

CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES  
GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM



# Annual Report

2024



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# What is the Centre for British Studies?

**The Centre for British Studies at Berlin's Humboldt-Universität is a unique academic institution offering interdisciplinary postgraduate study in English in the capital of Germany. We were founded in 1995 after the fall of the Berlin Wall and German re-unification in recognition of the UK's important role in Germany and Berlin after World War II and during the Cold War.**

## **WE OFFER:**

- An interdisciplinary international degree M.A. in British Studies
- The Berlin Graduate School of British Studies for interdisciplinary PhD projects with a focus on the UK
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research opportunities in subjects relating to the UK
- A forum for a range of public debates, lectures, and events on topical British and academic issues

Our popular Master course takes two years to complete and includes a three-month placement in the UK, Ireland, or in a UK-related institution. Our course aims to provide students with a good general overview of Britain's past and present while offering a range of options to study in more depth. Our students, graduates, and staff are drawn from all over the world giving the Centre a stimulating international atmosphere.

## **STUDENT VOICES**

The MA British Studies has been a stroke of good fortune in my life. It offers the perfect blend of interdisciplinarity, bringing together diverse fields and perspectives. The professors, teachers, and administration are incredibly supportive throughout the academic journey. With classmates from over 15 countries, I had the unique chance to explore new cultures in a truly welcoming environment. Thanks to GBZ, I've taken my career to the international stage.  
*Linara Bagautdinova (Russia), Class 2022-24*

I have always felt welcome at the Centre. Studying abroad can be overwhelming and challenging but the Centre have always provided us with opportunities to get to know each other, and have always tried to help us when there were problems! Thanks to this friendly and supportive community, I did not feel homesick and was thus able to successfully complete the master's degree!  
*Chikako Kinoshita (Japan), Class 2022-24*



# The Centre in 2024

2024 was a year of many challenges, and many changes for the GBZ. At the end of it, we are pleased and proud to be able to say: we have come through, and are stronger than ever. It was also a year of saying farewell to many people who for years, or even decades, shaped our teaching and research.

Prof Gerhard Dannemann took retirement in the autumn of 2024, after more than 20 years as the chair for English law, British politics and economy. Many areas of how the GBZ works were reformed by his meticulous eye for detail, and professionalised in the process. A keen former Oxford lecturer, he maintained close ties with Oxford, as well as with the British Embassy, in particular in the context of Brexit, and in his networking activities ensured that his publications and research activities were always international as well as focused on up- and coming topics such as the platform economy, or a particular interest, plagiarism and AI. His ability to garner third-party funding will be hard to follow but we are pleased that on an interim basis, his position has been filled with his former early career scholar Prof Sam McIntosh.

Furthermore, two guest lecturers, took retirement in 2024. The first to say goodbye was Dr Pikay Richardson, who taught the GBZ students about



Thanking Prof Dannemann for more than 20 years of dedicated work at the Centre



Hugh Mackay (left) and Pikay Richardson (right, middle) saying farewell as good friends after many years of teaching on the MA British Studies

the British economy for more than 20 years. Pikay now focuses on his role as a business advisor and coach, and returned for a proper goodbye lunch in October 2024. He transformed a feared subject into a topic which all students were able to understand, and furthermore allowed the students to ask questions and begin to think for themselves, for which the GBZ is very grateful indeed. Pikay's retirement was followed by Dr Hugh Mackay's, who virtually every summer for more than two decades, came to teach the GBZ students how the British media work. As a cultural-studies lecturer from Cardiff, Hugh was able not only to focus on topics such as the BBC World Service, but also included vital information on Wales. He also supervised theses, helped to set up the Berlin Britain Research Network, and always took a very keen interest in how the GBZ progressed. He will be equally sorely missed.

Sofia Permiakova's time at the GBZ sadly ended when her contract as a lecturer and researcher ran out in May. Sofia started at the GBZ as a student, began a PhD as part of the Graduate School, and then took on the position as lecturer in literature and culture which she held for many years. We are very sorry to have to say goodbye as her contract ended, but very pleased to have been part of her journey to a fully-fledged postdoc scholar. Sofia continues to be part of the GBZ activities and regularly attends workshops and conferences. Her legacy both in terms of teaching, the Lange Nacht projects for which she was responsible, and her membership of various networks, as well as her research have inspired many students to follow in her footsteps and we look forward to seeing where she goes next.



Sofia giving a talk at the '(Re-)Drawing Borders' conference in December

We were also pleased to welcome our new staff member Joanna Vickery-Barkow, who succeeds Sofia Permiakova. She is an art historian, and thus brings a much-desired new facet to the culture and literature department, immediately observable by obtaining funds for a Princeton-based exchange project which we hope to expand in 2025.

The second major challenge the GBZ had to face in 2024 was the threat of severe funding cuts. These were averted with the help of the advisory board, the GBZ fellows, and friends and colleagues who rallied round, and wrote to the university leadership. As a result of this wonderful support, no chair will be axed and although we face a downgrading of the history chair into a junior

professorship with tenure track once it falls vacant in the future, this is a better outcome than one could have originally hoped for. The GBZ will be transformed into a so-called University Centre, whose exact nature still needs to be worked out, but we are optimistic that we will remain in one place, with the MA British Studies intact, and our particular identity as a research, teaching, and knowledge exchange centre maintained. The process is ongoing and will occupy us in 2025, as well as our degree course being re-accredited. Both procedures should be completed in 2025.

Beyond these challenges and changes, 2024 was a very busy year in terms of research and knowledge exchange activities. The Oxford-Berlin Lectures, our Keynote and Monday Lectures, the *Lange Nacht* Project, conferences and workshops as well as our new Einstein-Fellowship group are evidence of the Centre's vibrant research life.



HU President Prof Julia von Blumenthal welcoming members of Humboldt-Universität who are involved or interested in UK research



Among the many GBZ activities in 2025: Prof Catherine Barnard (Cambridge University) giving a keynote lecture at the '(Re-)Drawing Borders' conference (left); and MA British Studies students organising the 'Empire on Display' project at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*

Before we embark on the next phase of transformation, together with our lovely current student cohort from all over the world, and our older students about to begin their MA theses, there is cause for a big celebration next June: The GBZ will be 30 years old. We intend to celebrate this special occasion, regardless of any changes in the future, and to show that the GBZ looks forward, not back, even when toasting its own successes, of which there are quite a few. The event will be chaired by board member Annette Dittert,



Lively discussions during the politics sessions on the MA British Studies programme

and will feature a ceilidh, among other activities – hopefully a joyous occasion and something to look forward to for everyone.

We are most grateful for all the support we got in 2024, when it was most needed, and hope we see all our supporters, well-wishers, alumni, staff, and friends, including everyone who retired or left the GBZ, at the party.

Interdisciplinary research and teaching, knowledge exchange, cross-border communication, partnership, looking beyond conceptual nationalism, defending multilateralism, fostering early career scholars, and taking good care of our students are in the Centre's DNA, now and in future, regardless of what shape the GBZ may take once it has been transformed.

March 2025  
Gesa Stedman  
Director

Another successful cooperation: Prof Stedman chairing a panel of British women crime fiction writers at the British Embassy Berlin: Prof Stedman, Margaret Murphy, Claire McGowan, Caro Ramsay, and Sarah Ward (from left)





# Research Activities

## UK Research Workshop

To show the wide range and vibrancy of current research on the UK at HU, president Prof Julia von Blumenthal and vice-president Prof Christoph Schneider organised a workshop on UK-related activities which took place on 8 October 2024.

The presentations were kicked off by Prof Eva Ehninger (art history) who took the participants back to the 19th century to show how our visual culture has been influenced by the use of mass circulation of cartes de visite. This fascinating insight into everyday Victorian visual culture, and the questions it raises of the different time-frames of rapid modern developments overlapping with persistent social norms, was followed by Prof Miles Taylor (GBZ, history) and a presentation on the two Berlin conferences which took place in the 19th century and led to the division of continents and countries which still dominate political developments today. Dr Riley Linebaugh (GBZ) and Dr Kalika Mehta (GBZ/law faculty) continued the topic of colonial and imperial legacies by presenting their case study of the Bengal famine, and how one might approach it from an interdisciplinary perspective as a test case for how western societies might deal with the fallout from colonial violence. The presentations ended with Prof Mark Schmitt (English Department) explaining his strong ties with the Stuart Hall Foundation, again allowing a focus on postcolonial entanglements as Stuart Hall was not only a key figure in the development of British cultural studies, but also for postcolonial studies.

During the discussion, both social scientists and literary scholars from across the HU contributed their thoughts, including on future collaborations. There is ample scope for both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach activities with a UK focus at HU and the afternoon was considered a successful bid to make the breadth and depth of these activities known to more colleagues across the different faculties.



## Happy in Berlin English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond

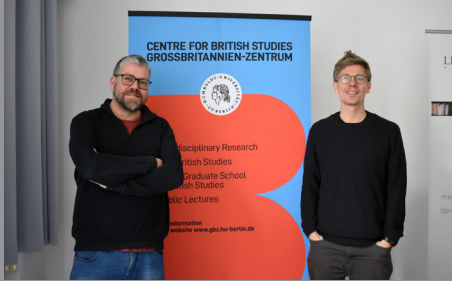
This project, co-directed by Profs Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista, continues to attract visitors. In 2024, these were a group of students from Bard College, in Berlin, accompanied by Prof Laura Scuriatti, a long-standing member of Writing1900, who came to see the travelling exhibition and undertake a Q&A session with the two curators. Prior to this visit, the students had studied writers who feature in the exhibition, e.g. Christopher Isherwood, W.H. Auden, and Stephen Spender. In 2025, an update of the website is planned, with new material to be produced by the members of the 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis' group.

Students from Bard College, Berlin, visiting the Centre to see the travelling exhibition 'Happy in Berlin'



## EXTERNAL DIFFERENTIATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The research project "External differentiation in the European Union: a new trajectory after Brexit and the Ukraine war?", led by Paolo Chiochetti and funded by a DFG grant, started in late 2023 and will end in late 2025. It aims to establish an international scientific cooperation on this topic, reassessing how the relations between the European Union and third countries have changed since the 1990s and laying the foundations for follow-up activities and grants. An exploratory workshop was held at our Centre on 18-19 January,



Part of the project: an international and interdisciplinary workshop (top); preparing a joint research paper: Dr Paolo Chiochetti and Dr Stefan Telle (bottom)

with the participation of 14 political scientists, legal scholars, and historians. The speakers discussed the concept (Stefan Telle, Twente), dimensions (Sandra Lavenex, Geneva), and legitimacy (Maria Patrin, Florence) of external differentiated integration and explored case studies on Mediterranean countries (Tobias Schumacher, NTNU Trondheim), preferential trade agreements (Andreas Dür, Salzburg), the UK (Stefan Telle, Twente and Federico Fabbrini, DCU Dublin), Turkey (Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Sabancı Istanbul), the Western Balkans (Maria Giulia Amadio Vicerè, LUISS Rome and Matteo Bonomi, IAI Rome), Ukraine (Maryna Rabinovych, Adger), Norway (Kristine Graneng and Lise Rye,

NTNU Trondheim), and Switzerland (Sieglinde Gstöhl, CoE Bruges). They also exchanged ideas with Dr Paolo Chiochetti and Prof Gesa Stedman (Centre for British Studies), Prof Silvia von Steinsdorff (HU Berlin), and Prof Gwendolyn Sasse and Dr Julia Langbein (ZOiS Berlin). Dr Stefan Telle carried out a short research stay at our Centre on 1-6 April, working with Paolo Chiochetti on the preparation of the first draft of a special issue for the journal *West European Politics*. Prof Brigid Laffan and Dr Stefan Telle gave a Monday lecture at our Centre on 21 October on the topic “The EU’s Response to Brexit”.

## MADS: Global Encounters

On 28-29 September, the Centre, in collaboration with the ‘Boundaries of Cosmopolis’ project, hosted the second annual conference of the Modernism Aestheticism and Decadence Studies network (MADS). The conference call on the theme ‘Global Encounters’ invited researchers working in the areas of modernism, aestheticism, and decadence to consider the Anglophone literatures of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in their international and transnational contexts. In response to this call, seventeen



MADS conference on ‘Global Encounters’

speakers based at universities in Germany, Italy, and the US presented their current work on topics ranging from models of community in Pan-Africanist modernist novels to orientalist appropriations of material culture in Victorian decoration manuals. The keynote lecture “Foreign Books and Where to Find Them:

the Global Encounters of the Interwar Intelligentsia” was delivered by Prof Rebecca Beasley from Queen’s College, University of Oxford. The conference received funding from *Deutscher Anglistikverband* and the German Association for the Study of British Cultures (BritCult) and was organised by Evelina Bazaeva, Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, Evi Heinz, and Sofia Permiakova.

## Women’s Suffrage Literature Workshop

As part of her research on women’s suffrage novels as Visiting Scholar for the summer term 2024 (April-September), Laura Schmitz-Justen organized an international workshop on women’s suffrage literature. The interdisciplinary workshop was held at the Centre on 20 September and included talks from literary studies, book studies, and history. The workshop was met with interest from researchers from Germany, England, and the Netherlands as well as from the Centre’s vibrant community of alumni. The first panel, “Circulating Feminist Ideas,” considered the material networks of distribution for women’s suffrage and feminist politics both in the US and the UK. It included presentations by Ellen Barth (University of Münster) on US-American community cookbooks and Evi Heinz on Rebecca West’s literary criticism in *The Freewoman* (early 1910s) in conjunction with West’s later novel *The Judge* (1922). In

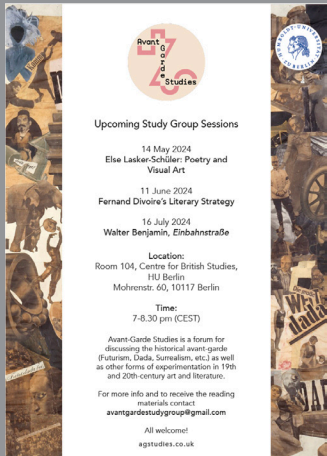
Workshop organised by GBZ Fellowship holder Laura Schmitz-Justen (right)





the second panel, entitled “Women’s Suffrage Literature Then and Now,” Laura Schmitz-Justen (University of Münster) engaged with May Sinclair’s *The Tree of Heaven* (1917). Turning to a modern-day engagement with the British women’s suffrage movement, Dr Marlena Tronicke (University of Cologne) discussed domestic imprisonment and queer livability in Rebecca Lenkiewicz’s play *Her Naked Skin* (2008). A highlight of the academic programme was the keynote lecture delivered by Dr Helen Sunderland (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Faculty of History, University of Oxford) on “Schoolgirls and Women’s Suffrage in Late Victorian and Edwardian England.” Overall, it was an academically stimulating workshop that facilitated many new interdisciplinary and international connections that will hopefully grow to sustain further exchange on women’s suffrage movements.

