

GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM  
CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Celebrating 20 Years MA British Studies

## 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 reunification 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 3-month placement in the UK.

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.



In December 2019, class 2017-19 graduated with excellent results

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## THE CENTRE IN 2019

2019 was once again a very busy year for the Centre.

The large-scale conference, 'Britain in Transition: Brexit and Beyond', co-organised with the *Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung* (AGF), took place in April, and saw a lively round of public panels, workshops, and lectures which focused on the current political situation in the UK.



Ben Bradshaw MP and Prof Lyndal Roper in front of the student's anniversary exhibition panel

In June, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the MA British Studies, together with alumni, staff, current students, and former staff. Both the British Ambassador, Sir Sebastian Wood, and the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Prof Eva Inés Obergefell, were full of praise for our popular course, its unusually high completion rate, and a very strong public profile. The following celebrations were organised by the students and consisted of a panel debate, a film screening, a poster exhibition, and an anniversary band performing songs from the four UK nations.



An informative and entertaining 'long' night for the Berlin public

A second highlight of equal importance was the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* event, part of the Centre's Oxford-Berlin activities this year, which took the delighted visitors on a world tour of literature. The university's president Prof Sabine Kunst, as well as Oxford-Berlin champion Prof Alastair Buchan (Oxford) were among the VIPs who came to see what early-career scholars and post-docs from the Berlin universities and Oxford had developed in a series of workshops to showcase international humanities research.

The Centre also attracted large audiences for its public lectures, in particular for the reading with Welsh author Alys Conran in the summer, and the three poets writing in indigenous languages such as Welsh, Irish and Scottish Gaelic in November. We also continued our Oxford-Berlin lecture series with joint lectures by Prof Lange (Oxford) and Prof Kaiser (HU Berlin), and Prof Murphy (Oxford) and Prof Traninger (FU Berlin), as well as a lecture by Prof Evangelista (Oxford). We ended on another high with Regius Professor and the Centre's Advisory Board member Lyndal Roper (Oriental College, University of Oxford) delivering this year's keynote address on "The German Peasants' War" in November.



Prof Lyndal Roper:  
keynote speaker 2019

Our current students are again a very large group of 36. They come from 15 different countries and are as lively, interesting, and challenging as their predecessors, most of whom have just returned from their work placements in Britain and Ireland. Brexit of course has cast a shadow over our work placement scheme which depends on Erasmus+ funding without which no student can obtain a visa. We hope political decisions will work in favour of the scheme so that even after the transition phase ends, work placements in the UK remain what they have been for the MA British Studies: a much-loved and vital element of the course.



An annual event: the new group of students getting a guided tour of the British Embassy in Berlin

Brexit has continued to occupy us in terms of publicity and public engagement, but also in terms of research, with plans for a further DFG and AHRC funding bid on “Identity, subjects and agency in contested democratic cultures” supported by the Berlin-Britain Research Network under way, and a second funding bid currently being written which places Brexit in the wider context of Britain’s model of interacting with other countries. We remain hopeful that negotiations will consider the needs of academic exchange on all levels, from students to senior scholars, and are doing our utmost to support cross-border research with universities in the UK.

In the winter semester, Prof Eisenberg took over from Prof Stedman as director, after returning from her sabbatical. Prof Danne-mann’s sabbatical in the winter semester will be dedicated in particular to the DFG-funded research project on F.A. Mann, with former Alexander von Humboldt Fellow Dr Jason Allen as the second principal investigator, and former student assistant Christoph König as doctoral researcher. We also welcome our recent MA British Studies graduate Anisia Petcu as Johanna Zinecker’s replacement during her parental leave, and Dr Paolo Chiochetti as stand-in for Dr Marius Guderjan, who is on a DFG-funded research leave in Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Lena Nüchter took up a position at Gießen University.



The Centre feels well prepared to meet the challenges of the immediate future, thanks to its supporters within the university, and beyond, its Advisory Board, its active student body, its alumni, and its staff members of all generations. They once again allowed us a full and productive year of engaging with the public and students, undertaking research, and promoting the goals which are central to our work: interdisciplinary research and teaching, internationalisation, and academic exchange.



The Centre’s Third Mission: lectures on British topics for the Berlin public (Dr Kirsty Hughes); responding to a strong media interest (Dr Marius Guderjan)

Gesa Stedman and Christiane Eisenberg



## MA BRITISH STUDIES

### Course Description

Admission information, as well as an application form, can be found on our website under "MA British Studies"

Our postgraduate Masters course started in 1999 and was very quickly a resounding success. In 2014, Humboldt-Universität's new general study regulations came into effect, and the unique MBS was relaunched as a Master of Arts in British Studies. Our first MA students graduated in 2016. 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. Furthermore, advanced study seminars are available which enable students to hone their academic writing and presentation skills. We offer a unique learning experience due to the diverse academic background of our international student body, the interdisciplinarity of the study programme, which combines theory and practice, and a combination of lectures and small-group tutorials 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 in 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 Structure

The postgraduate degree course in British Studies is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. The course lasts two years and consists of a one-year Certificate Phase followed by a Master Phase which also lasts a year. Having successfully completed the Certificate Phase, students receive a "British Studies" certificate on request. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree "MA British Studies".

The Certificate Phase comprises 30 weeks of teaching, divided into two semesters. The first phase consists of a series of lectures and seminars which are compulsory for all students. In the second phase students can choose three out of six options (see course outline on page 7). 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 spend three months on a work placement with a firm or institution in the UK. The final part of the Master Phase is dedicated to writing a six-month Master Thesis.


The entire course is taught in English

## Admission

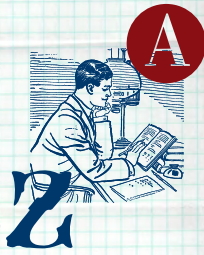
Applicants are required to have a very good first university degree in any subject. Furthermore, candidates need to speak very good English. The application must contain proof of proficiency in the form of an ETS TOEFL certificate (minimum score of 600 for the paper-based test, 250 for the computer-based test, or 100 for the internet-based test), or an ETS TOEIC test (minimum score of 800), or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (any grade), or a Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (grade A or B), or an IELTS test (level 7.0). A working knowledge of German is highly advisable. Applications must be submitted by 30 April of the year in which the applicant intends to start the course; applicants should use the application form available on the Centre's website. Interviews for selected candidates usually take place in June, places will presumably be allocated early in July. The course starts in October.

### M.A. BRITISH STUDIES

Join the Centre for  
British Studies in Berlin.  
Apply by 30 April.  
Start every October.



## STUDY GREAT BRITAIN FROM ADAM SMITH TO ZADIE SMITH



- UK politics / law / economics ●
- history / culture / literature ●
- Interdisciplinary course ●
- Guest lecturers from the UK ●
- Work placement in the UK ●
- Open to all first degrees ●
- All classes in English ●
- International students ●
- No tuition fees ●

Find out more at  
[www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de)

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | Mohrenstraße 60 | 10117 Berlin

## 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 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)
- Economics and Management (8 ECTS)
- Politics and Society (8 ECTS)
- Law in Context (8 ECTS)
- Media, History, and Culture (8 ECTS)
- Culture and Literature (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.

### Modules for Students of Other HU Study Programmes

Here, students from other HU master programmes can attend the following modules:

- Advanced Seminars – Theory and Research (5 ECTS)
- Advanced Project Workshop (5 ECTS)



# MA BRITISH STUDIES

## Course Outline

### 1st Semester

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

### 2nd Semester

<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Module 7*</b>	<b>Module 8</b>	<b>Module 9</b>	<b>Module 10</b>	<b>Module 11</b>	<b>Module 12</b>
6 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS
Career Skills	Interdisciplinary 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

<b>Module 6</b>	<b>Compulsory Electives*</b>		<b>Module 13</b>
5 ECTS	<b>Module 14</b>	<b>Module 15</b>	15 ECTS
Advanced Academic Writing and Debating	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	Work Placement in the UK (three months)
	Advanced Seminars - Theory and Research	Advanced Project Workshop	

\* Modules 14 and 15 may be substituted by other HU courses.

### 4th Semester

30 ECTS
<b>MA Thesis</b> (six months)

## MA British Studies Students

### Class 2018-2020

	Name	Country	First Degree
1	Altuntaş, Emre	Turkey	Translation and Interpretation
2	Babić, Nina	Serbia	Language and Literature
3	Bator, Joanna	Poland	Applied Linguistics German and English
4	Baycan, Tuğba	Turkey	Western Languages and Literatures
5	Bazaeva, Evelina	Russia	Linguistics and Intercultural Communication
6	Berezhnaya, Alina	Russia	Foreign Philology
7	Doostdar, Najmeh	Iran	English Literature
8	Eker, Mehtap	Turkey	English Language and Literature
9	Farooq, Aleena	Pakistan	English Literature and Linguistics
10	Gabysheva, Arina	Russia	English Philology
11	Göze, Hazar Söylem	Turkey	Translation and Interpretation
12	Guo, Yijun	China	English
13	Haddorff, Kelsey	USA	English and History
14	Hebert, Taylor	USA	English Literature, Theatre Arts, Business Administration
15	Hu, Tingting	China	English and German
16	Kaasik, Airi-Kairi	Estonia	Humanities (Art History)
17	Kolyada, Anastasia	Russia	Translation Theory and Cross-Linguistic Communication
18	Kremer, Isabella	Germany	English Philology and Philosophy
19	Lei, Qian	China	English Language and Literature
20	Liamina, Polina	Russia	Journalism
21	Li, Xinxin	China	Business English
22	Liu, Zhe	China	Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language
23	Mades, Andrew Hoy	USA	History
24	Mandal, Trisha	India	English, History, Journalism and Mass Communication
25	Nguyen Pham, Anh Thu	Vietnam	English Linguistics and Literature
26	Nikornsaen, Kornhirun	Thailand	German and Russian
27	Pasetti Dornelles, Bruna	Brazil	Iberoamerican History

Name	Country	First Degree
28 Pkhakadze, Irma	Georgia	Teaching English Language
29 Poon, Lee Ling	Hong Kong	English
30 Rydaeva, Anastasia	Russia	Public Relations
31 Sarjehpeyma, Beata	USA	Letters
32 Savić, Nikola	Serbia	English Language and Literature
33 Stoner, B. Robert	USA	History and Philosophy
34 Tevzadze, Nino	Georgia	General Medicine
35 Turan, Tuba	Turkey	American Culture and Literature
36 Wells, DeJon	USA	English and Political Science
37 Zariпова, Aliya	Russia	Linguistics (Interpreting and Translation)
38 Zhang, Xu	China	English



## Class 2019-2021

	Name	Country	First Degree
1	Antunes Pereira, Rafael	Brazil	American Studies
2	Balkan, Ahsen Nur	Turkey	Turkish Language and Literature
3	Davut, Halil Suhacan	Turkey	English Language and Literature, Philology
4	Fomenko, Polina	Russia	Linguistics
5	Haas, Jasmin	Germany	Cultural Studies and English
6	Hadarics, Piroska	Hungary	English and American Studies
7	Haydar, Hazal	Turkey	English Literature
8	Jalilli, Parvana	Azerbaijan	Teacher of English Language
9	Klishevich, Anna	Russia	Education (German and English)
10	Kuteeva, Alina	Russia	Philology, Literature, Translation



Name	Country	First Degree
11 Li, Jiexi	China	English Language and Literature
12 Li, Pengling	China	Literature and Advertising
13 Lin, Jing	China	English Studies; International Business
14 Macedo Marques, Mariana	Brazil	Media and Journalism
15 Marques Da Rocha, Micaela	Portugal	Modern Languages
16 Mykytyshyn, Alina	Ukraine	English and French Philology, World Literature
17 Nascimento Ferreira, Bruno	Brazil	Advertising
18 Nazar, Pavlo	Ukraine	English Language and Literature
19 Özkoroğlu, Ilkyaz Yagmur	Turkey	Comparative Literature
20 Pedrelli, Simona	Italy	Foreign Languages and Literatures, English and German
21 Rimskaya, Sofia	Russia	Arts, Screenwriting, Filmmaking
22 Rohlfing, Helena	UK/Germany	Politics and German
23 Saif, Anoushaey	Pakistan	Business Administration
24 Salieva, Gulirano	Russia	Enterprise Management
25 Shi, Zhen	China	English
26 Shurshenova, Dinara	Kazakhstan	Development and Planning
27 Tülübaş, Dilayda	Turkey	English Language and Literature
28 Tzioridi, Danai	Greece	English Language and Literature
29 Ulrich, Constance	Germany	Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies
30 Vrazhnova, Anastasiia	Russia	Pedagogical Education; German and English
31 Wu, Zih-Jhen	Taiwan	Interpreting and Translation
32 Yang, Wan-Ting	Taiwan	Foreign Languages and Linguistics
33 Yaşa, Hüseyin	Turkey	Translation and Interpretation (German)
34 Yolgeçenli, Lâl	Turkey	English Language and Literature
35 Yılmaz, Bürde	Turkey	Interpreting and Translation (English)
36 Zarifova, Yekaterina	Kazakhstan	Linguistics



## Teaching

### Example

#### Britons in Berlin. The Berlin Myth

Sonya Permiakova and Gesa Stedman

We conceptualized this interdisciplinary seminar with two purposes in mind: to invite the first semester international MA students to discover Berlin through the lens of a British perspective, and to present possibilities of interdisciplinary research. The course was structured around three myths, three crucial narratives on Berlin, presented and discussed through a broad variety of media:



The students evaluating their colleagues' poster performance in class

- 'Weimar Berlin', looked at through the texts of Christopher Isherwood, Bob Fosse's film *Cabaret*, and letters of the Bloomsbury writers Alix Strachey and Vita Sackville-West.

