

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Queen Elizabeth II and President Joachim Gauck talking to students from the Centre's M.A. in British Studies during Her Majesty's visit to the TU Berlin on the occasion of the Queen's Lecture.

WHAT IS THE CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES?

The Centre for British Studies at Berlin's Humboldt-Universität is a unique academic institution offering interdisciplinary postgraduate study in English in the capital of Germany.

We were founded in 1995 after the fall of the Berlin Wall and German re-unification in recognition of the UK's important role in Germany and Berlin after World War II and during the Cold War.

We offer:

- An interdisciplinary international Master degree 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 lasts two years and includes a 3-month placement in the UK.

Our course aims to provide students with a good general overview of Britain 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.



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THE CENTRE IN 2015

20 years and more

This year's cover image shows H.M. the Queen, meeting our students during her state visit to Germany on 24 June – admittedly, not at our Centre, but at the Technical University, after the Queen's Lecture 2015. Professor Eisenberg, from whom I took over as Director of the Centre for British Studies in October, and I were also invited to the Garden Party at the Ambassador's Residence attended by the Queen, Prince Philip, and German President Joachim Gauck. While accounting for eye-catching images, unforgettable moments, and a substantial number of television, radio, and newspaper interviews given by the Centre's staff, the Queen's visit was not the main event taking place in our 2015 calendar.



Her Majesty the Queen chatting to the Centre's students

That was rather our 20th anniversary, which we celebrated in style with a public event on 28 May, at which founding fathers of the Centre mused about 'Remembering past Futures', and our younger academic staff presented their visions of 'The Future of British Studies'. Our anniversary event was very well received and attended, and TV footage appeared on the Channel 4 evening news. You will find a more detailed report of the event on page 44.

2015 also saw the implementation of the most important changes made to our M.A. British Studies course, namely the inclusion of a free choice of three out of six electives in summer term, and a third term of teaching in the ongoing winter term 2015/16. This transition from drawing board to teaching practice went surprisingly smoothly. Our placement scheme was strengthened by our second Placement Provider Conference in February (page 18).

We have continued to expand our interdisciplinary research. Our new Berlin Graduate School for British Studies (page 36), led by Professor Stedman and launched in September 2014, progressed



through its full first year with results which have encouraged us to work on a grant application for a larger Graduate School to take over when the present funding expires in 2017. With the help of Professor Eisenberg, I have coordinated the efforts between the Centre, the Humboldt's Law Faculty, two Max Planck Institutes and the University of Cambridge for a joint research project on Francis Mann and his role in shaping English, German, and International law (page 28), with our grant application presently pending at the German Research Council. Dr Guderjan has taken the lead in the Centre's collaboration with the University of Cambridge within the newly established "German research hub" at Cambridge, sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service. The Centre has also continued as focal point for the Berlin-Britain Research Network, led by Professor Stedman (page 26).

Two academic staff members attracted funding for research leaves during 2015, allowing Johanna Zinecker to work on "Mental Health Culture and Artistic Practice in Great Britain" at King's College, London, and Professor Eisenberg to take off for the winter term of 2015/16 for a book on "The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism. A Cultural History of Competition and Market Behaviour". Dr Spindler is also on research leave for completing a book on "Dutch-speaking Immigrants in England, 1350-1500". They were replaced by Sofia Permiakova, Professor Schulte Beerbühl, and Reet Tamme, respectively. Sofia Permiakova deserves special mention as the first British Studies alumna to become a member of the Centre's core academic staff, and also because she has attracted one of only two 2015 Humboldt-Universität Prizes for the best master thesis (page 22).

Next to our 20th anniversary celebration, our annual keynote lecture figures amongst the highlights in a busy schedule of some ten public events at the Centre (page 43). This year's keynote was delivered by Professor Shami Chakrabarti, Director of the National Council on Civil Liberties, "On Liberty: The Case for Retaining the Human Rights Act".

2015 must also have been the busiest year yet for interviews given by Centre staff. The UK General Election, the Queen's state visit, and the ongoing Brexit debate have all contributed to a particularly high media interest in "things British", and a corresponding media presence of the Centre.

Warm thanks are due to all who helped the Centre to prosper and grow in 2015 – notably our staff and guest lecturers, our PhD students, our student assistants, our students, our advisory board, the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank* and all other friends and supporters.

Gerhard Dannemann
Director



Well done: graduation class 2013-2015



The *Berliner Zeitung* covered the Centre's Anniversary in its university supplement



Keynote 2015:
Shami Chakrabarti

M.A. BRITISH STUDIES

Course Description



Our postgraduate Master course started in 1999 and has become a resounding success. In 2014 the Humboldt-Universität's new general study regulations came into effect, and in 2015 the Centre continued to put its reformed Master in British Studies programme into practice. The 18-month course (90 ECTS) has been abandoned. We now offer a 24-month course (120 ECTS) with more choice, a work placement of three months and a writing period of six months for the M.A. thesis. Furthermore, advanced study seminars are on offer (which may alternatively be substituted by any other HU seminars). The M.B.S. has become an M.A. British Studies.

What we offer is a unique learning experience due to the international students with different first degrees, the interdisciplinary study programme which combines theory and practice, and the personalised tutorials whose aim is to foster early-stage independent research.

Aims and Objectives

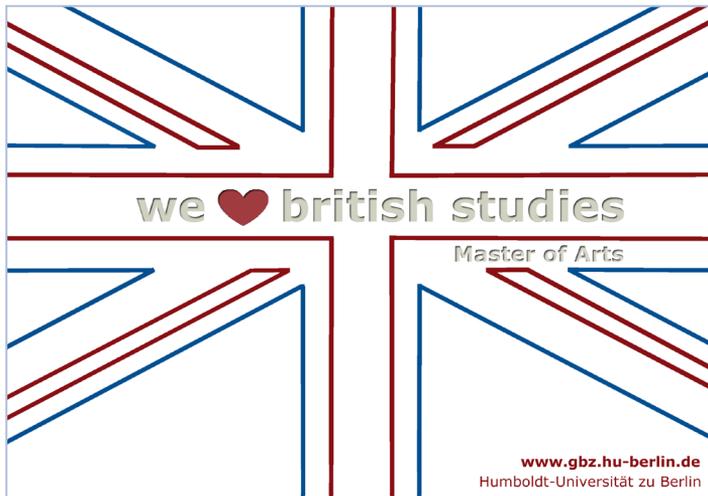
The aims and objectives of the course are:

- to enable students to add competence in British Studies to qualifications acquired during their first degree course
- to prepare students for positions in 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.

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

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, with places allocated early in July. The course starts in October.

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. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree "M.A. British Studies".

The Certificate Phase comprises about 30 weeks of teaching, divided into two phases of about equal length. 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 below). Students have to attend an average of around 20 hours of classes per week. These may include suitable classes taught in other departments.





During the Master Phase students take part in advanced seminars including 'transdisciplinary optional modules' which can be chosen from any other master programme. Furthermore, they spend three months with a firm or institution in Britain. The final part of the Master Phase is dedicated to writing a 6-month Master Thesis. The course is taught in English.



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

External optional modules may be chosen from any other master programme that offers such modules.



Modules for Students of Other HU Study Programmes

Students from other HU master programmes can attend the following modules:

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

M.A. BRITISH STUDIES

Course Outline

1st Semester

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

2nd Semester

Module 5	Module 7*	Module 8	Module 9	Module 10	Module 11	Module 12
6 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS
Career Skills	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

Module 6	Compulsory Electives*		Module 13
5 ECTS	Module 14	Module 15	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	

*Other HU courses may be substituted for modules 14 and 15.