## Avant-Garde Studies



Since May 2024, the Avant-Garde Studies (AGS) reading group, co-led by Rosa Chrystie-Lowe and Evi Heinz, has been meeting at the Centre for British Studies once a month during the semester to discuss a text or artwork relating to the historical avant-garde (Futurism, Dada, Surrealism, etc.) as well as other forms of experimentation in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The aim of the group is to provide an inclusive space for discussion and the group is open to everyone: students, researchers, and anyone who

has an interest in the historical avant-garde. We have discussed a wide range of materials so far, including: Else Lasker-Schüler’s poetry and artwork, essays by Walter Benjamin, films by Lotte Reiniger, and the Russian Futurist Velimir Khlebnikov’s ideas for a universal ‘beyondsense’ written language. New members are always welcome; we hope to see some new faces joining the group in 2025.

Drawing by Else Lasker-Schüler (c. 1920)



## GBZ Lunch Talks

The Centre for British Studies continued to host the GBZ Lunch Talks, which provides a platform for early career researchers of GBZ to present their ongoing interdisciplinary research in an informal format and receive constructive feedback from other members of the GBZ research community. Dr Kalika Mehta organized the series in collaboration with Prof Gesa Stedman.

This year’s events included:

- 11 January  
**Evi Heinz:**  
‘James Joyce’s Ulysses and the Casanova Society’
- 25 April  
**Sofia Permiakova:**  
‘Huge bears softly dancing’: Jane Harrison and Hope Mirrlees Translating Russia in the 1920s’
- 16 May  
**Luca Augé:**  
‘The Policy on Europe as a Political Instrument: The Dynamics of Conservative Party Statecraft under Boris Johnson’s Leadership’
- 13 June  
**Laura Schmitz-Justen:**  
‘Sister Suffragette’?: Women’s Suffrage Literature and Coalitional Politics’
- 7 November  
**Rosa Chrystie-Lowe:**  
‘Regional Transnationality: British Encounters with German Expressionism’

Lunch with food for thought: Sofia Permiakova, Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, Evi Heinz (from left)



# Spotlight

## (RE-)DRAWING BORDERS

### When and Where was the UK? When and Where is it Now?

**Interdisciplinary Conference**  
**12-14 December**

A large international conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Berlin Britain Research Network was held at the Centre on 12-14 December, on the topic “(Re-) Drawing Borders: When and Where was the United Kingdom? When and Where is it Now?”. The event, coordinated by Dr Paolo Chiochetti and funded by a DFG grant, brought together 49 speakers and 9 observers to reassess the evolution of borders and boundary-making processes in the United Kingdom.



Three keynote speeches on “(Post)colonial Legacies: Heritage, Art, Landscape” (Prof Corinne Fowler, Leicester), “Fractured Union: Politics, Sovereignty and the Fight to Save the UK” (Prof Michael Kenny, Cambridge), and “UK and Europe: The Post-Brexit Predicament”



First evening's keynote: Corinne Fowler

(Prof Catherine Barnard, Cambridge) introduced the key issues to be addressed. 15 parallel panels explored in more depth the regulatory borders created by the devolution settlements of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, the impact of post-colonial legacies on British culture, the shifting relations between Britain and Europe after Brexit, and border research in various disciplines.

The variety of disciplinary backgrounds (Politics, Literature, Cultural Studies, History, Law, Art History, Sociology, and Geography) created the conditions for a productive interdisciplinary exchange and the geographical spread of the speakers (UK, Germany, France, US, Poland, and the Netherlands) allowed us to widen the reach of our international network of collaborators (Berlin Britain Research Network). The stimulating presentations and discussions will be developed into a series of edited publications (special issues and books) in the period 2025-27.



Dr Chiochetti (left) moderating a Q&A session with Michael Kenny after his keynote lecture





# Oxford Berlin Partnership

2024 saw many different Oxford-Berlin activities at the GBZ, ranging from early career scholars spending extensive research periods at the Bodleian library, to participants from Oxford attending the numerous “Boundaries of Cosmopolis” events and workshops, to discussing knowledge exchange with Dr Victoria McGuiness from TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities). Our Oxford-Berlin Einstein Fellow Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity) is very much part



Dr Helen Sunderland giving a keynote at the workshop on women's suffrage literature

of the research and event life of the GBZ, and frequently visited the GBZ in 2024. We were particularly pleased to see that our visiting scholars also continue the Oxford-Berlin connection. Dr des. Laura Schmitz-Justen invited Dr Helen Sunderland as her keynote

speaker for her suffragism workshop, and her successor Dr Sean Ketteringham is himself an Oxford graduate, and a former research assistant on the ‘Happy in Berlin’ project which Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista co-directed. Our two Oxford-Berlin Lectures (see Events) drew large crowds, both in person and online, and show how vibrant the partnership is. Prof Patricia Clavin spoke about Britain and Europe’s fraught relationship and the changing global order since 1900 in June, and in November, Prof Patricia Owens showed how the missing chapter of British international relations, as conducted by women, opens new and radical research perspectives. We look forward to continuing this very successful part of our Monday Lecture series, with Prof Philip Bullock’s talk in January 2025 on “Russian” Ballet as a challenge to cultural exchange and Slavonic Studies.



# Einstein Foundation Group

## THE BOUNDARIES OF COSMOPOLIS

This Einstein Foundation-funded research project explores the concept of literary cosmopolitanism (and its inherent boundaries and exclusions) in the literary traffic between London and Berlin during the period from the 1870s to the 1930s.

The project is co-led by Einstein Visiting Fellow Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford) and Prof Gesa Stedman (Centre for British Studies). It includes one postdoctoral researcher, Dr Evi Heinz, whose work focusses on the transmission of English literary culture in the Weimar Republic periodical *Der Querschnitt*, and one doctoral researcher, Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, whose PhD project investigates the significance of regional agents in the British reception of German Expressionism.

The first official event of the Einstein group, a research workshop on the topic ‘World Literature and Periodical Formats’, took place at the Centre in March 2024. This workshop brought together delegates at various career stages from universities in Oxford, Berlin and Brussels, to discuss the intersections between world literature and periodical studies by means of specific case studies and in broader theoretical terms. In May 2024, Stefano Evangelista and Evi Heinz presented the ‘Boundaries of Cosmopolis’ project at the Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften.

Research workshop on ‘World Literature and Periodical Formats’, organised by the Einstein research group at GBZ



In the summer, Rosa Chrystie-Lowe and Evi Heinz spent several weeks in the UK to conduct archival research, meet with partners and potential future collaborators and attend two international conferences. At the latter, Evi Heinz presented two papers from her current research, focussing on the publication and promotion of British modernism in *Der Querschnitt*.



Evi and Rosa spending a few weeks doing research in Oxford (here an impression of the Sheldonian Theatre)

In September 2024, the project hosted the second annual conference of a new network for early career researchers working in Modernism, Aestheticism and Decadence Studies (MADS). The conference invited delegates to explore the theme of ‘Global Encounters’ in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century literature and featured a keynote lecture by Prof Rebecca Beasley (Queen’s College, Oxford).



Literary journal in the Weimar Republic promoting British modernism

The Einstein group has been meeting regularly in Berlin, Oxford or via zoom throughout the year and is now planning a second research workshop examining the relationship between ‘World Literature and the World City’ for March 2025. Other projects for 2025 include a joint event with the Literaturhaus Berlin on literary cosmopolitanism in the German capital, as well as the publication of a special issue on the same topic. In addition, the Einstein group also looks forward to hosting the summer school of the Harvard Institute for World Literature in Berlin in 2026.

## Spotlight LAW Reform in Brazil

On the invitation of João Costa-Neto, Professor at the University of Brasilia and Judge at the District Court of São Paulo, Prof Dannemann visited Brazil in September 2024 for a series of lectures and meetings relating to the current reform of the Brazilian Civil Code. He gave a lecture on “Judges and Legislators as Comparative Lawyers” at the Faculty of Law, University of Brasilia, and two lectures on “Unjust Enrichment: Fundamental Challenges for Legislators and Judges”. The first of these, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zZ2dyjRsPE>, was given at Brazil’s highest court for civil, criminal and administrative law, the Superior Tribunal de Justiça in Brasilia, and opened by Chief Justice Benjamin, President of this Court, who furthermore consulted with Prof Dannemann in a private meeting. Prof Dannemann gave the second lecture on this topic at the University of São Paulo within a seminar co-organised by Professors Fernando Campos Scaff, Nestor Duarte and Bernardo Bissoto Queiroz de Moraes. Prof Dannemann furthermore attended a session of Brazil’s Constitutional Court, the Supremo Tribunal Federal, and exchanged views with the Court’s President, Chief Justice Barroso, in a private meeting, where it was also agreed that the Court would publish a Portuguese translation of Prof Dannemann’s lecture on “Judges and Legislators as Comparative Lawyers” in its journal, *Suprema – Constitutional Studies Law Review*.



Chief Justice Herman Benjamin (middle left) with Prof Dannemann (middle right) and Prof Costa-Neto (left) at the Superior Tribunal de Justiça, in front of a photograph by Sebastião Salgado

# Spotlight

## Afterlives of Empire – Encounters in Art and Academia

“Afterlives of Empire – Encounters of Art and Academia” was a project begun in 2023 which turned the Lichthof Ost into an artists’ studio and back again into an exhibition space. Art students from Berlin and Oxford explored the legacies of the British empire in Humboldt-Universität’s academic collections.

“Afterlives” was brought to the general public again at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* 2024. During the winter semester, two of the artists who had participated in this new endeavour during its initial exhibition phase in 2023 returned to HU to discuss their art works with GBZ students in Gesa Stedman’s course on “Entanglements of Art and Empire”. At the *Lange Nacht*, Chen Chen from Oxford, Karin Stumpf from Berlin, and Claudia Gattner from Hamburg showed their works in Lichthof Ost once again, and helped to run an art workshop for the general public, which participants enjoyed very much.

The same can be said for the school workshops which Gesa Stedman organises regularly where 12 and 13-year olds work with her involving ethnographic writing and artistic practice.

The success of this project, funded by the Humboldt Universitäts-Gesellschaft, which also led to the publication of a small catalogue



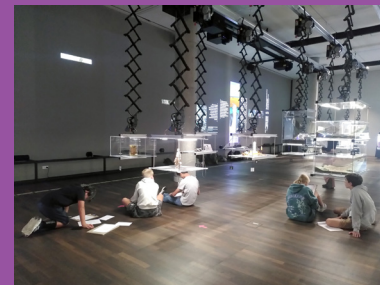
The exhibition's catalogue



Dr Karin Stumpf next to her exhibit "Ora et Labora"

was such that Gesa Stedman has decided to continue it in a slightly different format in 2025-2026. She has set up an art group at Humboldt-Universität, currently open to all members of the university, and to be expanded to include artists from all walks of life at the next stage. This time, it is the specific overlap of the British and German Empires in academic collections at Humboldt-Universität which is the focus of the project.

In the next academic year, Gesa Stedman will develop a multifaceted outreach programme with the help of her *Freiräume* Open Humboldt grant, which allows her to concentrate entirely on knowledge exchange while her teaching stand-in will be financed by the funding line. The university thus acknowledges that time for outreach project needs to be provided just as much as for research sabbaticals. School workshops, public events, an exhibition, and another small catalogue are planned for the next academic year, as well as the continued invitation of artists and art historian as guests in Gesa Stedman’s courses.



Top: outreach – school pupils exploring the HU Lab; the HU art group sketching in the object lab; Bottom: being inspired at the Winckelmann Institute; the 'Imperial Legacies of Art' student project at the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften has the general public involved in making art themselves



# Further Research Projects

## PROF DR GERHARD DANNEMANN

In 2024, Professor Dannemann completed his research project on the German-British émigré lawyer F.A. Mann (1907-1991) with the publication of *F.A. Mann (1907-1991): The Lawyer and His Legacy* (edited with Jason Allen, OUP), a book launch, and the contribution on Mann to the Oxford based ‘Scholars of Commercial Law’ project.

He also embarked on a new research project on the enforcement of EU data rights, together with Christoph Busch, Mary-Rose McGuire, Markus Lieberknecht and Hans Schulte-Nölke (all University of Osnabrück) and Sebastian Schwamberger (University of Rostock). He is furthermore working on a second edition of his book *The German Law of Unjustified Enrichment and Restitution* (OUP 2009).

## Academic Misconduct

Prof Dannemann is an active contributor and administrator of VroniPlag Wiki, which documents cases of plagiarism in doctoral theses. He gave numerous interviews on plagiarism and appeared on various TV and radio programmes.

## Further Activities

### Conference Papers and Lectures

“Comparative Law in the Courtroom”, Middle Temple Quarter Session Lecture, London, 13 March \* Book Launch *F.A. Mann (1907-1991), The Lawyer and His Legacy*, co-hosted by the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford, and Oxford University Press, Oxford, 22 May \* “Judges and Legislators as Comparative Lawyers”, Faculty of Law, University of Brasilia, 10 September \* “Unjust Enrichment: Fundamental Challenges for Legislators and Judges”, Superior Tribunal de Justiça, Brasilia, 11 September \* “Unjust Enrichment: Fundamental Challenges for Legislators and Judges”, Seminario de direito civil e de direito romano, University of São Paulo, 12 September \* “F.A. Mann (1907-1991)”, conference ‘Scholars of Commercial Law’, Keble College, Oxford, 24 September \* “‘A very high authority, Pothier...’: Comparative Reasoning in Nineteenth Century English Contract Law Cases”, Symposium in Honour of Matthias Storme, Leuven, 26 September \* “Plagiarism”, Online Good Scientific Practice Minisymposium, Center of Infection Biology and Immunity (ZIBI) Graduate School, Berlin, 27 September

## Other Activities

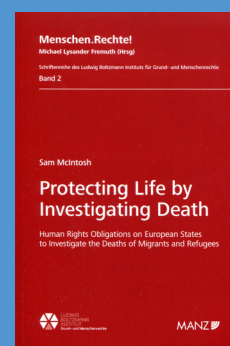
Private Meeting with the Chief Justice of the Supremo Tribunal Federal of Brazil, HE Luis Roberto Barroso, 11 September \* Private Meeting with the Chief Justice of the Superior Tribunal de Justiça of Brazil, Ministro Herman Benjamin, 11 September \* Chaired a panel on “The Status Quo: Gaps and Inconsistencies”, conference ‘Tools for Better Enforcement of EU Law in the Digital Space’, European Legal Studies Institute, University of Osnabrück, 7-8 November \* Attended the 45th F.A. Mann Lecture, given by Lord Sales on “Purpose in Law and in Interpretation”, Lincoln’s Inn, 19 November \* Chaired a panel on “Regulation by Bricking”, conference ‘From Smart Technologies to Smart Consumer Laws: Comparative Perspectives from Germany and the UK’, European Legal Studies Institute, University of Osnabrück, 5-6 December



Prof Dannemann with his host Prof João Costa-Neto (left) at the University of Brasilia

## PROF DR SAM MCINTOSH

Having returned to the Centre as a Guest Professor after a two-year absence, Sam intends to use his time here to pursue three projects. The first is a book project based on his research on the principle of open justice as it applies to inquests and other investigations into deaths at the hands of the state. The second will be an application for research funding to support a project that will look into the extent to which theories of justice as recognition might provide a useful normative basis for restorative justice approaches being used and trialled in the UK’s criminal justice systems. The project will explore normative theories behind transitional justice approaches, such as truth commissions, in countries reckoning with large-scale, recent or historical state wrongdoing, and how these might usefully inform restorative justice processes in more every-day criminal justice contexts. Finally, Sam will be continuing the research behind his recent monograph *Protecting Life by Investigating Death: Human Rights Obligations on European States to Investigate the Deaths of Migrants and Refugees* (2022, ManzVerlag), concentrating in particular on recent developments in the case-law in this area.