- 'Divided Berlin', presented through journalistic, propagandist, and fictional representations of the Berlin Wall and the Cold War – particularly relevant in the light of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in the autumn of 2019. To further elaborate on this narrative, the students were invited to visit the exhibition *Going Through Walls* at the Gropius Bau.

- 'Berlin as Art Mecca', through various art works created by British artists in and about Berlin, and through the sociological perspective presented by Dr Melanie Neumann in her guest lecture on British lifestyle migration to Berlin.

Student groups produced posters on Britons in Berlin, ranging from Weimar Berlin to the present day, and as a final independent research project, they each have to write an essay on the seminar topic which they develop in tutorials with one of the two lecturers.

## Further Activities

### Visit to the British Embassy



Our annual visit to the British Embassy with this year's new group of students took place on 22nd November. Astrid Ladd, Team Assistant in the Press Office, once again took time out to show us around this impressive building, tell us a little about its history and also about the resident artworks. Jess Hill, Exiting the EU, and Andrew Connell, EU and Economic Section, discussed British international relations with our students.

## Exhibition Visit

As part of the Britons in Berlin seminar, the students were invited to visit the exhibition “Walking Through Walls” at the Gropius Bau. It was curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath to mark the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, bringing together artworks of 28 modern artists



Picture courtesy of Mary Rose Doorly

working with the themes of loss, separation, division, and walls – both physical and metaphorical. For most of the students it was the first time that they had visited the Gropius Bau – an iconic Berlin landmark, which was itself greatly damaged by both the war and the separation of Berlin that followed. The guided tour of the exhibition provided the students with interesting insights into universality of the theme of separation and division throughout the world, and how differently artists respond to it.

## Graduation Class 2017-2019

Another MA British Studies class finished the course in December receiving the final certificates during a graduation ceremony. Everyone, staff and students, were very pleased with the excellent results achieved by this group. Well done, indeed! We hope to stay in touch and follow their careers via our alumni network.



The graduation was followed by another GBZ highlight: the Christmas party with current students, staff and friends of the Centre. The obligatory mulled wine was served with a bring-along buffet which provided the strength and courage to do some karaoke singing and lively dancing. People were thus able to conclude the year in a festive spirit and enjoy a short relaxing break.



Group karaoke singing and more

## SPOTLIGHT

### Student Project

#### Anniversary Celebrations: 20 Years MBS / MABS

On 20 June 2019, the Centre celebrated 20 years of the Master in British Studies programme. Alumni, students, staff, advisory board members, and guests followed an invitation to congratulate the Centre, catch up, and enjoy a diverse programme organised by the MABS students of class 2018-2020.

Prof Stedman, the then Director of the Centre for British Studies, welcomed the guests with a recapitulation of the MA's history in five acts. Her opening speech was followed by warm words from the UK's Ambassador to Germany, Sir Sebastian Wood, and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Humboldt-Universität, Prof Eva Inés Obergfell. Senior Prof Jürgen Schlaeger, founding director of the Centre, sent congratulations via a video message.



Prof Stedman

A student-made short film entitled 'One Day at the Centre for British Studies' then gave alumni and guests an insight into life at the Centre in 2019. It was concluded with video messages from alumni from all over the world wishing the MABS a happy birthday. On a panel chaired by MABS student Tracy Zhang, Prof Gerhard Dannemann, alumni Elena Schmitz (class of 2003-2005) and Katharina Sprockhoff (class of 2014-2016) discussed the impact of the MABS on alumni careers as well as the impact of recent political developments on the MABS.

At interludes, four songs from the four nations of the UK were performed by students Isabella Kremer (vocals), Tingting Hu (keyboard), Andrew Mades (banjo) and Kelsey Haddorff (guitar).



The official programme was followed by a reception. Guests were also able to admire a student-curated photo exhibition on 'Britain in Berlin' that highlighted places with a connection to British individuals, such as architect David Chipperfield, or to the UK in general, such as Saint George's English Bookshop or the former British and American surveillance station on Teufelsberg. The students had also produced a yearbook-style magazine with a broad array of articles, photos, and interviews, copies of which were available for alumni to take home.

A team of students also recorded a podcast throughout the event. In addition to the celebration proceedings, the podcast contains interviews with several guests, among them alumni from the very first student cohort and members of the Advisory Board. For those interested in a glimpse of the festive proceedings, the podcast can be found under “student projects” on the Centre’s website.



A podcast recording with two alumni from the first Master in British Studies class 1999-2001

Following the celebrations, alumni were invited to a well-attended “Stammtisch” at Clärchens Ballhaus to continue discussions, and to strengthen and develop new connections amongst each other.

From the yearbook:

Elena Schmitz (2003-05): Above all, what made the experience truly transformative was the international element and the opportunity of learning with a small group of students from around the world. I don’t think I was able to appreciate at the time just how much this would contribute to shaping my future outlook and increased understanding of the benefits of intercultural learning.

Joy Caban-Kandziora (2005-07): The Centre’s interdisciplinary method is definitely hard work, but this method has built a foundation in strengthening my knowledge in the field of media and politics, and the training has prepared me to undertake tasks at my present work that includes extensive writing, factual research, interpretation of legislation and decision-making.

From left: the many guests – students, alumni, colleagues, friends – who came to congratulate the Centre; a map showing Britain’s strong presence in Berlin; four songs from Four Nations, the excellent student band from class 2018-20



## Work Placements



Mariusus visited Aislyu Nabiullina during her placement with Jackie Baillie MSP (right)

The placement scheme has consistently been one of the most popular elements of the MA in British Studies. Students get the opportunity to gain experience in an organisation relevant for their future careers and to ‘study the UK on the ground’. The obligatory placements run for three months and take place during the third semester. Our students receive Erasmus+ funding for their stay abroad, thus securing their visa. With the UK leaving this EU mobility scheme, one of the big future challenges will therefore be visa applications and financial support.

## New Placements in the Republic of Ireland



Limerick Museum: A new placement opportunity?

In October 2019, Corinna Radke, Sam McIntosh, and Lena Nüchter travelled to Ireland to expand the Centre’s network of potential placement providers. As one of Britain’s closest and most important neighbours and partners, Ireland has been of special interest for a number of students over the past years, as is evidenced by some of the PhD and MA theses supervised at the Centre. We now also have ties to the University of Limerick’s Centre for Irish-German Studies through Dr Gisela Holfter, who recently spent a year in Berlin as a Visiting Researcher – a new collaboration entitled “Encounters and Experience” will introduce Irish issues to our students and a wider audience.

During our trip, we met with several organisations to introduce the Centre’s placement scheme and discuss the possibility of future cooperation. We focused on sectors in which recent student cohorts had expressed a strong interest. New potential placement opportunities in Limerick are Limerick City Gallery of Art, Doras, a non-profit organisation working to support the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers, Limerick Museum, and the Centre for Irish German Studies. In Dublin, students will now be able to apply to the British Council as well as to the high-profile independent think tank The Institute of International and European Affairs. We also visited two of the Centre’s established placement providers, The Little Museum of Dublin and New Island Books/Brookside Publishing Services. Both have been popular placement destinations since they began cooperation with the Centre, taking on one or several students every year.



The Little Museum of Dublin: a long-term placement provider for the Centre’s students

It has been great meeting the staff there in person, seeing the environment our students work in, and discussing the providers’ experience with our placement scheme. We have been happy to hear that our students have made positive contributions in both organisations, and that some have even remained involved beyond their placement period.



## Placement Providers 2019/20



Kelsey Haddorff (left) and Arina Gabysheva launching the Glasgow Film Festival; picture: John Devlin (it even ran in the *Scotsman*!)



Aleena Farooq visiting London during her placement

## Report

Hazar Göze

### International Centre for Sports History and Culture, De Montfort University Leicester

The International Centre for Sports History and Culture is a research centre within the De Montfort University History Department. My role was mainly to assist with the coordination of the Humanities of Sport module of the FIFA Master Course. Leicester hosts the first three months of this international Master programme and then the students move on to Italy to continue their studies. Working with a very diverse international student group was truly a fascinating experience. Helping with the events and seminars was also among my daily tasks, through which I could gain some experience in academic event and conference organisation. In addition, I also worked in the university library special collections department where I helped the archive team in re-packaging and cataloguing archive items. Thanks to my work placement, I expanded my knowledge on the sports history of Britain as well as improving my organisation and communications skills. I also participated in field visits to places such as Wimbledon and Lord's Cricket Ground, which perfectly reflect the sporting heritage of England in addition to hosting famous tournaments every year. Plus, I had the chance to attend a Leicester City game in their stadium and experience the local culture of the city.



Hazar Göze in Leicester

## MA Theses

Class 2017-19	Thesis Title
Grach, A.	Travelogues in the 18th and 19th Centuries: Russian and British Examples
Arslanyan, M.	A Quest for Self-Invention: Exploring Identity Construction and Transformation in Contemporary British Literature
Baldandorzhieva, N.	Modern Slavery in the UK. The Efficiency of the Current Legal Regime in England and Wales in Supporting and Protecting Victims of Modern Slavery with an Immigration Background
Bilici, P.	Ten Years Apart: A Comparative Analysis of Female Subjectivity and Space in Virginia Woolf's <i>The Voyage Out</i> (1915) and <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (1925).
Cevik, H.	'Taking back control'? Anti-EU and Anti-Immigration Populism in the British EU-Referendum.
Cortez do Prado, N.	The UK Cultural Sector and the Role of the European Union
De Oliveira, V.	Crowdfunding for Justice. A Look at How Donation-Based Crowdfunding is Attempting to Keep the British Government in Checks by Funding Judicial Review Cases
Galkina, A.	The Closure of the Last Deep Coal Mine in the UK and Germany: Economic, Social, and Cultural Perspectives
Grigoreva, N.	Street Art in Glasgow. A Struggle for Appropriating Urban Spaces
Ho, C. Y.	Contract Cheating in Higher Education in the UK
Huchthausen, E.	Anti-Abortion Law in Northern Ireland
Loève, Y.	Cultural Organisations and Climate Change in the UK
Oehme, F.	Perpetuations of Exile in Post-War Poetry from the UK
Park, J.	An Institutionalist Perspective on International Development. Appealing to the Heart and the Brain.
Petcu, A.	Reconstructing the Roma Identity. A Comparative Analysis of Roma Activist Art in Romania and the United Kingdom
Riera Moron, E.	Similar but Different: A Comparative Study of the Green Parties of the UK and Germany. The 'Green Wave' in the 2019 European Elections
Scholten, L.	Contemporary British and German Publishing: A Study of Transitions and Continuities
Seguro Meyge Vale, A.	Fake News in Brexit and in Brazil: A Critical Comparison

Shimanuki, Y.	The British Model and Japanese Modernisation Discourse: Media of Transfer, Comparisons, Political Considerations
Sudas, D.	The Phenomenon of “Cult” Cinema and Deliberate Cultist Film Production. An Analysis of Cult British Films of the 1980s
Tosi, A.	Asylum Seekers and Housing in the UK, Italy, and Germany
Wang, C.	Challenges Against the “Hostile Environment” Policies Towards Illegal Migrants. Two Case Studies of Immigration-Related Judicial Review
Zenina, M.	Scotland and Brexit: How Has Brexit Affected Attitudes Towards Scottish Independence?
Zhang, Y.	An Examination of How and Why British Public Diplomacy Has Been Transformed During the Past 30 Years – A Case Study on British Public Diplomacy Towards China
Zhao, W.	Horse Racing as a Model of Motor Racing? Social Bases, Elective Affinities and Divergent Developments in Late 19th- and 20th-Century Britain

## Alumni

The Centre likes to stay in close touch with its alumni. Last year, to encourage our alumni to celebrate and strengthen the friendships and connections they made during their time at the Centre, we had the first of what we hope will become a regular Alumni Stammtisch. We also provide them with a regular newsletter to keep them up to date on the Centre’s activities. We strongly encourage our alumni to keep us informed about where their lives take them after the MA British Studies. Graduates from the Centre have moved on to work in very different fields and institutions, such as media and publishing, translation, the performing arts, research/academia, teaching, NGOs, political organisations, education management, and private sector management.