4th Semester

30 ECTS
M.A. Thesis (six months)

M.A. British Studies Students

Class 2014-2016

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Chekalova, Maiya	Kazakhstan	Interpretation Russian/English, English/Russian
2. De Cock de Rameyen, Jade	Belgium	Languages and Literatures (French and Romance)
3. Eđir, Hafize	Turkey	Management in Education
4. Eremenko, Irina	Russia	Linguistics
5. Gasparyan, Lilit	Armenia	European Political and Administrative Studies
6. Glage, Dana	Germany	English/American Studies
7. Hake, Laura	Germany	Translation English/French
8. Hallmann, Anna Lena	Germany	International Business Management/ International Business
9. Huber III, Melvin	USA	International Politics and History
10. Khryanina, Elena	Russia	Public Relations and Journalism
11. Koca, Nazlı	Turkey	English Language and Comparative Literature
12. Kocharian, Anna	Russia	Foreign Languages
13. Krüger, Carina	Germany	Library and Information Science, Musicology
14. Kruk, Uliana	Ukraine	English Language and Literature
15. Ponomarenko, Anna	Ukraine	English Studies and German, Chinese, World Literature
16. Sagimuldina, Nagima	Kazakhstan	International Law
17. Shah, Mala	UK/ Germany	French Language, Literature, Philosophy, Cinema, International Law
18. Sharafi, Seyed Reza	Iran	English Language (Literature)
19. Silveira Leite, Diana	Brazil	English and History with Liberal Arts
20. Sprockhoff, Katharina	Germany	Geography
21. Suchkova, Irina	Russia	Philology, English and German Teacher
22. Tabagua, Anni	Russia	Linguistics English
23. Teggi, Diana	Italy	Foreign Languages and Literature
24. Varago, Rubina	Italy	English and German Literatures and Linguistics, Communication
25. Xu, Mingsong	China	English and Applied Linguistics



Class 2015-2017

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Akyüz, Alican	Turkey	English Language and Literature
2. Andreeva, Anastasia	Russia	Public Relations, Foreign Languages, German
3. Bargmann, Jaqueline	Germany	European Studies
4. Daubney, Christopher	Australia	Business, Finance and Banking
5. Deacy, Charlotte	UK	History and Welsh History
6. Egitton, Cory	USA	Art History and Education
7. Eichenauer, Annemarie	Germany	Social Sciences and Intercultural Relations
8. Fleck-Hansl, Philipp	Germany	English Philology and Comparative Literature
9. Khristina, Mariia	Russia	Foreign Languages: English, German
10. Krauß, Lara-Marie	Germany	Arts and National Journalism
11. Lescher, Alexandra	Germany	English and American Studies, Political Science and Administration
12. Mancini, Gaia	Italy	European and U.S. American Languages, Literatures and Cultures



Name	Country	First Degree
13. Mittelhaus, Mari	Germany	Business and Cultural Studies, Anglophone Studies, Business
14. Monteith, Amber	Canada	History and International History
15. Perminova, Svetlana	Russia	English Philology
16. Popović, Danica	Serbia	Drama and Creative Writing
17. Porter, Benjamin	UK	English Literature
18. Pyykkö, Sonja	Finland	Comparative Literature
19. Scharf, Dorit	Germany	English Studies
20. Schmiede, Ricarda	Germany	English and American Studies, German Language and Literature
21. Singer, Sarah	USA	Creative Writing, Philosophy and Religious Studies
22. Tóth, Selim János	Germany	International Technical Communication
23. Ullah, Rabea	Germany	Anglophone Studies
24. Walter, Miriam	Germany	English and American Studies
25. Wiggenhauser, Jana	Germany	International Cultural and Business Studies



SPOTLIGHT

Interdisciplinary Project Seminar

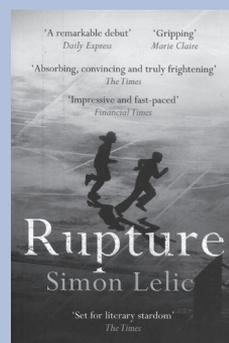
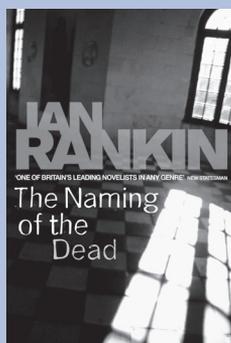
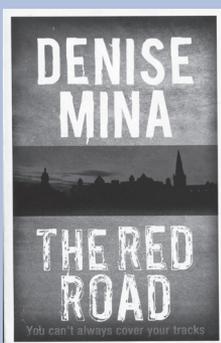
Narratives of Crime

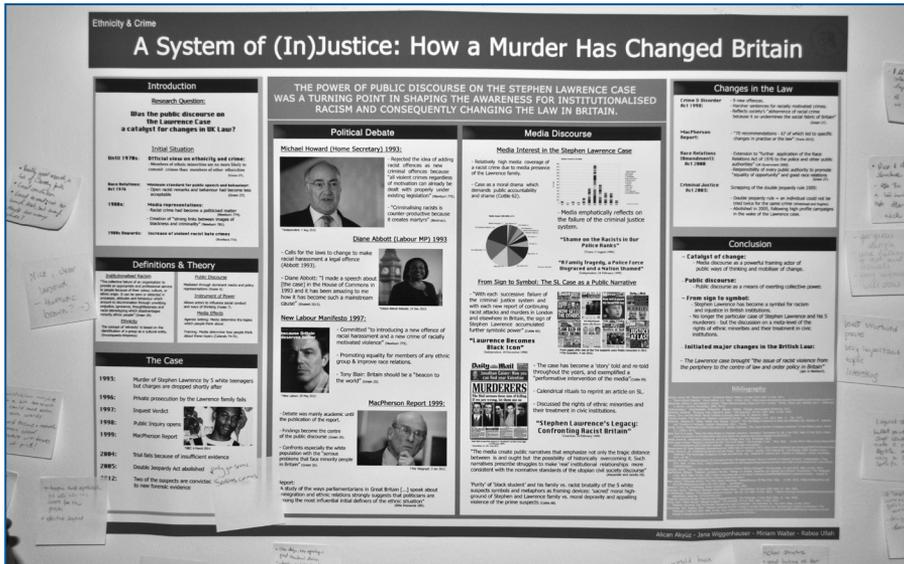
taught by Prof Gesa Stedman and Jessica Fischer

"... crime fiction has always been good at articulating the fears that society has harboured at all moments of history – such as the stranger who will casually take your life. Equally, the genre is able to deal with high moral purpose in quite as rigorous a fashion as Dostoyevsky did in *Crime and Punishment* and Dickens did in *Bleak House*. ... People are interested in crime fiction because they are fascinated by the margins of the world, those places where society's rules break down..." (Ian Rankin, "Foreword", in Barry Forshaw, *The Rough Guide to Crime Fiction*, London 2007, vi-vii.)

In this seminar, we took an interdisciplinary approach to study contemporary British society through the lens of 'crime'. We investigated social and literary narratives in order to understand the constructedness of the concept 'crime' and to gain a broader perspective on issues like globalisation, nationality, gender, class, or education in Great Britain. With the help of context-oriented theories to literature we explored the potential of crime writing: for example, providing an insight into various groups of society, highlighting different definitions of justice and pointing out political ills.

