

## Visiting Researchers

### Dr Stefano Evangelista

Trinity College Oxford

Dr Evangelista returned to the Centre for three months in spring 2009, to put the finishing touches to an extensive volume on Oscar Wilde's reception in Europe which he has edited. He was also able to submit his monograph *British Aestheticism and Ancient Greece* to the publishers, and began the early stages of a new, joint project shared by Gesa Stedman, which will concentrate on late 19th- and early 20th-century cosmopolitanism and English literature in its European context.



Dr Evangelista (right) discussing his research with the staff.

### Dr Francis Graham-Dixon

Francis Graham-Dixon's research centres on how Western democracies export liberal policy values and how policy can be reconciled within the constraints of a military occupation. His DPhil at the University of Sussex evaluated British occupation policy and its reception in Germany in relation to the refugee and expellee crisis from 1945-1949. The first Luftbrückendank Visiting Fellowship at the Centre for British Studies provided a unique post-doctoral opportunity for him to look more broadly at British policy after 1949, and to assess its influence on Anglo-German relations and West German recovery in the 1950s. In particular, the research evaluated whether Britain's aim to win the battle of hearts and minds by eliminating all causes of friction whilst defending its own interests was successful.



Dr Graham-Dixon during his lecture at the Centre.

Two months' research in Berlin's *Auswärtiges Amt*, *Evangelisches Zentralarchiv* and *Landeskirchenarchiv* and the *Presseokumentation* at the *Bundestag* unearthed an exciting wealth of rarely used archival material that reveal new perspectives on German responses to British policy from 1949-55. The results were presented in a lecture that he gave at the Centre in November 2009.

### Prof Dr E. Peter Hennock

As a lecturer and professor at the Universities of Keele, Sussex, Liverpool and as a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, over four decades Professor Hennock explored the history of local government in Britain as well as the relationship between social reformers in Britain and Germany throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Born in Berlin in 1926 as a child of a family with Jewish traditions, he was forced to move to Britain in 1939. Now, as Emeritus

Professor, he came back to Berlin in order to continue his research and to collect sources for his autobiography. He also gave a lecture to the M.B.S. history class on “The Origins of the British Welfare State in Relation to Subsequent Developments”.

## Dr Eve Hepburn

University of Edinburgh

Dr Eve Hepburn was a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for British Studies for the month of April, 2009. During her stay, Dr Hepburn was conducting fieldwork for her British Leverhulme Trust-funded project on ‘The Regional Dynamics of Party Competition.’ She interviewed over a dozen party representatives from the federal and *Land* (Berlin and Bavaria) branches of the SPD, CDU, Linke and CSU about party competition and territorial interest representation for her planned book ‘Drifting Apart: Regional Party Systems in Multi-level States.’ In addition to this fieldwork, Dr Hepburn used her time as a Visiting Scholar to complete her book manuscript ‘Using Europe: Territorial Party Strategies in a Multi-party System’ (Manchester University Press, 2010).

## External Doctoral Students

### History Department

#### Stephan Schwanke

Stephan Schwanke is finishing his thesis on the development of “surf culture” and the surf industry in Australia from 1945 onwards. “Surf culture” in Australia is primarily notable for being an usually strong case of “myth creating history” and the thesis concentrates on the ramifications this has had on the debate on modern Australian history and identity, with two conflicting discourses being of particular interest - the treatment of “surf culture” as an expression of a uniquely Australian identity that constitutes a clear break away from the country’s European heritage and the interpretation of “surf culture” as an example of cultural production that can be described as an (inverted) adaptation of pre-existing British models and sentiments.

#### Ruti Ungar

Ruti Ungar has submitted her thesis ‘The Boxing Discourse in Late Georgian England, 1780-1820: a study in Civic Humanism, Gender, Class and Race’. The study examines the discourse on boxing in English society ca 1780 to 1820; it looks at the social, political and cultur-

al issues negotiated within and around the practice and shows that boxing was an important discursive area for negotiating issues of gender, class, and race.

### Law Department

#### Sara Berendsen

submitted her PhD thesis on ‘Trusts im Internationalen Privatrecht.’

#### Aike Hasenheit

has successfully completed his thesis on ‘Die Innenhaftung bei Partnership und Personenhandelsgesellschaft.’

#### Andriy Ilyuk

is writing a PhD thesis on ‘Non-Performance and Remedies in European Contract Law. A Comparative Analysis of the Acquis Principles, the Draft European Civil Code, and the Common Frame of Reference.’

#### Zoé Jacquemin

is writing a PhD thesis on ‘Le droit européen des contrats: quelles frontières?’

#### Stephen Love

is writing a PhD thesis on ‘European Contract Law as implemented in France, Germany and the UK.’

#### Maik Martin

is writing a PhD thesis on ‘Public Inquiries: Anatomie einer Common Law-Institution.’

#### Sandra Vivian Wagner

has successfully completed her thesis on ‘Verbraucherschutz bei Kaufvertragsschluss im Internet nach englischem und deutschem Recht.’

### Culture and Literature Department

#### Anett Löscher

Anett Löscher has submitted her thesis entitled ‘Crossing Borders. English Universities and their Establishment of Campuses Abroad, Reviewed from a Study of Cultural Exchange Studies Perspective’ and is only awaiting her viva to have her doctorate complete. This will take place in early 2010.

#### Veronika Schmieder

Veronica Schmieder, an M.B.S. graduate (2008), is currently preparing a doctoral thesis on the role of urban space in Glenn Patterson’s novels. In contrast to other Northern Irish writers who concentrate on the Trou-

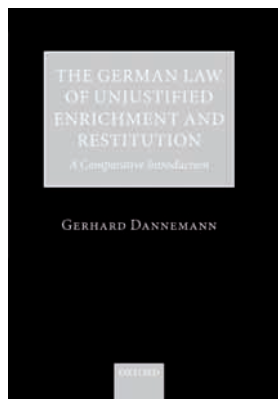


bles, Patterson explores Northern Irish identity from a very different angle. Incorporating recent theoretical advances from the so-called spatial turn, Veronica Schmideder's thesis will provide an overview of Patterson's work, which has not yet received much critical attention, as well as an analysis of the different functions that constructions of contemporary urban spaces have in his novels.

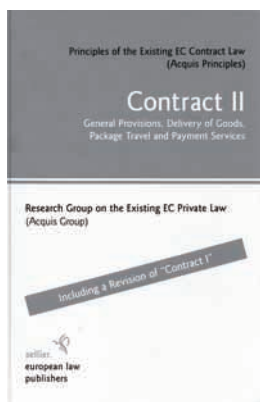
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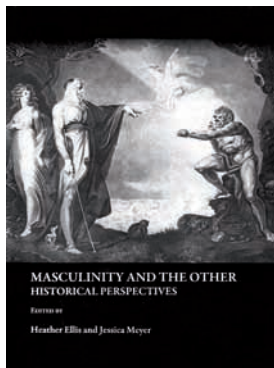
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- "Emily Brontë," 201. "Emily Brontë: Wuthering Heights," 201,2. "Emily Brontë: Gondal Poems," 202,3.

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- "Ali Smith," 303. "Ali Smith: The Accidental," 303,4.