To get in touch with the Centre’s Alumni contact person, please write to Sam McIntosh: [sam.mcintosh@hu-berlin.de](mailto:sam.mcintosh@hu-berlin.de)

With the challenges that the changing relationship between Germany, the EU, and the UK is going to present, the GBZ is uniquely placed to act as a think tank and consultant in all the areas that the team and students at the Centre cover: culture, law, history, economics, politics etc.  
Martin Spieß  
(2009-11)

## Stammtisch 2019

During the summer term, Sam organised our second Stammtisch for alumni of the Centre for British Studies who live in or near Berlin. This took place immediately after the Centre’s 20th Anniversary Celebrations on the evening 20 June 2019. From the An-



From student to graduate to alumni: class 2017-19

niversary Celebrations at the Centre, we made our way to Clärchens Ballhaus. We were very lucky to have the weather on our side and had a lovely evening relaxing in the beer garden. Once again it was a great opportunity to both catch up with old friends and make new ones. Numbers were up on the previous year and, like the previous year, the Stammtisch was attended by alumni from a wide range of graduating years. Also present were a number of current and former staff at the Centre including Arne Gutsche, Corinna Radke, Helmut Weber, Jessica Fischer, Marius Guderjan, Paul Carmichael, Patricia Springborg, Sonya Permiakova, Hugh Mackay and, of course, Sam.

## What happened to ...

### **Marzena Currie (nee Przeczek)** **Class 2002-2004**

I “blame” the course for my move to the UK. I stayed in London following my work placement and have been working in book publishing here ever since, with the last eleven years as a literary scout. Looking back at the classes I enjoyed the most, it all makes sense; I was very drawn to the literature and media side of the course, so publishing felt very natural to me. My first publishing work experience was with Bloomsbury, which made such a strong impact on me that I knew instantly that I wanted to work with children’s books. My placement led to a job at a foreign rights agency and then Laura Cecil Literary Agency, until I was head-hunted to work as a children’s book scout at Anne-Louise Fisher Associates (now Eccles Fisher Associates). I settled down in the UK and have a family here, so this is home now. I’m still in touch with two of my old GBZ friends and I treasure those friendships.

GBZ has given me a lot more than a degree: the course provided truly interesting classes, fantastic lecturers, lovely classmates, and, above all, an incredible experience of studying in one of the coolest cities in the world, which I appreciate also for its cultural and social aspects, because alongside all the hard work, there was time to explore the city and to socialize. I still remember those amazing parties, including my own, on a roof terrace of the students’ building where I lived! I’m already planning on encouraging my sons to apply (although they should probably complete their primary education first). It’s fair to say that applying for a place at GBZ was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.



## Visiting Student

My name is Mary Rose Doorly and I worked as a journalist for many years in Dublin and when my newspaper folded I decided to use the opportunity to do something new. My son lives in Berlin with his wife and three year old daughter so I thought I would look into the possibilities of studying at the Centre for British Studies. I am so delighted I did. As an official guest student of Humboldt-Universität, I am taking classes in media, history, culture and literature in a warm and stimulating environment and just love it. I have learned a great deal about the UK academically but also the cultural life of Berlin and have become friendly with the Centre's students who come from all over the world.



Visiting student: Mary Rose (right)

## THE CENTRE'S STAFF TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES

### Seminar: Online Platforms

Professor Dannemann was invited to teach a seminar on online platforms at City University Hong Kong, 8-12 April 2019. The seminar dealt with the triangular contractual relationship between online platforms, suppliers and clients, rules on reviews, liability of the platform operator, and private international law rules.

### History of Capitalism: Recent Economic, Social, and Cultural History Approaches

WS 2019/20

Capitalism is currently experiencing a renaissance in the historical social sciences and in cultural studies. The older concepts of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Werner Sombart, and Joseph A. Schumpeter are being supplemented and partly replaced by newer ones, which are supposed to take into account the state of research that has developed over the last 100 years. In this context, the methodological premises of the classics will also be put to the test. This Bachelor's seminar was taught at the History Department of Humboldt-Universität. It offered an overview of the state of the art in recent research. Attention was also paid to more recent developments of modern capitalism such as digitalisation and the so-called platform capitalism of Google, Facebook, Amazon, Uber and Airbnb.



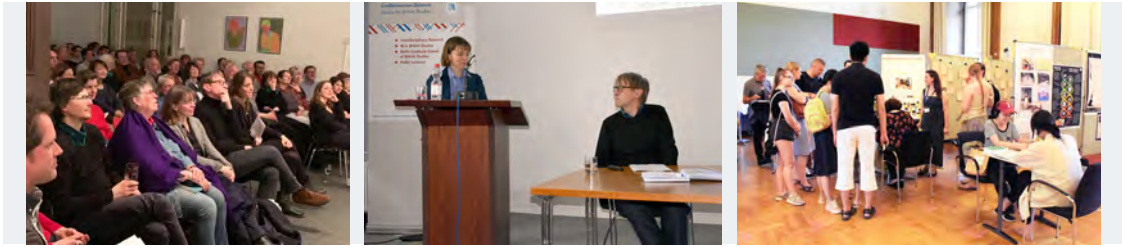


## RESEARCH

### Oxford-Berlin Partnership

With the help of funding from both Humboldt-Universität and Oxford University, the Centre for British Studies continued to build the Oxford-Berlin partnership. During a night-long event at Literaturhaus, writers from Berlin and the UK celebrated a “Brexit Wake”, with Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista collaborating.

A series of meetings of graduates and post-docs from Berlin’s universities and Oxford resulted in a joint project presentation for the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* in June 2019, which show-cased to great acclaim how cross-period transnational literary studies can engage diverse audiences.



A busy year for the Oxford-Berlin partnership (from left): ‘Brexit Wake’ in the Literaturhaus Berlin; Prof Evangelista held a lecture in the Humanities and Social Sciences Series; PhD students from Oxford and Berlin, in a joint effort, hosted an event during the *Lange Nacht*

The Centre and TORCH (Oxford) also collaborated in setting up the first Oxford Berlin Lecture Series in the Humanities and Social Sciences, which began in the winter semester 2018 and which was continued in 2019 with joint lectures by Prof Bettina Lange (Oxford) and Prof Anna-Bettina Kaiser (HU Berlin), Prof Anita Träninger (FU Berlin) and Prof Katie Murphy (Oxford), a lecture by Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity), a book presentation by Prof Kalypto Nicolaidis (Oxford) as well as a joint book presentation with Prof Evangelista and Prof Laura Scuriatti (Bard College, Berlin) and finally, this year’s keynote lecture with Prof Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor (Oxford), who is a member of the Centre’s Board.

TORCH  
A reliable partner  
in the Oxford-Berlin  
partnership



Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista have continued their plans to set up an exhibition on Anglophone writers in Berlin, which is to be shown at

Literaturhaus Berlin and at a later date, at Oxford as well. Partners such as The Bodleian Library, the Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft, the British Embassy, and the Stephen Spender Society have joined them in this endeavour.

One of the longest-standing cooperation projects between the Centre and Oxford is the Oxford Comparative Law Forum, founded and edited by Prof Dannemann with a number of co-editors and continued support from Oxford's Law Faculty.

Regular meetings with Professor Alastair Buchan, who has led the set-up of the partnership on behalf of Oxford University, assistance from our numerous Oxford alumni Advisory Board members such as Sir Paul Lever and Professor Lyndal Roper, and from Professor Philip Bullock, Director of The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), and other colleagues from Oxford and the Berlin universities, have helped in our endeavours to promote not only our own projects, but perhaps more importantly, the partnership as a whole.

## Oxford-Berlin Graduate Workshop

### Literature and Transnational Citizenship

11-12 April

Following the first Oxford-Berlin Graduate Workshop which took place in Berlin in October 2018, on 11-12 April 2019 early-career literary scholars and PhD students from the University of Oxford, Hmboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Freie Universität Berlin met again, this time at the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, long-term partner of the Centre for British Studies. The central question of the workshop was how to communicate complex research to non-specialist audiences, and how to improve public outreach practices in the humanities. The workshop kicked off with a seminar-style discussion of theoretical texts dealing with the questions of academic outreach, followed by a visit to two special exhibitions at the Bodleian Library and Pitt Rivers Museum – where the participants of the workshop could experience first-hand some of the successful examples of communicating research to broader audiences. This was followed by project presentations by some of the participants, including Jasmin Köhler (HU Berlin) who presented her early-stage PhD project “Civilisation” – A Transnational Idea?, and Sofie Behluli (Oxford) who inspired a lively discussion on art and ekphrasis following her talk ‘Travelling Images: Visual Art in Contemporary Fiction’.



Members of the second Oxford-Berlin Graduate Workshop in Oxford

## SPOTLIGHT

### Britain in Transition: Brexit and Beyond

Interdisciplinary Conference

23-25 May

From 23 to 25 May 2019, the Centre for British Studies hosted an interdisciplinary conference organised by the Berlin-Britain Research Network (BBRN) and the Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung (AGF). Junior and senior academic scholars from different disciplines, including politics, sociology, history and cultural studies came together to present their research and to discuss the radical internal and external transitions that have challenged the UK socially, politically, economically, and culturally in recent decades.



Various papers examined the past and future relations with the EU from different angles, for instance by analysing domestic narratives and discourses. While Brexit was certainly the main point of reference, the conference also addressed developments that started long before the British EU-referendum. These include austerity policies and public budget cuts, and the rise of right-wing populist and xenophobic attitudes that impact on the lives of immigrants, particularly in England. To account for the profound social, political, and cultural differences across the UK, the conference also featured papers that demonstrated the differences between England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

A special highlight was the public keynote panel 'Brexit: An Ongoing Transition' chaired by Prof Paul Carmichael from Ulster University, which explained the causes and impacts of the UK's decision to leave the EU. Prof Anne Deighton from Oxford University started with her talk about the UK's legacy as a global empire. She was followed by Prof Robert Ford from Manchester University who examined the voting behaviour and political divisions within the UK. Dr Lisa McKenzie from Durham University completed the trio with



**Britain in Transition**  
Brexit and Beyond

23-25 May 2019

**Thursday, 17.00-19.00 hrs**  
**Public Panel Discussion**  
Brexit - An Ongoing Transition?  
Prof Anna Dagnan (Oxford)  
Prof Robert Ford (Manchester)  
Dr Lisa Wickham (Helmholtz)

**Friday, 13.00-17.30 hrs**  
**Conference Panels**  
• The Transformative Impact of Austerity and Brexit  
• Brexit and the Transformation of the Devolved Nations

**Saturday, 10.00-15.30 hrs**  
**Conference Panels**  
• Britain-European Relations in Transition  
• Brexit Narratives - Discursive Transitions

Participants of all disciplines are welcome  
Detailed programme and registration at [www.gbs.hu-berlin.de/](http://www.gbs.hu-berlin.de/)

Centre for British Studies  
Helmholtz, 100 55117 Berlin

Funded by  
**DFG** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

an analysis of ongoing class divisions. Afterwards a lively debate unfolded between the speakers and the audience that carried on into the reception.

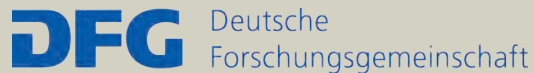
The following two days offered four interdisciplinary panels under the following headings: 1) The Transformative Impact of Austerity and Brexit, chaired by Dr Steven Truxal; 2) Brexit and the Transformation of the Devolved Nations, chaired by Prof Gerhard Dannemann; 3) British-European Relations in Transition, chaired by Norbert Fabian; and 4) Brexit Narratives – Discursive Transitions?, chaired by Prof Jürgen Schlaeger.

The public panel and the conference were well attended. They provided stimulating debates and contributed towards a valuable academic exchange across disciplines with an international audience.

In the course of the event, the Berlin-Britain Research Network and the Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung also held individual meetings and workshops. The joint effort of both groups was highly successful and resulted in a worthwhile academic event that is likely to inspire further research collaborations.

Marius Guderjan

The event was funded by:



'Britain in Transition': a topic keenly discussed in a public panel debate, during various academic workshops and a number of lectures



## SPOTLIGHT

### Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften

#### All the World's a Page

#### How to Travel the World With Literature

This year, the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* was an experimental event. Instead of being organized by students of the MA British Studies programme, as it has been done for many years now, in 2019 the annual event was conceptualized by a group of graduate students and early-career literary scholars from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität, and the University of Oxford. Under the supervision of Prof Stefano Evangelista and Prof Gesa Stedman, 13 scholars from 9 countries joined forces to explore the concept of Transnational Citizenship within the framework of the Oxford-Berlin Partnership. The master students of the centre joined the team on the night as volunteers, and were essential to the smooth running of the event.



The concept and the programme of *Lange Nacht* was discussed during the workshops in Berlin in October 2018 and in Oxford in April 2019, co-organized by the Centre for British Studies and TORCH in Oxford. Then on 15th June 2019 the group came together for what turned out to be a very successful event, entitled All The World's A Page: How to Travel the World with Literature.

The real challenge for us as scholars working in various areas of literary research was to bring our own expertise and attempt to merge it into a coherent event. As a result, the visitors on the night were invited to join us on a journey both real and metaphorical: all the guests could pick up a „passport“, as a certificate of their transnational citizenship, and travel through four theme islands, taking part in quizzes, thought experiments and creative exercises. For instance, in one of the islands visitors were encouraged to become writers in their own right and, using an authentic 1920s typewriter, type down a few poetic lines on the towns and cities they were born in. More than a hundred people left us their stories, which we hope to exhibit at some point in the future.