After a general introduction, a historical overview given by Prof Stedman, and a session on "terms and terminology" with both lecturers, we discussed the novels *The Naming of the Dead* (Ian Rankin, 2006), *Rupture* (Simon Lelic, 2010) and *The Red Road* (Denise Mina, 2013) from a cultural studies perspective. We invited Christopher Schuller, policy adviser of the German Institute for Human Rights, to talk about 'crime' and 'justice' in the context of law, and Thekla Dan-





nenberg, renowned literary critic, to give us an overview of international crime fiction. Two sessions on "How to make a poster and how to write an analysis" taught by Prof Stedman, and tailor-made tutorials with the two lecturers helped students to further investigate narratives of crime on an academic level: participants not only composed source analyses and essays for this seminar but also created a poster exhibition.

The highlight of the course was the Literature Seminar 'Brit Crime - A New Golden Age of Crime Writing?' organised by the British Council in cooperation with the Centre for British Studies in January 2016. The authors Val McDermid, Philip Kerr, Sophie Hannah, Bethan Roberts, Kate Summerscale, and Jake Arnott read their texts, joined panel debates and gave students the opportunity to get to know outstanding narrators of crime.



Presentation of research results and poster exhibition



Teaching

Example

Migration to and from Britain from the 17th to the 20th Century

Prof Dr Margrit Schulte Beerbühl



Guest lecturer
Jonathan Morris

Within this module, the students have studied a variety of migration patterns caused by religious and political persecutions and betterment migration. Students were taken on two guided tours through the Huguenot Museum and the Jewish Museum. Along with the migration of people, ideas and commodities travelled around the world. In addition to individual presentations by students on the transfer of technology and commodities, questions of McDonaldization and "glocalization" of food produced lively discussions. As part of this theme, Jonathan Morris of the University of Hertfordshire was invited to give a lecture on "The Cappuccino Conquest and Migration". He gave a fascinating insight into the circuitous routes and changes of cappuccino and its consumption.

Further Activities

Annual Visit to the British Embassy



Visiting the British Embassy

On 5 November, the Class of 2015-17 took a guided tour in and around the British Embassy located on Wilhelmstraße. Members of the embassy staff took time to show us around the building, its history, the various embassy departments and the permanent art, such as sculptures by Anish Kapoor, Tony Cragg, and Peter Sedgley. The tour was followed by a talk and discussion about current political issues and world affairs with William Gatward, Head of Press, Public, and Political Affairs.

Excursion to the Hugenotten Museum



Excursion within the
History module

On 30 November, the new GBZ students visited the Hugenotten Museum at Gendarmenmarkt as part of the module "Migration to and from Britain 17th to 20th century". We were taken on a guided tour through the Museum which resides in the old Huguenot Church established in the 18th century. The museum focusses on the expulsion of Huguenots since the 16th century up to the last and largest expulsion after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 which led to the dispersion of Huguenots across the German States, Britain, and the New World.

Excursion to the Jewish Museum

On 7 December, the new students of the Centre visited the Jewish Museum in Lindenstraße as part of the History module. We were taken on a guided tour through a small part of this striking museum. The tour focused on the integration of Jews in 19th century Germany, an aspect of Jewish history which is generally not at the centre of public attention, neither in Germany nor in Britain. Overall, the visitors were deeply impressed by the size and fantastic architecture of the building as well as by the exhibition itself.



Studying outside the classroom

Graduation Class 2013-2015

Another year has passed and the last class being awarded a 'Master in British Studies' (M.B.S.) received their final certificates at the official graduation ceremony on 17 December. The director, Prof Dannemann, congratulated them on their achievements and wished them well for their future careers, hoping to hear news from them within the Centre's alumni network.



This was the last group with a mix of 90 ECTS and 120 ECTS students and the degree of "Master in British Studies, M.B.S." Some completed their degree in April, while others rounded off their studies in November. In 2016 the first M.A. British Studies class will graduate, with all students aiming to have finished by November.

The class 2013-15 was a very successful group - with (so far) two students who received the excellent final mark of 1.2. Furthermore, the Centre supervised three master theses with the outstanding mark of 1.0; one of which was awarded the Humboldt Prize (page 22).

As is the custom, alumni, graduates, current students, and staff finished off the year 2015 with the annual Christmas party. After all the excitement, the large workload, and the effort that was put into the year, it was nice to toast its achievements and successes.



A happy end to the year

SPOTLIGHT

Student Project

What Identity, Love? Envisioning British Diversities

On the occasion of the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* on 13 June 2015, the class of 2014-16 focussed on the question of British identity. The students organised an interactive exhibition, turning the Senatssaal in the university main building into their own "DiverCity". The project, initiated and supervised by the



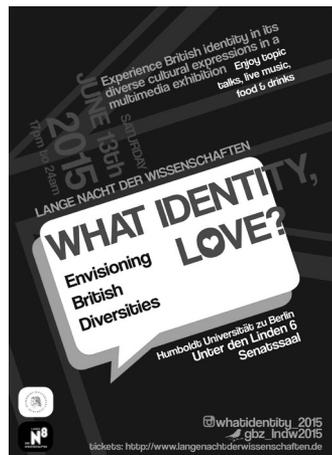
Discussing what needs to be done next ...

Centre's lecturer Johanna Zinecker within the framework of the module for cultural project management, was conceptualised and organised entirely by the students. The topic was chosen on grounds of it perfectly representing the student body itself: 26 students from 15 different countries of origin on four different continents all gathered in Berlin, which is a city that celebrates its own diversity.

Once the topic had been found, the students split up into groups focussing on either content, press and PR, catering and children's entertainment, fundraising or technical support. The class-elected project managers Reza Sharafi, Diana Teggi, and Katharina Sprockhoff took the lead, supervising and supporting progress on every level of the project.

The student-led project focused on the 21st century's inevitable change in attitude towards national belonging and subjectivity with respect to migration in Britain. Through cultural expressions such as film, music, fashion, fine and street art, literature and food, the project focussed on the reflection of identity and diversity in the United Kingdom, and explored how diverse subjectivities interact and are negotiated in the urban space. Thereby the title "What identity, love?" reflected the starting point of the exhibition, posing the question of how identity is expressed.

The night of the event went well: the exhibition space was structured as a series of paths departing from a square in an unidentified British city. Visitors were invited to walk through the display areas and explore the works of several British artists. In the film corner, five TV sets with headphones gave the public access to edited excerpts





from a number of recent films on migration in the UK. The exhibition panels stood out with their engaging and well-researched topics as well as professional design. In the children's corner the younger visitors were welcome to try their luck with making colourful and sometimes peculiarly shaped items with a 3D-printer, a British invention.

Thanks to the work of the press and PR team the project was able to attract a steady flow of interested visitors throughout the evening. Moreover, the students working at the street-food corner did a fantastic job by preparing around 500 simits with delicious toppings. Having sold most of them, they are proud to say that they have made a significant profit that night. Some of it will be passed on to the next class to provide them with initial funding for their project next year.

Furthermore, they were happy to welcome guests on the Senatssaal's stage. Kathrin Tietze spoke on behalf of the British Council Germany about diversity at the workplace. Highlights of the night were the musical performances by singer-songwriter Anil Altintas feat. Jan Hesmert, as well as the electro-pop duo Late Night at Squat Bars. Additionally, comedian Toby Arsalan attracted many visitors and received a cheering round of applause.

Overall, the class is happy to say that this project was a very challenging, rewarding and positive experience that gave each one of them practical and theoretical insight into the management and production of cultural events.

Katharina Sprockhoff and Diana Teggi (Project Managers)



Work Placements

The placement scheme has consistently been one of the most popular elements of the M.A. 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'. Since the study regulations for the M.A. British Studies were changed in 2014, the placements run for three months and take place during the third semester.