## Conferences and Workshops

### Connections and Connectivity: Transnational Exchange and Cooperation of Individuals, Ethnic Groups and Institutions. Great Britain Compared

25 June 2009

In times of rapid travel, communication, mass migration, and international exchange of all kinds, it is not surprising that the interest in connections and connectivity has now reached academia. The Centre for British Studies will concentrate its future research on this interdisciplinary area and will focus on the following questions:

1. Why are some societies (or units of societies such as ethnic groups or institutions) more capable of connecting with outside impulses than others? Under what circumstances do they batten up their doors? What is the basis for their being able to remain deaf to requests for connectivity?
2. How do societies deal with a selection of connectivity requests? Do similarly structured units attract or repel each other?
3. Should we regard connectivity as a vice or a virtue, as a strength or a weakness?



Interdisciplinary discussions on 'Connections and Connectivity.'

To launch this new research framework, the Centre organised an interdisciplinary workshop conference which took place on Thursday, 25 June 2009. The aim was to combine both high-level theoretical reflection with case studies, in order to test the validity of such theoretical approaches. The disciplines represented at the workshop were: history, law, cultural and literary studies, sociology and economics.

Participants focused on two aspects of connections and connectivity: on the one hand, they discussed different theoretical approaches and models of connection and connectivity, such as cultural exchange theory,

neo-institutionalism, communication, and postcolonial approaches. On the other hand, they analysed individual cases.

Although Britain and her “connectivity” problems were a focal point of discussion, the conference was not confined to problems specific to Britain. On the contrary, comparison was regarded as a *sine qua non* for most forms of cultural exchange and connection, and participants systematically explored such units of comparison, be they German, French, or non-Western regions or countries. They also explored the specific quality of the exchange processes that underlie the development of international and transnational relations as well as the mechanisms of interaction associated with them. Finally, participants took into consideration the occurrence of social and cultural change – for the connection with and possible import of foreign models by any society generally serves one of two purposes; that of justifying or that of challenging the status quo.

### **The Cultural Industries in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Britain and Germany Compared**

19–21 November 2009

Increasingly during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, patrons, associations, courts, and the other public purveyors of culture were joined by private enterprises that approached the organisation of cultural events as a business, using professional methods such as targeted advertising and cooperation with the mass press, and employing professional artists and managers. These methods were applied not only to new cultural forms such as film, cinema, and sport, but also to such traditional ones as theatre, concerts, choral performances, and variety shows.

As cultural industries of this kind had a long history in Britain, going back as far as the early modern period, they had become an accepted part of modern society by the late nineteenth century and legal copyright was established early. By contrast, the literature on the cultural industries in Germany gives the impression that the breakthrough came later there, not until the end of the nineteenth century. It suggests that socially and politically, commercial culture was regarded in a highly critical way, some aspects of it being strongly rejected, and that the legal basis of commercialization was established with some delay. On the other hand, from the start political parties, churches, and other institutions seem to have been readier to intervene politically and to nurture the cultural industries in Germany than in Britain.

A conference dealing with these British-German differences was organised jointly by the German Historical Institute London (Andreas Gestrich) and the Centre for British Studies (Christiane Eisenberg). It took place in London on 19–21 November 2009. Participants from both countries investigated the context within which the cultural industries were created in Britain and Germany, and asked whether the paths of development and modes of reaction were really as different as the literature suggests. In addition, they analysed perceptions and mutual cooperation between the relevant actors.

The conference was kindly supported by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.

### **Siggen 2009: Knowledge and Innovation in the Arts and Humanities**

16–20 July 2009

Invited by PD Dr Birgit Neumann (Giessen) and Gesa Stedman, an interdisciplinary group of mostly younger academics from the humanities and social sciences met at Siggen in Schleswig-Holstein, the country house of the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung. An intensive week of impulse papers and discussions followed, focusing on the pressure to be innovative and remain up-to-date with all current ‘turns’ on the one hand and the wish to undertake sustained, long-term research on the other. A number of different results were the outcome of this highly successful, lively, and productive conference. Among these, the most important is the plan to meet again in 2010, this time for a sustained reading week at a small hotel in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in order to complement the Siggen discussions with something that academics have less and less time for: reading current, innovative research and then spending time discussing it in a small group.



Siggen - a quiet retreat for concentrating on research.

## Higher Education Teaching Workshop

24–25 April 2009

The German Association for the Study of British Cultures offered its fourth higher education teaching workshop at the Centre for British Studies. Participants from different qualification levels met under the guidance of Prof Gesa Stedman and Prof Jana Gohrisch (Hanover) to discuss methods in teaching cultural studies. The first part of the workshop dealt with the question of how to reach an appropriate meta-level in the classroom and how to teach students how to critically analyse the subjects at hand, instead of merely describing them. In a second part, PD Dr Kirsten Rütter, a specialist in African history at Leibniz Universität Hannover, led a workshop on ‘Global History and Historical Analysis of Sources for Non-historians.’



Discussing different teaching methods.

## Working Group on Cultural Studies

10 January and 27 June 2009

The *Arbeitskreis Cultural Studies* is a study group which meets twice a year to discuss published and ongoing research projects, teaching methods, and topics related to the study of British cultures, as well as university policies and their implications for students, teachers, and researchers. The two meetings in 2009 were hosted by the Centre. In addition to “work in progress” slots, such as Georgia Christinidis’ paper on “Cultural Agency – Or: Who does What to Whom with Culture,” the participants discussed the interpretation of sources for historical approaches and the relation of cultural studies and political studies. The position papers, protocols, course outlines, bibliographies, and other documents that were the result of many years of these meetings have been digitized and made available to the members of this group. The *Arbeitskreis* meetings in 2010 will take place at the Universität Leipzig and the Technische Universität Dresden.

## 28th Berlin-British Seminar ‘The Russian-European Relationship’

23–25 March 2009

The bilateral relationships of European countries with Russia are quite diverse. Britain, for example, has more of an objective and interest-related link to Russia, whereas for Germany, Russia is a neighbour with whom one wishes to cooperate politically, economically, and culturally. The different accentuations of British and German relations with Russia have also penetrated into the EU and NATO. In the light of present crises in the world and the unpredictability of Russian politics, it would be helpful to find a combined European position when facing Russia – and in doing so, there is an ever-growing need to include the Ukraine, Georgia, and other former Soviet countries. The Seminar discussed the matter intensely, and the arguments were controversial in many respects. However, all participants agreed that Russian interests must be established and considered since it would be counterproductive to ignore them.



Guan Wei, an M.B.S. student, talks about the results of their group discussion.

## Second ADEF Junior Workshop

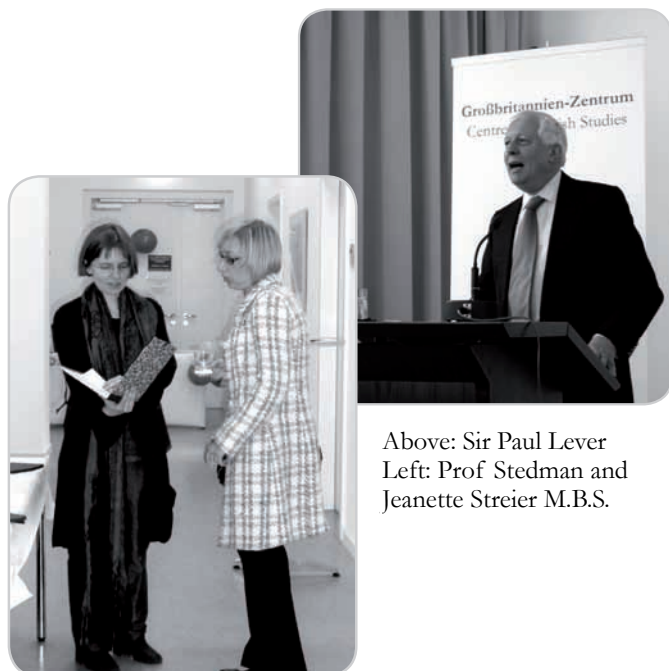
08–09 October 2009

The German Association for the Study of British History and Politics (ADEF) held its second Junior Workshop at the Centre, hosted by Prof Christiane Eisenberg and organised by Annette Schmidt-Klügmann (Philipps-Universität Marburg) and Tobias Becker (FU Berlin). PhD students from universities all over Germany presented their dissertation projects on British and comparative history, ranging from the Middle Ages to the 1970s. Despite the wide range of topics, spanning more than a century, the participants engaged in animated discussions, from which the audience profited as much as the speakers. A final round of discussion dealt with the use of theoretical approaches to history and historical comparisons in general. Feedback from all participants was positive, and they welcomed the prospect of another Junior Workshop next year.