## PROF DR GESA STEDMAN



The Alix Strachey project published in a zine

Gesa Stedman finished her research project on Alix Strachey, and instead of opting for a monograph as originally planned, has ventured into a new hybrid format, publishing her research results as a zine instead. By incorporating original art work, a design modelled on Weimar and Bloomsbury aesthetics, and combining this with quotations from Alix Strachey's Berlin letters, she has chosen an output which moves beyond academia. In the context of the Writing1900 network, she worked on numerous other British women writers in Berlin, among them George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Vita Sackville-West, and Margaret Goldsmith. She presented her findings

at the Vienna meeting in September, and looks forward to co-editing the results of that conference together with former visiting scholar Dr Sandra Mayer. On the basis of 'Afterlives I – Encounters of Art and Academia', which ended with the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* 2024, Gesa Stedman successfully applied for funding for 'Afterlives II – Overlapping Empires'. She will receive teaching buy-out for her next sabbatical, thus allowing her to research how the British and German Empires have left traces in Humboldt-Universität's collections. This project is research-based, but will also include art workshops and numerous knowledge exchange activities, including working with different schools. She is also exploring issues of ageing and loneliness in relation to literary history, as part of a larger interdisciplinary Oxford-Berlin project on ageing, and has incorporated art history and ethnographic methods into her research.

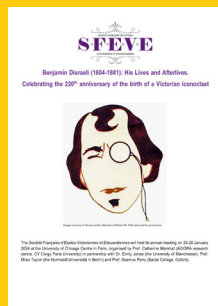


Presenting new findings at the Writing 1900 meeting in Vienna

## PROF DR MILES TAYLOR

Much of 2024 was spent working on the *New Cambridge History of Britain* (to be published in 2025-6). Prof Taylor gave invited lectures at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA; the University of Macau; Lingnan University (Hong Kong), Institut Michel Villey, Paris; Széchenyi István University, Győr (Hungary); and the Università per

Celebrating Benjamin Disraeli's 220th birthday in Paris



Stranieri di Siena (Italy). In January 2024, with colleagues from the University of Oxford, Cergy-Paris Université and the Société Française d'Etudes Victoriennes et Edouardiennes he co-convoked a conference on 'Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881): His Lives and Afterlives'. With colleagues from the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan and Loughborough University, UK, Prof Taylor co-hosted a monthly online seminar on 'History of Universities'.

## DR PAOLO CHIOCCHETTI

In 2024, Paolo pursued his research on UK-EU relations and on British public opinion. He won a conference grant of 16,836 Euros from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) and was among the secondary proposers of a large grant awarded by the COST Association on 'Linking Euroscepticism and Populism: Causes and Consequences' (EUPopLink, 2024-27, 575,000 Euros). With the support of DFG funding, he organised a workshop on 'External Differentiation after Brexit and the Ukraine War?' (18-19 January) and a conference on '(Re-)Drawing Borders: When and Where was the United Kingdom? When and Where is it Now?' (12-14 December) at the Centre. A co-edited special issue on the differentiated integration of third countries in the European Union successfully carried through the peer-review process; it will appear in Spring 2025 in the journal *West European Politics*. Paolo also published a co-authored short article on "Die Bedeutung des Brexits für die Demokratie in Großbritannien" (*Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftspolitik*). Finally, he disseminated the results of his research at public panel discussions on the 2024 UK general election (Centre for British Studies, 15 July) and socially conservative left parties (Die Linke, 24 July).



Paolo welcoming participants to the '(Re-)Drawing Borders' conference at the Centre

## DR EVI HEINZ

Evi's current research as part of the Einstein Foundation-funded project 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis' investigates the transmission of English literary culture in the Weimar Republic periodical *Der Querschnitt*. In June and July 2024, she presented two papers on this research at the annual conferences of the British Association for Modernist Studies (BAMS) in Leeds, and the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) in Reading. In August 2024, she went on a funded research trip to the *Deutsches Literaturarchiv* in Marbach to examine archival resources pertaining to *Der*



Research trip to Oxford University (Trinity College) in June

*Querschnitt* and the imprint under which it was published, the Propyläen-Verlag. Her work on this magazine and the broader publishing programme of the Propyläen-Verlag – especially the book series *Werke der Weltliteratur* – will feed into an article that investigates how early 20th-century notions of ‘world literature’ were shaped by different publication formats. A further paper on German ‘Anglomania’ and the construction of

British culture in *Der Querschnitt* had been accepted for the conference ‘(Re-) Drawing Borders’ organised at the Centre for British Studies in December.

### DR RILEY LINEBAUGH

In 2024, Riley Linebaugh was awarded an Ann Ball Bodley Fellowship with Oxford University’s Bodleian Libraries to continue research on her postdoctoral project, “‘Caesar’s Wives’: Secrecy and Secretaries in the British Empire’. She presented on this research project at Humboldt-Universität’s Economic and Social History research colloquium in October 2024. Together with GBZ colleague Dr Kalika Mehta, Riley has begun a research project on international criminal law and starvation during the Bengal Famine (1943). Together with Dr Mehta she presented on this work at the Humboldt-Universität’s ‘UK-Related Research and Teaching at HU’ workshop as well as at the conference, ‘Social Hierarchies in Catastrophic Times,’ held in Kochi, Kerala. Riley continues work on her doctoral project, most recently in delivering a paper, “Un-documenting Migration: Record Destruction in the British Commonwealth after Empire,” at the GBZ’s ‘(Re-)Drawing Borders’ conference in December.



Presenting her work at a conference in Kochi, Kerala, India

### DR KALIKA MEHTA

In 2024, Kalika Mehta was invited by the Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to work as a Visiting Professional at the Office of the Prosecutor. She was there from March to May 2024, working closely with Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Khan on several key situations currently under investigation at the ICC. In addition to her work at the ICC, Kalika has published several research articles this year. For a full list,

please see the publications page. Beyond publications, she also co-organised and participated in several public facing events to present her research. In February, she co-organised two workshops at the University of Western Cape, Cape Town and at Kenyatta University, Nairobi on the theme ‘Colonial Continuities in (International) Criminal Law’. In March, her monograph on *Strategic Litigation and Corporate Complicity on Crimes under International Law* was launched online by the Graduate Institute, Geneva. In the same month, she was also interviewed on a podcast for the New Books Network, where she discussed her monograph. In September, she presented her work on ‘Postcolonial Theory’ at the 39th Conference of the German Society for Comparative Law held in Berlin. During the same month, she delivered a workshop presentation along with her GBZ colleague Riley Linebaugh on “Starvation on Trial: The Bengal Famine Through Colonial History and International Law” at the conference on ‘Social Hierarchies in Catastrophic Times’ in Kochi, India. In October, Kalika spoke at the launch of Kirsten Campbell’s book, *The Justice of Humanity*, hosted by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in Berlin.

A busy year for Kalika (from left): she participated in a workshop in Kochi, India; a conference at the Law Faculty, HU Berlin; and a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya



In November, she delivered an online lecture entitled “Third World Approaches to International Criminal Law and Strategic Litigation” at Hebron University in Palestine. The following month, she participated in a panel discussion on ‘Moving Beyond Double Standards: Systemic Injustices & Strategies Towards an Anti-Colonial Praxis Within International Justice’. This event, organised by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and other NGOs, took place alongside the ICC Assembly of State Parties in The Hague.

### EVELINA BAZAEVA

In the early summer of 2024, Evelina Bazaeva was awarded funding by the International Office of Humboldt-Universität for a short-term PhD research trip to Cambridge. This trip built on her previous work as a Visiting Researcher at Peterhouse College, University of Cambridge in 2022. As





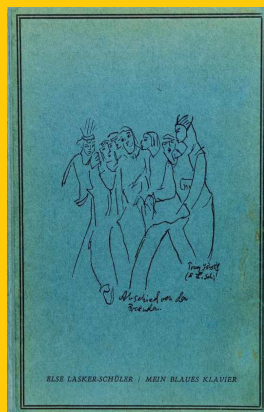
Favourite place to undertake research:  
Cambridge University Library

a result of this opportunity, she was able to consult some historical magazines and newspapers published in Britain during the interwar period to reproduce and delve deeper into popular discourse on silent cinema and literature in the 1920s for the first two chapters of her thesis. The titles included (but were not limited to) such publications as *The Bystander* (1903-1940), *The Picturegoer* (1911-1960), *The Nation and the Athenæum* (1921-31), *The Bioscope* (1908-1932), and *Kinematograph Weekly* (1889-1971). The research trip enhanced her understanding of relevant newspaper discourses in interwar Britain vis-a-vis the modernist fiction of British women novelists writing on and for cinema at the time. While in Cambridge, Evelina also gave a paper as part of the Cambridge/DAAD Ports & Harbours Symposium, hosted by the Faculty of English and led by Prof David Trotter and Dr Leo Mellor. The paper elaborated on the notion of harbour as liminal space and the affordances of bicameral narrative structure in the short stories of Katherine Mansfield. Previously, in the summer semester, she co-organised a highly attended public lecture by Prof Trotter, entitled “Limehouse Blues: London Dockland in Literature and Film”, which took place at the GBZ and was a cooperation with HU’s Faculty of English and American Studies. Shortly after her research stay in Cambridge, Evelina presented her research on transatlantic intermedial exchange in print and film cultures of Britain and the US at the ‘Modernist, Aestheticism, and Decadence Symposium’ (MADS) at the Centre.

### ROSA CHRYSTIE-LOWE

Rosa joined the Centre for British Studies as a Doctoral Researcher on the Oxford-Berlin project ‘Boundaries of Cosmopolis’ in March 2024. Since then, she has been developing her PhD thesis topic, which explores the translation and reception of texts from Berlin in the British Isles in the period 1900 to 1940, with a particular focus on the oft-overlooked role of translators. In summer 2024, Rosa spent a week in Oxford researching translations of German Expressionism into English (and Scots) and attended

Else Lasker-Schüler. *Mein blaues Klavier. Neue Gedichte* (1943)



the BAMS (British Association for Modernist Studies) conference in Leeds. In September 2024, she presented her first conference paper at the MADS (Modernism, Aestheticism, and Decadence Studies) conference, held at the Centre. Her paper, “Regional Transnationality: British Encounters with German Expressionism”, focused on the Scottish modernist poet Hugh MacDiarmid’s translations/adaptations of the German Expressionist poet Else Lasker-Schüler and other references to German Expressionism in his long Scots dialect poem “A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle”. Rosa was part of the organising committee for the MADS conference, and has also, along with Evi Heinz, started an Avant-Garde Studies reading group at the Centre for British Studies, which meets once a month during the semester.

### SOFIA PERMIAKOVA

In March 2024, Sofia Permiakova successfully defended her PhD thesis on 21st-century women’s war poetry and WWI commemoration in the UK. Later that month, she participated in the workshop ‘World Literature and Periodical Formats’, organised by colleagues from the ‘Boundaries of Cosmopolis’ project. In May, Sofia’s time at the Centre for British Studies came to an end. In June, Sofia presented her paper “‘Half toy, half dream’: Jane Harrison and Hope Mirrlees translating Alexey Remizov in the 1920s” at the British Association for Modernist Studies (BAMS) conference in Leeds. In September, Sofia began a new role as a project manager for the *Deutsches Chorfest 2025* in Nürnberg, while continuing to pursue academic activities. Also in September, alongside colleagues from the Centre, Dr Evi Heinz, Evelina Bazaeva, and Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, Sofia co-organised the ‘Modernism Aestheticism Decadence Studies 2024: Global Encounters’ conference, where she also presented a paper. Her presentation, part of her ongoing research project on Jane Harrison, Hope Mirrlees, and Anglo-Russian cultural exchanges in the 1920s and 1930s, explored the links between Russian and British modernist poetries. In December, Sofia presented a paper at the interdisciplinary GBZ conference on ‘(Re-)Drawing Borders’. Drawing on her PhD research, her presentation examined the borders of commemoration and the WWI centenary in the UK.



Sofia (left) with graduate school PhD student Chiara Harrison Lambe at the December conference

## JOANNA VICKERY-BARKOW

Since starting at the Centre for British Studies in 2024, Joanna Vickery-Barkow served on a panel during the Centre's 2024 contribution to *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*, 'Empire on Display: Reframing the Imperial Legacies of Art'. With Prof Gesa Stedman and Prof Dr Anna Arabindan-Kesson, she developed the strategic research partnership 'Examining Imperial Interconnections: Britain and Germany's Empires, Ethnography, and Art' with Princeton University. Hosted by Arabindan-Kesson, in October she visited Princeton to give a lecture on Henry Wellcome's relationship to art, medicine, and ethnography alongside Wellcome Collection curator Daniella Rose King. In late autumn, the GBZ hosted Arabindan-Kesson's reciprocal trip, which included a lecture in Prof Stedman's class 'Legacies of Empire', and a research meeting to discuss the partnership's expansion. Drawing upon her dissertation research, Joanna delivered a paper titled "Unsettled Objects and Unsettled Artists: Critical Responses to Britain's Ethnographic Museums in the Long 1960s" at the '(Re-)Drawing Borders' conference hosted by the Centre, from which a publication will follow.



Lecturing at Princeton University

## Emeritus Professors

### PROF DR CHRISTIANE EISENBERG

Prof Eisenberg held the Chair of British History and Society from 1998 until her retirement in October 2021, and was Director in 2008-10, 2013-15 and 2019-21. She came to Humboldt-Universität after posts at Bielefeld University, where she gained her PhD in 1986, and Hamburg University, where she completed her *Habilitation* in 1996. From 1987 until 1988 she was a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. Prof Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. 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 cultural transfer research. Having researched the labour movement, modern sport and the cultural industries, her more recent publications revolve thematically around questions of the market economy and how modern society deals with it. During her time at the GBZ she focused on the English or rather British case, an early developed and especially successful example. Her current book

project, "The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism", pursues the hitherto unexplored entanglements of sport and financial history, again with an eye on Britain. This investigation into 17th and 18th centuries takes up questions from Max Weber's well-known essay on *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1904) – in order to answer them anew with knowledge of the state of research that has since been achieved.

### PROF DR JÜRGEN SCHLAEGER, MA (OXON) CBE FEA

Prof Schlaeger studied history, philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford (BA 1967, MA 1973). He was Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Konstanz from 1976-95, and visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, at Fudan University, Shanghai, and also Visiting Research Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He chaired the German Association of University Teachers of English, was board member of the European Society of English Studies ESSE and chaired the 'Shakespeare-Preis-Kuratorium' of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation in Hamburg whose board he headed from 2011-2015. He is a Fellow of the English Association. In 2009 he was made an honorary CBE. His publications range from literary theory, life-writing, Romanticism, and literary anthropology to the history and present state of university education. Prof Schlaeger continues to work on his long-term project 'Selves in Transit' which is designed to reconstruct the main forces and parameters in the development of life-writing in English culture from the late 15th to the 21st century. The study will be based on a broad range of original sources from libraries in Oxford, and elsewhere.