Enjoying the event (from left): Professors Stedman, Bullock, Evangelista, Kunst (President of HU Berlin) and Buchan



The four theme islands dealt with different aspects of literary travels: urban experience and *fête*, early modern travellers and their cabinets of curiosity, time travel and the vibrant world of Berlin in the 1920s, personal and imaginary stories of migration. Having received a “visa” stamp on each of the four theme islands, the visitors could exchange their passport for a small Oxford-Berlin souvenir. Due to this encouragement, the audience participation and feedback that we received afterwards was truly overwhelming.

The members of the event team also had a chance to present their own research on the *Senatssaal* stage: thus, Isabelle Felner (FU), Natalya Din-Kariuki, and Vittoria Fallanca (University of Oxford) presented jointly a talk on ‘Rethinking Curiosity in the Early Modern World’, and Tom McLean from the University of Oxford discussed the long history of New Zealand writers living in Berlin.



The *Lange Nacht* programme offered an interesting and varied programme: (from left): talks and readings; a swing dance performance and workshop; an exhibition and the opportunity to become a certified transnational citizen

The highlights of the event were, without a doubt, a bookmaking workshop with Shoshana Kessler, the founder of the independent printing press and publishing house Hurst Street Press, located in Oxford, and the swing-dance workshop taught by dancers from Swing Patrol Berlin. Despite the heat – more than 30°C – the visitors were happy to join in, observed by the delighted audience, which consisted, among others, of HU’s own President, Professor Sabine Kunst, some of the faculty deans and other VIPs including Prof Alastair Buchan.

This year’s *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* proved yet again how fruitful collaborations between researchers from different backgrounds can be, and how essential public outreach is for the humanities. We hope to maintain the relationship we have forged throughout this project and continue our collaboration on other projects in the future.



The *Lange Nacht* event was a cooperation between the Centre and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities

## SPOTLIGHT

### The Literary Field Kaleidoscope

<http://literaryfield.org/>

The Literary Field Kaleidoscope continues to attract not only large numbers of readers, but also visitors to the literary events which Gesa Stedman co-organised with the Centre's staff and other institutions. In their blog, Prof Stedman and former lecturer Dr Sandra van Lente, currently at Goldsmith College, London, discuss current affairs and trends in the UK literary field, with occasional comments on the French and German literary fields. In 2019, their particular interest lay with issues of diversity, or rather the lack of it, in the UK literary field. In addition, they report from literary events, or ask guests to give accounts of their experience of events such as the Bloody Scotland crime fiction festival.

The Centre's students regularly contribute by allowing their book reviews, written for the course "The Literary Field in the UK", to be reprinted on the blog. Often, the blog is one of the first or the first opportunity for them to publish their work. As their tributes to the award-winning Welsh writer Alys Conran and the workshop she ran for the Centre's students were so moving, Gesa Stedman included some of their quotations in her report of the reading, which took place in June 2019. The event had been organised together with Literature Wales, where GBZ alumna Elena Schmitz works as head of programmes. The workshop and the reading received enthusiastic responses from both students and the general public.

In November, another event organised with Literature Wales featured the Welsh national poet Ivor ap Glyn, Irish stand-up poet and singer Ciara Ní É, and Gaelic poet and academic Marcas Mac an Tuairneir at a panel debate and performance, entitled "Mother Tongue". It was part of the Unesco year of indigenous languages, and showed a thrilled and unusually large audience that small languages are alive and well, and not at all the province of elderly native speakers.



From left: Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, Lleucu Siencyn, Ciara Ní É, Ivor ap Glyn and Gesa Stedman

In the coming months, more student reviews will be published, alongside reviews and blog entries by the two founding members of The Literary Field Kaleidoscope. Events for 2020 are currently being planned; unsurprisingly, they will continue with the topics of diversity or its lack in UK publishing, and readings with authors from the 'other' nations of the UK, affected as they already are by Brexit and its consequences.

## Graduate School of British Studies

The members of the graduate school have been active in numerous ways. Jennifer Jacob and Melanie Neumann both gave papers at the large conference organised by the Berlin-Britain Research Network 'Britain in Transition', and Arne Gutsche will give a paper related to his PhD at the book launch panel at the Political Sciences Association conference in Scotland in 2020.

Jennifer is about to hand in her PhD thesis, whereas Jessica Fischer and Melanie Neumann have both successfully defended theirs. It is particularly rewarding to see two members of the graduate school finish within a reasonable time-frame, in spite of the fact that Melanie's research project at least was immensely time-consuming for methodological reasons (interviews and questionnaires, qualitative and quantitative research combined) and Jessica was kept busy by her duties as a lecturer and researcher at the Centre. Both managed their defences professionally and are now planning the publication of their respective theses. Melanie's thesis on British and Irish migration to Berlin will be published in the Irish-German Studies series by WVT, whereas Jessica will be publishing her book on the entrepreneurial self in contemporary British Asian novels with Königshaus & Neumann. Melanie is currently working as the PA of the new Irish Ambassador in Berlin, while Jessica has just completed editing a collection of essays on imagined economies, has published a number of articles, and has undertaken teaching jobs for Universität Rostock, among others.



Left: Jessica Fischer, obviously happy about having successfully defended her thesis; Right: Proud of her achievement: Melanie Neumann (middle) with her supervisors Dr Gisela Holfter (right) and Prof Gesa Stedman (left)

Their example, we hope, will be followed by three more successful completions in 2020, as Jennifer Jacob, Sofia Permiakova, and Anna Schoon plan to submit their theses in the first half of 2020. Finally, we welcome Ian Smith (Access to Financial Justice for Victims of Commercial Fraud) as a new member of the graduate school. Fittingly, for a cohort of graduates all almost finished, or at least heading for the final lap, the last workshop held was entitled "Dissertationen - planvoll beenden" and led by Kerstin Köhler, who also kicked off the graduate school programme in 2014.

## Current Research Projects

### Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

#### F.A. Mann (1907-1991)



Prof Dannemann;  
Photo: KIT-ZAK/  
Gruenschloss

Readers may remember from the last Annual Reports that in 2014, Anne Kriken Mann donated to the Humboldt-Universität some 10,000 personal documents relating to Francis Mann, an alumnus and former academic staff member of Humboldt University's law faculty, who, together with his colleague and wife Lore Mann (née Ehrlich) fled racial persecution in Germany in 1933 and went on to become one of the best known legal practitioners and scholars of his age. These documents include letters exchanged with the majority of the senior judiciary of the UK, many internationally leading academics and legal practitioners, well-known business people and politicians. Francis Mann's law firm Herbert Smith Freehills donated some additional 2,500 documents in 2015 and 2016. In 2019, Prof Dannemann and Dr Jason Allen were awarded a grant by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* of around €500,000 for a three year research project, in cooperation with partners and other researchers from the Humboldt-Universität (including Prof Eisenberg for the Centre), the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. Prof Dannemann also attended the 42nd F.A. Mann Lecture, delivered by Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law, Yale Law School, 26 November 2019, at the Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn, London.

### German Civil Code

Together with Prof Reiner Schulze, University of Münster, Prof Dannemann is co-editing the first English language commentary on the German Civil Code. The first volume was completed in 2019 and is due to be published by C.H. Beck, Hart and Nomos in early 2020.

### Research Group on the Law of Digital Services

An international research group on the law of digital services was set up in 2015, including Prof Dannemann and many other key members of the Research Group on Existing EC Private Law (Acquis Group). During 2016, the Group elaborated a full Discussion Draft of a Directive on Online Intermediary Platforms, which was published in 5 Journal of European Consumer and Market Law

(EuCML) (2016), 164-169. Prof Dannemann and the co-reporters presented a fully revised set of Model Rules to the ELI Annual Conference in Vienna, 4-6 September 2019, which endorsed adoption with some further amendments via postal vote.

## 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

“Brexit: Der Countdown läuft”, Schwarzkopf-Stiftung Junges Europa, Berlin, 14 February \* “Francis Mann’s Legal Work in Exile”, Conference ‘The London Moment: Exile Governments, Academics and Activists in Great Britain, 1940-1945’, Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 21 March \* “What could possibly go wrong? Bemerkungen zum Brexit”, Stiftung Humboldt-Universität, 10 May \* “Deutsch-britische Wissenschaftsbeziehungen im Zeichen des Brexit”, DAAD Morning Coffee and Brownbag Briefing, Wissenschaftsforum Berlin, 28 May \* “Suspected abuse of power cases in VroniPlag Wiki plagiarism documentations”, Leibniz Society, Networking Conference for Ombudspersons for Good Academic Practice, Berlin, 25 June \* “F.A. Mann: Crossing Borders Between Legal Systems, Academia and Legal Practice”, Legal Biography Workshop, Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt, 3 July (with Christoph König) \* “Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediate Platforms”, European Law Institute Annual Conference, Vienna, 5 September \* “Brexit: Quo vadis UK?”, 2019 Jean Monnet Lecture, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, 21 October \* “Brexit: Die endlose Geschichte?”, Jura Skills Lab, Law Department, HU Berlin, 29 October

### Other Activities

‘Current Developments in the Law of Legal Professionals’, organized jointly by the Institute of Notary Law, and the Institute of the Law for Rechtsanwälte, HU Berlin, 22 February \* European Law Institute Working Group on Model Rules for Online Intermediate Platforms, Brussels, 14-15 March \* Gave expert evidence on the consequences of Brexit for Berlin universities to the Berlin Parliament committee on science, 18 March \* Conference in Memory of Ole Lando, Copenhagen Business School, 25 October



Prof Dannemann chairs a panel at the ‘Britain in Transition’ conference



Prof Dannemann at the Jean Monnet Lecture; Photo: KIT-ZAK/ Gruenschloss

## Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

In the summer semester of 2019, Professor Eisenberg was on leave for a sabbatical. She used the time to advance her book manuscript on "The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism".

Out of a series of public lectures in the winter semester, two were given in 2019: a paper at the 'Third conference on Albert Hirschman's Legacy. A Passion for the Possible', Berlin, 24-25 October, on "Commerce and doux commerce in 18th century Britain: commercial sport as business and entertainment"; and a lecture in Prague at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University, 21 November, on "German Sport and the British: Germanophobia or the Experience of Being a European outsider?"

## Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Gesa Stedman's new collective project focusing on European exchange in the wake of World War I, following the DFG-funded conference *Writing Europe 1918-2018* which took place under her guidance in September 2018, will be published by the *Journal for European Studies* in 2021. The collection comprises both established and early-career scholars and includes contributions which focus on the Caribbean, Indian, and Turkish involvement in the war. Contributors come from German Studies, French Studies, English, Italian, and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies. Gesa Stedman continued her research on Anglophone visitors to Berlin in the late 19th and early 20th century, which she will present together with Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) in an exhibition at Literaturhaus Berlin in 2021. Numerous funding bids as well as archival research for this large-scale undertaking have also occupied her. She continues to write reviews and blog articles on current literary trends and events for *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope*. Issues of diversity such as class and the endemic and often unacknowledged racism in the UK literary field have interested her in particular. She has completed a co-authored article (with Birgit Neumann) on a related topic, namely how Postcolonial Studies and Cultural Studies could profit from one another, as well as a further article on the problematic place postcolonial novels occupy in the UK literary field. She is currently preparing a funding application for her latest research project on contemporary literature from a sociological perspective. The outcomes of the lecture series on imagined economies in summer 2017 will be published by transcript in March 2020, in a book of the same title, co-edited with Jessica Fischer. Gesa Stedman has also co-edited a book with Marius Guderjan and Hugh Mackay, entitled "Contested Britain. Brexit, Agency and Austerity", which will be published by Bristol University Press in



A landmark for British visitors to Berlin: the radio tower, picture: Martin Höhlig, around 1928



Tasting university air: Prof Stedman giving a lecture to Berlin high school pupils



spring 2020. Brexit in its historical as well as contemporary dimensions has continued to interest her, and has led her to re-write a large funding bid on Brexit from an interdisciplinary perspective which takes the four nations of Britain into account. Media interest in the research network and the new book on Brexit as well as a request to chair a public panel discussion with colleagues from HU and Oxford on academic exchange in the 21st century as part of the Humboldt-anniversary in the summer of 2019, all testify to the urgency of the topic.

## Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE

Jürgen Schlaeger is still working on his long-term project “Selves in Transit” which is part of Humboldt-Universität’s Future Concept funded by the Excellence Initiative and 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 centuries. Based on a broad range of sources from libraries in Oxford, Cambridge, and London the book will analyse the most significant changes in expressing and constructing selves and re-evaluate them in the light of present-day self-perceptions under the influence of social media. He is also co-author of a book on the significance of ‘deep learning’ (*Bildung*) and the relationship between research-based teaching and the specific cognitive imprint it produces. The book will be published in 2020.



Senior Professor Jürgen Schlaeger

## Dr Paolo Chiocchetti

In 2019, Paolo continued his research on radical left parties, political systems and elections in Western Europe, the concepts of competitiveness and solidarity, and social and economic policy-making in the European Union. His publications included the co-edited volume *Competitiveness and Solidarity in the European Union: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* and the book chapter “Make way for the people! Left-wing populism in the rhetoric of Jean-Luc Mélenchon’s 2012 and 2017 presidential campaigns”. He held five invited talks (University of Jena, EuregioAkademie, Transform! Network, Eurostat, and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation) and presented his research on left populism at the annual conference of the Political Studies Association in Nottingham, where he also chaired a panel. He was elected secretary of the PSA Italian Politics Specialist Group (PSA-IPSG), launching a new newsletter and overseeing the communication and organisational activities of the group. He refereed articles for the journals *Government and Opposition* and *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft*.