Placement Provider Meeting

Following our successful placement provider conference in 2012, we held a second placement provider meeting in February. Our aim was not only to bring providers in contact with prospective interns, but also to enable a discussion about the value of work placements from various viewpoints. We invited four guests from diverse industries and regions to meet with the students. While Michael Darcy, director of Dublin-based Brookside Publishing Services, and Judith Robinson, Literature Producer at Bath Literature Festivals, represented the cultural sector, Edisa Korugic gave insights into the work of political think tank Henry Jackson Society, London, and Ian Thomson introduced the work of the European Documentation Centre at Cardiff University which he directs.



The morning programme was a lively panel, chaired by Sandra van Lente, formerly a lecturer at the Centre. Linking in with the current European-wide debate, our guests discussed controversial topics such as fair working conditions and pay for interns alongside expectations and length of placements, as well as the question of transition into fully professional work, a critical phase for many career starters. In the afternoon, our current students had the opportunity to talk to our guests as well as to invited alumni who represented further providers at 'expert tables'. Feedback and follow-up discussions showed that the meeting was highly successful for all participants. It was also an excellent chance for our guests to be reunited and catch up with former interns.

Name	Institution
Chekalova, Maija	Metal Culture, Liverpool
De Cock De Rameyen, Jade	Glasgow Film Festival, Glasgow
Eğir, Hafize	Experience Scotland
Eremenko, Irina	European Documentation Centre, Cardiff
Gasparyan, Lilit	Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
Hake, Laura	The Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere
Koca, Nazli	New Island Books, Dublin, Ireland
Kocharian, Anna	Cheltenham Festivals, Cheltenham
Kruk, Uliana	Everything Unlocked Ltd, London
Mishina, Ekaterina	New Island Books, Dublin, Ireland
Nureeva, Luiza	Literature Wales, Cardiff
Plotnykova, Olga	Birmingham City Council, Birmingham
Ponomarenko, Anna	Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons, London
Prella, Simon	The Open University in Wales, Cardiff
Sagimuldina, Nagima	Rights in Exile Programme, Oxford
Sharafi, Seyed Reza	Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons, London
Silveira Leite, Diana	National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh
Sprockhoff, Katharina	British Embassy, Berlin
Suchkova, Irina	Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, London
Tabagua, Anni	Tern TV, Glasgow
Teggi, Diana	Bath Festivals, Literature Festival, Bath
Varago, Rubina	Wine Pantry, London
Xu, Mingsong	Pearson Plc, London



Anni's press pass for coverage of a political event



Irina S. (second left) and her colleagues in a staff meeting



Walking to Alcock Tarn: Laura enjoying Wordsworth country

Reports

Mingsong Xu

Pearson Plc, London



Studying London nightlife:
Lilit, Reza and Mingsong

Located in the core centre of London (at The Strand, just near the river and across from the London Eye), Pearson enjoys the benefit of a nice spot in London. But it also gives me a headache to get there and go home every day, as London is super crowded at all times. Fortunately we don't have fixed working hours (normally from 9 am to 5 pm) and we all have the option to work from home (normally I work from home one day or two every week). We have a nice canteen where you can have a full British breakfast and fish and chips for lunch. As an education company, Pearson employees have free access to a lot of learning resources, including online courses from Lynda.com, and discounts for *The Economist* and *FT* subscriptions. Pearson is a place to make your voice heard and get effective feedback. You are surrounded by friendly and approachable people who always have time for you and from whom you will learn a lot. Living in London is quite expensive and busy, but well-connected public transport gives you the opportunity to plan weekend excursions to surrounding areas.

Reza Seyed Sharafi

Ben Bradshaw MP, The House of Commons

When we were asked to come up with our options for our internship in the UK, my first and only choice was London, Parliament, Ben Bradshaw MP. While writing this report in the last hours of my internship, I must admit that I am very pleased with that choice. The job mainly included correspondence with constituents and government departments through Caseworker (Labour's correspondence software), doing research and providing briefings on a wide range of topics; and shadowing Ben to interviews, panels, and (committee) meetings, and then to Exeter, Ben's constituency. As an intern, I never felt any sort of pressure, thanks to Ben and his office manager, Murray, who provided a friendly, relaxed and flexible atmosphere at work. I set myself a simple goal before arriving: to visit as many places and as many people as I could every single day and it worked – I had it just like that. I lived like a tourist during my stay but equally like a Londoner if I may say so; a memorable experience indeed.



Ben Bradshaw MP (left) with Reza in front of the House of Commons

M.B.S. Theses

Name	Thesis
Boersma, Margje	The Rolling Stones: a British Band with the Blues
Evans, Kathryn	The Question of Privilege in the UK
Falko, Irina	Legal Gap. Comparative Analysis of the International and the UK's Domestic Practises of the Legal Regulation of the PMSCs and Possible Scenarios of Future Development
Gimranova, Aysylu	The Law of Privacy and the Media: Balancing the Articles 8 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights
Gonzalez, Maeva	Constitutional Conventions and the House of Lords
Gorelova, Natalia	Widening Participation in Highly Selective Universities: Challenges and Perspectives of Social Mobility in the UK
Granderath, Cordula	Nostalgia – A Modern Longing for an Idealised Past? Examining Notions of Heritage and <i>Heimat</i> with Regards to National Identity in Britain and Germany
Grundler, Maja	The Protection of Asylum Seekers Against Female Genital Mutilation in the UK
Huang, Kuan	Law and Culture
Kapranova, Ekaterina	Political Rhetoric Surrounding Major Sporting Events: A Case Study of the 2014 Commonwealth Games
Krogzeme, Kitija	UK Policies towards Multiculturalism – Encouraging Coexistence in a Changing Society
McArthur, Kimberly	'The Property of a Gentlemen': A Socio-Legal Evaluation of the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 in Regulating the Trade in Tainted Cultural Objects in the UK
Meier, Wiebke Marie	An Analysis of Storytelling in Literature Museums in England with the Example of the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre
Miranda, Renata	Breaking the News: English Humour and New Modes of Journalism in John Oliver's 'Last Week Tonight'
Mishina, Ekaterina	Justice and Multiculturalism in Great Britain: Examination of the Problem of Cultural Considerations in Criminal Cases
Miszta, Elżbieta	The Political Context of Technology Companies
Nureeva, Luiza	The Limits of Self-Determination for National Minorities: Referenda in Scotland and Ukraine
Permiakova, Sofia	Woman at War: Representation of War in British Women's Poetry of the First World War
Plötz, Sophie	Crime and Class in Ian Rankin's Rebus Novels

Name	Thesis
Plotnykova, Olga	Causation in Duress. A Comparison of English and German Law Approaches
Prella, Simon	Knowledge Transmission and Acquisition in a Digital World: E-Learning and Open Educational Resources
Qi, Suxiao	Voting in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum: An Analysis of 'Yes' Votes
Sadokha, Irina	Religious Minorities and Education. The 'Trojan Horse' Letter Case: a Pattern or a Singular Occurrence?
Samavati, Sina	Cinema of Divergence: The Progression of the New Wave of Independent British Cinema as British National Cinema
Strümpel, Nadine	Searching for a Coherent Legal Approach to 'Honour Killings' in the UK: Cultural Considerations at Court and the Potential of the Loss of Self-Control Defence
Walcott, Axelle	The Coexistence of <i>Sharia</i> , English Law and the European Convention on Human Rights: the Challenge of Multiculturalism in the United Kingdom
Weintraub, Marat	Contemporary Attitudes to Sexuality and Identity in the Gay Community, as Represented in the Works of Russell T. Davies (working title)
Zalaldinova, Anita	Legislative Regulation of Accountability and Transparency in the Charity Sector in England

Humboldt Master Thesis Prize

The Centre is pleased to announce its first-ever Humboldt Master Thesis Prize for Sofia Permiakova's thesis on women's war poetry. The prestigious prize, presented by the university's president at a prize ceremony on the first day of the winter semester, is awarded once a year to the best BA, MA, and PhD theses. Competition is high, and humanities and social sciences topics often do not fare as well as the natural sciences do. In addition, most MA theses are 6-month theses, Sofia Permiakova however has won the prize for a 3-month thesis which shows the high quality of her work. Prize winners receive 1,500 Euros, a helpful sum for anyone embarking on the next stages of an academic career, as Sofia has done since winning the prize. Praised by supervisors and the prize committee, she is now a member of the Centre's Graduate School, expanding her topic to encompass women's war poetry of World War II (see page 33). Sofia is currently replacing Johanna Zinecker as academic staff member at the Centre.



