

Welcome

Welcome to this alumni newsletter, this year for the first time from Felicia Kompio, your new alumni contact person at the Centre for British Studies.

After a longer silence, due to changes in personnel and minor technical difficulties, we want to reinstate the good custom of sending out a regular newsletter.

In this issue I will introduce to you our new class of students who are a very lively and interested batch, I will introduce myself properly, and I will give you some insight into the Centre's recent activities, including our Monday Lecture series, our Keynote Lecture, and the Berlin-Britain Research Network conference we held in September.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2017

Class of 2017-2019: Welcome!

In October our new students arrived and started their studies here at the Centre with a World Café, diving right into British culture, politics, sports, and poetry. Though the topics were very British, with 34 students coming from 18 countries, it truly was a World Café!



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Hello, my name is Felicia Kompio

Since October 2016 I am lecturer and researcher in British History at the Centre. Amongst other responsibilities I took over the alumni work – I am your new contact person. I work on my PhD focusing on early 19th century urban protest and political participation. My interests lie in urban history, the cultural history of politics and the history of revolutions. If you have any queries, questions or suggestions, please send me an e-mail: felicia.kompio@hu-berlin.de

Monday Lectures Winter semester 2017/18

- Literary Field Kaleidoscope: Public Reading, Nikesh Shukla, 14 November 2017
- "Different Worlds of Social Justice. Pensions and Old Age in Germany and Great Britain", Cornelius Torp, 29 November 2017
- "Youth Receptivity to Radical Rightwing Agendas. A Pan European Perspective", Hilary Pilkington, 22 January 2018
- "Living or Leaving Brexit Britain? Narratives of Transformation, Lost Privileges and the Quieter Everyday", Benedicte Brahic, 5 February 2018

The Good Immigrant – Public reading and discussion with Nikesh Shukla

As part of our Monday lecture series and in cooperation with the Literary Field Kaleidoscope, author and activist Nikesh Shukla read from his new essay collection *The Good Immigrant*. Musa Okwonga, who also contributed to the collection, chaired the discussion. The two authors touched on a diverse range of topics offering new perspectives on racial injustices in everyday life. Listeners were especially impressed by their ability to address controversial issues in a respectful manner and, at the same time, making them more relatable through their own experiences. Read more on literaryfield.org

Keynote Lecture 2017 Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield "The 21st Century Mind. Blowing it, Expanding it, Losing it"

In this year's Keynote Lecture, Baroness Susan Greenfield gave a thought-provoking talk on the impact 21st-century technology has on our minds, but also which benefits we can expect from it. Professor Greenfield started out with a crash course on the workings of our brain, before she focused on the relationship between new media, its intensive use, and biochemical changes in our brain. Finally, Professor Greenfield gave fascinating insights into her own current research on the cause of Alzheimer's disease and how to fight it.

Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield is an eminent pharmacologist and neuroscientist, author, and member of the House of Lords.



Berlin-Britain Research Network

One example of the Centre's ongoing work in connecting researchers in the field of British Studies is the Berlin-Britain Research Network. In September we held the Network's annual conference at the Centre.

Under the main topic of "Audit UK: Social, Political and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit" researchers and activists discussed a wide variety of topics; from migration to devolution, from populism to xenophobia. Since public interest in topics relating to Brexit is still very high, DeutschlandFunk sent a journalist who covered the entire conference.



"It's not the economy, stupid"

Professor Gesa Stedman and Dr Sandra van Lente are the editors of *"It's not the economy, stupid! Brexit and the Cultural Sector"*. The volume contains contributions from researchers, authors, politicians, and cultural managers. Speaking from their distinct perspectives, they try to shed light on a cosmopolitan cultural sector under threat. It is available as an e-book from the edoc-server of Humboldt-Universität (<https://edoc.hu-berlin.de/handle/18452/19181>).



Merry Christmas – Happy Holidays!

To conclude this newsletter, I want to stress how important it is to the Centre to keep in touch with you, our alumni. If you move to another city or another position, start a new career or take an important step in your current one, please do let us know.

Now that we have solved the technical difficulties that prevented me from contacting you, I will keep you up to date on the Centre's activities on a regular basis and let you know what your fellow alumni are up to.

I would also like to start a new attempt at establishing a "Stammtisch" in Berlin. Please let me know whether you are interested in meeting fellow alumni on a regular basis. And who knows, if it is a success maybe other cities will follow?

Along with my colleagues here at the Centre I wish you all lovely holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings
and Happy New Year
for 2018 from the
Centre for British Studies