## Visiting Scholars

Since the autumn of 2023, the GBZ has run a successful funded visiting scholarship programme for early career scholars. Currently in its third iteration, successful candidates typically have an interdisciplinary background, pursue research projects during the time in Berlin which match one or more of the research foci of the GBZ, and engage in public events, organise workshops or reading groups to expand their networks and make new contacts. Dr des. Laura Schmitz-Justen's background in legal literary studies made her the perfect choice for the first in this programme, and her different activities concentrating on suffragism and literature included an early career

workshop, a reading group, and a lunch talk. She returned as an active member of the MADS network (see page 10) and the culture and literature team at the GBZ remain in close contact with her. She was followed in the autumn by Dr Sean Ketteringham, whose research interests centre on architecture and literature, thus expanding the recently introduced discipline of art history by including architecture. He also plans to organise a public event. The third visiting scholar in this scheme is currently being appointed and we hope other young scholars from diverse backgrounds continue to be attracted to the vibrant research culture which we have developed at the GBZ. Former visiting scholars have more often than not turned into Fellows, including Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) and Prof Gisela Holfter (Limerick), thus making the GBZ a more permanent academic home. Our current visiting scholar outside of this scheme, Luca Augé, is putting the finishing touches to his PhD dissertation on Boris Johnson's tenure as Prime Minister, after successfully chairing a panel debate on the outcome of the general election in the UK last summer. Like his colleagues Laura and Sean, he is a much-liked addition to our early career scholars on the ground floor at the GBZ, and we look forward to continue working with all of them, as well as with our more senior visiting scholars of the past.

Valuable contributions to the Centre's activities: Laura organised a workshop on women's suffrage literature (left) and Luca organised and chaired a panel discussing the outcome of the UK election



## LUCA AUGÉ

Luca Augé is a British Politics PhD Student at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris and joined the Centre for British Studies in September 2023 as part of a PhD visit. Paolo Chiochetti is the local supervisor during this time. Luca has since actively participated in the Centre's activities. He organised an event on the 2024 UK General Election bringing together academics, journalistic and activist perspectives. He presented at the Centre's international conference '(Re-) Drawing Borders: When and Where was the United Kingdom? When and Where is it Now?'

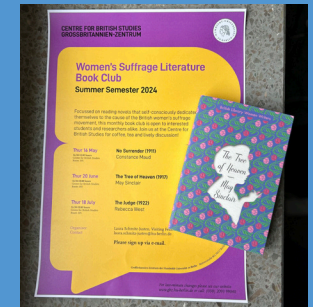


Luca giving a lecture at the '(Re-) Drawing Borders' conference

in December 2024. He also gave a Guest Lecture to the Master students on interviewing skills in social sciences. Luca is enjoying his PhD visit and looks forward to the completion of his dissertation in 2025.

## LAURA SCHMITZ-JUSTEN

Laura Schmitz-Justen was Visiting Scholar at the Centre for the summer term of 2024. During her visiting scholarship Laura explored her research interest in women's suffrage fiction and undertook initial steps to develop it into a larger individual research project. Exchange with colleagues and students at the Centre proved invaluable in this endeavour, be it through the Women's Suffrage Literature Book Club, which Laura organised, feedback on her Lunch Talk or more informal conversations. The workshop on 'Women's Suffrage Literature', which took place in September 2024, and was made possible through the visiting scholarship, provided a forum for cross-disciplinary exchange on the subject with German and international guests. Overall, the Centre for British Studies was an ideal place to facilitate this research as it unites experts from law, history, political science and literary studies, thus covering the most pertinent disciplines with which women's suffrage literature connects.



Organising a book club on Women's Suffrage Literature

## DR SEAN KETTERINGHAM

Sean Ketteringham joined the Centre as a Visiting Fellow in October 2024. From October to December, he has been developing a book manuscript based on his doctoral research which was completed at the University of Oxford in 2022. Titled "Architectures of Identity: Imperial Decline and the Homes of English Modernism", this work was the subject of a short talk given to members of the Centre in January. It discusses how domestic space assumed a major role in the architectural and literary formations of English national identity in response to British imperial decline between 1910 and 1948. In addition to his participation in the Centre's vibrant schedule of reading groups and events, Sean has organised the visit of Prof Victoria Rosner (NYU) who delivered a lecture on modernist literature and glass in February, and in March, the final month of his fellowship, he will present a paper at the 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis' workshop on 'World Literature and the World City'.



# Doctoral Students

## CULTURE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

### Supervision by Prof Gesa Stedman, unless otherwise stated

- Evelina Bazaeva: “Intermedial Modernism: The Cinematic Poetics of British Women Novelists of the Interwar Period”. Co-supervised by Prof Anne Enderwitz (English Department, HU Berlin).
- Rosa Chrystie-Lowe: “Regional Transnationality: Literary Exchange between Berlin and the British Isles, 1900-1940”
- Chiara Harrison Lambe: “A Study of Stella Steyn” (working title). Co-supervised by Prof Eva Ehninger (Art History, HU Berlin) and Prof Gisela Holfter (University of Limerick).
- Sofia Permiakova has successfully defended her thesis on “A Century Later: Twenty-First-Century Anglophone Women’s War Poetry and the First World War Commemoration”. Co-supervised by Prof Kate McLoughlin (University of Oxford).
- Judith Robinson: “Literature Festivals in the UK: A Field Study”

## LAW DEPARTMENT

### Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann

- Jacob C. Jørgensen: “Insolvency and IP Licenses in the Context of Engineering, Procurement and Construction Projects”
- Christoph König: “F.A. Mann (1909-1991)”
- Ian Smith: “Access to Financial Justice for Victims of Commercial Fraud”

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

### Supervision by Prof Christiane Eisenberg

- Felicia Kompio: “Revolution of the Street. Practices of Political Participation, c. 1830”. Co-supervised by Prof Thomas Mergel (History Department, HU Berlin).

# Graduate School of British Studies

The Berlin British Graduate School continues in its small but lively form. The GBZ Lunch Talk series, organised by Dr Kalika Mehta, is a great success and attended by many members and used as a forum to present early stages of their own research. It also allows GBZ staff to learn from one another and engage in interdisciplinary discussions. Our early career visiting scholars are welcome additions to the graduate school which hopes to be able to welcome further doctoral student members in 2025. The latest new addition is Rosa Christie-Lowe, who joined the GBZ and the Graduate School in March 2024, as part of her position as a researcher in the “Boundaries of Cosmopolis” group.

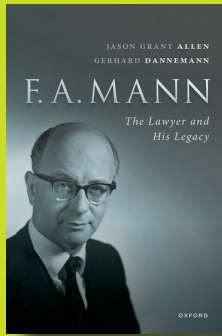
Sofia Permiakova defended her PhD thesis on women’s war poetry successfully in March, ending her long membership of the GBZ, first as a student, and then as a lecturer and doctoral student. She is currently revising the thesis for publication and hopes it will be published in a book series co-edited by her Oxford supervisor Prof Kate McLaughlin who was joined on the viva committee by Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) and Prof Anne Enderwitz (HU English Department) as well as Prof Gesa Stedman and as an interdisciplinary member, by Dr Paolo

Chiocchetti. The viva was chaired by Prof Martin Klepper (HU American Studies Department).



From left:  
Prof Gesa Stedman,  
Prof Stefano Evangelista,  
Sofia Permiakova,  
Prof Kate McLaughlin

# Publications



## DANNEMANN, GERHARD

With Jason Allen (eds). *F.A. Mann (1907-1991): The Lawyer and His Legacy*. OUP, 2024. Including the following chapters: "FA Mann, His Correspondence, and This Book" (with J. Allen), 1-17; "Jurisdiction and Private International Law: FA Mann's Unvollendete?", 163-78; "Conclusions" (with J. Allen), 379-92.

"A very high authority, Pothier...": Comparative Reasoning in Nineteenth Century English Contract Law Cases." *Privaatrecht Plenis Coloribus. Liber Amicorum Matthias Storme*, ed. by Vincent Sagaert and Joeri Vananroye. Wolters Kluwer, 2024, 191-208.

"Performance-based unjust enrichment: a legal transplant from Germany?" *The Laws of Restitution*, ed. by Jonas Atmaz Al-Sibaie and Jordan English. *Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly* (2024): 353-74, 359-60.

With Paolo Chiochetti. "Die Bedeutung des Brexits für die Demokratie in Großbritannien." *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftspolitik* 73.1 (2024): 33-9.

With Annette B. Vogt. "Marguerite Wolff." *Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women* (15 February 2024). Online: <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/wolff-marguerite>

General Editor. *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum*. Online: <https://ouclf.law.ox.ac.uk/>

General Editor. *German Law Archive*. Online: <https://germanlawarchive.iuscomp.org/>

## STEDMAN, GESA

Rev. of Geoffrey Fields, *Eliabeth Wiskemann, Scholar, Journalist, Secret Agent*, Oxford, OUP, 2023. *Global Intellectual History* 1-3 (2024).

Continues to blog on recent developments in the British literary field. Online: [www.literaryfield.org](http://www.literaryfield.org)

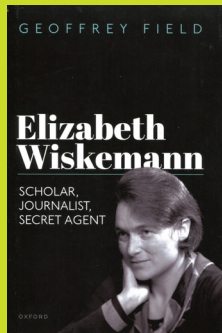
## TAYLOR, MILES

With Siddharth Satpathy, Mandakini Dubey, and Sharif Youssef (eds). *Vernacular Victoria. The Queen in the Languages of South Asia*. Special guest edited issue of *Victorian Literature & Culture* 52.1 (March 2024).

"Intelligible Government': Rethinking the Meaning of Monarchy in the Age of King Charles III." *History of European Ideas* (2024): 1-16.

Rev. of John Zubriczky, *Dethroned. The Downfall of India's Princely States*, Hurst, 2023. *Times Literary Supplement*, 19 April 2024, 7.

Rev. of Bruce Kinzer, Molly Baer Kramer and Richard Trainor (eds), *Reform and its Complexities in Modern Britain: Essays Inspired by Sir Brian Harrison*, Oxford, OUP, 2022. *English Historical Review* 139.601 (2024). Online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ehr/ceae239>



## CHIOCCHETTI, PAOLO

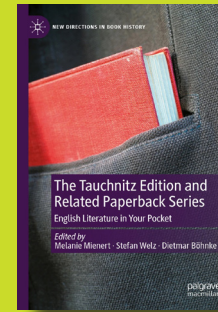
With Gerhard Dannemann. "Die Bedeutung des Brexits für die Demokratie in Großbritannien." *Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftspolitik* 73.1 (2024): 33-9.

## HEINZ, EVI

"Wer Englisch Liest, Kauft Tauchnitz': Reading Virginia Woolf in the Tauchnitz Edition." *The Tauchnitz Edition and Related Paperback Series: English Literature in Your Pocket*, ed. by Melanie Miener, Stefan Welz and Dietmar Böhne. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024. 211-29.

"Margaret Anderson's Compromise: Art and Advertising in the Little Review." *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies* 15.1 (2024): 46-70.

With Gareth Mills. "Private Presses and Commercial Concerns: The Modernist Publisher's Archive." *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Modernist Archives*. London: Bloomsbury, 2024, 235-46.



## LINEBAUGH, RILEY

"Colonial Archives." *Bloomsbury History: Theory and Method Articles*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, October 2024.

"Migrated Archives and the Social Lives of Sources." *Interrogating Colonial Documents and Narratives*. Marlborough: AM, 2024.



## MEHTA, KALIKA

With Sarah Imani and Leokadia Melchior. "Prosecutions Across Borders: A TWAIL Review of Universal Jurisdiction Practice in Germany." *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 22.3-4 (2024): 631-50.

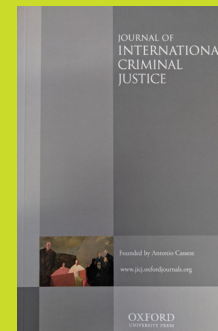
"Terms and Conditions of Litigating International (Criminal) Law for Corporate Accountability." *TWAIL Review* (2024). Online.

With Florian Jeßberger. "The Inadvertent Protagonist: Possible Implications of the ICJ Advisory Opinion for the Prosecution of International Crimes in Palestine." *Verfassungsblog* (2024). Online.

With Atel Onge Paito. "All Eyes on Sudan (too): Responding to Recent Crimes in Sudan." *Verfassungsblog* (2024). Online.

"In the Court's Shadow: Writing Selectivity in the Procedures of ICC." *Völkerrechtsblog* (2024). Online.

"Charting Extraterritoriality: Jurisdiction, Corporate Conduct and Environmental Harm." Special Issue on TWAIL and Jurisdiction. *National Law School of India Review* 35.2 (2024): 57-68.



## VICKERY-BARKOW, JOANNA

"Eagles and the Enlightenment: Lothar Baumgarten on Myth." *Land of the Spotted Eagle: Werke aus der Sammlung Lothar Schirmer*, ed. by Roland Mönig and Anna Storm. Schirmer/Mosel, 2024, 21-31, 114-23.

## SPRINGBORG, PATRICIA

*Reading Hobbes Backwards. Leviathan, the Papal Monarchy and Islam*. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2024.

# Library

The Centre's library is technically and logistically linked to the main library of Humboldt-Universität and its holdings are incorporated in the general library catalogue and discovery system PRIMUS. 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 disciplines covered in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media.

At present, the library holds approximately 36,000 volumes. An extensive range of digital material is accessible via the discovery system PRIMUS. The Centre's library is 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.

This year, the library received a large book donation with a focus on social and economic history of 19th century Britain, feminist history and Stuart history, the majority of which has been absorbed into our collection. Some of the books were already spotted on return trolleys and working desks in the library and we do hope that they will find many more users in the future.

After years of traditional on-site library tours and a Corona-related switch to an online training, this year's introductory session for our new Master students integrated digital resources in the on-site training. A small teaching space was

improvised in a corner of the GBZ part of the library and the ensuing lively and interactive training sessions in small groups gave everybody the chance to familiarise themselves with the basics of using both our printed and digital resources.

**Please note that the Centre's library is situated in the August-Boeckh-Haus, Dorotheenstr. 65**



The new class being introduced to the GBZ library

# MA British Studies Course Description

**Our postgraduate master's course started in 1999 and quickly became a resounding success. In 2014 the unique MBS was relaunched as an MA in British Studies. We regularly update our course based on staff and student feedback. We offer a 24-month course (120 ECTS) which includes compulsory and elective modules, a work placement of three months, and a writing period of six months for the MA thesis. We provide a unique learning experience due to the diverse academic background of our international student body, the interdisciplinarity of the study programme, and a combination of lectures, tutorials, and practical workshops which allow us to offer highly personalised tutoring while simultaneously fostering early-stage independent research.**

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

**The aims and objectives of the course are:**

- to add competence in British Studies to qualifications acquired by the students during their first degree course
- to prepare students for positions in firms and institutions which deal with the United Kingdom or other English-speaking nations
- to provide students with an understanding of the characteristic features and the transformations of British identities and institutions from a European perspective
- to teach students interdisciplinary methods and approaches, enabling them to think and work contextually
- to provide students with the competence to acquire and integrate knowledge independently and to make research-based decisions
- to provide students with competence in cross-cultural understanding, communication, and mobility.