President J.-H. Olbertz (HU), left, with the award winners; Sofia is in the middle

Alumni

Graduates from the Centre have moved on to work in different fields and institutions, such as media and publishing, translation, performing arts, research/academia, teaching, NGOs, political organisations, education management and private sector management. Alumni of the Centre for British Studies can be found in many different countries, including the UK, Germany, Bulgaria, Ireland, Turkey, China, Austria, Spain, Denmark, Mexico, and the United States.

The Centre puts a lot of emphasis on staying in touch with its alumni. This is a two-fold endeavour: the Centre is interested in keeping track of what our former students are doing; and the Centre regularly sends out information about the activities at the Centre and career prospects.

To get in touch with the Centre's Alumni contact person, please write to Ali El-Haj: ali.el-haj@hu-berlin.de



It is always a pleasure to meet again:
Emmanuelle Berne,
M.B.S. 2010 (middle),
now a choreographer and
dancer in LA and Paris

What happened to ...

Annette C. Boehm

Class 2001-2003

As alumna of the M.B.S. course (2003), I completed my PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi in May 2015, and my manuscript *The Knowledge Weapon* was chosen as the winner of the 2015 Bare Fiction Debut Poetry Collection Competition in November. The book will be released in spring 2016. I also published *The Five Parts of Love – Confabulating Sappho*, a poetry chapbook released by Dancing Girl Press in 2011, and my poetry has most recently appeared in the *New Welsh Review* and the *Journal of Compressed Creative Arts*. Furthermore, I serve as a poetry reader for *Memorious – A Journal of New Verse and Fiction*.



Annette C. Boehm
(photo: Kristin Teston)

Emilis Kasparas

Class 2009-2011

The years after my graduation, I spent working privately as a teacher of business English and developing my abilities as a public speaker. But this year was full of challenges for me since I started doing my PhD in literature. I could say that my lifelong interest led me back to where I truly belong: academia. This year was also a year of reflection: I remembered lots of great moments I



Emilis Kasparas

had in Berlin. Nowhere did my knowledge grow as quickly as at the Centre for British Studies where I got to be a part of a great university, lectured by exceptionally skilled academics, and taken care of by affectionate staff. With this heartfelt experience and knowledge, I believe that it is time to take the momentum and bring all my experiences to the young university of which I am now a part of: Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.

THE CENTRE'S STAFF TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES

Lectures: International and Comparative Contract Law (Prof Dannemann)

Professor Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter term 2015/16. The lectures treat core issues of contract law from a comparative perspective with particular reference to English, German and French law, and provide an introduction to conflict of law issues (applicable law and jurisdiction) in matters relating to international contracts, with particular emphasis on the EC Regulation on the Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations, and the EU Regulation on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters.

Guilds – Trade Unions – Professionalization. Labour Market Strategies of Social Closure from a Historical Perspective (Prof Eisenberg)

Zunft – Gewerkschaft – Professionalisierung. Strategien der Arbeitsmarktschließung in historischer Perspektive

Workers, both past and present, developed a multitude of strategies of social closure, i.e. of denying access to the labour market to competitors. These attempts at exclusion were, inter alia, directed against unskilled workers and, in the liberal professions, colleagues without recognized qualifications. Sometimes they were also directed against women, young people, immigrants or minorities. In many cases, they led to the formation of guilds, journeymen associations, trade unions or professional associations. However, not all labour markets can be organized in this way. In some occupations and jobs, particularly in the service sector, strategies of social closure turned out to be inefficient. The seminar, held by Prof Eisenberg, was designed to analyse empirical cases of success and failure of strategies of social closure in order to develop instruments for cross-country and cross-time analyses.



RESEARCH

Conferences and Workshops

Literature Seminar: Form in Tension

In January 2015, the Centre for British Studies co-hosted the Literature Seminar together with the British Council. On the topic of "Form in Tension", contemporary writers from the UK spent an intensive three days with the audience, exploring their work during readings, panel discussions, and interviews. Writers Will Self, Lavinia Greenlaw, who also chaired the event, Helen Oyeyemi, Deborah Levy, Frances Levinson, and Philip Hoare explained in what way their work pushed at genre boundaries, and how they judge the connection between form and its limits. The discussions brought together academics, translators, publishers, and graduate students who work on contemporary British literature, and continued during dinner at the university's Cum Laude Restaurant and during coffee breaks. Because this joint event between the Centre and the British Council Germany was so successful, the London Literature Department of the British Council decided to continue this fruitful cooperation in 2016, this time with crime fiction as the seminar's overall topic.



Writing 1900: Mindscapes and Bodyscapes

The Writing 1900 network met once again at the Centre, in March 2015, this time concentrating its papers and discussions on mindscapes and bodyscapes. Proust, Havelock Ellis, and Tchaikovsky were among the writers (and composers) whose bodies and minds were explored at the 7th meeting of the network which also included a session where all members shared the reading and interpretation of primary texts. This session proved to be particularly productive, as all members could contribute e.g. to the interpretation of a letter from Berlin by Alix Strachey to her husband James, marking an important



An idea for the future: 'Mapping Europe'

stage of trans-national exchange between Berlin and London or to the reading of a rarely-discussed Spanish writer and his erotic literary productions. The early stages of a larger project entitled "Mapping Europe", to be developed further at the next meeting in Siggen in May 2016, were also discussed. Drawing on the results of five years of cooperation, this project draws together the different methodological strands represented by members of the network. At the same time, it will open up perspectives on new material, both textual and historical. The meeting concluded with a guided tour of the Charité museum which focused on the different (medical) ways of presenting bodies at the turn of the century.

Ekphrasis in the Digital Age



Experts on literary ekphrasis

In August 2015, a group of international experts on literary ekphrasis met at the Centre for a workshop conference co-organised by Prof Gabriele Rippl (Bern), Prof Renate Brosch (Stuttgart) and Prof Danuta Fjellestad (Uppsala). Not only were basic issues such as the need to (re-)define ekphrasis in the light of recent theoretical and artistic developments debated, but cases were also presented, ranging from Swedish ekphrastic poetry to postcolonial ekphrasis in transnational fiction. Prof Stedman is loosely attached to the group whose exact format is still being developed.

Berlin-Britain Research Network: Critical Austerity Studies

The Berlin-Britain Research Network held its second meeting at the Centre and at HU's main building in March 2015, beginning with a plenary discussion on terms and definitions, chaired by Hugh MacKay (sociology). The meeting continued with contributions by Allan Cochrane (sociology), Steven Truxal (law), Christopher Schuller (law), Marius Guderjan (political science), Gesa Stedman (cultural studies), and Ingrid von Rosenberg (cultural studies). There were lively discussions not only during the conference, but also during dinner. Plans were discussed how to expand the network and continue its work on critical austerity studies, including a special issue or edited volume of the next conference's papers. The next meeting will take place in April 2016 during the three-day conference on 'Agency and Austerity in the UK and Germany'.