## EVENTS

## 10th Anniversary of the M.B.S.

On 4 June 2009, students, alumni, staff, former staff, and friends of the Centre for British Studies celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Master course.



Above: Sir Paul Lever  
Left: Prof Stedman and  
Jeanette Streier M.B.S.

When the M.B.S. started its success story in 1999, it was one of the first master programmes in Germany. Today, it is still one of its kind thanks to its interdisciplinary, international and practice-oriented approach. The *Berliner Zeitung* praised it as a “Studiengang mit Job-Garantie” (27 May 2009), the accreditation agency AQAS acknowledged it as a course unrivalled in Germany and abroad (“ein in Deutschland und im internationalen Rahmen konkurrenzlos dastehendes Angebot”) and in the annual evaluations the students prove to be well prepared for their future.

Among the speakers during this event was Sir Paul Lever, the former British Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Prof Nagel, Vice President of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, lauded the combination of lectures, seminars, field trips and practical experience, particularly the internship in Great Britain. Jeanette Streier, one of the Centre’s alumni, described the M.B.S. from the perspective of a former student and recounted how the experience and connections she gained at the Centre and during her internship helped her to gain employment at the IHK (Chamber of Industry and Trade) in Berlin. Finally, Doris Feldman, member of the Centre’s Advisory Board, talked about “The M.B.S. in the Context of Cultural Studies”. The HU chamber choir, supported by a current M.B.S. student, provided musical entertainment.

## M.B.S. Classes from 1999 to 2009



The event was also used to launch 'The Friends of the Centre for British Studies' who made their first public appearance and organised a raffle. The top prize, a hand-made sculpture by former director Jürgen Schlaeger, went, quite deservedly, to an M.B.S. alumna. 'The Friends of the Centre for British Studies' are a long-term project to ensure that we can support our students during their internship. The funds will be



used for travel and accommodation costs. In the near future, we hope to be able to provide help for less privileged students.

We welcome any contribution, financial or otherwise, and look forward to a growing number of members in the future. For more details please contact Corinna Radke.

Sculpture by Jürgen Schlaeger.

Extract from Prof Eisenberg's anniversary speech:

*In 1999, the Master's degree, which the Centre for British studies wished to award was more or less unknown in German university life; and the Bologna process that later standardised such qualifications had not yet started. We had to deal with the traditional attitudes of the officials in the education administration of the Berlin Senate, who were responsible for checking the syllabus and giving us the green light. If they had had their way the new degree would not have been called a Master at all but rather a "Magister". But we insisted on the English language title, and they got their revenge by insisting on it being called "Master of British Studies". As in "Master of the Universe", as we joked at the time ...*

*The thing I recall most of all was the unexpected self-evident nature of lessons in a class in which one student had previously studied political science or economics, another languages, and yet another education or ethnology. Whilst we teachers were busy scratching our heads as to how to solve foreseeable problems, the students simply took a pragmatic (and very British) approach. On the one hand, as self-confident representatives of their discipline, they did their best to use discussions to compensate – very skilfully, if I may say so – for their fellow classmates' gaps of knowledge and methods. On the other hand, as time went by they also absorbed many of the perspectives and methods used in other disciplines. And before long all concerned regarded it as completely normal for, say, a language student to include politics in her Master Thesis, for an economics' student to refer to cultural history themes, and for a philosophy student to tie in his or her internship with an outside company or organisation.*

## Keynote Lecture

### Ethics and Embryos: National Comparisons

Baroness Ruth Deech, DBE

24 November

We were very pleased that Baroness Deech gave a speech marking the opening of the Centre's academic year 2009/2010.

Baroness Deech explored the ethics and the law surrounding infertility treatment, embryology, and stem cell research, an area where Britain was the first country to regulate and extend these practices. It is however a controversial area: Britain has recently legalised the use of human-animal hybrid embryos and the registration of birth by two mothers, other countries have taken a very different approach, based on their history, religion, and culture. Baroness Deech presented alter-



Baroness Deech

native perspectives prevailing in Germany, but also in the USA and Belgium, showing how moral, political, religious, and legal issues form the debate on how far one should go in the pursuit of health and fertility.

Baroness Deech is an academic, lawyer and bioethicist, and was Principal of St. Anne's College Oxford University 1991-2004. She is most noted for chairing the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority (HFEA), from 1994 to 2002, where she oversaw the legalisation of stem cell research. Baroness Deech sits as a crossbench peer in the House of Lords (2005- ) and chairs the Bar Standards Board (2009- ), which supervises the training and conduct of barristers.

## Monday Lectures

### Music in Britain and Germany, an Interdisciplinary Comparison

Stephen Ferguson

19 January

Music producer and composer Stephen Ferguson took his listeners to the fascinating and versatile world of music in the UK. With this lecture the international spread of music and its cultural aspects were put into perspective; as well as the far-reaching consequences for society, global networks, technology, and the economy. Stephen Ferguson has a remarkable, versatile creative and academic career behind him. He has not only taught at various international universities and institutions, but has also composed music and film music. He has worked on many projects with Stanley Kubrick (*Eyes Wide Shut*), the London Symphony Orchestra and the BBC – to name just a few. Ferguson has his own production studio and is the founder of Amplify the Austrian Web Studio for “new art music”.

### Is Britain Becoming a Federal State?

Sir Emyr Jones Parry

15 April

In his talk Sir Parry reviewed the process of devolution in the United Kingdom, with particular regard to Wales. Governance in the UK has changed markedly since 1998. He described the pressures and process of devolution, which today takes an asymmetric form with different arrangements in each of the four nations. How does this work in practice and what are the particular characteristics and anomalies of the current arrangements? How is the EU dimension handled? Is Britain heading for a federal structure?

Born and brought up in Wales, Sir Parry was educated as a physicist. He joined the British Foreign Service in 1973 and took up EU work immediately after Thatcher's election. He pursued multilateral diplomacy until his retirement in 2008. In 2008 he was asked by the Welsh Assembly Government to preside the All Wales Convention and to report by the end of 2009 on the future powers of the Welsh National Assembly. He is also the Chancellor of Aberystwyth University.

### The Death of Criticism?

Terry Eagleton

4 May

In his lecture Terry Eagleton explored the social role of literature and criticism. He demolished celebrations

of the literary for its own sake, dismissing, for instance, the indiscriminate and uncritical celebration of the imaginative faculty rooted in Romantic conceptions of art and pointing out that while writing a novel requires imagination, so does organising ethnic cleansing on a grand scale. Therefore, criticism, to fulfil its proper role, should not be narrowly literary; now, more than ever, literature, as well as criticism, are to be regarded as political activities.