## COURSE OVERVIEW

### 1st Semester

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
5 ECTS	5 ECTS	10 ECTS	10 ECTS
Introductory Module	History	Law, Economics, Politics	Interdisciplinary Project I (including Culture and Literature)

### 2nd Semester

Module 5	Module 7*	Module 8	Module 9	Module 10	Module 11	Module 12
6 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS
Career Skills	Inter-disciplinary Project II	Economics and Management	Politics and Society	Law in Context	Media, History, and Culture	Culture and Literature

\*Choose three out of Modules 7-12.

### 3rd Semester

Module 6	Compulsory Elective*	Module 13
5 ECTS	10 ECTS	15 ECTS
Advanced Academic Methods, Writing and Debating	<b>Module 14:</b> Advanced Seminars in British Studies	UK-related Work Placement (three months)

\* Module 14 may be substituted by other HU courses.

### 4th Semester

MA Thesis
30 ECTS
Academic Research Paper on a British Studies Topic (six months)

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The postgraduate degree course is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. The course lasts two years. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree “MA British Studies”. The first semester consists of a series of lectures and seminars which are compulsory for all students. In the second semester students can choose three out of six options. Students have to attend an average of around 20 hours of classes per week. During the Master Phase students take part in advanced seminars including ‘transdisciplinary elective modules’ which can also be chosen from other Berlin university master programmes. Furthermore, they undertake a three-month work placement related to the UK with a provider that aligns with their interests. The final part is dedicated to writing a six-month MA Thesis. The entire course is taught in English.

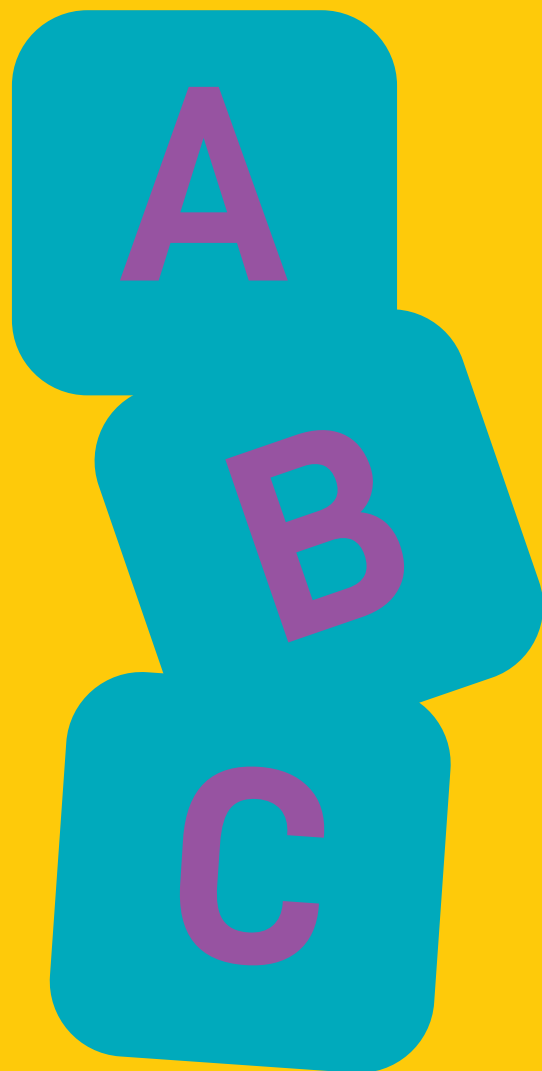
## ADMISSION

Applicants are required to have a very good first university degree in any subject at the time of formal enrolment. Furthermore, candidates need to speak excellent English with proof of their proficiency equivalent to C1 in the form of a recognised certificate. Applicants who can show an equivalent to C2 will have an advantage, and special exemptions may apply for native speakers. Applications with a first degree from a German university will have to be submitted through the Humboldt-Universität’s application portal. Those with a first degree from an international university will have to be submitted through UniAssist. For further details please see our website. The application period is from 2 May to 31 May. Places will be allocated in July. The course starts each year in October (winter semester).



# Modules of the Course

The master course British Studies contains the following modules equalling 120 ECTS credit points:



## A) COMPULSORY MODULES

Introductory Module	5 ECTS
History	5 ECTS
Law, Economics, Politics	10 ECTS
Interdisciplinary Project I	10 ECTS
Career Skills	6 ECTS
Advanced Academic Methods, Writing and Debating	5 ECTS
Placement	15 ECTS
Master Thesis	30 ECTS

## B) COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MODULES

Three out of the following six modules have to be chosen:

Interdisciplinary Project II	8 ECTS
Media, History, and Culture	8 ECTS
Culture and Literature	8 ECTS
Economics and Management	8 ECTS
Politics and Society	8 ECTS
Law in Context	8 ECTS

## C) COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MODULES AT OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Further optional modules may be chosen from either the Centre for British Studies (see below) or from any other master programme that offers such modules.

10 ECTS

## MODULES FOR STUDENTS OF OTHER HU STUDY PROGRAMMES

Here, students from other HU master programmes as well as students from FU and TU Berlin may attend the following module:

Advanced Seminars in British Studies	10 ECTS
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# MA British Studies Students Class 2023–2025

NAME	NATIONALITY	FIRST DEGREE
Abedinpour, Seyedamirhossein	Iran	BA English Language and Literature
Akbar, Amna	Pakistan	MA English Linguistics
Akbulut, Selin	Türkiye	BA English Language Teaching
Aydöner, Sena	Türkiye	BA English Language Teaching
A., Margarita	Russia	BA Jurisprudence
Bal, Burcu	Türkiye	BA English Translation and Interpreting



Çağlayan, İdil	Türkiye	BA Foreign Language Education
Chernova, Irina	Russia	BSc Linguistics
Diestel, Alina Marie	Germany	BA English and American Studies
Dzhamirzoeva, Mariia	Russia	BA English Philology
Eppa, Lina	Germany	BA Applied Literary and Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Musicology
Fleury, Mailis	France	BA History and Political Science (Hons.)
Grishin, Igor	Russia	BA Linguistics
Hartono, Ranny	Indonesia	BPsy Psychology
Huang, Xiangyi	China	BA English Language and Literature Studies
İpek, Kübra	Türkiye	BA English Literature (Hons.)
Koçdağ, Ezgi	Türkiye	BA Psychology
Kukhareno, Daria	Russia	BA Philology; Applied Philology (Foreign Languages)
Li, Xinwan	China	MSc Digital Media Design
Navas Gómez, Marien Nicols	Colombia/Spain	BA Comparative Literature (English and French)
Özgür, Kumsal	Türkiye	BA Economics and Psychology
Parkhomova, Arina	Russia	Specialist International Relations
Potemina, Ekaterina	Russia/Germany	BA English Studies, Minor: Korean Studies
Seyed Mortazavi, Mina Berfin	Türkiye/Iran	BA English Language and Literature
Seymour, Tara Ann	USA	BA Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought (with concentration in Literature and Rhetoric)
Temel, Gonca	Türkiye	BA American Culture and Literature
Vlieger, Timo	Netherlands	BA History
Yashtylova, Elena	Russia	BA Philology (Modern West-European Languages and Literatures)
Yıldırım, Aleyna	Türkiye	BA English Language and Literature
Zhong, Yunyi	China	BA English (Literature)
Zosso, Sunny Kaiwen	Switzerland	BA Literature and Languages, Major: Modern Literature



# MA British Studies Students Class 2024–2026

NAME	NATIONALITY	FIRST DEGREE
Ali, Muhammad Meesam	Pakistan	BS English
Avunduk, Elif	Turkey	BA in Translation and Interpreting Studies
Aydın, Şule Su	Bulgaria / Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Bal, Selin	Turkey	BA International Relations
Brauße, Lola	Germany	BA English and American Studies, Philosophy
Çakıcı, Pelin	Turkey	BA English Language Teaching
Hao, Xuechun	China	BA English Language for Education
Hug, Nina Zoe	Germany	BA English, Musicology
Jiang, Jiaqi	China	BA English Studies
Kılıç, Elif	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Li, Bijia	China	MA International Commerce, BA English
López Gamboa, Alba Daniela	Mexico	BA Modern Language and Literature
Mayers, Sienna	UK	BA Fashion Journalism
Muteva, Milena	Russia	BA International Relations
Özçelik, Saliha	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpreting Studies
Öztürk, Serra	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpretation French and English
Pashalidou, Vasiliki	Germany	BA English Studies
Saleh Aghili, Seyedeh Fatemeh	Iran	BA English Translation
Sarı, Elif Bilge	Turkey	BSc Political Science and Public Administration
Sedykh, Anna	Israel	Specialist Film Studies
Senel, Seyma	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpreting
Soł, Erkin Onat	Turkey	BA Film and Television
Tilif, Deniz Ekim	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpreting Studies

Vasylyk, Mariana	Ukraine	BA Philology: English and Ukrainian
Wang, Zhaoming	China	BA German Studies
Williams, Matthew James	UK	MBiol Biological Sciences
Yahyazade, Narmina	Aserbajdschan	BA Regional Studies (Great Britain)
Yıldırım, Selin Yağmur	Turkey	BA Film and Television
Yumşakdemir, Sahra	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Zhang, Chuyue	China	BA English



# Teaching Activities

## VISIT TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY

On 23 October, our new class of 2024-26 had the traditional guided tour at the British Embassy in Berlin. Sandra Nass (Visits and Protocol Officer) explained the history and architecture of the new Embassy building, designed by Michael Wilford and Partners and hosting artworks by David Tremlett, Tony Cragg, Peter Sedgley, Anish Kapoor, and other contemporary British artists. This was followed by a lively discussion about the Embassy's work, the current state of British-German relations, the war in Ukraine, and careers in the Diplomatic Service with Tom Crewther (Head of the Bilateral and Internal Politics Team), Ilias Ben Mna (Translator and Public Diplomacy Officer), Sandra Messow (GBZ alumna; Bilateral and Cultural Officer), and Alina Diestel (GBZ student; Intern for the Strategic Communications Team).



Admiring the Embassy's architecture and listening to what work at an embassy involves

## EXCURSION: SCHWULES MUSEUM

On June 18, GBZ students enrolled in Module 7 visited the Schwules (Gay) Museum archive. There, they received a guided tour of the stacks and an explanation of the archive's history and evolving acquisition practices. The museum (1984) documents the history, everyday life and culture of LGTBQIA+ peoples in and beyond Germany. Classroom discussions on archival absence came to life as the guide described how different historical periods of criminalization, exoticization and/or repression effect the documentary traces of queer life.

Visiting the archive of the Schwules Museum Berlin



## BOARD GAME SESSION

Can board games help students to learn about foreign policy-making and acquire advanced negotiating skills? After playing a session of "How to win Brexit?" on 29 April, moderated by its creator Dr Jan Grzymiski (Jagiellonian University of Kraków), the students of the course "British International Relations" certainly seemed to think so. In a gripping 60-minute countdown, students had to negotiate a Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU, with multiple interests at stake, external events interfering, and under extreme time pressure. In the wake of several plot twists (such as Catalan independence) and difficult compromises, the two rival teams indeed managed to reach and ratify a balanced agreement, without Art. 50 extensions. The EU team got its way on the Divorce Bill and on Citizen Rights, the UK prevailed on the European Court of Justice and on the Irish Border, and unsatisfactory WTO rules were agreed on trade.



Successfully negotiating a Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU



Dr Grzymiski (left) invented the game; here with Module 9 students and Dr Chiochetti who teaches the course

## GBZ-OXFORD DRINKS

Robin Marwica (Oxford University Society Berlin) and Catherine Smith (Centre for British Studies) organized a joint evening social event for the respective students, alumni, and staff at The Castle bar on 9 February. About 60 people attended the drinks, which offered a great opportunity to meet interesting contacts and exchange experiences, ideas, and career opportunities.

Paolo Chiochetti (left) with guest lecturer Dr Vishal Vora at the social get-together with the Centre's alumni, students and staff

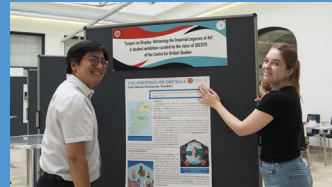




# Spotlight Student Project

## EMPIRE ON DISPLAY: REFRAMING THE IMPERIAL LEGACIES OF ART

How can we recast the legacy of colonial encounters that shaped the British imperial project in the 19th and 20th centuries? Can art be used as a tool for interpreting colonial violence? In what ways can we interrogate the role that practices of display and the portrayal of colonial art and artefacts play in today's society? These are the questions that guided this year's student project, "Empire on Display: Reframing the Imperial Legacies of Art", undertaken by the MA British Studies class of 2023/25 as part of their Cultural Project Management (CPM) course.



Student tour guides, Timo and Alina

As one of the 170 projects offered at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* 2024, Empire on Display took place in the Lichthof Ost of the main building of Humboldt-Universität, welcoming almost 200 guests from 5pm till midnight. The event programme encompassed five main parts: bilingual exhibition tours in German and English, an illuminating panel discussion, an engaging art workshop, expert mini-talks with doctoral researchers, and a postcolonial quiz.

The exhibition, produced and curated by the students, took the visitors on a journey through the subaltern narratives of British colonialism – Indian, Egyptian, Irish, Caribbean, Australian, and New Zealand – and the dual narratives of coloniser and colonised. With the help of student

guides, the attendees thus engaged in a critical conversation about restitution debates, the legacies of slavery, the origins of border conflicts, and other topics. The ensuing panel discussion "Revisiting Afterlives of Empire – Encounters in Art and Academia" centred



A well attended panel discussion

around the artworks of Dr Karin Stumpf (Akademie für Malerei Berlin), Chen Chen (University of Oxford), and Claudia Gattner (Akademie für Malerei Berlin), exhibited throughout the evening for the occasion. This allowed the participants to explore the art pieces in detail and hear from the artists themselves about their work, their contribution to the decolonisation of art, and their involvement in "Afterlives of Empire", an original project curated and conceived of by Prof Stedman.

For the mini-talks on ethnography, anti-imperialism and the effects of knowledge on art perception, students and guests were joined by doctoral researchers Joanna Vickery-Barkow (GBZ) and Hannah Kaube (HU), who engaged in an interdisciplinary dialogue about the imperial entanglements of Western museums, restitution and repatriation, and neuroscientific responses to the knowledge of the artefact's problematic provenance.

Participants seized the opportunity to create collages using artworks, newspapers, and advertisements from the British empire at the postcard station, reframing and approaching those critically, while crafting a souvenir to take home. The event concluded with an interactive postcolonial quiz interrogating the past histories of colonialism still present in everyday life.