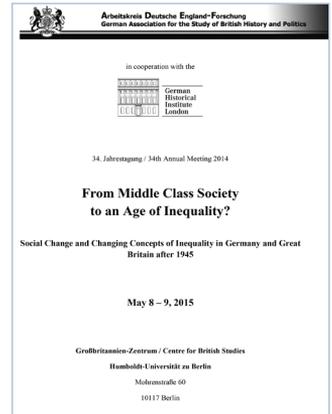


Austerity networking



From Middle Class Society to an Age of Inequality? Social Change and Changing Concepts of Inequality in Germany and Great Britain after 1945

The 34th Annual Meeting of the German Association for the Study of British History and Politics (ADEF) was held at the Centre for British Studies in cooperation with the German Historical Institute London from 8 to 9 May 2015. The organisers of the conference, Bernhard Dietz (University of Mainz) and Felix Römer (German Historical Institute) brought together German and British historians to discuss questions of social inequality from multiple perspectives. The starting point that led to the conference was the international public debate on social inequality, with its popular narrative of a middle-class society that flourished for a generation after World War II but was only a temporary aberration of an otherwise clear and distinctive trend of rising social inequality. Yet how does the story of a development from a middle class society to an age of inequality, as powerfully reinforced by Thomas Piketty's bestselling book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, withstand empirical historical analysis? The conference attendees discussed this question using a broad range of case studies from Great Britain and Germany from 1945 to the present. Particular attention was paid to the various dimensions of inequality and the changing concepts and categories of social inequality and their interrelations with social and economic developments. Why was which type of social inequality seen as a problem? What identities, narratives and norms did societies produce to describe, accept, justify or fight social inequality?



ADEF Junior Workshop

The 7th Junior Workshop of the German Association for the Study of British History and Politics (ADEF), which took place from 17-18 September, was hosted by Prof Eisenberg and organized by Tanja Skambraks (Universität Mannheim) and Benjamin Schröder (Humboldt-Universität). Thirteen PhD and postdoctoral students from all over Germany presented their projects on British, comparative, and transnational history and political science. Contributions covered a wide range of topics both chronologically and methodologically: from Elisabethan controversial literature to British colonial politics in Ireland, Palestine and British India, from the British monarchy in popular culture to political discourses on order and radicalism during the 18th and 19th century. Discussion was just as animated as in past years.

Current Research Projects

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

F. A. Mann (1907-1991)



F. A. Mann
(photo: University Archive)

Readers may remember from the last Annual Report that in 2014, Anne Kriken Mann donated some 10,000 personal documents to the Humboldt-Universität relating to Francis Mann, an alumnus and former academic staff member of Humboldt-Universität'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 personalities and politicians, but also the political scientist Ernst Fraenkel and Friedrich Hayek, a Nobel Laureate in Economics. In 2015, Herbert Smith Freehills donated some additional 3,500 documents relating to Francis Mann.

Prof Dannemann submitted a grant application to the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* which aims to unlock the secrets from these documents, bringing together cooperation partners and other researchers from the Humboldt-Universität (including Prof Eisenberg), the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, and i.a. the Universities of Cambridge and Oslo. Prof Dannemann also attended the 38th F. A. Mann Lecture, delivered by Lord Neuberger, President of the UK Supreme Court, 29 February 2015, Lincoln's Inn, London.

Existing EC Private Law

Prof Dannemann is one of the founding members of the European Research Group on EC Private Law (Acquis Group) and heads both the Redaction Committee and the Terminology Group. While activities of the Acquis Group receded after the completion of the Draft Common Frame of Reference of European Private Law, group members including Prof Dannemann are currently working on a proposal for a draft regulation for digital platform service providers.

Plagiarism

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 throughout 2015.

Further Activities

* Attended the second UK-Germany Round Table on the Future of Research, co-organised by the British Council and the German Academic Exchange Service, held at the Humboldt-Universität, 20 April. * Attended a conference on 'General Principles of Law: European and Comparative Perspectives. Celebrating 20 Years of the Institute of European and Comparative Law', held at the University of Oxford, 25-26 September. * Chaired a session of a conference on 'Platform Services in the Digital Market', held at the University of Osnabrück, 19-20 November. * Chaired a session of a conference on 'The European Union Succession Regulation', Institute of Notary Law, Humboldt-Universität, 26 November.

Prof Dannemann contributed the following conference papers: "Getting Lost Between Maps: Some Thoughts on Causative Events, Rights and Remedies in the Law of Unjust Enrichment", Workshop on Comparative Unjust Enrichment, King's College London, 12 January. * "Crowd-Based Documentation of Plagiarism: the VroniPlag Wiki Experience", Summer School 'Research Ethics in the Digital Age', Technical University Dresden, 7 September. * "Expert Evidence of Foreign Law in EU Courts, European Circuit of the Bar", Annual Conference on 'International Litigation – Comparative Approaches', Berlin, 21 September. * "Rights and Remedies in Unjust Enrichment", Workshop on Comparative Unjust Enrichment, McGill University, Montreal, 9 October.

Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism. A Study of Market Competition

Der Sportsgeist des Kapitalismus. Wie wir am Markt konkurrieren

Perceptions of competition on markets are influenced to a great extent by close observation of and active participation in competitive sports. Both modes of competition were 'invented' in early-capitalist England at the turn of the 17th to the 18th century. In a historical long-term study, covering the ground up to the present, the interaction of the two modes of operation of competition on markets and in sport will be examined. The monograph analyses three periods in greater detail: the late 17th and 18th century, the late 19th and early 20th century as well as the decades from the 1980s until today. For each of these periods, case studies will be carried out to reconstruct the behaviour of sportspeople and economic actors on time-specific markets.



'Writing 1900' Workshop



Dr Hugh Mackay and
Prof Gesa Stedman

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Prof Stedman heads the international research network Writing 1900, together with Dr Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) and Prof Philip Bullock (Oxford). In this capacity, she is working on a book project which takes a fresh look at Anglophone travellers and visitors to Berlin from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. Together with Dr Hugh Mackay (Open University) and Dr Marius Guderjan (Centre for British Studies), she heads the Berlin-Britain Research Network which currently concentrates on critical austerity studies. Both networks held conferences at the Centre in 2015 at which Prof Stedman gave papers. In addition, she has become loosely attached to an international research group on ekphrasis in the digital age, concentrating on English-language art novels and the role of artists in her own project. As head of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, she is also responsible for the overall research and workshop programme for the Centre's PhD students.

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger

The book project "The Rise and Fall of the Written Self" is part of HU's 'Zukunftskonzept' 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 then use the evidence to re-examine the validity of the 'individualization postulate' that is central to so many studies of Western modernization processes.

Prof Dr Margrit Schulte Beerbühl

Prof Schulte Beerbühl has been pursuing two research projects. For some time, she has been working on the "The Hamburg Speculation Bubble of 1799 and its Global Impact", for which she received a fellowship of The LOEWE-Schwerpunkt 'Außergerichtliche und gerichtliche Konfliktlösung' of the Goethe University and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History of Frankfurt am Main in 2013/14. Another subject, which she has been developing for some time, is the history of German chocolate firms. She edited a special edition in *Food & History* on *The global expansion of cocoa and chocolate: diffusion, industrialisation, mass production and advertisement* in 2015. In cooperation with the Chocolate Museum in Cologne, she is currently preparing an exhibition on the history of forgotten chocolate firms along the lower Rhine between Emmerich and Bonn (ca 1850 to 1970) which opens in spring 2016.