Terry Eagleton is one of the most well-known literary critics alive today. To many people, his name is still primarily associated with literary theory. In recent years, however, he has increasingly come to denounce theory for failing to live up to its promise, which was ethical and political, and to expose the moral bankruptcy of a stance that turns away from subjects of central human importance, such as death and suffering, in the name of grandiose claims of subversion and deconstruction. Terry Eagleton is not merely a professional academic but a public intellectual, who contributed to the post 9-11 debate with his book *Holy Terror*, took Martin Amis to task for making racist remarks on the muslim community in Britain, and attacked Richard Dawkins for his condemnation of religion.



Terry Eagleton

### Restless in a Flowerbed: A Literary Walk through Kew Gardens

Vera Alexander

11 May

This lecture explored the significance of Kew Gardens as a key institution of imperial Britain by way of an investigation of the backgrounds and contents of Virginia Woolf's short story *Kew Gardens* (1919). Set in World War One, the experimental story opens up a wide range of historical, political, cultural, aesthetic and artistic themes. Dr Vera Alexander is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of English at Aarhus University, Denmark. She is a member of various academic associations, among them GNEL/ASNEL



(Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English) and the *Deutscher Anglistenverband*. Her PhD dissertation on *Transcultural Representations of Migration and Education in South Asian Anglophone Novels* was published by WVT Trier (2006). The lecture was combined with the graduation ceremony of the M.B.S. students 2007-2009.



Happy M.B.S. graduates.

## Ups and Downs in Anglo-German relations, 1949-2008

Professor Anthony J. Nicholls

28 May

The aim of Professor Nicholls' talk was to discuss the development of Anglo-German relations from the foundation of the Federal Republic until the early years of the 21st Century. He tried to discover the reasons for the apparently disappointing relationship between the two countries, even though they have been allies for well over half a century and fellow members of the European Union for over thirty-five years. As an explanation Professor Nicholls tried to assess what part resentments on both sides after the Second World War played in conditioning the atmosphere between the them, and to what extent the commercial media have exacerbated frictions on both sides. He also looked at issues which have caused difficulties between the two nations, such as differing priorities given to German unification and different evaluations of the relationship between the Western World and the Soviet Union. Above all those, however, there looms the question of European integration and the contrast between public perceptions of this objective in the Federal Republic and in the UK. Anthony J. Nicholls is a retired Professor of Modern German History at the University of Oxford and an Emeritus Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. He has been active in encouraging Anglo-German academic exchanges, and in 1993 was awarded the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*.

## The Uses and Abuses of History

Margaret MacMillan

5 November

History is used and misused in international relations, as it is elsewhere. Margaret MacMillan's lecture looked at the ways in which history can be used for understanding peoples, nations, and issues, but also at how it can be abused to create enmities, make false or misleading claims or to support bad policies.

Margaret MacMillan is the Warden of St. Antony's College and a Professor of International History at the University of Oxford. Her books include *Women of the Raj* (1988, 2007); *Peacemakers: the Paris Conference of 1919 and Its Attempt to End War* (2001), and *Seize the Hour: Six Days that Changed the World* (2006). Her most recent book is *The Uses and Abuses of History* (2008). She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

## Indigestion in the Long 19th Century: Aspects of English Taste and Anxiety, 1800-1950

Stephen Mennell

7 December

Stephen Mennell explored how it came about that (in contrast with France), in Britain there seemed to be a long established, historically rooted, and widespread lack of enjoyment in eating. In this lecture, he suggested that the British indifference to the pleasures of the table may be rooted in an actual fear of eating. He reported on his study of books written, from 1800 to 1950, by doctors proffering advice to laypeople about what they should eat. A fear of indigestion appears to have hung over the British at large over that period. No doubt attitudes to the pleasures of the table have changed in Britain during the last half-century, as part of transformations of taste throughout the Western world. So, in retrospect, older British attitudes appear highly amusing.



Stephen Mennell answering questions from the audience.

Stephen Mennell read economics at Cambridge, and then transformed himself into a sociologist during a year at Harvard University. He has taught at the University of Exeter, Monash University, Australia, and at University College Dublin (1993–2009), from which he recently retired as Professor of Sociology. In the 1980s, he was one of a handful of pioneers of the now internationally prospering field of the sociology of food and eating. He is also widely known as a champion of the work of the sociologist Norbert Elias (1897–1990). His most recent book is *The American Civilizing Process* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007).

## Luftbrückendank Lectures

### Great Britain and Prussia in the Long 18th Century: Two Roads to Stability, Two Roads to Revolution

Tim Blanning

11 February

Of all the European states, Great Britain and Prussia adapted most effectively to the rapidly changing political, economic, social, and cultural conditions of the 'long 18th century' (1688-1832). In this illustrated lecture, Tim Blanning compared the two countries' experiences. He argued that, for all their apparent differences, they had much more in common than is usually supposed. In particular, he suggested that they shared many of the same strengths – but also weaknesses.

Tim Blanning is professor emeritus of Modern European History at the University of Cambridge. His current research interest lies in the high culture of Europe and its relationship to state power, which resulted in his prize-winning study *The culture of power and power of culture 1660-1789* (2002). Other publications are *The Pursuit of Glory: Europe 1648-1815* (2007) and, most recent, *The Triumph of Music: Composers, Musicians and Their Audiences, 1700 to the Present* (2009). Tim Blanning has been a Fellow of the British Academy since 1990.

### 'Zwischen Krieg und Frieden': Britain and the Occupation of Germany, 1949-52

Francis Graham-Dixon

16 November

Francis Graham-Dixon discussed the legacy for a new Federal Republic of the continuing occupation by the British, who as the Cold War intensified, sought to recast the uneasy relationship between former enemies into a prospective partnership within a new Western European order. However, the slow transition to Ger-

man sovereignty did not erase unresolved grievances over contentious policies that appeared to contradict Britain's stated task of eliminating all causes of Anglo-German friction. This lecture tried to evaluate, from German perspectives, Britain's attempt to win this battle of hearts and minds.

Frances Graham-Dixon got his DPhil in History from the University of Sussex with his dissertation on 'Civilising the Germans: British occupation policy and the refugee and expellee crisis, 1945 – 1949'. He spent two months at the Centre as a Luftbrückendank Fellow in order to do research on his current project that examines British policy in Germany after 1949 and its influence on Anglo-German relations and West German recovery in the 1950s.

## Humboldt Writer in Residence

### Reading with Rachel Seiffert

6 July

The first 'Humboldt Writer in Residence' spent a week at the Centre: acclaimed author Rachel Seiffert gave a successful public reading and taught two workshops for the students, making them write short stories and teaching them how to manage characterization without the use of adjectives. Not only did members of the public get their books signed and questions answered, the students also got a hands-on perspective on what it is like to be a successful fiction writer in the highly competitive book market in the UK at the moment.

Rachel Seiffert was born in 1971 in Oxford. After her studies she lived in Berlin for a while and has now returned to the UK. In 2003 she was voted one of the 20 "Best of Young British Novelists" by the well-known culture magazine *Granta*. Her first novel *The Dark Room* was nominated for the Booker Prize and in 2002 won the coveted Betty Trask-Award. Rachel Seiffert's published works so far are *The Dark Room* (2001), *Field Study* (2004) und *Afterwards* (2007).