Paolo researches the radical left in Western Europe; the above book was published in 2017

Finally, he continued to serve as a country expert for the Varieties of Democracy Project (University of Gothenburg) and as member of the Brexit Policy Panel (King's College London).

Paolo's current research plans focus on the impact of Brexit on the British political system and on historical shifts in Euroscepticism and Europhilia among elites, members, and voters of UK parties.

## Dr Marius Guderjan



Marius on "Contested Britain" at his conference 'Britain in Transition' at the Centre in May

2019 was an eventful year for Marius. In March, he visited Edinburgh to conduct a series of interviews and study the relations between the Scottish and UK Governments. This has been part of a post-doc project focusing on intergovernmental relations in the whole of the UK. Thanks to a successful application with the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, he received a scholarship to undertake further interviews with politicians and officials from the Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish, and UK executives and legislatives during the academic year 2019/2020. During his research leave Marius is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Stirling and presented his findings at the Centre on Constitutional Change of the University of Edinburgh.

Together with Sam McIntosh and Paul Carmichael, Marius organised the conference 'Britain in Transition: Brexit and Beyond' at the Centre on 23-25 May. The conference was a joint event by the Berlin Britain Research Network (BBRN) and the Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung (AGF) funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

Together with Gesa Stedman and Hugh Mackay, Marius submitted the final typescript for their edited book *Contested Britain: Brexit, Austerity and Agency* featuring a co-authored chapter with Adrian Wilding on Brexit Populism: Disenfranchisement and Agency; to be published by Bristol University Press in March 2020.

## Dr Sam McIntosh

Since October 2018, Sam has been working on the project "Refugee Lives Matter: Protecting the human rights of migrants and refugees through international and regional obligations to investigate deaths". The project is funded by a research grant from the Volkswagen Foundation under the highly competitive 'Original Isn't it?' funding line, 'Komm! ins Offene...'. The research is looking at the implications of international and regional investigative obligations when it comes to the deaths of unsettled migrants and refugees within or close to the borders of Council of Europe member States. In October 2019, together with Corinna Radke and Lena Nüchter,

Sam travelled to Ireland to visit a number of enterprises in Limerick and Dublin as part of an effort to expand the Centre's work-placement providers. While in Limerick, Sam also gave a guest lecture entitled "The outsourcing and off-shoring of border control: state responsibility and a legal obligation to investigate deaths beyond borders". The event was chaired by Prof Tom Lodge, of Limerick University's Department of Politics and Public Administration. This was the first Lecture as part of a newly developed cooperation project between the Centre and Limerick University's Centre for Irish-German Studies, entitled "Encounters and Exchange".

Also in October of this year, Sam attended and presented his research at the the RESPOND Conference, 'Unpacking the Challenges and Possibilities for Migration Governance', at The University of Cambridge. His conference paper was entitled "Protecting Life by Investigating Death: Migration governance and the procedural obligation under Article 2 ECHR."



Sam giving a talk at Limerick University, with Dr Holfter and fellow visitors Lena and Corinna



## Jessica Fischer

Jessica defended her PhD thesis "AGENCY. The Entrepreneurial Self in Narratives of Transformation: Debuting into the Literary Field at the Dawn of the 21st Century". The research project investigated contemporary literature in the light of neoliberal discourses. It focused on novels published after 9/11 or 7/7, and specifically, on the forms of agency they construct for British Asian identities in the way the lives of the protagonists are narrated. In addition, she prepared a postdoc project with the working title "ADVENTURE. British Stories and Visuals of Venturing Subjects at the Turn of the 20th Century." She presented her research at the Centre for British Studies, at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and at the University of Rostock.

She actively participated in the research cooperation 'Literature and Transnational Citizenship' and in the exhibition for the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 'All the World's a Page – How to Travel the World with Literature' as part of the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership. Together with Gesa Stedman she edited a collection of essays entitled "Imagined Economies which will be published by transcript in March 2020.



Jessica with her second thesis supervisor Prof Elahe Haschemi Yekani

## Felicia Kompio

Felicia continued to work on her PhD thesis on urban political participation in early 19th century Europe. She looks at revolutionary events in three cities around 1830 in order to gain insight into changing practices, their perceptions and both the local and

Ruins of Queen Square, Bristol, 30 October 1831



European discourse accompanying this process. Her PhD project thus combines a microhistorical approach and the European perspective as well as urban history and the history of revolutions. It is supervised by Prof Thomas Mergel (Department of History, Humboldt-University of Berlin) and Prof Christiane Eisenberg.

## Sofia Permiakova



Sofia (left) congratulating her predecessor Jessica on her thesis

Sofia (Sonya) Permiakova officially joined the Centre for British Studies again in April 2019, replacing Dr Jessica Fischer in her position as lecturer and researcher in British Literature and Culture. Since then, Sonya supervised the GBZ event at Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften, which in 2019 was conceptualized and organized by early-career scholars from HU, FU, and the University of Oxford within the framework of the Oxford-Berlin Research Partnership. In June 2019, Sonya presented the public outreach work done by the Centre, including the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften event, at the Alexander von Humboldt Lunchtime Fair. In 2019 Sonya also joined Prof Philip Bullock (University of Oxford) and Prof Gesa Stedman in their editorial work on the special issue for the *Journal of European Studies on World War I and its aftermath*, which will be published in November 2021. Sonya is currently working on the final chapter of her PhD thesis on British women's war poetry of the First and the Second World Wars, which she expects to submit in the summer semester 2020.

## Visiting Researchers

### Dr Jason Allen, LL.M

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Jason concluded his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the GBZ in August 2019. During the year, Jason maintained a busy speaking schedule, published a number of articles in leading journals including the *The International Lawyer and the Modern Law Review*, and collaborated on high-impact policy documents including the CCAF Global Cryptoasset Regulatory Landscape Study, a thought leadership report for the Stock Exchange of Thailand on the legal and regulatory aspects of a digital asset trading platform, and a SU-ERF Policy Note. During 2019, Jason put out a Call for Papers for a special edition of the *Journal of Law, Information and Science* on "smart legal contracts", including a lead article by Sir Geoffrey Vos, Chancellor of the High Court of England and Wales, which will be published in 2020. Progress continued on Jason's mono-

graph “Judicial Review of Non-Statutory Executive Powers” and his translation of Christian von Bar’s *Common European Property Law*. In early 2019, Jason made an application with Prof Danneemann to the DFG for a 3-year project on F.A. Mann. They received notice of substantial funding to commence January 2020. The project includes the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (London) and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History (Frankfurt) as cooperating institutions, and a number of eminent co-investigators around the world. Jason made a further successful funding application for a pilot project under the “Rebuilding Macroeconomics” project (funded by the ESRC and housed at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in London). Their project explores “Legal and Economic Conceptions of Money” and commenced in August. This occasioned an appointment at the QMUL Centre for Commercial Law Studies. Jason was appointed as a Research Affiliate of the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance and as a Senior Fellow at the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, both in September.



Jason presenting a paper at the LSE Systemic Risk Centre conference which has now been published by the *Modern Law Review*

## Dr Gisela Holfter

Gisela Holfter is Senior Lecturer in German and co-founder and since 2019 sole Director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick. During her time in Berlin she was engaged in a number of projects, including three book editions: *Ireland in the European Eye* (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy), *Wandern und Plaudern mit Fontane – Literarische Begegnungen mit der Mark Brandenburg heute* (Berlin: Quintus) and *Exploring Connections between Ireland and the GDR*, volume 11 of the Irish-German Studies series (Trier: WVT), all published between June and October 2019. She also organised a colloquium on 90 years diplomatic relations between Ireland and Germany in collaboration with the Irish Embassy in Berlin in June 2019. And the joint PhD supervision with Gesa Stedman of Melanie Neumann came to an end when Melanie successfully defended her thesis, also in June.



Gisela Holfter with Catherine and Corinna

## Prof Dr Patricia Springborg

Emerita Professor of Political Science from the University of Sydney and from the School of Economics, Free University of Bolzano Patricia Springborg will participate with Jason Allen, Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow at GBZ on a joint project on ‘Sovereignty and the Jurisprudence of Office’, which we foresee will produce a future conference. Her current publications on Constitutionalism and on

'the artificial person of the state' are preparatory for the project. From 16-21 July, 2019, she was an invited participant at the Zagreb University Summer School in Modern Political Theory, Croatia and presented a paper on "Hobbes's 'purely artificial' person of the state as the legal foundation for the early modern state".

## Dr Harrison Tait

Harry Tait holds degrees in law and history from the Universities of Queensland and Oxford, and was admitted to practice in Queensland in 2014. He teaches legal philosophy at University College London (UCL), where he has been a teaching fellow since 2015, having previously taught at SciencesPo, and the University of Oxford. He completed his doctorate, "Normative Foundations of Corporate Insolvency Law" in 2019, working under the supervision of Professor Leslie Green and Dr Kristin van Zwieten at the University of Oxford. In 2016-17 he was a visiting researcher at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, and was a visiting scholar at the Centre for British Studies for 2018-19. His current research concerns the law and policy of corporate restructuring procedures, cross-border insolvency law, and theories of distributive justice.

## Research Lunch

### Between Böll and Brexit

#### Some thoughts on Anglo-German versus Irish-German Relations

In 2018, the Centre introduced a new format for presenting work-in-progress research: while participants can bring their lunch, a guest researcher presents his or her current research project. This year's talk was given by Dr Gisela Holfter, who spent a research sabbatical year at the Centre. After introducing some historical insights into Irish-German relations, she discussed ideas about forms of future cooperation between the Centre and the Centre for German-Irish Studies, University of Limerick. First steps have been taken with Dr Sam McIntosh's visit to Limerick to give a lecture on his current research project. In 2020, Sonya Permiakova will present her PhD project in Limerick, and, together with Prof Carmichael from Ulster University, Dr Holfter and the Centre will jointly organise a lecture series on the decade of centenaries from an Irish and Northern Irish perspective.

Dr Gisela Holfter on plans to continue the Berlin-Limerick partnership





## Doctoral Students

### Culture and Literature Department

Supervision by Prof Gesa Stedman, unless otherwise stated

**Jessica Fischer:** defended her thesis on “AGENCY. The Entrepreneurial Self in Narratives of Transformation: Debuting into the Literary Field at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century.”

**Jennifer Jacob:** “Between Independence and Interference: A Comparative Study of Funding Agencies as Intermediaries Between Politics and Science in the UK and Germany”. Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann and Prof Schlaeger.

**Melanie Neumann:** defended her thesis on “Recent Irish and British Migration to Berlin – A Case of Lifestyle Migration?”. Co-supervised by Dr Gisela Holfter (University of Limerick).

**Sonya Permiakova:** “Women on War, War on Women: British Women’s Poetry of the First and the Second World Wars in the Context of Contemporary Commemorative Culture – Exclusion, Reception and Re-conceptualization”.

**Tathagata Sarkar:** “Peaceful Protest in a Democracy: A Comparative Study of the Legislative and Police Response of the Democratic Governments of India and the UK and its Effect on the Right to Assemble and Expression”. Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann.

**Anna Schoon:** “European Literature in the Context of European Cultural Policy – The European Union Prize for Literature in the UK, Ireland, and Germany”. Co-supervised by Prof Schlaeger.

**Johanna Zinecker:** “Entanglements of Artistic Practice and Mental Health in the UK”. Joint PhD in English Research with King’s College, London, co-supervised by Prof Eveline Kilian (English Department, HU Berlin) and Prof Brian Hurwitz (KCL).

### History Department

Supervision by Prof Christiane Eisenberg

**Felicia Kompio:** “Revolution of the Street. Forms of Political Participation in early 19th-Century European Cities”. Co-supervised by Prof Thomas Mergel (History Department, HU Berlin).

**Florian Pauls:** “A Cultural Exchange? The British Forces in Berlin and their Relationship to their German Neighbours”.

**Stephan Schwanke:** “Endless Leisure? Australian Surf Culture from 1945 Onwards”.



From left: Arne Gutsche, Anna Schoon, Lena Nüchter and Sonya Permiakova



Melanie Neumann giving a talk at the ‘Britain in Transition’ conference

## Law Department

Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann



Prof Dannemann (left) meets his supervisees regularly to discuss work-in-progress: Kevin Schmauß, Tathagata Sarkar, Arne Gutsche, and Christoph König (from left)

**Petrit Elshani:** “State Liability in ICSID Case Law: Grounds of Justification”.

**Robert Ficht:** “Statutory Control of Unfair Contract Terms in Business Contracts”.

**Arne Gutsche:** “Conceptions of Contract as a Question of National Identity”.

**Christoph König:** “F.A. Mann (1909-1991)”.

**Kevin Schmauß:** “Rechtvergleichende Betrachtung der Richterauswahl für das Bundesverfassungsgericht der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und dem Supreme Court des Vereinigten Königreiches von Großbritannien und Nordirland”.