Prof Schulte Beerbühl
enjoying her stay at the
Centre

Dr Marius Guderjan

In 2015, Dr Marius Guderjan continued his research on the relations between local government and the EU which resulted in the article "Theorising European Integration of Local Government – Insights from the Fusion Approach" published in *Local Government Studies* (vol 41, issue 6), and co-authored a paper on "Future research on European Union Cohesion Policy: a Master Class during the OPEN DAYS 2014", *Regional Studies, Regional Science* (vol 2, issue 1). Together with Prof Lee Miles, Dr Guderjan has submitted the paper "The Fusion Approach – Applications for Understanding Local Government and European Integration" for the *Journal of European Integration*. He furthermore produced a short article on the Commonwealth for the 8th edition of the *Staatslexikon*. Dr Guderjan spoke at the 'Smart City-Regional Governance' international symposium on 8-9 October in Brussels, and at the *Saarland. innovation&standorte e.V.* about the UK's coming referendum on EU membership in Saarbrücken on 6 October. Together with Chris Bickerton (Cambridge University), he initiated a workshop series on 'European Integration and State Transformation' funded by the DAAD, which involves researchers from Germany and Cambridge. Dr Guderjan also organised a panel on 'Austerity and Human Rights in the UK and Europe' in cooperation with the German Institute for Human Rights on 2 November. In 2015 he joined the *Arbeitskreis Deutsche England-Forschung (ADEF)*.



Marius wrote an article for the Berliner *Tagesspiegel* on British politics

Dr Erik Spindler

For the first part of 2015, Dr Spindler has been working on two separate research projects. The first concerns sexuality and in particular the way institutions (e.g. schools) take it upon themselves to define, frame and control expressions of sexuality, broadly defined.

The second research project is more long-standing and concerns migration (specifically Dutch-speaking immigrants in late medieval England). Dr Spindler spent many years telling anyone who would listen that migration is 'normal' (in the sense of affecting the majority of people) and that mass migration constitutes an element of continuity between medieval, modern, and contemporary periods. As a result, the increased attention paid to movements of people into and within the European Union during the summer was gratifying in intellectual terms, mortifying in terms of human compassion, and bemusing overall. During the latter part of 2015, Dr Spindler has been on sabbatical leave. This has entailed less time spent with books and more time spent teaching – especially (and rather refreshingly) teenagers.



Erik, dressed up to the nines for the anniversary

Ali El-Haj

Ali El-Haj is researching the migration of legal norms and the normative principles that underpin these migrations. Over the past year, he attended a number of lectures, conferences, workshops and courses.

From 3 to 6 June, he

attended a conference in Hanover on Constitutionalism, Religious Freedom and Human Rights, where he delivered a paper on 'International Law and Convergence in Arab Constitutions'. In March, he had a research stay at the Institut Michel-Villey pour la Culture Juridique et la Philosophie du Droit (Université Paris-II Panthéon-Assas). A more detailed account of Ali's academic activities can be found on his staff profile page.



Prof Dannemann and Ali El-Haj during the moot court sessions

Jessica Fischer

Jessica Fischer's research is about novels published after 9/11 and 7/7. More specifically, it is about the forms of agency they construct for British-Asian identities in the way the lives of the protagonists are narrated. The main characters all find a new, sometimes autonomous, position in their fictional British societies through a transformation of their identity. However, their agency is restricted to conformist practices within neoliberal structures and does not include a critique of power dynamics. In 2015, Jessica Fischer organized the Monday Lecture with Prof Jessica Hemmings

(January), attended the British Council Literature Seminar (January), has participated in the working group "Equality Policy" (since May), held a guest lecture at Universität Lüneburg (June), participated in two major projects by the artist Tino Sehgal (June and July), visited the conference "Philologie und Gesellschaft" in Hanover (September) and actively contributed to the workshop of the 'Life Writing' network in Siggen (September/October), to the courses and the Interdisciplinary Reading Group of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies.



Jessica and Johanna exchanging ideas

Sofia Permiakova

As a member of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, Sofia started working on her PhD thesis on British women's war poetry in May 2015. Her work focuses on the complex reasons behind women's exclusion from the war poetry canon. 2014 marked the centenary of the outbreak of World War I; 2015 commemorates 70 years since the end of World War II. As a part of memorial culture, war poetry reappears on those special occasions: put into a new context, it has a potential of being revised. Still at the initial stage of her research, Sofia is now focusing on finding the grounds for such a revision through giving a detailed account of the aesthetic wealth of women's war poetry. In 2015 she also attended numerous workshops organized by the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies.



President J.-H. Olbertz (HU) congratulates Sofia on winning the Humboldt Prize for her excellent Master Thesis

Reet Tamme

Reet is currently working on her PhD thesis on the social science discourse on race and ethnicity in Britain between 1950 and 1980. The aim of this project is to shed light on the role of the social sciences in the process of massive social change in Britain due to the post-war immigration. It examines how the social sciences construct knowledge about the constitution of society and how this discourse shapes social practices. Drawing on works of Roger Chartier, academic discourses are analysed as representations. This approach combines discourse analysis with the sociology of knowledge and postcolonial theory.



Reet Tamme

Johanna Zinecker

Johanna's PhD research examines artistic production on mental health and madness in the UK context, utilizing approaches from across the critical medical humanities, disability and cultural studies. In early 2015 Johanna was granted the Caroline von Humboldt International Research Award which allowed her to continue her PhD Research in the UK for the academic year 2015-16, where she has been based since the summer at King's College London. Throughout 2015 Johanna participated in a number of conferences and academic workshops, including presentations at the 'NNDR 13th Disability Research' Conference, Bergen, Norway in May and at the 'Making Sense of Mad Studies' Conference, hosted by the Centre for Medical Humanities, Durham University in



Johanna in the foyer of KCL's Virginia Woolf building where she is currently spending her research leave

September. Johanna conducts her PhD under the auspices of the joint PhD Programme between Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and King's College London, supervised by Prof Eveline Kilian (English Studies, HU Berlin) and Prof Brian Hurwitz (English Department and Centre for the Humanities and Health, KCL, London). She is also an associate member of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies and has actively participated in the Interdisciplinary Reading Group of the Centre as well the Critical Austerity Studies Meeting of the Berlin-Britain Research Network.

Visiting Researchers

Prof Patricia Springborg



Prof Patricia Springborg

Emerita Professor of Political Science from the University of Sydney and from the School of Economics, Free University of Bolzano.

In 2015 Patricia Springborg published the findings of her major project at the Centre for British Studies in a 50 page article in a major peer-review journal: "Hobbes, Donne, and the Virginia Company: Terra Nullius and 'the Bulimia of Dominion'", *History of Political Thought* 36.1 (2015), 113-64. She published two more articles on Hobbes, in an Italian collection and in a special issue of CRISPP. She presented papers in conceptual history at conferences in Rome, and Timosuora (Romania), and served on panels at workshops in Hanover, Bielefeld, Milan and at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. In October she took part in an Oxford Union style debate over Brexit in Florence defending the position that "The EU needs the UK". She also continued her political journalism, publishing five full page op. ed. newspaper articles in the *Südtiroler Wirtschaftszeitung* and *ff.* on topics ranging from Charlie Hebdo to the Greek Crisis and TTIP.