Rachel Seiffert is introduced by Gesa Stedman.

## The Year's Activities

### January

\* The Centre hosted the 13th meeting of the Redaction Committee of the European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law (Acquis Group). Prof Dannemann chaired the meeting and Irene Maier wrote the minutes. \* The British Council's Walberberg Seminar at the *Akademie Schmückwitz* brought together academics, editors, translators, and journalists interested in contemporary British literature with British authors. Prof Stedman, Dr Christinidis, and Sandra Müller joined the readings, workshops and discussions. Rachel Seiffert, the Centre's writer in residence in 2009, David Edgar, Michael Symmons Roberts, James Meek, and Patricia Duncker were invited to read from their novels and discuss the overall topic "Changing Literary Climates." \* Prof Eisenberg took part in the Board Meeting for the exhibition "Helden" of the *Westfälischen Industriemuseen Dortmund* in Hattingen/Ruhr. \* Prof Stedman, Dr Christinidis, and Sandra Müller attended the winter meeting of the *Arbeitskreis Cultural Studies* which was hosted by the Centre and chaired by Prof Stedman.

### February

\* Prof Dannemann co-chaired a conference on 'Perspectives for European Consumer Law – Towards a Directive on European Consumer Law and Beyond,' held at Charles University, Prague. \* Sandra Müller read a position paper on the use of "contact zones" as a theoretical concept at the conference 'Contact Zones in Modern British Culture' at the University of Konstanz. \* Dr Ellis gave a lecture at Oxford Brookes University on the subject of "Enlightenment Thought and the Enlightened Life" as part of the 'Age of Revolutions' module. \* Prof Dannemann co-chaired the Plenary Meeting of the Acquis Group, held at Charles University, Prague, which was also attended by Irene Maier. \* Prof Eisenberg, Prof Stedman and Sandra Müller participated in a conference on 'Area Studies Revisited. Transnational Studies in Germany,' which was organised by the *Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin* and belongs to the project "*Wege des Wissens. Transregionale Studien.*" \* Dr Ellis presented a paper at the Institute of Historical Research's 'Life Cycles' seminar entitled "A Manly and Generous Discipline: Generational Conflict and Classical Studies at Oxford 1800-1854."

### March

\* Prof Dannemann attended a conference of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 'The State of Human Rights in Europe: The Need to Eradicate Impunity,' held at the German Federal Parliament, Berlin. \* Dr Christinidis researched some of the less well-known works by Raymond Williams in the Bodleian Library. \* Prof Eisenberg sat in a selection committee for Northern Europe of the DAAD in Bonn. \* Dr Ellis organised the conference 'Odd Alliances in History' at Balliol College, Oxford, with Graciela Iglesias Rogers in her capacity as co-editor of the *Journal of the Oxford University History Society*. \* Prof Eisenberg gave the welcoming and the closing remarks at the 28th Berlin-British Seminar on 'Russian-European Relations.' \* Prof Dannemann attended a conference on 'Mediation and Notaries: Prospects and Opportunities,' organised by the Institute for Notary Law at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. \* Dr Ellis held a book launch at Balliol College, Oxford, for *Masculinity and the Other: Historical Perspectives*, a collection which she co-edited with Jessica Meyer.

### April

\* Gesa Stedman and Jana Gohrisch organised the fourth Higher Education Teaching Workshop for the Association for the Study of British Cultures which took place at the Centre and in which Sandra Müller, and Georgia Christinidis also participated. \* Prof Dannemann chaired the 14th meeting of the Redaction Committee of the Acquis Group, held at the European Legal Studies Institute, University of Osnabrück. \* Dr Ellis presented a paper on "Marcus Aurelius, Stoicism and Masculinity in Victorian Schooling" at the Social History Society annual conference at Warwick University. \* 30 April is the application deadline for the M.B.S. course: we were happy that this year application numbers doubled in comparison to last year.



This year's M.B.S. applications filled two postbags: The selection committee looked forward to a lot of reading.

## May

\* Always a May highlight, the graduation ceremony for the M.B.S. class 2007-2009 attracted students, friends, and family. After a lecture by Vera Alexander (see page 28) the students received their M.B.S. certificates. Staff and students were proud of their achievements during the three semesters that lay behind them. Congratulations to all for an impressive performance!



Helena Friebel, dressed up beautifully for the occasion, was visibly happy to have made it.

\* Prof Dannemann embarked on a three-month research visit as Senior Associate Research Fellow to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London. \* Prof Eisenberg took part in the 59th Königswinter Conference on 'German-British Dialogue.' \* Sandra Müller participated in the annual conference of the Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English (ASNEL)/*Gesellschaft für die Neuen Englischsprachigen Literaturen e.V.* (GNEL), which took place in Münster. The conference theme was 'Postcolonial Translocations.' \* Prof Eisenberg participated in the annual conference of the ADEF on '10 years of Devolution.' She chaired the History Workshop together with Willibald Steinmetz, Bielefeld.

## June

\* Dr Christinidis contributed a paper with the title "Identity, Continuity and Verisimilitude in the James Bond Films and Doctor Who" to 'The Cultures of James Bond' conference in Saarbrücken. \* Gesa Stedman gave a lecture on "The Literary Field in the UK" as part of a seminar on contemporary French literature at the Freie Universität Berlin. \* Prof Eisenberg participated in a conference on 'Euro-Pop: The Production and Consumption of a European Popular Culture in the 20th Century,' Lovenio di Menaggio (Como), Villa Vigoni, Italy. She chaired and commented the section

on 'Sport' and took part in a panel discussion. \* Gesa Stedman chaired the summer meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Studies which was also attended by Sandra Müller. \* The Centre organised a workshop on 'Connections and Connectivity: Transnational Exchange and Cooperation of Individuals, Ethnic Groups and Institutions. Great Britain Compared.' \* Dr Ellis presented a short paper at the 'Connections and Connectivity' workshop at the Centre for British Studies on the theme "Connectivity as an Analytical Tool in History." \* Sandra Müller presented her doctoral thesis project "Literature and Cultural Transfer in Contemporary Britain" at the Centre's research colloquium. \* Gesa Stedman met Liz Manning and Jackie Schueller from the Open University to discuss future plans of cooperation between the Centre and the OU, and between the OU and the Humboldt-Universität as a whole. \* The editorial board of the magazine *Hard Times* met at the Centre for their annual meeting. It was chaired by Gesa Stedman.



## July

\* Together with Birgit Neumann, Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen, Gesa Stedman hosted and chaired a conference on innovation in the humanities at Siggen in Schleswig-Holstein. \* Having completed an exciting, interesting but also exhausting semester the students deservedly celebrated an end-of-term party. People brought food and drinks and everybody enjoyed that last get-together before the students went off to do their internships.



The last exam finished: time to enjoy the summer party in the Centre's courtyard.

## August

\* Sandra Müller spent three months in Oxford conducting research in the Bodleian Library and other relevant libraries in Oxford as well as in the British Library in London.