**Ian Smith:** “Access to Financial Justice for Victims of Commercial Fraud”.

**Katharina Steinbrück:** submitted her PhD thesis on “Changing Consumer Law in the United Kingdom after Brexit? A Study in Laws Governing Consumer Credit and Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts in the UK, Germany, Norway and Switzerland”.

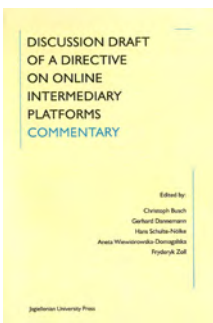
**Tetjana Trachuk:** “Smart Contracts: Challenges of Effective Implementation from a Comparative Perspective with a Focus on Germany, Ukraine, England, and the United States of America”.

## Publications

**DANNEMANN, G.**, with Christoph Busch, Hans Schulte-Nölke, Aneta Wiewiórowska-Domagalska and Fryderyk Zoll, editors. *Discussion Draft of a Directive on Online Intermediary Platforms: Commentary*. Jagellonian University Press, 2019.

---. “Comparative Law: Study of Similarities or Differences?” *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law*. 2nd ed., edited by Mathias Reimann and Reinhard Zimmermann, OUP, 2019, pp. 390-422.

---. “Internationales Privatrecht.” *Staatslexikon Recht, Wirtschaft, Gesellschaft*. Vol. 3, Herder Verlag, 2019, pp. 430-435.



---. "Juristische Methodenlehre in England." *The Rabel Journal of Comparative and Private International Law*, vol. 83, 2019, pp. 330-345.

Continued as General Editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum* and of the *German Law Archive*.

**EISENBERG, Ch.** Review of *Unternehmen Sport. Die Geschichte von adidas*, by Rainer Karlsch, Christian Kleinschmidt, Jörg Lesczenski, Anne Sudrow. *Zeitschrift für Unternehmensgeschichte*, vol. 64, no. 2, 2019, pp. 292-294.

**STEDMAN, G.** "Fire and Fury – The (British) Literary Field in 2018." *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope*, online, <http://literaryfield.org/>, March 2019.

---. "Caution. Reading in Progress. Scotland!" *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope*, online, June 2019.

---. "Caution. Reading in Progress. Class!" *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope*, online, October 2019.

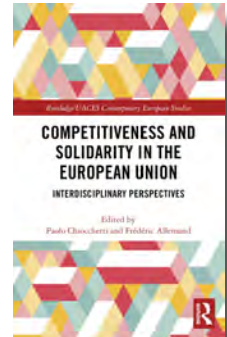
**CHIOCCHETTI, P.** and Frédéric Allemand, editors. *Competitiveness and solidarity in the European Union: interdisciplinary perspectives*. Routledge, 2019.

---. "Competitiveness, solidarity, and their relationship: a theoretical framework". *Competitiveness and solidarity in the European Union: interdisciplinary perspectives*, edited by Paolo Chiocchetti and Frédéric Allemand, Routledge, 2019, pp. 14-39.

---. "'Make way for the people!' Left-wing populism in the rhetoric of Jean-Luc Mélenchon's 2012 and 2017 presidential campaigns." *Left radicalism and populism in Europe*, edited by Giorgos Charalambous and Gregoris Ioannou, Routledge, 2019, pp. 106-128.

**FISCHER, J.** and Marius Guderjan. "Understanding Brexit: Agency in a Divided Britain." *Brexit and the Divided Kingdom, special issue of Journal for the Study of British Cultures*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2019, pp. 17-30.

**GUDERJAN, M.**, and Jessica Fischer. "Understanding Brexit: Agency in a Divided Britain." *Brexit and the Divided Kingdom, special issue of Journal for the Study of British Cultures*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2019, pp. 17-30.



## Visiting Researchers

**ALLEN, J.G.** "Negotiability in Digital Environments." *Butterworths International Journal of International Banking and Financial Law*, July/August 2019, pp. 459-463.

---. "Property in Digital Coins." *European Property Law Journal*, vol. 8, no. 1, 2019, pp. 64-101.

---, Apolline Blandin, Ann Sofie Cloots, Hatim Hussain, Michel Rauchs, Rasheed Saleuddin, Bryan Zhang, and Katherine Cloud. *Global Regulatory Landscape Study*. Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance and Nomura Institute, April 2019.

---, and R.M. Lastra. "Virtual Currencies in the Eurosystem: Challenges Ahead." *The International Lawyer*, vol. 52, no. 2, 2019, pp. 177-232.

---, and R.M. Lastra. "Towards a European Governance Framework for Cryptoassets." *SUERF Policy Note*, vol. 110, November 2019.

**HOLFTER, G.**, Deirdre Byrnes, and Jean E. Conacher, editors. *Exploring Connections between Ireland and the GDR*. Vol. 11, Irish-German Studies Series, WVT, 2019.

---, and Godela Weiss-Sussex, editors. *Wandern und Plaudern mit Fontane – Literarische Begegnungen mit der Mark Brandenburg heute*. Quintus, 2019.

---, Bettina Migge, editors. *Ireland in the European Eye*. Royal Irish Academy, 2019.

---. "A History of 'Uninformed Sympathy' or Love and Hate in Brexit Times? Comparing Anglo-German and Irish-German Relations." *Angermion – Yearbook for Anglo-German Literary Criticism, Intellectual History and Cultural Transfers*, vol 12, no. 1, 2019, pp. 183-204.

---. "Historizing the Conversation." *Unterrichtspraxis – Teaching German*, vol 52, no. 2, Fall 2019, pp. 130-137.

---. "The Nation as an Indispensable Construct and its Pitfalls." *The German Quarterly*, vol 92, no. 4, Fall 2019, pp. 458-461.

---. "On Ireland in the GDR – and the GDR in Ireland." *Exploring Connections between Ireland and the GDR*, vol. 11, Irish-German Studies Series, edited by G. Holfter et al, WVT, 2019, pp. 11-36.

---, and Doris Wagner. "Deutschland – Finnland – Irland: Der Linguist Ernst Lewy (1881–1966)." *Die vielen Gesichter der Germanistik*, edited by Mia Raitaniemi et al, Peter Lang, 2019, pp. 263-275.



**SPRINGBORG, P.** "Constitutionalism and Antiquity Transformation." *Global Intellectual History*, vol. 4, no. 3, 2019, pp. 223-49. Special review issue: Benjamin Straumann's Crisis and Constitutionalism.

---. "Raylor's Revisionist Humanist Hobbes". Review of *Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Thomas Hobbes*, by Timothy Raylor. *Global Intellectual History*, online, 17 April 2019.

---. "Quentin Skinner and Hobbes's Artificial Person of the State Redux". Review of *From Humanism to Hobbes: Studies in Rhetoric and Politics*, by Quentin Skinner. *Global Intellectual History*, online, 30 October 2019.

---. "Constitutionalism, Ancient and Oriental." *Comparative Constitution Making*, edited by Hanna Lerner and David Landau, Edward Elgar, 2019, pp. 363-83.

---, Gianni Paganini, Quentin Skinner, and Susan Sreedhar. *New Directions for Hobbes Research*. European Hobbes Network website.

## 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 relevant disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 36,000 volumes. An extensive range of electronic material is accessible via the library 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. In 2019 the change of the libraries signage to bilingual English/German information and English signs for the GBZ part of the library to improve access for international users was completed. The library was also involved in the compilation of a list of selected online resources relevant to British Studies, which can now be found on the website of the Centre.

Please note that the Centre's library is situated in the

**August-Boeckh-Haus, Dorotheenstr. 65**

There is a small reference library available in Mohrenstraße 60 to be used on the spot by students and staff

## EVENTS

### Keynote Lecture

#### Emotions and the German Peasants' War 1524/1525

Professor Lyndal Roper, Fellow and Regius Professor of History, Oriel College, University of Oxford

5 November



Room with a view:  
Senatssaal in the HU  
main building,  
Unter den Linden

Every year the Centre's Keynote Lecture brings highly distinguished academics and public figures to Berlin. Lyndal Roper, who gave the keynote lecture in 2019, is Regius Professor of History at the University of Oxford, the first woman to hold the post and - also noteworthy - not British but Australian by origin. As the keynote is always intended to have a German-British emphasis, the Centre invited her in her capacity as an expert on early modern German history. Lyndal Roper is very well known not least because of her acclaimed Martin Luther biography, which was published in 2016.

On this evening in Berlin, however, she provided insights into her current research project on the German Peasants' War of 1524-5 - a topic she took as an opportunity to discuss how historians can succeed in grasping the emotional dimension of such an event. The German Peasants' War was the biggest popular uprising in Western Europe before the French Revolution. Thousands were slain as the revolt was suppressed. Nevertheless, many people associated hopes and high expectations with this war. For the audience, most of whom had hardly ever heard of the Peasants' War until then, it was a pleasure to be introduced by Lyndal Roper to the social history of the 16th century and to become familiar with the past in terms of early-modern mentalities and emotions. The lecture was illustrated by selected pictures and stimulated the audience to a lively discussion, which was continued at the reception that followed the event.

The keynote lecture (from left): first evening lecture for the new students; Prof Lyndal Roper; Prof Eisenberg, the Centre's director, with Prof Roper and Prof Buchan from the Oxford-Berlin partnership





## Monday Lectures and Events

### Regulating Uncertain Futures: Law and Science

Professor Dr Bettina Lange

Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Professor Dr Anna-Bettina Kaiser

Faculty of Law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

8 January

What role can scientific knowledge practices play in developing legal rules for regulating a range of risks that contemporary societies face, ranging from the consequences of artificial intelligence to a decline of natural resources and a changing climate? What is the value, if any, of fixed state law rules to address such uncertain governance challenges whose major characteristics and consequences may only manifest in the future? These questions were explored also with reference to specific examples, such as the management of water resources and water scarcity.

Prof Dr Bettina Lange and Prof Dr Anna-Bettina Kaiser discussed these issues by focusing on the specific topic of how public policy and law makers seek to harness 'evidence' about the regulatory issue at stake in order to set legal standards.

The Oxford-Berlin Lectures in the Humanities and Social Sciences



From left: Prof Kaiser, Prof Dannemann and Prof Lange discussing uncertain futures

### The Implications of Social Media for the Brexit Referendum:

#### What's New About How the Media Inform the Public

Dr Hugh Mackay

The Open University in Wales

21 January

This lecture was organised together with the History Department, which, in view of the media policy challenges of the present, arranged a lecture series on the impact of fake news in history. The range of topics of this lecture series covered the broad spectrum from ancient Rome to National Socialism and the Vietnam War. Hugh Mackay's contribution was different, as his perspective as a sociologist specialising in modern media, dealt with Boris Johnson's most recent Brexit propaganda as a very contemporary example. At the time it was not yet possible to analyse the full effects of this political gambit. History itself impressively provided the missing information later in 2019, when not only was Brexit finally decided upon, but Boris Johnson was also elected Prime Minister.

Co-hosted with the Department of History, HU Berlin; poster: Fabian Dombrowski



The Oxford-Berlin  
Lectures in the  
Humanities and  
Social Sciences

## The Early Modern Essay and the Emergence of Impartiality

Dr Kathryn Murphy

Faculty of English, University of Oxford

Professor Dr Anita Traninger

Institute of Romance Language and Literatures, FU Berlin

14 February

Over 1,000 works were published in English by 1700 which claimed the title 'essay'. They range from a single sheet to hundreds of pages, addressing topics from the frivolous to the philosophical: from drinking, cooking, dancing, and tea, to God and the immortality of the soul. The variety of topics and styles, confessional, controversial, and impersonal, poses a problem: can the essay be considered a single form?

This lecture looked at this problem in the light of the emergence of impartiality in the same period, in order to illuminate what is commonly shared in the formless form of the early essay.

Dr Kathryn Murphy  
(left) and Prof Anita  
Traninger on early  
modern essays



## Brexit Wake. "And Now What?"

29 March

The Brexit Wake was an evening of readings at Literaturhaus Berlin. Berlin writers Musa Okwongwa, Kate McNaughton, Lucy Jones, Paul Scraton, Scott Martingell, Jacinta Nandi, Ben Fergusson, Jo Frank, Alistair Noon, Alec Finlay, and Patricia Duncker from the UK read and performed along with Asmus Trautsch, who took us through the night. The music was performed by Musa Okwongwa's band BBXO. Yael Inokai, Daniela Dröscher, Christian Dittloff, and Paula Fürstenberg wrote on site, and the artist and film director Clemens Wilhelm showed us his work.

This was a co-operation between The Centre for British Studies; The English Faculty, Oxford University; TORCH, Oxford; Literaturhaus Berlin; Deveron Projects, Scotland; and SAND magazine Berlin.



Novelist Patricia Duncker  
reading from her work

## Becoming Cosmopolitan

### British Literary Culture and the Internationalisation of the Periodical Press around 1900

Dr Stefano Evangelista

Associate Professor of English, Oxford University, Official Fellow at Trinity College, Oxford, Fellow at the Centre for British Studies

14 May

Around 1900, magazines and periodicals played a key role in creating an international literary culture in which British authors and readers could encounter their foreign counterparts. Stefano Evangelista charted this phenomenon focusing on the US-fashion-oriented *Cosmopolitan* and the European, multilingual *Cosmopolis*, which was simultaneously published in London and several other European capitals. How did the ideal of cosmopolitanism invoked by these titles play out in the pages of the magazines?