*Lange Nacht* interactive: create your own collage

The HU President, Prof Julia von Blumenthal, and the Vice President for Finance, HR and Operations, Niels Helle-Meyer, kindly joined the attendees for a guided tour. The event was made possible by

the generous support of Humboldt-Universität-Gesellschaft.



Prof Gesa Stedman introducing the project to Prof Julia von Blumenthal and Niels Helle-Meyer; Prof Gerhard Dannemann to the left, Amna Akbar and Timo Vlieger to the right

The packed auditorium of the Lichthof Ost and the overwhelmingly positive feedback proved the successful outcome of the course, made months of planning and preparation worthwhile, and added yet another student project to the already rich tradition of the Centre's contributions to Berlin's *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*. Evelina Bazaeva (Course lecturer)



# Guest Lecturers

As an interdisciplinary master's programme we offer a wider range of teaching topics. In order to do so we rely on a group of external lecturers from the UK and elsewhere who support the core GBZ staff on subjects outside their disciplines.

In 2024, these were:

- Dr Olivier Butzbach, University of Campania
- Prof Dr Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster
- Dr Andy Feist, Home Office, London
- Marianne Graffam, Berlin
- Christoph König, Berlin
- Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland
- Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University
- Dr Carlo Morelli, University of Dundee
- Dr Terry O'Sullivan, The Open University
- Robert B Stoner, Berlin
- Dr Vishal Vora, Berlin
- Dr Adrian Wilding, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

# Student Mobility Scheme

**During the third semester of the MA British Studies, students get the opportunity to pursue a 3-month work placement at a relevant UK-related organisation. This allows them to 'study the UK on the ground' and gain valuable work experience in their chosen career path. This feature has consistently been one of the most popular elements of the study programme.**

Our pool of trusted providers currently includes about 50 cultural, political, and business organisations in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, and other European countries. Since 2023, new visa and funding rules have greatly constrained the feasibility of work placements in the UK and led us to expand our network elsewhere.



Most placements and also the staff business trip to Ireland this year were supported by the Erasmus+ mobility funding scheme of the European Union.

## STAFF MOBILITY TRIP TO IRELAND

As part of our new expansion strategy, a delegation from the Centre (Evelina Bazaeva, Paolo Chiocchetti, Riley Linebaugh, Sofia Permiakova, and Corinna Radke) carried out a staff mobility trip to Ireland on 19–23 February. The trip included talks with ten new potential providers in Dublin and Galway, visits to the premises of two existing providers (Pavillion Theatre in Dún Laoghaire and Little Museum of Dublin), and exchanges of good practices with the careers offices of Dublin City University and Trinity College Dublin. These productive conversations confirmed the importance of Ireland as a source of high-quality placement opportunities and allowed the acquisition of several new trusted providers.



From top left: Pavillion Theatre; our host Maeve Long (middle) from Dublin City University; long-term provider Little Museum of Dublin; bottom left: Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre; staff meeting; with Rebecca Wolf from Fórsa Trade Union who took a first student in autumn 2024

## STUDENT MOBILITY 2024

In October, Riley Linebaugh and Evelina Bazaeva replaced Paolo Chiocchetti and Kalika Mehta as the new Placement Coordinators of the Centre.

In 2024, students completed their work placements at the following providers in Germany, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom:

Agrifodent, Granada \* Berlin School of Business and Innovation \* British Council Germany, Berlin \* British Council Ireland, Dublin \* British Council Netherlands, Amsterdam \* British Embassy Berlin \* British in Europe, Berlin (remote) \* British Institute of Florence \* British Institute of Interna-

tional and Comparative Law, London (remote) \* British School at Athens \* Brookside Publishing, Dublin \* English Theatre Berlin \* European School of Management and Technology Berlin \* Greater Birmingham & West Midlands Brussels Office \* Fórsa, Dublin \* In Place of War, Salford (remote) \* King's College London – Department of History \* Lovehoney Group, Bath (remote) \* mc Group, Berlin \* Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, Berlin \* T1 International, London (remote) \* Tribes Press, Galway \* University of Central Lancashire Cyprus, Larnaka \* University College Cork – Department of Sociology \* We the Brands, Köln (remote)

## Reports

**Amna Akbar**

**Tribes Press, Galway**

I knew when I applied for the MA British Studies that I wanted to work with a publishing house. After all the wait and anticipation, I finally moved to Ireland for three months to do my mandatory work placement with Tribes Press, a small, independent, and environmentally conscious publisher in Galway. Throughout these months, I experienced all that goes into getting a book to market. From selecting a manuscript to designing, proofreading, launching, marketing, and shipping the books to buyers, every step taught me how painstaking and yet rewarding this field is. And while the typical Irish weather is not everyone's cup of tea, meeting new people and indulging in literary works by great authors in their hometown was an experience not to be missed.



Keeping myself busy with work and studies helped with rainy afternoons and enjoying Irish literature by the fireplace made my evenings magical. Galway, in terms of work placement and international exposure is one of the best choices the GBZ has on offer. I cannot wait to finally graduate and start my professional career as a book editor and publisher!

Amna at Charlie Byrne's Book Store, Galway, Ireland at the launch of a children's book *Our Rainbow Baby*, published by Tribes Press where she worked as an Editorial Assistant. She hosted the book launch in an intimate ceremony attended by the author's friends and family and many interested young readers from the town



The British School at Athens Library

**RANNY HARTONO**

**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ATHENS**

Founded in 1886, the British School at Athens (BSA) is one of eight British International Research Institutes dedicated to advancing research across disciplines related to Greece. During my time at the BSA, I had the opportunity to take on various roles: Archive Research & Public Engagement and Development. My archival work focused on uncovering the experiences of early female students at the BSA from 1910 to 1914 through corporate records. In addition to curating content for the school's social media, I was fortunate to contribute to several BSA events. Highlights included an insightful

lecture by Prof Yannis Stournaras, Governor of the Bank of Greece, and the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Fitch Laboratory, the BSA's archaeology lab. The BSA offered incredible opportunities to connect with remarkable individuals. A particularly thrilling moment for me was sitting at the same dinner table as Sir Roderick Beaton, Chair of the BSA Council, whose book had served as my trusted guide to understanding Greece before I even set foot in the country. One of the most memorable experiences was realising the deep connection between Lord Byron and the country's history. The BSA hosted a special event to mark the 200th anniversary of Lord Byron's death, and I was also lucky to attend a tribute to Lord Byron at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus. This journey has provided me with insights and personal growth that far exceeded my expectations. I gained a deeper understanding of both British and Greek cultures, as well as a profound appreciation for a collaborative international environment. My gratitude is beyond words.



From left: Dr Georgios Mouratidis (Assistant Director), Amalia Kakissis (Archivist), Prof Rebecca Sweetman (Director), Ranny Hartono, Catriona Gallagher (Public Engagement & Development), and furry friend Chewie; a tribute to Lord Byron at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus



## Class 2022-24

- The Crossroads of Realism? Exploring the Influence of Post-War Italian Cinematography on British Cinema
- Neo-Victorian Violence on Screen: Analysing *Wuthering Heights* (2011) and *Lady Macbeth* (2016)
- Prison Hulks and their Governance: Near to Shore Confinement in 18th- and 19th-Century England
- A Case of Cultural Exchange: William Thomas Mulvany and the German Coal Mining Industry in the Ruhr Valley
- Coming of Age: Representation of Friendship in Irish Contemporary Literature, in Post-Celtic Tiger Ireland
- Gender and British TV Advertising Since the 1970s
- Health and Well-being in Printed Media: A Comparative Study of British and Soviet Women's Magazines
- The British Media and its Representation of Japan
- Public Commemoration: Shaping the Legacy of Sir Nicholas Winton
- Social Policies and Ageing in the UK
- Remembering War through the Stomach: The Making of National Identity by the BBC through Food, 1940-1945
- Trauma and Resilience Through the Decades: Artistic Responses to the Legacy of the Magdalene Laundries in Ireland
- Examining Mechanisms of Autofictional Narrative in Rachel Cusk's Outline Trilogy
- Self-expression, Community Dynamics and Identity in Electronic Dance Music: Exploring Gender Construction in the UK Rave Scene
- Obstetric Violence in the UK and Brazil: A Comparative Analysis
- Social Movements in the Imagery of Modern UK Punk: The Case of Idles
- Art Investment Strategies: The Contemporary British Art Market and High Value Collectibles
- The Haunting Influence: The English Gothic Tradition in Early UK Punk and Post-punk, 1976-1983
- The British Museum Role in the Elgin Marbles Controversy. An Analysis of Curatorial Ethics and Cultural Ownership
- Life Writing: Olive Pakenham-Mahon's Diary
- The Windsor Framework and the Political Economy of Post-Brexit EU-UK Trade

Although this is the third post-pandemic in-person graduation in a row which the GBZ has been able to organise, it still feels special to celebrate with our students that they have successfully completed their MA in British Studies. Once again, students, family members, and friends flocked to the Centre in spring 2024, to toast the graduates' success, to be presented with their diplomas and a symbolic flower, and to pose for photos to immortalise the special occasion. GBZ lecturers, and that includes all our visiting lecturers, take particular care to advise students in their academic careers, guiding their independent research, and helping them to achieve the best outcome. Pastoral care is very important at the GBZ, in particular in view of the polycrisis the students face – and it is harder for younger people than for older adults to overcome uncertainty, survive negative periods, and long-drawn out transition phases. We are therefore particularly pleased to see our students graduating, sometimes with a little extra time or support. They are highly resilient and tailor-made support helps them build this resilience.





# Alumni

Riley Linebaugh continued to engage with the Centre's alumni and keep them informed about relevant events and job opportunities both on an ad hoc basis through the alumni email list and through the yearly Alumni Newsletter. In late 2024, Paolo Chiocchetti replaced Riley Linebaugh as the GBZ alumni contact.

As always, if any readers know of relevant job opportunities for our MA British Studies students and alumni, please do let us know and we will circulate the information on the alumni email list. Please note, however, that we do not generally forward information on unpaid internships or on jobs that lack any connection to the UK or Ireland or the English language. If there are alumni reading this who are not on the email list and would like to be, please drop Paolo an email at [paolo.chiocchetti@hu-berlin.de](mailto:paolo.chiocchetti@hu-berlin.de).

This year...

GBZ alumnus Martin Spieß (2009-2011) rallied the support of GBZ alumni/alumnae to communicate the significance and success of the MA programme to the university amidst a restructuring process. Thanks to Martin's efforts, the GBZ sent a letter addressed to Berlin Mayor, Kai Wegner, and to the presidential office of the university, with nearly 100 signatures from the GBZ alumni/alumnae from graduating classes from 2000 through 2023. Your letter and support helped make clear the value of the GBZ's interdisciplinary MA course, which is safeguarded for the future. Thank you!



We had yet another alumni stopping by while visiting Berlin: Ricker So from class 2014-16

## What happened to ...

### MARTIN SPIESS

#### Class 2009-2011

When I graduated in 2011, i.e. half a lifetime ago, I was not too sure what I wanted to do or what I wanted my career to look like. What to do with a Master's degree in something as exotic as British Studies? My passion for all things British started on a trip to London that my grandfather took me on in 1997 and carried on when I read English and History for my undergraduate



Martin supporting GBZ projects at the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership

degree at HU, so it was only natural that I wanted to work in the field of bilateral UK-German relations. I was lucky enough to get a foot in the door at the British Council in Berlin through an internship that turned into a job working in marketing for their English language tests. A couple of years later, I joined the Education team at the British Council looking after higher education matters. I learned a lot during

my time there and ultimately decided to leave the fantastic team at the British Council (among which are some truly great GBZ alumnae as well) after 11 years and explore pastures new with the Berlin University Alliance where I support the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership. This allows me to regularly be in touch with the great team at the GBZ to support its own initiatives with the University of Oxford, coming as close to full circle as possible. Born and raised in Berlin, I don't think I'll ever leave and am recently and happily married here, living in a quiet part of Lichtenberg, where, in a bid to connect with my cultural side, I joined the cultural advisory board just last year.

### ŽIVILĚ KROPAITĚ

#### Class 2007-2009

Career wise, I have fully switched now from public radio/TV to freelance events moderating. I have now moderated conferences both nationally and internationally. I have enjoyed that very much, as it gives me more freedom to plan my schedule and look after the kids when they are ill at home with different viruses. At the same time, the anxiety that comes with freelancing is there, too. I have two kids who are still of kindergarten age (4 and 6) but one will start school next year. Most importantly in the GBZ context, however, is that after 10 years I reconnected with my best friend from my MA British Studies course, Stanislava Kostadinova. We met two summers in a row! First I went alone to spend a few days at her villa in Barcelona, while the following summer I went with the whole family. It is both exciting and weird that we could still talk as though we had never parted. Hope that tradition continues!

Zivile (right) and Stanislava having revived their friendship that started when they were studying at GBZ 18 years ago



# Teaching at other Faculties

## SEMINAR: OVERLAPPING EMPIRES

Following last winter's successful experimental seminar, Gesa Stedman once again offered BA and MA students of all Berlin University Alliance universities a course on "Overlapping Empires". After discussing some seminal concepts such as "representation", "contact zones" and "entangled history" guests Felix Sattler, curator and member of Helmholtz Zentrum für Kulturtechnik, Dr Riley Linebaugh, historian and archivist (GBZ), and film maker Eddie Bolger (Berlin) introduced the students to working with sensitive archives, with HU's collections, and to thinking about film based on archival materials as a possible output. A visit to the Humboldt Labor then led to the students embarking on group-based research in one of HU's collections. Both student groups chose to produce ethnographic diaries.

The seminar is on-going, and so far, both Gesa Stedman and the students are very happy with the freedom of choice, self-directed research, and commitment that this course allows and demands. Going beyond traditional academic outputs, and not being graded – and not having to grade results – is much closer to research-based teaching than other formats normally allow. Gesa Stedman will continue teaching this kind of seminar in the winter semester but has also decided to incorporate more freedom of choice and greater creativity with regard to outputs in her regular teaching.



Students visiting the Humboldt Lab in the Humboldt-Forum

## LAW SEMINAR

Prof Dannemann, together with Prof Catharine MacMillan, taught a seminar on "Supervening events – impossibility, frustration of purpose and restitution" as part of the Humboldt – King's College London Partnership – Law Seminars, 14-15 November.

## BRITISH HISTORY SEMINARS

Prof Taylor offered two seminars to students of Humboldt's History Department, one on 'Empire and British Culture since the 18th century', and one on 'Brexit and the Crisis of the British Constitution'.

# Events

## Monday Lectures

LEGACIES AND AFTERLIVES OF THE EMPIRE

### BRITISH LANDSCAPES, LAND OWNERSHIP AND LAND STRUGGLES AS LEGACIES OF EMPIRE PROF CORINNE FOWLER

University of Leicester

8 January

The countryside is cherished by many Britons. There is a depth of feeling about rural places, the moors and lochs, valleys and mountains, cottages and country houses. Yet the British countryside, so integral to national identity, is rarely seen as having anything to do with colonialism.

Corinne Fowler brought rural life and colonial rule together to describe how imperial wealth transformed the British countryside and intensified land struggles. The talk reflected on these histories through a series of country walks featured in Corinne's book, *Our Island Stories: Country Walks Through Colonial Britain* (Penguin, April 2024).