## September

\* Prof Dannemann gave a training course on “EU Consumer Protection Law (“Consumer Acquis”): The Mechanisms” to members of the Macedonian judiciary in Skopje, organised by the *Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit*. \* Dr Ellis gave a paper entitled “The English Public Schools and Mass Education” at the writers’ conference on ‘Citizenship, Modernisation and Nationhood: The Cultural Role of Mass Education 1870-1930’ held at Magdalen College, Oxford. \* Prof Dannemann chaired the 15th meeting of the Redaction Committee of the Acquis Group, held at Kozminski University, Warsaw, again with the help of Irene Maier. \* Prof Eisenberg represented the Centre at the Garden Party of the British Ambassador in Germany, Sir Michael Arthur. \* Shortly before the German elections a group from the International Association for the Study of German Politics visited the Centre in order to have a briefing with Reinhard Bütikofer from *Die Grünen* about the German party landscape and especially about the Green Party’s aims and objectives.



R. Bütikofer discussing the state of the nation before the election.

## October

\* With the beginning of the new academic year the Humboldt-Universität started the celebrations of its 200th anniversary with several events, including a concert in the *Konzerthaus Berlin* and an exhibition in the main building (see also last page of this report). Professors Eisenberg and Dannemann joined the festivities. \* Prof Eisenberg and Jens Ennen were invited to a reception of the General Officer Commanding, UK Support Command (Germany), Major General Nicholas Caplin, at his Berlin residency. \* Professors Eisenberg and Dannemann and Jens Ennen participated in

the final conference on ‘Creating Sustainable Growth in Europe’ of the Anglo-German Foundation that took place in the Federal Foreign Office. Following a farewell reception Prof Eisenberg was invited to a dinner of the Head of Mission of the British Embassy Berlin at the Ambassador’s residency. \* With the beginning of the new academic year the new class started their M.B.S. experience. This time the students come from 16 different countries and have studied diverse subjects such as law, literature, psychology, international business or radio physics.



Not knowing what to expect but happily looking forward to the challenge.

## November

\* Prof Dannemann co-chaired the Plenary Meeting of the Acquis Group, held at Masaryk University, Brno. \* Dr Ellis presented a paper at the Institute of Historical Research’s seminar ‘Education in the Long Eighteenth Century’ entitled “Man-Makers: The Function of a University Education in Eighteenth-Century England.” \* The new students paid the annual visit to the British Embassy Berlin. \* Gesa Stedman attended the meeting of the editors and the editorial board of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* at the University of Paderborn. \* Sandra Müller participated in the Annual Conference of the German Association for the Study of British Cultures with the title ‘Reading British Spaces’ at the University of Paderborn. \* Prof Dannemann presented a paper on “The Working Method of the Acquis Group – a Model?” at a conference on ‘Common Principles of European Intellectual Property Law,’ held at the University of Bayreuth. \* Prof Eisenberg took part in a conference in honour of Professor Dr. h. c. mult. Jürgen Kocka on ‘*Geschichte des Kapitalismus. Interdisziplinäre Blickwinkel*’ in the Harnack-Haus of the *Max-Planck-Gesellschaft*,

Berlin-Dahlem. \* Sandra Müller organised a trip to the English Theatre Berlin with the M.B.S. students to watch a brilliant adaptation of Alan Bennett's "Talking Heads." \* Together with Prof Andreas Gestrich, the Director of the German Historical Institute, Prof Eisenberg organised a joint conference on 'The Cultural Industries in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Britain and Germany Compared' that took place in London.

## December

\* Prof Dannemann chaired the 16th meeting of the Redaction Committee of the Acquis Group, held at the Université Paris Descartes, which was also attended by Irene Maier. \* Dr Ellis took part in a workshop at Heidelberg, 'The Nation State and Beyond: Governing Globalization Processes in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century,' with a paper entitled "National or Transnational? University Networks between Britain and Germany in the Nineteenth Century." \* The Centre's staff organised a British film night for the M.B.S. students with a traditional showing of the Christmas romance *Love Actually* (2003). \* Dr Ellis introduced her post-doctoral project "British Universities in National, Imperial and Transnational Perspective, 1870-1945" at the Centre's study day. \* Jens Ennen participated in a workshop on 'Higher Education between New Public Management and Economic Downturn' at the Université Paris X - Nanterre. \* Dr Ellis successfully passed her doctoral viva examination at Oxford with a thesis entitled "Young Oxford: Generational Conflict and University Reform in the Age of Revolution." \* As is the tradition at the Centre, the staff and students organised a little Christmas party on the year's last day of teaching. Gerry Mooney, who was the guest lecturer for the entire last week of teaching, happily attended the party. Everybody brought delicious homemade dishes as well as large amounts of 'Pfefferkuchen.' To our pleasant surprise, our alumni Valentina, Milena, Katrin and Giulia (class 2004-2006), as well as Julia, Juliane and Yun (class 2007-2009) came to say hello.



Looking forward to the Christmas break.

## Public Relations

### The Centre and the M.B.S.: Press and Online Coverage

The Centre has continuously appeared in the local and nationwide press. Articles and press releases for electronic and print media, such as articles on the Centre's public lectures and the M.B.S. programme, appear regularly. The *Berliner Zeitung* published a long article, praising the M.B.S. as a Master course that guarantees its graduates a job ("Studiengang mit Jobgarantie," 27 May 2009). The 10th anniversary of the M.B.S. was also covered.



The Centre is a pioneer in family-friendly measures duly noted by the press. Articles appeared in the *Berliner Zeitung* and the *HUMBOLDT*, a monthly newspaper published by the university.



All press releases, event posters, and articles appear on the Centre's website and are constantly updated.

### Media Contributions

The Centre's academic staff gladly analyse or comment on contemporary as well as historical British events, politics, trends or other phenomena. Prof Eisenberg was interviewed by the German public broadcasting station mdr-figaro (*Kulturradio*) on horse-racing in England and Germany. The interview was broadcasted on 16 October 2009. She was also interviewed by a camera team for a documentary film on the study of his-

tory and sociology at the University of Bielefeld in the 1970s and 80s on 23 January 2009. An interview with Jürgen Schlaeger was broadcasted on Inforadio RBB on 11 October 2009. The former director of the Centre talked about Humboldt's educational ideals and the festivities around the University's 200th anniversary.

## Marketing and Web Presence

The M.B.S. adverts appeared in local and national newspapers as well as on online platforms and newsletters. The Centre updated its appearance in a number of online databases, for example, [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de), [www.studieren.de](http://www.studieren.de), [www.masterportal.eu](http://www.masterportal.eu) and others. In addition the Centre is now present on facebook: the "GBZ Berlin" profile informs facebook members about current lectures and highlights at the Centre and other interesting events related to Britain or the M.B.S course. The facebook group "Centre for British Studies/GBZ" is a group only for students, alumni, former and current staff of the Centre. Members can use it to network across "class boundaries," access archives, receive invitations, and keep in touch.

## FELLOWS

### Honorary Fellows

Ben Bradshaw MP, Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Prof Dr Ulrich Broich, OBE

Sir Christopher Mallaby, GCMG, GCVO

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, MA (Oxon)

### Fellows

Dr Bernd Becker

Prof Paul Carmichael

Andy Feist

Dr Hugh Mackay

Dr Gerry Mooney

Lynn Parkinson

Dr Pikay Richardson, BSc, MSc, PhD

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB

Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

## STAFF

### Academic Staff

#### Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, MA (Oxon) (Director from April 2010 onwards)

Professor of English Law, British Economy, and Politics. Studied law at Freiburg i.Br. and Bonn. Taught German and English law at Freiburg (Assistant Lecturer 1988-91), at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (Fellow in German Law) 1991-94, at University College London (Visiting Lecturer, then Lecturer) 1992-95, and at the University of Oxford 1995-2002 (University Lecturer, then Reader in Comparative Law), where he was also a Fellow of Worcester College from 1995-2002. Dr jur. Freiburg i.Br. 1994, 'Habilitation' Freiburg i.Br. 2002. Joined the Centre for British Studies in 2003. Has published widely, in particular on the English and German legal systems, contract, tort, restitution, and private international law. Founder and general editor of the Oxford University Comparative Law Forum and the German Law Archive, founding member of the Acquis Group (European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law), chair of the Group's Redaction Committee and Terminology Group, Research Fellow of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford, and Senior Associate Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, for 2008/09. On the M.B.S. programme, he teaches 'The English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches 'Political Institutions and Constitutional Law'. He is also Chair of Admissions and Examinations at the Centre and its Deputy Director.

#### Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg (Director)

Professor for British History and Director of the Centre. She studied history and social sciences at Bielefeld University, where she obtained a Dr. phil. in 1986. After working as a research associate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld in 1986-87 and holding a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., in 1987-88, she became assistant professor at the History Faculty of the University of Hamburg where she completed her 'Habilitation' in 1996. She deputised for the Social History Chair at the University of Bielefeld, worked in a research unit *Gesellschaftsvergleich* at Humboldt's history department, and joined the Centre for British Studies in October 1998. Professor Eisenberg was Chairperson of ADEF (*Arbeitskreis Deutsche Englandforschung*/German Association for the Study of British History and Politics) from 2004-2008 and continues to serve on ADEF's board. She has published widely, in particular on the social

and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich* (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009). In 2008 she was invited to join the International Board of the Oxford-based journal *Twentieth-Century Britain*.

### **Prof Dr Gesa Stedman**

Gesa Stedman, Professor of British Culture and Literature. Studied English, French and Film/Theatre Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Warwick. Received scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*. After a period as a visiting graduate student at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, she completed her PhD on the Victorian discourses on emotion at Humboldt-Universität in 2000. Research periods in Paris, Oxford, and London, supported by the *Deutsches Historisches Institut*, led to her 'Habilitation' on 17th-century Anglo-French cultural exchange at Humboldt-Universität in 2005. Gesa Stedman was Professor of English and American Literature, at Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen from 2005-2008 and was appointed Professor of British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in 2008. She is a co-editor of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* and chief co-editor of the Anglo-German magazine *Hard Times*. Research interests include the history of emotions, cultural exchange studies, in particular between England and France, British film and film historiography, as well as gender history, the literary field in the UK, France, and Germany. Gesa Stedman is also interested in higher education teaching and the reform of graduate and doctoral studies. She is deputy head of the Committee for a Family-Friendly University at Humboldt-Universität and Dean of Studies at the Centre.

### **Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, MA (Oxon)**

Professor of British Literature and Culture. Studied History, Philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford. He was professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Constance from 1976-95, and visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, and at Fudan University, Shanghai. Professor Schlaeger was also Visiting Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was *Prorektor* at Constance and Chairman of the German Association of University Teachers of English,

board member of the European Society of English Studies, and chair of the Shakespeare-Prize *Kuratorium* of the *Alfred Toepfer Stiftung* in Hamburg. He is now a member of their board. He is also a Fellow of the English Association and a member of the steering committee of the British Chamber of Commerce in Berlin-Brandenburg. He has published widely on literary theory, life-writing, Romanticism, and literary anthropology. He is co-editor of the *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* (REAL). He retired in October 2008 and is now co-ordinating the 200-year-celebrations of the Humboldt-Universität.

### **Dr Georgia Christinidis**

Lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. Studied English, German, and Spanish Literature in Konstanz, Freiburg, and Oxford. Obtained both her Masters degree and her doctorate from the University of Oxford, supported by scholarships from the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Her doctoral dissertation investigates 'The Concept of Cultural Agency from Modernism to Cultural Studies.' Before she joined the Centre she taught for New College, Oxford, from 2006 until 2008. Her current research interests are conceptions of cultural value and cultural agency, ethics and culture, identity formation and the *Bildungsroman*, and the novelist Angela Carter. She currently teaches courses on 'British Identities,' 'Performance and Performativity' and 'Culture and the Self' on the M.B.S. programme. Georgia is also part of the admissions committee and is responsible for multimedia and IT.

### **Dr Heather Ellis, MA (Oxon)**

Lecturer and researcher in British History. Read Ancient and Modern History at Balliol College, Oxford. Obtained her masters degree also from the University of Oxford in 2004. Between 2005 and 2009, she completed a DPhil in Modern History at Balliol College, Oxford. Her doctoral dissertation explored the role of generational conflict in the process of university reform at Oxford and Cambridge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From 2005, she taught British and European History for a number of Oxford colleges until she joined the Centre in November 2008. Her postdoctoral project investigates the formation and significance of scholarly and university networks between Britain and Germany in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is the co-editor (with Jessica Meyer) of *Masculinity and the Other: Historical Perspectives* (2009) and guest editor of a special issue of *Thymos: Journal of Boyhood Studies* (Fall, 2008) on the theme 'Boys, Boyhood and the Construction of



Masculinity.' Her other research interests include the importance of age in the construction of masculine identity, the history of childhood and adolescence, and the reception of classical scholarship. Heather currently teaches 'Empire and Commonwealth History,' 'British Identities,' 'British International Relations' and 'Current Affairs' on the M.B.S. course. Among other tasks at the Centre, she is jointly responsible for the organisation of the student internship programme.

### **drs. Jens Ennen, Master of Economics**

*Doctorandus der Economische Wetenschappen.* Lecturer and researcher in British economy. Studied International Economic Studies (IES) at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Graduated in 2006 with a Master thesis on an evaluation of wage subsidy regimes in the US and in the UK. Erasmus studies at Audencia, Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (ESC) Nantes Atlantique, France and exchange programme at the Université de Liège, Belgium. Completed a Minor in European Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University. Worked as a freelance trainer in Business and (Business) English/French in Cologne. He started working at the Centre in 2008 and teaches 'Presentation Techniques' and 'Academic Writing' in the winter semester and 'The UK Financial System' and 'British International Relations' in the summer semester. Research interests are Economic History, Institutional Economics and Public Management. Additionally Jens is working as an internship coordinator for the Centre, and, during the last year, took charge of the Centre's alumni network.

### **Irene Maier, MA (Oxon)**

Lecturer and Researcher in English Law. Studied Law at the University of Oxford, with an Erasmus Year spent at the University of Regensburg. She is an alumna of the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, including the *Studienkolleg zu Berlin*. She has worked for the European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law (Acquis Group) as Secretary to the Redaction Committee. Teaches 'Political System and Constitutional Law' in the winter semester and 'Tort Law' and 'Law and Literature' in the summer semester. Irene is a researcher on the DFG/AHRC Research Project 'The Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law and its Interaction with English and German Law'. Her responsibilities at the Centre include alumni work and the organisation of the annual Berlin-British Seminar.

### **Sandra Müller, Diplom Wirtschafts-Anglistin**

Lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. From 2001-2007 she studied English, Spanish, Economics and Business Studies at Justus Liebig-University Gießen. In 2003 she spent a semester in Milwaukee, USA, and completed her Diploma in 2007 with her thesis on cultural exchange in contemporary British novels. Sandra joined the Centre's team in October 2007 and is currently doing research for her doctoral thesis on 'Cultural Exchange and Literature in Contemporary Britain' (working title). On the M.B.S. course she teaches 'Academic Writing' with Jens Ennan, 'Project Management' and 'The Contemporary British Novel.' At the Centre she is responsible for marketing and PR.