Dr Stefano Evangelista is Associate Professor of English at Oxford University. His research interests include 19th-century English and comparative literature, the relationship between literature and visual culture, and gender and sexuality. He is currently writing a book on literary cosmopolitanism at the turn of the 20th century entitled "Citizens of Nowhere".

The Oxford-Berlin Lectures in the Humanities and Social Sciences



Prof Stefano Evangelista signing in the Centre's guest book

## Brexit – An Ongoing Transition?

### Panel Discussion

Prof Anne Deighton, University of Oxford

Prof Robert Ford, University of Manchester

Dr Lisa Mckenzie, Durham University

Prof Paul Carmichael (Chair), Ulster University

23 May

The panel discussed the causes and impact of the British EU referendum and how these relate to the profound social changes that have taken place in the UK during recent decades.

This event was a cooperation between the Centre for British Studies and the German Association for British Studies and was the kick-off event of the conference 'Britain in Transition: Brexit and Beyond' at the Centre in May (see 'Spotlight' on pages 24/25).



Prof Deighton (above), Prof Ford, Dr Mckenzie (from left)

## Wales Book of the Year 2017 Winner

### Reading

Alys Conran

Author, and Lecturer in Creative Writing  
Prifysgol Bangor University

25 June

Alys Conran reading  
from her books



Welsh writer and 2017 Wales Book of the Year winner Alys Conran read from her debut novel *Pigeon* and second novel *Dignity*. She discussed the influences and backgrounds to writing both novels. *Pigeon* (Parthian Books) won the Wales Book of the Year Award 2017 and was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize. It also won the Rhys Davies Trust Fiction Award, The Wales Arts Review People's Choice Award, and was longlisted for the Author's Choice First Novel Award. Her second novel *Dignity* has recently been published in 2019 by Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Alys also publishes poetry, short stories, creative non-fiction, creative essays and literary translations. She speaks Spanish and Catalan as well as Welsh and English and is Lecturer in Creative Writing at Bangor University.

LITERARY FIELD  
k a l e i d o s c o p e



Lienyddiaeth  
Cymru  
Literature  
Wales



BRITISH COUNCIL | Wales  
Cymru

This event was a cooperation between the Centre for British Studies, The Literary Field Kaleidoscope, Literature Wales and the British Council Wales

## From the Local to the Global

### Political Meetings and Public Space in England 1700-2000

Dr Katrina Navickas

Reader in History, University of Hertfordshire

1 July

Dr Katrina Navickas on  
the history of space



Katrina Navickas' lecture examined the history of contested public space in England from 1700 to 2000. It focused on legislation controlling political meetings, and on contests between democratic movements and the authorities over restrictions on public meetings in open spaces, especially parks and squares. It therefore spoke to current debates about the privatisation of public space in towns. It demonstrated how contests over the freedom of speech have always involved challenges to the use of space, and which groups were defined as 'the public'.

Dr Katrina Navickas is Reader in History at the University of Hertfordshire. She is currently a British Academy Mid-Career Fellow. She has published two monographs and numerous articles on the politics of public spaces and the history of democratic and social movements in England.

## Exodus. Reckoning. Sacrifice. Three Meanings of Brexit

### Book Debate

Professor Kalypso Nicolaïdis  
Professor of International Relations  
University of Oxford

2 July

Prof Kalypso Nicolaïdis is one of the foremost experts on Brexit and has published widely on the EU. She has worked for the EU, including as a member of the European Council's reflection group on the future of Europe, and is currently chair of the Oxford University working group on Brexit.

In her new book, she steps out of the bounds of traditional academia to offer a unique take both on Brexit and on the power of mythical stories to frame our democratic conversation. She conjures up three archetypes to explore the competing visions that have clashed so dramatically over the meaning of Brexit, whether as the ultimate demonstration of British exceptionalism, a harbinger of terrible truths for the EU and the West, or a sacrifice on the altar of EU unity. While she castigates the European project for its failure to accommodate the longings of the continent in all their glorious variety, she contends with the ironic possibility that after and perhaps because of Brexit, the EU will live up to the pluralist ideals that define both the best of Britain and the best of Europe. Ultimately, the book offers a plea for a smarter, kinder Brexit 2.0 and for acknowledging each other's stories, with their many variants, ambiguities, and contradictions.

This event was organized in cooperation with the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB).

The Oxford-Berlin  
Lectures in the  
Humanities and  
Social Sciences



Prof Nicolaïdis signing her book for her Oxford colleague Prof Alastair Buchan and talking about visions of Brexit

## Muttersprache: Celebrating the Indigenous Languages of Wales, Scotland, and Ireland Poetry and Performance Event

Ifor ap Glyn, National Poet of Wales

Ciara Ní É, Irish writer and performer

Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, Scottish performance poet

Lleucu Siencyn, Literature Wales CEO (Chair)

26 November

The above title gave the guests an indication of what to expect at this event. However, as the photo(s) prove, this event was not only a multi-language event but also a multi-talented event with artists' worthy of this title. We were able to appreciate the company of the National Poet of Wales Igor ap Glyn – who was here at the Centre for a second visit in this year; the Irish writer and performer Ciara Ní É, the Scottish performance poet Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, and the CEO of Literature Wales Lleucu Siencyn who chaired the evening.

The event was a cooperation between the Literary Field Kaleidoscope, the Centre for British Studies, Literature Wales, the Welsh government, and British Council Wales.



Not just a reading: the surprised audience was indulged with an outstanding reciting and singing performance by the three artists: Ifor ap Glyn, Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, Ciara Ní É (from left)





## Brexit, the UK, and Scotland: a Fragmenting Union?

Dr Kirsty Hughes

Director of the Scottish Centre of European Relations

9 December

Brexit has turned the UK's politics upside down and created not only a deep political crisis but exposed a political system that appears to be fundamentally failing. In her lecture, Dr Kirsty Hughes considered the damage the Brexit process has done to the UK, even before it happens. She focussed, in particular, on the impact of Brexit in Scotland and on the constitutional implications for the UK of its continuing political crisis.

Dr Kirsty Hughes is Director of the Scottish Centre on European Relations based in Edinburgh. She is a leading analyst and commentator on Brexit and on the inter-twining of the Brexit and independence debates in Scotland. Kirsty has worked in a number of leading European think tanks including Chatham House, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, and Friends of Europe Brussels, as well as working at senior level in the European Commission.



Dr Kirsty Hughes on the implications of Brexit for the UK union

## Visitors at the Centre

### Advisory Board

The Centre's Advisory Board meeting took place on 21 June. Prof Stedman informed its members about the Centre's manifold activities in research, teaching, public relations, and about its staff and student situation. The Oxford-Berlin partnership was again the focus of its work, and a lot has been going on with regard to informing the public about the ongoings of Brexit. In this the Centre's worries about the loss of Erasmus+ funding and consequent difficulties in getting visas for our students and keeping up the placement scheme were also part of the discussion. Once again, the Board was impressed with how the Centre manages to keep up such a high level of activities.



The Centre's director, Prof Stedman, welcomes the Advisory Board to its annual meeting

At the end of the year, Prof Christina von Hodenberg, Director of the German Historical Institute London and Professor of European History at Queen Mary University London, was appointed as a new member of the Board and will join it for the first time in 2020.

## Welsh Government, British Embassy Berlin

In May, Samantha Dimond, Head of Germany, Welsh Government at the British Embassy, visited the Centre and met Prof Stedman, and Dr Marius Guderjan. There were numerous points of mutual interest and future cooperation in terms of work placements and events was discussed. As a follow-up, Dr Einion Dafydd, European Engagement and Co-operation Manager in International Relations in the Welsh Government, visited the Centre in November. He met with Prof Eisenberg, and with Lena Nüchter and Felicia Kompio, both then responsible for student work placements, to discuss new placement opportunities in Wales. After having been introduced to our MA programme, he was able to provide several potential contacts in Welsh institutions, from politics to business, from universities to NGOs. Several students plan to spend their placements in Wales.

The strong cooperation with both the Welsh and the Scottish Office at the Embassy have led to a number of cooperative events, new work placements, and research contacts in the respective regions.

## Public Relations



Prof Dannemann on TV at the Phoenix Runde

In terms of PR, 2019 was another busy year at the Centre for British Studies: interest in the Brexit debate – in terms of political, legal, and cultural matters – remained very strong, not only from the German media, but from international media outlets, too. For instance, Dr Marius Guderjan took part in the “Tagesgespräch” on Swiss Radio and Television, while Prof Dannemann appeared on Phoenix Television, China. Prof Dannemann’s expertise on the matter was also actively sought out in Germany, with him providing commentary on Brexit matters in various programmes and media outlets such as RTL, Tagesschau, Tagesspiegel, Deutschlandfunk, and Der Spiegel.

Prof Stedman presented her perspective on the ways in which Brexit affects the British cultural landscape in her comments to Deutschlandfunk, Welt-TV, and also the blog of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. Dr Marius Guderjan was invited to share his expertise on Brexit and other political matters currently concerning the UK,

among others, at Kulturradio rbb, Faktencheck at Maischberger (ARD), SR2 Kulturradio, Welt-TV.

As a member of VroniPlag Wiki, Prof Dannemann also gave numerous interviews about plagiarism and good academic practice – among them are interviews for Frankfurter Allgemeine, Tagesspiegel, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Morgenpost, and other media outlets.

We worked closely with the main press and public relations office of Humboldt-Universität to promote our lectures and special events, for instance the very successful poetry panel entitled “Muttersprache. Celebrating the Indigenous Languages of Wales, Scotland and Ireland”, which took place in November 2019.

Most interviews and articles can also be found on the Centre's webpage:

[www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de)



Dr Guderjan on Welt-TV

## FELLOWS

### Honorary Fellows

The Right Honourable Ben Bradshaw, MP  
 Sir Christopher Mallaby, GCMG, GCVO  
 Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA

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Dr Olivier Butzbach, *University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”*  
 Prof Paul Carmichael, *University of Ulster*  
 Prof Valentine Cunningham, *University of Oxford*  
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 Andy Feist, *Home Office, UK*  
 Dr Hugh Mackay, *The Open University, Wales*  
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 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 Christiane Eisenberg

##### Director



One of the director's most pleasant tasks: handing out final MA certificates

Professor of British History. She studied history and social sciences at Bielefeld University, where she obtained a Dr phil in 1986. After working as a research associate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld in 1986-87 and holding a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, in 1987-88, she became assistant professor at the History Faculty of the University of Hamburg where she completed her 'Habilitation' in 1996. She deputised for the social history chair at the University of Bielefeld, worked in the research unit *Gesellschaftsvergleich* at Humboldt-Universität's history department, and joined the Centre in October 1998.

Prof Eisenberg has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich* (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009), translated as *The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800* (2013). Prof Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and was a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the German Historical Institute from May 2011 to May 2019.

#### Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, MA (Oxon)

##### Deputy Director, Dean of Studies

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, Chair of Admissions and Examinations (until 9/2019), Deputy Director and Dean of Studies (since 10/2019). 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*, co-reporter of the European Law Institute "Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms" project. On the MA British Studies programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches "Constitutional Law and Political System".



Prof Gerhard Dannemann  
Photo: KIT-ZAK/  
Gruenschloss

## Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

### Head of Exams and Admissions

Gesa Stedman, Director until October 2019, now Head of Admissions and Exams, also responsible for Oxford-Berlin. Professor of British Culture and Literature. Studied English, French, and Film/Theatre Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Warwick. Received scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes. After a period as a visiting graduate student at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, she completed her PhD on the Victorian discourses on emotion at Humboldt-Universität in 2000. Research periods in Paris, Oxford, and London, supported by the Deutsches Historisches Institut, led to her 'Habilitation' on 17th-century Anglo-French cultural exchange at Humboldt-Universität in 2005. Gesa Stedman was Professor of English and American Literature, at Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen from 2005-2008 and was appointed Professor of British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in 2008.



Prof Gesa Stedman

She co-leads the international research network Writing 1900 ([www.Writing1900.org](http://www.Writing1900.org)) and is a founding member of the interdisciplinary Berlin-Britain Research Network and of the website and blog *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope* ([www.literaryfield.org](http://www.literaryfield.org)). Research interests include the history of emotions, cultural exchange studies, in particular between England and France, British film and film historiography, as well as gender history, the literary field in the UK, France, and Germany. Gesa Stedman is the spokesperson of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies and acted as a member of the selection panel for KOSMOS applications and for the Humboldt Travel Awards. She also advises the university in international affairs, and acts as deputy head of the Committee for a Family-Friendly University at Humboldt-Universität.

## **Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA** **Senior Professor**

Senior Professor of British Literature and Culture. Studied history, philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford. He was Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of 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 was dean and pro-vice-chancellor at Konstanz and Chairman of the German Association of University Teachers of English, board member of the European Society of English Studies, and chair of the 'Shakespeare-Preis-Kuratorium' of the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung in Hamburg whose board he chaired from 2011-2015. He is now member of the board of ZEvA, one of the largest German Accreditation Agencies.