Corinne Fowler is Professor of Colonialism and Heritage. She specialises in colonial history, decolonisation and the British countryside's relationship to Empire. Her most recent book is *Green Unpleasant Land: Creative Responses to Rural England's Colonial Connections* (Peepal Tree Press, 2020).



Part of national identity: the British countryside, shaped by colonialism

### 'DEUTSCHE VÖLKER' AND 'US ENGLISH TEUTONES': NATIONAL LITERATURE AND IDENTITY

DR MARY BOYLE

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Linacre College, University of Oxford

12 February

Some literary works are inextricably associated with a particular nation, often to the delight of modern tourist boards. A select few texts or writers exert a greater influence. They are perceived to shape a culture at least as much as they are shaped by it. Shakespeare's England, for example. With the invention of 'national literature' in the nineteenth century, writers did not limit

themselves to declaring domestic works as being of national significance.

In this lecture, Mary Boyle explored what poems like *Beowulf* had to contribute to the cause of German unification, and how texts like the *Nibelungenlied* were employed to shape identity in Victorian Britain.

Mary Boyle is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford and a Junior

Research Fellow at Linacre College, Oxford. She is the author of *Writing the Jerusalem Pilgrimage in the Late Middle Ages* (2021) and the editor of *International Medievalisms: From Nationalism to Activism* (2023).



Mary Boyle on literature and identity

## LIMEHOUSE BLUES LONDON DOCKLAND IN LITERATURE AND FILM

PROF DAVID TROTTER, FBA

Emeritus Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge

13 May

*This lecture was a cooperation between the Department of English and American Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the Centre for British Studies*

Nothing signalled the advent of globalisation in Britain more dramatically than the conversion of vast areas of east and south-east London into dockland. This lecture traced the development of an association made in literature and quickly reinforced by popular genre fiction and film. It argued that this association was a lot more complex than might at first appear – which may be the reason why it proved in turn the catalyst for a different kind of internationalism. In 1919, the Jamaican poet and activist Claude McKay published in Sylvia Pankhurst's staunchly Leninist paper *The Workers'*



*Dreadnought* a denunciation of the racism inflicted on Chinese dockworkers so incendiary that it very nearly led to his arrest, and helped to put her in jail.

From left: Prof Anne Enderwitz (HU English Department), Prof David Trotter, Evelina Bazaeva, and Prof Gesa Stedman

David Trotter is an emeritus professor at the University of Cambridge. He is the author of eight monographs and two collections of essays largely concerned with aspects of the history of modern literature, especially in its complicated relation to modern media. *The Literature of Connection: Signal, Medium, Interface, 1850-1950* appeared in 2020. David Trotter is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*, and co-producer of the documentary film *Eric Ravillious: Drawn to War* (2022). He is currently co-producing a film about women war artists.

## EMOTIONAL HISTORIES OF INDIA IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

DR DIYA GUPTA

Public History, City, University of London

27 May

In 1940s India, revolutionary and nationalistic feeling surged against colonial subjecthood and imperial war. Two-and-a-half million men from undivided India served the British during WWII, while three million civilians were killed by the war-induced Bengal Famine, and Indian National Army soldiers fought against the British for Indian independence. This lecture used the lens of emotions as a way of unearthing the troubled and contested roles of Indian men and women during wartime, exposing the personal as political. Photographs, letters, memoirs, novels, poetry and philosophical essays, in both English and Bengali languages were looked at, to recover a complex range of emotions felt by Indians in service and at home during the war. Seen through Indian eyes, this conflict no longer remains the 'good' war.

Educated at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, University of Cambridge and King's College London, UK, Dr Diya Gupta is a literary and cultural historian interested in how visual culture, life-writing and literature respond to war. She is currently Lecturer in Public History at City, University of London, and was formerly Past & Present Fellow: Race, Ethnicity and Equality in History at the Royal Historical Society and the Institute of Historical Research. Her first book, *India in the Second World War: An Emotional History* (Hurst Publishers & OUP, 2023), recovers and assesses an emotional history of undivided India during WWII.



Prof Gupta on emotional histories



## THE OXFORD-BERLIN LECTURE

### BRITAIN, EUROPE AND THE CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER SINCE 1900

PROF PATRICIA CLAVIN

Modern History, Worcester College, University of Oxford

13 June

*This lecture was a cooperation between the Centre for British Studies and the Franco-German Centre Marc Bloch, associated institute of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

The lecture revealed how Britain's relations with Europe during and after the First World War had long-lasting consequences for global governance. This history shows how twenty-first-century challenges of our interconnected world are far from new. The lecture argued that it is better to see the challenges before us as one of turbulence, rather than expected shocks or crises. It explored how crises and their management are not confined to specific sectors of global governance, such as health or finance. And, it asked what place for Europe, given that for most of the twentieth century all discussions about world order also involved asking questions about the relationship between the regional and the global.

Patricia Clavin is Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford, a Professorial Fellow of Worcester College, and a Fellow of the Oxford Martin School. She was awarded the British Academy Medal in 2015, and a Major Leverhulme Research Fellowship in 2016. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Historical Society and a Foreign Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. She is an Associated Researcher with the Centre Marc Bloch Berlin, and serves on the Editorial Board of the journal *Past & Present*.



Prof Clavin (right) seeing the world's challenges as turbulences not crises

## THE 2024 UK GENERAL ELECTION: RESULTS, POLITICS AND PUBLIC OPINION

PANEL DISCUSSION

Dr Tarik Abou-Chadi, University of Oxford/HU Berlin

Dr Paolo Chiochetti, Centre for British Studies, HU Berlin

Alexandra Forrest Whiting, Deutsche Welle

Jane Golding, British in Europe

**Moderator:** Luca Augé, Centre for British Studies, HU Berlin

15 July

The United Kingdom voted on 4 July 2024 to elect a new Parliament. The results have painted a transformed political landscape that will shape British politics and society for the years to come. As the fallout of the election is still going on, this event brought together different speakers from academia, journalism and civil society to discuss the 2024 UK General Election. The panelists analysed the election results, talked about the state of public opinion and reflected about the political implications for the UK as well as for Germany.



From left:  
Jane Golding,  
Dr Tarik Abou-Chadi,  
Alexandra Forrest Whiting,  
Dr Paolo Chiochetti,  
Luca Augé

## THE EU'S RESPONSE TO BREXIT

PROF BRIGID LAFFAN

Emeritus Professor of European Politics, European University Institute, Florence

DR STEFAN TELLE

European Governance and Politics, University of Twente

21 October

This two-part lecture discussed how the European Union has responded to Brexit, the first and only departure of a member state. The first part with Dr Stefan Telle offers an analysis of the protracted negotiations of the Brexit agreement between 2016 and 2020. Based on in-depth interviews with key institutional players in Brussels and in several member states, this lecture forwarded the argument that getting the process right was crucial in that period. The EU mobilised its collective capacity to negotiate effectively and with one voice.

In the second part, Prof Brigid Laffan took stock of EU-UK relations post-Brexit between 2021 and 2024. Overall, changes in public opinion and government in the UK, as well as the growing importance of geo-political considerations on the continent, provide both sides with reasons for seeking closer cooperation, albeit below the level of formal EU membership.



Prof Brigid Laffan (left) with Dr Stefan Telle (right) on EU-UK relations and Brexit

## THE OXFORD BERLIN LECTURE A HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT WITHOUT MEN PROF PATRICIA OWENS

International Relations, Somerville College, University of Oxford

Respondent

PROF CLAUDIA BRUNS

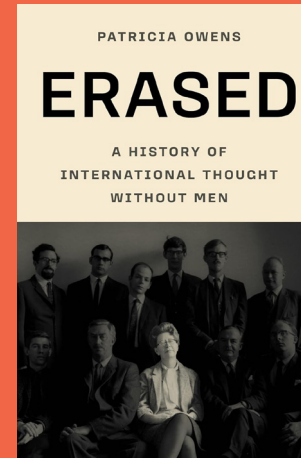
Institut für Kulturwissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

22 November

*This lecture was a cooperation between the Centre for British Studies and the Institut für Kulturwissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

Prof Owens spoke about her latest book, *Erased: A History of International Thought Without Men* (2025). The academic field of international relations presents its own history as largely a project of elite white men. And yet women played a prominent role in the creation of this new cross-disciplinary field. Indeed, women were among the leading international thinkers of the era, shaping the field as scholars, journalists and public intellectuals, and as heterosexual spouses and intimate same-sex partners. Drawing on a wide range of sources, and weaving together personal, institutional, and intellectual narratives, Owens documented key moments and locations in the effort to forge international relations as a separate academic discipline in Britain. She argued that the creation of international relations was a highly gendered and racialised project that failed to understand plurality on a worldwide scale. Acknowledging this intellectual failure, and recovering the history of women in the field, points to possible sources for its renewal.

Patricia Owens is Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Somerville College. She is the author of *Between War and Politics: International Relations and the Thought of Hannah Arendt* (Oxford, 2007), and *Economy of Force* (Cambridge, 2015), and the coeditor of *Women's International Thought: A New History* (Cambridge, 2021) and *Women's International Thought: Toward a New Canon* (Cambridge, 2022).



Left: Just published, Prof Owens' latest book *Erased*;  
Right: Prof Owens (top) on the role of women in the history of international relations, with Prof Bruns responding to this stimulating lecture

## OUTLOOK

Our Monday Lecture Series will continue in 2025 with more interesting new guests and topics. We look forward to a book launch with Prof Eva Ehninger, Department of Art and Visual History at HU Berlin, who will be introducing her latest publication *The Modern Dream of Order: Victoria, Photography, and the Social Imagination* in May; and a lecture by Dr Judith Townend from the University of Sussex on “A gendered ‘chilling effect’: what Al Fayed and other British scandals can tell us about law, power and women’s free speech.” Dr Townend will also be joining our guest lecturers on the MA British Studies in summer 2025, teaching the students UK Mass Media. In November, another highlight will be the farewell lecture of Prof Gerhard Dannemann, who retired in 2024, on “How (Not) to Compare Laws” (in cooperation with the HU Law Faculty).

We look forward to seeing you there.

# Spotlight Keynote 2024

POSTCOLONIAL POUNDLAND AND MISMANAGED DECLINE

**PROFESSOR PAUL GILROY, FRSL, FBA**

Professor of the Humanities

Founding Director of the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism & Racialisation Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London

28 November

Paul Gilroy addressed a packed room at the Centre of British Studies in late November to deliver the Annual Keynote Lecture. Months after the far-right, anti-immigrant rioting in North England during the summer 2024, Gilroy's talk examined popular racism's staying power, the persistent appeal of racial hierarchy in British life and politics, and a "paralyzed" political system.

In a wide-ranging speech, Gilroy identified denialism, multilingualism, digitalization and the 'great replacement theory,' among others, as



Dr Riley Linebaugh introduced Prof Paul Gilroy and moderated the discussion following his talk



features and contexts in which a growing extreme right has developed an "unprecedented degree of political fluidity" in and out of Britain. Whereas other moments in British history have made visible the relationship between white victimhood and fascism, the 1958 riots and Enoch Powell's infamous 1968 'Rivers of Blood' speech stood out as examples, Gilroy described a contemporary form of xenological nationalism that disobeys former racist conventions. Today, Gilroy observed, white supremacy and right-wing movements are coalitional with wide-appeal in their struggles against a faceless global elite, the climate 'scam' and untrustworthy



Prof Gesa Stedman welcoming the audience and the 2024 keynote speaker Prof Paul Gilroy



Answering questions from the audience

states. His talk emphasized non-linear time, that often things get better and worse simultaneously.

Paul Gilroy asked his audience "where to find hope in conditions of hopelessness?" and in doing so reminded us to take our own political agency seriously not just at the UK or German but at a planetary level.

The talk was followed by an animated discussion with the audience, who raised questions ranging from decolonizing the curriculum to the role of art in revolutionary movements.

The new students enjoying their first public lecture

The stimulating evening ended with a lively reception where students had the unique opportunity to meet a scholar whose work forms a core part of their learning on the MA British Studies.





# Visiting the Centre

## Advisory Board Meeting

The Board meeting in 2024 was a special occasion, as the board met with the new president of HU Prof Dr Julia von Blumenthal for the first time. As the GBZ had been threatened by severe cuts, it was very welcome news to the chairman of the board, Lord McDonald of Salford, and all the board members and the GBZ staff, that the president had good news to impart. She had decided to turn the threatened cuts into a mere downgrading of the history chair into a junior professorship with tenure track once it falls vacant due to retirement in a few years' time. The board meeting itself then went ahead with ease, as everybody was relieved that the outlook was much brighter than expected. The board was particularly pleased to hear that the student cohort had virtually no criticism to make of the staff, guest lecturers, and the MA British Studies itself. The problem of the placement which should take place in the UK but cannot for visa restriction reasons was again discussed. The board praised the GBZ for developing a solution for this problem in the hope that in the future, the UK would once again grant foreign students a visa for short-term placement visits.



The Advisory Board invited the HU President to this year's meeting to discuss the Centre's future

## Visitors

**PROF DR JULIA VON BLUMENTHAL**  
**PRESIDENT OF HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN**

HU President Prof Julia von Blumenthal and Dr Lena Zimmer, strategy unit, visited the GBZ on 11 June. Staff presented the MA British Studies, current research projects, outreach activities, and the strong connections with Oxford University. A lively discussion ensued centring on how the GBZ can ensure the future of the MA British Studies in the face of administrative transfor-

mation into a university centre, how to pursue larger research projects with colleagues at Oxford, and also taking on a more active role in HU's large teaching consortium Circle U., which includes King's College as its main British partner. The subsequent workshop on UK-related research at HU which took place in October was an excellent opportunity to discuss these kind of new ventures.



The HU president, Prof von Blumenthal, meets the Centre's Advisory Board chair Lord McDonald, to discuss the future of the GBZ

## Public Relations

**The media approaches the GBZ for expert commentary on British matters every year. This year was no different, with our faculty's insights appearing in major German press outlets.**

Staff members were asked to provide their expertise before and after the UK general election in July 2024. Prior to retirement, Prof Dannemann discussed the forthcoming vote, its outcome, and Britain's modified relationship with Europe and America on n-tv, hr-iNFO Radio, Phoenix, and *Südwestrundfunk*. Visiting Fellow Luca Augé supplemented Prof Dannemann's press coverage with a panel discussion featuring scholars, law specialists, and journalists at the GBZ. Entitled "The 2024 General Election, Results, Politics, and Public Opinion," it brought Alex Forrest Whiting (International News Journalist at Deutsche Welle News), Dr Tarik Abou-Chadi (Associate Professor of European Union and Comparative European Politics at the University of Oxford and Einstein Oxford-Berlin Fellow), Dr Paolo Chiochetti (GBZ) and Jane Golding (Chair of British in Europe, British in Germany, and senior EU law specialist) together. Shortly after the election, a spate of right-wing riots occurred in England and Ireland. Professor Dannemann was asked to address this unrest by BR 2 and Pro7.