### **Kasper Steensgaard, Master of Laws**

Researcher and member of the research project on the Common Frame of Reference of European Contract Law. Studied law at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, where he graduated in 2007 with a Master thesis on the concept of fundamental breach as a prerequisite of avoidance. As part of his Master's programme Kasper studied a semester at Universität Würzburg. He was awarded a PhD-fellowship at the University of Aarhus upon graduation, under which he is conducting research on standard terms and conditions in international commercial contracts and handed in his dissertation at the end of the year. He joined the Centre in October 2009.

### **Temporary Research Assistant**

#### **Jessica Fischer, MA**

Lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. Studied English, History of Art, European Cultural Studies, Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Freiburg, Freie Universität Berlin and University College London. She joined the Centre in December 2009 and will be teaching 'Contemporary British Literature in Context: The Novel' on the M.B.S. programme in 2010. She is involved in the organisation of the website 'Siggen Dialogue', the Centre's fundraising initiative and the editing of the Centre's annual report.

## Administrative Staff

### Catherine Smith, BA (Hons.)

Foreign language secretary to the director Professor Schlaeger until his departure in October 2008. She is now responsible for Professors Eisenberg (director) and Stedman. She studied Humanities with the History of Art at the Open University. She started working at the Centre in March 1996 shortly after it was opened. Her duties include managing the offices of Professors Eisenberg and Stedman, secretarial and clerical support for their teaching and research activities. In addition to this she is responsible for guests, organising conferences, seminars, meetings, events, the Monday Lectures, the Berlin-British Seminar, and the day-to-day managing of the Centre. Furthermore, she helps with the editing of various publications and is there when the students need help or assistance.

### Corinna Radke, MA

Foreign language secretary and M.B.S. programme co-ordinator. Studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and in Madrid, and passed a further education course on public administration. Apart from taking part in the management of the Centre's daily affairs, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre's guest lecturers and organises the teaching schedules for the M.B.S. course. In this context, she also prepares moodle courses on the university's e-learning platform. She represents the Centre in the Berlin International Studies Network (BISS), which meets regularly to discuss the special needs of international Master courses in Berlin. Corinna is, furthermore, responsible for the Erasmus Placement Programme that offers financial support to students going abroad for an internship. Other activities include preparing the manuscripts of conference proceedings and supervising their publication. Finally, she edits the Centre's annual report. Corinna is the Centre's equal opportunities officer.

### Sylvena Zöllner

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk, and has been working at the Centre since July 1996. She is responsible for administering the Centre's finances, for the supply of office material, technical equipment, and everything else needed by the Centre. She helps with the organisation of conferences by taking care of catering arrangements, and by providing the necessary technical equipment. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all documents and records for our Master degree, calculating the final Master mark, and preparing the final Master certificates.

## Librarian

### Evelyn Thalheim

Graduated from the *Fachschule für wissenschaftliches Bibliotheks- und Informationswesen Berlin*. Worked as a qualified librarian in various scientific institutions, among them the university library of the Humboldt-Universität, *Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR* and *AG Strukturelle Grammatik* at the Max Planck Institute. She joined the Centre in 1996 and has since then been busy establishing a library that serves the Centre's special British Studies interests. A milestone in her work for the Centre's library was the administration of a donation of 10,000 books by the British Council, including the registration of the library's new collection in the OPAC provided by the British Council.

## Student Assistants

In 2009 the following student assistants supported us:

#### Laura Benjamin

Law

#### Arne Gutsche

Law

#### Sara Kleis

British and American Studies, History, Ethnology

#### Luise Klimera

English

#### Nico Köppel

Law

#### Irene Maier

Law

#### Claudia Müller

English, Spanish

#### Samuel Stein

Media Informatics

## Intern

### Dr Inola Apakidze

Studied English Language and Literature at Iv. Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. In 2005 was awarded an OSI/FCO/Chevening Scholarship to conduct postgraduate research at Worcester College, Oxford. Obtained her PhD in Philology (summa cum laude) from Iv. Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia in 2008. Assistant Professor at Sokhumi State University, Georgia, 2006-2008. As a part of an MA in Euroculture she worked as an intern at the Centre.

## FACILITIES

### The Library

The Centre's main library is situated in the *August-Boeckh-Haus*, Dorotheenstraße 65. It provides excellent working and research opportunities for students, researchers, and the general public. The library's main areas of collection are those of the relevant disciplines involved in British studies, i.e., British literature and culture, history, and political science, economics, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 23,500 volumes and 8,000 items of electronic material.

The Centre's library is technically and logistically linked to the main library of the HU with its computerised administration system. It is conveniently situated within easy walking distance of the Centre in Mohrenstraße, and provides all the technical and personnel requirements of a modern research library. Students and guests are able to make use of the reading and working areas, most of which are suitable for using personal notebook computers. The library's OPAC can be accessed on two terminals so that catalogue information is easily available at all times. Using her or his personal online account the reader is able to renew the loan period or to place a reservation for a book that is not yet available. She or he will also receive important information and overdue notices directly from the library. The Centre's library has developed into a modern research library that is continually expanding, thus offering the latest publications covering relevant subjects. This guarantees that the library presents a unique and excellent up-to-date opportunity for research in British studies in Germany.

After its closure in 2009 the Anglo-German Foundation presented the library with one of its two Publication Archives (the second one is in the German-Historical Institute in London) as a valuable resource for scholars and students looking for comparative studies on British economic, environmental, and social issues.

### Reference Library

The Centre's reference research unit in Mohrenstraße offers reference works in all disciplines relevant to the teaching and research at the Centre for British Studies, together with reading and video facilities. The British Embassy has generously helped to set up this reference research unit.

### Computer Room

The Centre is glad to be able to provide a spacious combined computer and reading room for its students.

Ten personal computers with internet access and several printers help them to do their homework, conduct research, and also to keep in touch with friends and family who, in many cases, live a long distance away.

### Common Room

On the ground floor of the Mohrenstraße building the Centre provides a room for the exclusive use of the students. This Common Room is equipped with sofas and armchairs and tea-making facilities. Here the students can meet after or between classes, enjoy their breaks, relax, read the paper or simply chill out.

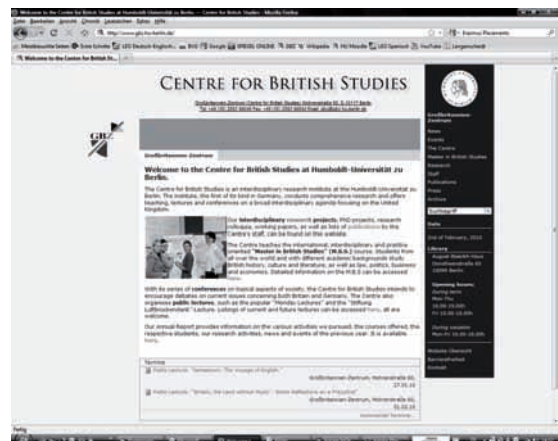


Enjoying a break between classes.

### Our Website

In 2009, the Centre for British Studies' website was overhauled. The existing site was imported into a content management system to facilitate site maintenance and to enable individual staff members to update their own pages easily. The changeover also provided us with an opportunity to restructure the site, simplify navigation, and increase user friendliness. If you are looking for information about the M.B.S., about members of staff or about current events and activities of the Centre, please go to:

<http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de>



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