He is a Fellow of the English Association. In 2009 he was made an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He has published widely on literary theory, life-writing, Romanticism, and literary anthropology. He was one of the editors of the Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature (REAL) until 2010.



Front row, from left: S. McIntosh, Ch. Eisenberg, G. Dannemann, G. Stedman, C. Smith, C. Radke, A. Gutsche; Second row, from left: A. Schoon, S. Permiakova, A. Petcu, Ch. Seuring, F. Kompio; Back row, from left: J. Jacob, S. Zöllner, P. Chiocchetti, J. Allen



## Dr Paolo Chiocchetti

Lecturer and researcher in British Politics. Paolo joined the Centre in October 2019. He holds a PhD in European Studies (KCL) and has worked at King's College London and at the University of Luxembourg. His research interests focus on British politics, political systems and competition in Western Europe, European integration, economic and social policy-making, and radical left parties and ideologies. 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 book chapters, journal articles, and digital resources. He is also the Secretary of the Political Studies Association – Italian Politics Specialist Group (PSA-IPSG), Fellow of the Robert Schuman Institute of European Affairs of the University of Luxembourg, and tweets @p\_chiocchetti. Paolo is currently researching the polarizing impact of Brexit on British voters and historical shifts in British Euroscepticism and Europhilia. His other responsibilities at the Centre include the teaching of four courses ('Analysing British Politics', 'Constitutional Law and the Political System', 'British International Relations' and 'Self, Society and Agency') and assisting students in organising their work placement.



Welcome to the Centre:  
Dr Paolo Chiocchetti

## Dr Marius Guderjan

Lecturer and researcher in British Politics. Marius' teaching includes 'Constitutional Law and the Political System', 'Analysing British Politics', and 'British International Relations'. Since 2018, he has been an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Stirling. Marius' habilitation project examines formal and informal intergovernmental relations in the UK. He also has a strong interest in the causes and consequences of Brexit. Further research activities include European integration, Europeanisation, local government, international relations, political attitudes and participation, the welfare state and social policy. Before he joined the Centre in August 2014, Marius worked as a senior research assistant at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan. He was involved in various projects and applications including Myplace and MyWeb (FP7 funded), and InnoSi (Innovative Social Investment, Horizon 2020 funded). In 2013, Marius obtained his PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University for the thesis 'When Europe meets the local level – a fusing multilevel compound?'. His thesis explores European integration of local government in England and Germany. Prior to his PhD, Marius completed an MA in European Politics (Research) with distinction at the University of Liverpool and studied Social Sciences at the University of Cologne.



Dr Marius Guderjan

## Dr Sam McIntosh



Dr Sam McIntosh

Lecturer and researcher in Law. Sam was awarded his PhD in law by City, University of London in 2016. His thesis discussed the principle of open justice in the context of investigations into deaths at the hands of the state. Sam spent three years of his PhD as a visiting student at the University of Vienna. He holds an LLM in Public International Law and an MA (joint honours) in Spanish and European History from the University of Edinburgh. Sam is qualified as a lawyer in England and Wales and has worked at three of the most highly regarded human rights firms in the country. He began his training in the criminal defence department at Imran Khan & Partners and went on to finish his training and work in the civil departments at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and Hickman & Rose. At both firms he worked primarily on civil actions against police and prison authorities, and on inquests into deaths at the hands of the state. After leaving legal practice, Sam worked as a Sessional Lecturer and then a Teaching Fellow at the University of Reading, and as a research assistant on the 'Law, Terrorism and the Right to Know' project at Reading University. 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, the rights of unsettled refugees under Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and recognition theory. He teaches and examines on the following courses: 'Constitutional Law and the Political System', 'The English Legal System', 'The Coercive State', 'Mooting and Debating'.

## Jessica Fischer, MA

Lecturer and researcher in Literary and Cultural Studies until April 2019. She studied English, History of Art, European Cultural Studies, and Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Freiburg, the Freie Universität Berlin, and University College London. As a member of the Berlin Graduate



Jessica saying farewell

School of British Studies, she has written a PhD thesis about the concept of 'agency' in contemporary British fiction. This year Jes-

sica taught the 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar I: Migration' with Prof. Dr. Stedman. Jessica Fischer is a member of the German Association for the Study of English, the German Association for the Study of British Cultures, the Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies, the Berlin-Britain Research Network, and the advisory board of *Hard Times* magazine.

## Felicia Kompio, MA

Lecturer and researcher in British History. Felicia's research focuses on Britain in a European perspective. She studied History and Political Sciences at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Her research interests include the cultural history of politics, the history of revolutions and practices of protest, European urban history, and the history of European communication networks in a transnational perspective. Felicia teaches the 'First Week Project' and 'Academic Writing' as well as co-teaching 'Commerce and Culture in British History' and, in the summer term, 'Interdisciplinary project: Self, society, and agency'. In January 2019, Felicia was elected the Centre's Equal Opportunities Officer and has since been supporting the Centre's women by allocating small research grants out of the equality fund, providing advice, and raising awareness for women's issues in higher education.



Busy: Sam, Catherine and Felicia (from left)

## Lena Nüchter, MA

Lena studied Classics as well as English Language, Literature and Culture at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and Durham University. She came to Berlin in 2016 for the M.A. British Studies and completed her Master thesis on 'Local Authorities and Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Reviewing the Devolution Revolution in Public Sector Business Support for Disadvantaged Groups'. Aiming to further pursue research at the intersection of the economy, policy, and society, she is now working on a PhD project tentatively entitled 'Skills and Beyond: Assessing Strategies for Enhancing the Employability of Humanities Graduates in Germany and the UK'. Her other research interests include gender studies, narratology, and cognitive linguistics, and she is interested in methodological expansion towards the social sciences. Before joining the Centre for British Studies, Lena worked in press, publishing, international communication and event management; and she is a freelance reviewer for *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*. Lena left the Centre to take up a position at the Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen in November 2019.



Lena (left) with Christiane Eisenberg

## Sofia Permiakova, MA



Gesa Stedman and Sonya (right) keeping the Centre's culture and literature department alive and kicking

Sofia (Sonya) Permiakova joined the Centre for British Studies in 2013 as a Master student. In October 2015 Sonya Permiakova received the Humboldt Prize for her Master thesis 'Women at War: Representation of War in Women's War Poetry of the First World War'. Shortly after her graduation she became a lecturer and researcher in British Culture and Literature. Previously, Sonya worked with various cultural projects and institutions, for instance, as an interpreter at Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre, and taught English and Translation at Perm State National Research University (Russia). As a member of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, she is writing her PhD thesis on British women's war poetry of the First and the Second World Wars. Her research interests include feminism and the representation of women in literature and art, representations of Russia and the Soviet Union in transnational poetry and fiction, and poetry – from the early 20th century until today. Over the years at the centre, Sonya has conceptualized and taught numerous courses, such as 'Literature Workshop', 'Cultural Project Management' and 'Film and Text'. In 2019, together with Prof Dr Gesa Stedman, Sonya taught the interdisciplinary project entitled 'Britons in Berlin. The Berlin Myth'.

## Anisia Petcu, MA



Anisia (middle) being congratulated on her excellent MA British Studies results

Lecturer and researcher in British culture and literature. In 2020, Anisia will be managing and teaching the practice-led course "Cultural Project Management", in which she will coordinate the students in putting together their own exhibition for the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* 2020. She is interested in the study of culture and its double role as a tool for reinforcing social discourses and a tool for social and political change. Her other interests include gender and issues of representation. Anisia came to Berlin from Romania in 2017 for the Centre's Master in British Studies, which she completed in 2019. Her MA thesis was a comparative analysis of the ways in which Roma (activist) actors from Romania and the UK can use their artistic practice in order to fight the widespread discrimination of the Roma and put forward a new Roma identity. Before coming to Berlin, she studied English and German Language and Literature at the University of Bucharest. In the coming year, she will also be responsible for coordinating the students' work placements in the UK.

## Johanna Zinecker, MA

Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature. Johanna's main interests include visual arts and cultural production in interdisciplinary and social-political fields, mental health cultures, art and activism, cultural disability and feminist studies as well as cultural policy, in particular in relation to politics of diversity and inclusion. She studied English and American Studies and German Literature at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Manchester. Since 2005, Johanna has worked in the field of arts and culture in various roles, including from 2008 to 2012 as assistant curator at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. Beyond academia, Johanna continues her engagement with the cultural sector and has trained in non-violent communication, both in Berlin and London.

Johanna teaches in the area of Cultural Studies on the MA British Studies programme. She also convened and taught the practice-led seminar 'Cultural Project Management' in 2018. Other teaching-related roles include academic advisor for student placements in the UK cultural sector. From 2017-19 Johanna was the Equal Opportunities Officer of the Centre. In this capacity, among other duties, she advised students and staff on related matters and organized in-house diversity trainings.

On the first day of each winter semester the staff traditionally introduces itself to the new group of students by bringing along an object that relates either to their tasks at the Centre or to some personal element – thus making it easier for the students to remember them

Johanna is currently on parental leave and will return to the Centre later on in 2020



## Administrative Staff

### Corinna Radke, MA

Corinna studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität and in Madrid (funded by Erasmus), 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 problems and enquiries, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre's guest lecturers and organises the teaching schedule for the MA British Studies. Corinna co-ordinates the Erasmus+ Placement Programme that offers financial support to students doing a work placement abroad. 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 supervising their publication. Finally, she edits the Centre's annual report and is the Centre's deputy Equal Opportunities Officer.

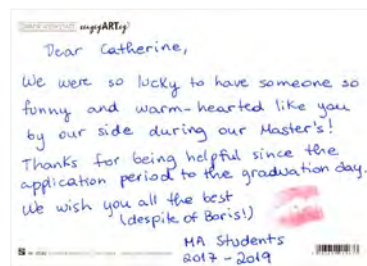


Corinna and Catherine posing for the student's anniversary brochure

### Catherine Smith, BA (Hons)

Catherine is the foreign language assistant at the Centre. She studied Humanities with History of Art (B.A. Hons.) at the Open University in England. Apart from managing the office, she supports the Centre's teaching and research activities. Further duties include co-ordinating visiting arrangements for international guests, organising conferences, seminars, meetings and events. She is also responsible for the co-ordination and organisation of public readings, the public lecture series, and assists with public relations, poster design, and press releases. Catherine also co-ordinates the MA British Studies interviews each year, and is the first point of contact for interested MA students concerning application and study plans. Other duties include the editing of research papers and publications and translating German texts into English. After the 2016 EU referendum, she is now the proud owner of both British and German passports.

Graduating class 2017-19  
thanking Catherine for her  
continuous support





## Sylvena Zöllner

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk, and has been working at the Centre for British Studies since July 1996. She is responsible for administering the Centre's finances, for the supply of office material, technical equipment, and everything else needed. She helps with the organisation of conferences by taking care of catering arrangements and the necessary technical equipment. She also takes care of all financial transactions related to the Centre's activities, including the Centre's various and constantly growing third-party funds. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all records for our Master degree, calculating the students' Master grade, and preparing the final certificates.

## 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 Centre's library in 2017 and is happy to answer any questions to do with finding information.

## Student Assistants

In 2019 the Centre could again rely on the friendly and very helpful support of the following student assistants:

**David Bell**, Global History

**Lorenz Böttcher**, Law

**Esmé Ellis**, English Literatures

**Mhairi Gador-Whyte**, English Literatures

**Michael Griff**, Global History

**Stefan Jooß**, Industrial Engineering and Management

**Leo Kämpfe**, Law

**Erika Meibauer**, English and German Literature

**Sarah Meyer**, Law

**Adina Reza**, English Literatures

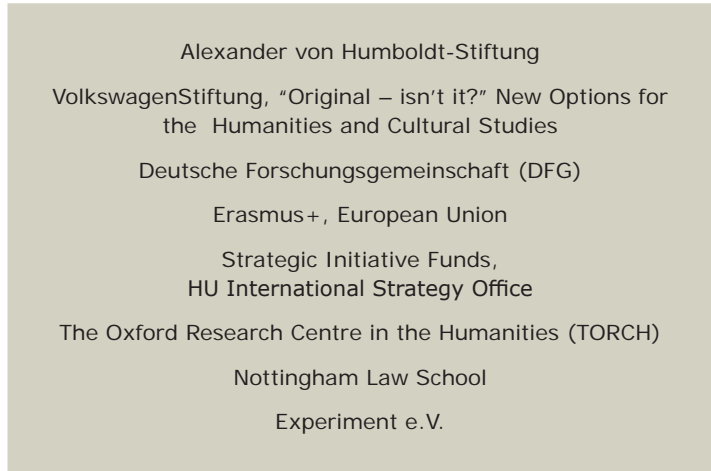
**Kira-Lena Scharold**, English and French



From left: Kira, David, Leo and Stefan at the keynote lecture

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By becoming a Friend and donating a yearly sum of at least € 25.00, you can help support our students, in particular when they go to the UK for their work placement. Your donation will help them to cover living costs and travel expenses, thereby ensuring that they can come to the Centre in the first place, and that they will be able to study rather than hunt for jobs on the student labour market.

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