In July, Prof Dr Gesa Stedman was again asked to discuss the GBZ's international research endeavours and commitment to intra-university exchange. Her articulations were published in "*Achse des Wissens: Wie Unis in Oxford und Berlin dem Brexit trotzen*" in *Tagesspiegel*.

At the GBZ, we believe academic integrity is fundamental to successful scholarship, especially in the wake of AI. Prof Dannemann was invited to discuss

his extensive research on intellectual plagiarism with *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Business Insider, ZDF, and *Tagesspiegel*.

The British royal family's affairs continue to exert global fascination. As in previous years, the GBZ was consulted on the topic, with Prof Dannemann discussing the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth with *Deutschlandfunk Kultur* and the cancer diagnosis of King Charles with n-tv.

## Fellows

### Honorary Fellows

The Right Honourable Ben Bradshaw, MP

Sir Paul Lever KCMG

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA

## Fellows

Dr Olivier Butzbach, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

Prof Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster

Prof Valentine Cunningham, University of Oxford

Prof Stefano Evangelista, University of Oxford

Andy Feist, Home Office, UK

Dr habil Marius Guderjan, Freie Universität Berlin

Prof Gisela Holfter, University of Limerick, Ireland

Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University, Wales

Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University, Scotland

Dr Carlo Morelli, University of Dundee

Dr Pikay Richardson, Manchester Business School

Prof Dr Steven Truxal, Leiden University

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB, Centre for British Studies

Prof Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Dr Adrian Wilding, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

## Staff

### Academic Staff

#### PROF DR GESA STEDMAN

Director, Dean of Research

Gesa Stedman, director, dean of research, responsible for the events series at the GBZ, liaison professor for *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, member of the committee for a family-friendly university, spokesperson for the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies, mentor *Anglistenverband*. She studied English, French, and Theatre and Film Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and Warwick University from 1989-1996 before joining the GBZ as a PhD student. Spent research periods at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, as a visiting graduate, before defending her PhD dissertation on the *Victorian Discourses on Emotions* in 2000. Research stays in Paris, at the German Historical Institute in London, and again at Oxford, led to her *Habilitation* on Anglo-French cultural exchange in the early modern period in 2005. She was professor of English and American Literature at Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen from 2005-2008, and then returned to HU where she has held the chair for British Culture and Literature ever since. She founded the interdisciplinary Berlin Britain Research Network in 2014, and in 2010, together with Prof Stefano Evangelista and Prof Philip Bullock (Oxford), she co-founded the literary and cultural studies network Writing1900. She works mainly as a cultural historian and her research interests are wide-ranging. Most recently, Gesa Stedman has included art and art history as well as ethnographic research methods into her research, and continues to develop knowledge exchange activities based on her most recent projects.

#### PROF DR MILES TAYLOR

Deputy Director, Dean of Studies

Miles Taylor joined the Centre in 2021 as Professor of British History and Society. He is also an Affiliated Professor in the *Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Previously he was Professor of Modern History at the University of York in the UK, and between 2008 and 2014 Director of the Institute of Historical Research in London. He studied at Queen Mary College University of London, Harvard University (where he was a Kennedy Scholar) and the University of Cambridge where



From left:  
 Front row: Miles Taylor, Evi Heinz, Gesa Stedman, Kalika Mehta, Sam McIntosh, Corinna Radke  
 Second row: Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, Joanna Vickery-Barkow, Evelina Bazaeva, Christine Seuring  
 Top row: Paolo Chiocchetti, Anna Grodecki, Riley Linebaugh

he was awarded his PhD in 1989. He has also taught at Cambridge, King's College London, and Southampton (where he was Professor of Modern British History, 2001-4). Professor Taylor is a 19th century specialist with a particular interest in Britain and its empire. His recent books include *Empress: Queen Victoria and India* (Yale, 2018) and (as co-editor) *The Utopian Universities: A Global History of the New Campuses of the 1960s* (Bloomsbury, 2020). He is currently completing a book for Oxford University Press on parliamentary representation in the UK since the 18th century. He co-convenes a research seminar on the History of Universities (History of Universities Seminar) and is General Editor of the *New Cambridge History of Britain* to be published in five volumes by Cambridge University Press. He serves on the Advisory Board of the *Journal of British Studies* (Cambridge University Press) and on the Editorial Board of *Global Nineteenth-Century Studies* (Liverpool University Press). Professor Taylor is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and a Member of the International Commission for the History of Universities.

**PROF DR GERHARD DANNEMANN, MA (OXON)**  
 Head of Exams and Admissions, Dean of International Affairs

Until September 2024, Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, Chair of Admissions and Examinations, Dean of International Affairs. 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, unjust enrichment, private international law, and also on standards of good academic practice. Visiting Research Fellow of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford; founder and general editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum* and the *German Law Archive*. On the MA British Studies programme, he taught 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-taught 'Constitutional Law and Political System'. Professor Dannemann retired in October 2024.



## PROF DR SAM MCINTOSH

### Head of Exams and Admissions, Dean of International Affairs

Guest Professor in English Law, British Politics and Economy. Sam was previously a Lecturer and Researcher at the GBZ, between 2016-22, when he completed his second book *Protecting Life by Investigating Death: Human Rights Obligations on European States to Investigate the Deaths of Migrants and Refugees* (Manz Verlag, 2022). Sam was awarded his PhD in law by City, University of London in 2016. He spent three years as a visiting PhD student at the University of Vienna under the supervision of the renowned international human rights expert, Professor Manfred Nowak. Sam holds an LL.M. in Public International Law and an MA (joint honours) in Spanish and European History from the University of Edinburgh. He is a qualified lawyer (n/p) in England and Wales. He began his training in the criminal defence department at Imran Khan & Partners and went on to work in the civil departments at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and Hickman & Rose, specialising in actions against state authorities for abuse of power and inquests into deaths at the hands of the state. After leaving legal practice, Sam taught at the University of Reading and worked on the 'Law, Terrorism and the Right to Know' project, also at Reading. This project explored democratic traditions of media freedom and the contemporary demands of national and international security in the context of terrorism-related court cases. Sam's research interests include domestic and international human rights law, Coroners and the Coroners' courts, open justice and the media's relationship with the courts, transitional justice, and recognition theory. Sam currently teaches and examines on the following courses: 'Constitutional Law and the Political System', 'The English Legal System', 'An Introduction to the English Law of Contract' and 'Commercial Law'.

## DR PAOLO CHIOCCHETTI

Lecturer and Researcher in British Politics. Before joining the Centre in November 2022, Paolo studied International Relations at the University of Bologna, was awarded a PhD in European Studies from King's College London, and held postdoctoral positions at the University of Luxembourg, the HU Berlin, and the European University Institute in Fiesole. His main research interests focus on political behaviour and institutions in Western Europe, European integration, economic policy, and democratic theory. He is the author of the monograph *The Radical Left Party Family in Western Europe, 1989-2015* (Routledge, 2017), the edited book *Competitiveness and Solidarity in the European Union: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Routledge, 2019), and several

journal articles and book chapters. For the MA British Studies, he teaches or co-teaches courses on 'Constitutional Law and Political System of the UK', 'Analysing British Politics', 'Self, Society, and Agency', 'British International Relations', and the 'Introductory Workshop'. Other responsibilities at the Centre include the supervision of MA theses in British politics and the coordination of the alumni network (since October 2024).

## DR EVI HEINZ

Evi Heinz is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the Einstein Foundation-funded project 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis', co-led by Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford) and Prof Gesa Stedman (Centre for British Studies). Before taking up this position in 2023, she was a Research Associate in Book Studies at the English Department, University of Münster. She holds a PhD in English and Humanities from Birkbeck, University of London, an MSt in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford and a BA in English Literature from the University of Cambridge. Her research interests include English literary modernism, comparative literature, publishing history, and periodical print culture. She has published several articles and book chapters on modernist print culture and is co-editor of *Whitechapel Moderns: An Anthology of Modernist Culture in London's Jewish East End* (under contract with Edinburgh University Press). Her current research as part of the 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis' project investigates the transmission of English literary culture in the Weimar Republic periodical *Der Querschnitt*.

## DR RILEY LINEBAUGH

Postdoctoral lecturer and researcher in history. Riley is teaching 'Academic Writing I', 'Explorations in British History' and co-teaching 'Interdisciplinary Project: Self, Society, and Agency.' Her *Habilitation* project examines the role of female secretaries and spies in the British empire in eastern Africa, south Asia and the metropole during the 19th and 20th centuries. Further research activities include archival histories and histories of archives, legacies of empire, and histories of decolonization. She received her PhD in history from Justus Liebig University, Giessen. She holds an MA in Archives and Records Management from University College London and a BA in History from the University of Michigan. In addition to her work as a historian, Riley has worked as an archivist in the US (at the Joseph Labadie collection), England (at the Wellcome Collection and British Library), and Uganda (at the High Court of Justice, and Kabale and Jinja District Archives).

### **DR KALIKA MEHTA**

Kalika Mehta is a Lecturer and Researcher in Law at the GBZ. Before taking up this position in July 2023, she had been at the Centre since September 2022 as Research Coordinator for the DFG-funded project on F.A. Mann and his contribution to English, German, European and International Law. She holds a PhD from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and an LL.M. from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. She is qualified to practice law in India. Her work at the Centre includes teaching or co-teaching 'Constitutional Law and Political System', 'Advanced Academic Writing and Debating' and the 'Law and Culture' modules. This year she also served as the co-coordinator of the student mobility scheme of the MA British Studies. She also organises the GBZ Lunch Talk series.

### **EVELINA BAZAEVA, MA**

Evelina Bazaeva started her role as Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in March 2023. She holds an MA in British Studies with distinction from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Following her internship as teaching assistant at Queen Mary University of London and graduation from the Centre, she went on to pursue a PhD under the joint supervision of the Faculty of English and American Studies and the Centre for British Studies. Her research focuses on the intersection of interwar British women writing and film theory in the early 20th century and the broader role of intermediality in Anglo-American modernisms. After receiving the DAAD Fellowship for Completion of Degree in 2021, she spent two terms as a visiting PhD researcher at the University of Cambridge as part of the Erasmus+ Mobility programme. Her project was awarded funding by the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership in 2023, which resulted in a research trip to the archives of the University of Oxford. She is currently working on her thesis, along with other projects pertaining to the field of comparative literature, the history of the novel, and intermediality. As a member of the Centre's academic staff, she has taught courses on 'Intermediality and Modernism', 'Academic Writing', and 'Cultural Project Management (CPM)'.

### **ROSA CHRYSTIE-LOWE, MA**

Rosa Chrystie-Lowe is a Doctoral Researcher on the Oxford-Berlin, Einstein Foundation-funded project, 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis', co-led by Prof Stefano Evangelista (University of Oxford) and Prof Gesa Stedman (Centre for British

Studies). Before starting in this position in March 2024, Rosa completed her MA in Literary Translation (with Distinction) at the University of East Anglia and worked as a Project Coordinator for the Queen's Translation Exchange, an outreach and research project based at The Queen's College, University of Oxford. She holds a BA in English and German from The Queen's College, Oxford. Her PhD research seeks to position Berlin as cosmopolis and a nexus of cultural exchange in the early 20th century, and to investigate the transfer, translation, and reception of texts between Berlin and the British Isles at this time. Her wider research interests include literary translation, comparative literature, world literature, geography and place studies.

### **JOANNA VICKERY-BARKOW, MA**

Joanna Vickery-Barkow joined the Centre in April 2024 as a Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature, after serving as a guest lecturer in 2023. An art historian and artist by training, she is currently completing her PhD in modern and contemporary art history at Princeton University with a dissertation titled "Ethnographic Re-Telling: The Art of Lothar Baumgarten". Prior to her time in the US, she gained an MA from the Courtauld Institute of Art and a BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research focuses on the intersection of art, ethnography, and empire, aspects of which she has brought to her teaching at the GBZ, where she has taught classes in 'Cultural Studies', 'Academic Writing', and 'Cultural Project Management'. Her role also includes handling the GBZ's PR and social media and serving on the teaching committee.

## **Administrative Staff**

### **ANNA GRODECKI, MA**

Anna studied Cultural Studies and Gender Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. After completing her studies, she gained valuable experience in the media landscape and in administration at the University of Potsdam where she was also part of the organisation team responsible for workshops, festivals and readings. From October 2024 till March 2025, Anna stood in for Sylvena Zöllner who was away on sick leave.

## CORINNA RADKE, MA

Corinna studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität and in Madrid, and passed a two-year further education course on public administration in 2009. Apart from taking part in the management of the Centre's daily affairs and helping students with their enquiries, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre's guest lecturers, organises the teaching schedule for the MA British Studies, and administers any structural changes of the programme. In 2024, she started, together with Prof Stedman, the process of the re-accreditation of the MA programme. She co-ordinates the Erasmus+ Placement Programme that offers financial support to students doing a work placement abroad, and she also supports PhD students of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies and co-ordinates its diverse activities. Other responsibilities include co-ordinating funding applications, organising conferences and other events as well as preparing the manuscripts of conference proceedings and edited books and supervising their publication, including this report. She acts as treasurer for the Friends of the Centre.

## CATHERINE SMITH, BA (HONS)

Catherine is the foreign language assistant at the Centre. She studied Humanities with History of Art (BA Hons) at the Open University in England. Apart from managing the office, she supports the Centre's teaching and research activities, co-ordinates visiting arrangements for international guests and the Advisory Board, organises conferences, seminars, and events. She is also responsible for the co-ordination and organisation of public readings and lectures; assists with public relations, poster design, and press releases, helps with the publication of the annual report. Catherine also co-ordinates the MA British Studies admissions each year together with the matriculation office at the HU; is the first point of contact for interested MA students concerning their application and study plans and the pastoral care thereafter. She coordinates the processing of PhD students at the Centre who are ready to complete their doctorate. Other duties include the editing of research papers and publications and translating German texts into English.

## SYLVENA ZÖLLNER

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk. She worked in HU's central pay office, the geography department, and the university's central finance department before joining the Centre in 1996. She is responsible for administering the Centre's finances,

including its various and constantly growing third-party funds, for the supply of office material, technical equipment, and everything else needed. She also helps with the organisation of conferences. Her responsibilities furthermore include the MA exams administration, the filing of all student records and issuing the final MA certificates. Since 2020 she has also been responsible for the changeover to the new administrative SAP programme at the Centre.

## Librarian

### CHRISTINE SEURING, BA

Graduated from the University of Cardiff with a BA in History and English literature as well as from the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam as a librarian. Worked and lived in Slovakia, Italy, and France and spent the main part of her working life as a librarian at the *Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen* in Berlin. She joined the library in 2017 and is happy to answer any questions to do with finding information.

# Student Assistants

The Centre would like to give a big thank you to the following student assistants for their invaluable support to the Centre in 2024:

- Lavinia Adler, English Studies
- Harald Burkart, Law
- Eva Grotheer, Law
- Chengrui Hu, Social Sciences
- Rachael Imlay, European Literatures
- Lara Jungbeck, Law
- Anne Matzka, Law
- Haeki Oh, Social Sciences
- Seowon Park, Biology
- Dishari Sadhukhan, Global History

Enjoying work at the GBZ: visiting scholars, PhD students, academic staff, student assistants





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