Dr Stefano Evangelista

Stefano Evangelista spent a month at the Centre as visiting researcher in February-March 2015. This was part of his AHRC-funded project 'The Love of Strangers: Literary Cosmopolitanism in the English Fin de Siècle'. While in Berlin, he wrote a chapter on Oscar Wilde's World Literature, which will form part of a monograph on British literary cosmopolitanism on which he is currently at work. Stefano's research brings to light Wilde's previously unnoticed interest in Goethe's conversations with Eckermann, where the famous idea of World Literature was formulated, as well as

his involvement in the so called *querelle des nationalistes et des cosmopolites* that took place in 1890s Paris. During his time in the Centre Stefano also convened, together with Gesa Stedman, a meeting of the Writing 1900 network on the topic of 'Mindscapes and Bodyscapes'. As ever, he greatly enjoyed being part of the intellectual and social community of the Centre for British Studies, and would like to thank everyone there for their continued hospitality. Dr Evangelista's recent publications include a chapter on Walter Pater and John Addington Symonds in *The Oxford History of Classical Reception in English Literature*, vol.4, 1780-1880 (2015). He is currently editing, together with Philip Ross Bullock and Gesa Stedman, a special issue of *Forum for Modern Language Studies* which will bring together contributions by members of the Writing 1900 group.



Dr Stefano Evangelista

Dr Marco Claudio Corradi

Marco visited the Centre whilst reading for the last term of his DPhil in Law at the University of Oxford. He completed his DPhil thesis during his stay in Berlin. During his visit he enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the Centre, which he found much closer to the one of a typical Oxford college than to that of a standard 'mass' continental European University. He also benefited from the interaction with a multidisciplinary environment that he found particularly stimulating and beneficial for his research, which deals with comparative corporate law and economics. Marco felt facilitated in his research both about British and German jurisdiction by the English speaking working environment and by the generous and encouraging support by the Centre's staff.



Marco finished his PhD thesis at the Centre

Adela Calota, M.B.S.

Adela Calota is a former M.B.S. student and a current PhD candidate in Law & Language at the University of Craiova, Romania. She is particularly interested in researching the legal effects of semantic ambiguity in law. In April and May 2015, she conducted a European funded POSDRU research stay at the Centre for British Studies, under the coordination of Prof Dannemann. Beyond the fruitful experience as reader in the University libraries, she was glad to return to the warm and friendly environment of the Centre, to see friends again and make new acquaintances (the wonderful team of the Centre's PhD candidates), but most importantly to receive academic guidance, practical feedback and research tips, of use and value to her doctoral studies and her future academic career.



Adela researching in Berlin

SPOTLIGHT

Berlin Graduate School of British Studies

One year on ...

The Berlin Graduate School of British Studies (BGSBS), funded by the Excellency Funds of Humboldt-Universität and attached to the Humboldt Graduate School, has now been up and running smoothly for a year.

2015 started off with the official launch of the Graduate School on 7 January. After a welcome to members, friends, and guests of the new graduate school, the spokesperson of the Graduate School, Prof Gesa Stedman, introduced the guest speaker Dr Marion Müller, a former staff member of the Centre for British Studies and an Oxford graduate. She now manages the Einstein Foundation Berlin.

Her lively and informative talk, "The Best Years of Your Lives", gave the audience an insight into her PhD project, which began at the Centre and which she was luckily able to complete in Oxford. Dr Müller gave a vivid impression of her experience, including not only all the pleasures and anxieties that such a large-scale academic endeavour involves, but also all those famous little quirks and eccentricities the Oxford community offers. She furthermore had a list of helpful tips for our PhD students regarding their projects, including useful advice on how not to spend months and months collecting data but to start writing immediately, to remain open to ideas and criticism, and not least to allow for mistakes which are a necessary part of any research project. It was an entertaining, but also thoughtful and encouraging talk. The event was followed by a reception with drinks and canapés where everyone drank to the success of the Graduate School and its members.

After this celebratory diversion, the PhD students got back to the challenging business of writing their theses. The Graduate School accompanies this process by organising several workshops and courses, tailor-made for the special needs of composing an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis. In 2015, the following courses were offered: "Proposal Writing", "Comparison in Scientific Research", "Research Methods in the Social Sciences". The PhD students also took part in a teaching workshop, and then used their recently acquired skills for first teaching performances on the MA British Studies course. Furthermore, they regularly attended the Centre's Reading Group sessions where scholars meet to discuss an academic text relevant to interdisciplinary research.

Another context in which the members of the Graduate School had the opportunity



to collect experience in academia and to network with people from the HU and the UK is the Berlin-Britain Research Network. Its members met in spring for a second workshop, and the PhD students are actively involved in planning and organising a conference on "Agency and Austerity" which will take place in April 2016.

In accordance with the idea of starting small and growing in the future, three more graduates have joined the Graduate School in 2015, which now has 11 members. The Centre is glad to be able to support them by providing workplaces with PCs and office facilities. All in all, it is a great pleasure to have these young scholars around and to be able to profit from their enthusiasm and academic input.

Since the Excellency funding ends in 2017, the Centre is now actively pursuing plans for making the Graduate School a permanent fixture of the Centre's research activities.

Members' Voices:

"I joined the Graduate School in May 2015, and all the seminars and the group meetings we have had since then were not only helpful, but also inspiring. I believe what makes this graduate school so different is the interdisciplinarity of its members: sometimes people coming from a completely different research area can ask you the most useful question about your own research, and this is when you get a new angle on things which keeps the work going." **Sofia Permiakova**

"I cannot believe how quickly this year has past. There have been a couple of challenges, but overall I do enjoy the PhD and especially doing research in an area that really interests me. I am glad I have been given this opportunity and very happy that we have been given the office at the Centre. It makes such a difference to your motivation and productivity to have somewhere to go to and work and spend your breaks with others, rather than sitting at home by yourself." **Melanie Neumann**

"It has been a year now since I started my PhD project at the BGSBS. I am very grateful for the scholarship and the support at the graduate school which allows me to not only focus on my research, but also to pursue further training through courses offered by the BGSBS and Humboldt-Universität. This year, I was very excited to present my dissertation at the ADEF Junior Workshop and to gain my first teaching experience." **Jennifer Jacob**



Doctoral Students

Culture and Literature Department

Supervision by Prof Gesa Stedman

Jessica Fischer: *"Erzählungen des Neoliberalismus. Eine Analyse der Handlungsmöglichkeiten nach dem 11. September 2001 in ausgewählten britischen Debütromanen."*

Jennifer Jacob: "Decision-making Processes at Public Research Organisations: Guidelines for Successful Grant Applications in the UK and Germany". Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann and Prof Schlaeger.

Melanie Neumann: "A New Wave of Immigration to Berlin? - The Increase in Migration from Britain and Ireland to Berlin, its Effects and Shortcomings".

Sofia Permiakova: "Women on War, or War on Women? Representation of War in British Women's Poetry and Women's Position in the War Poetry Canon".

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: "A Literary Perspective on European Cultural Policies in the UK, Ireland and Germany – The European Union Prize for Literature".

Dr Sandra van Lente: has published her doctoral thesis entitled "Cultural Exchange in Selected Contemporary British Novels" on Humboldt-Universität's edoc server <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/>.

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 (HU Berlin) and Prof Brian Hurwitz (KCL).



Anna Schoon and Arne Gutsche discussing their PhD projects

History Department

Supervision by Prof Christiane Eisenberg

Firas Amr: has handed in and successfully defended his doctoral thesis entitled "*Der 'Charakter' des deutschen Feindes. Eine Analyse der britischen Propaganda und Psychologischen Kriegsführung im Zweiten Weltkrieg*".

Sebastian Schlund: "*Geschichte des Behindertensports in Deutschland nach 1945*" at the University of Kiel. Co-supervised by Prof Eisenberg.

Stephan Schwanke: "Endless Leisure? Australian Surf Culture from 1945 Onwards".

Reet Tamme: "*Wissenschaft und ‚race relations‘. Repräsentationen von Multiethnizität in Großbritannien, 1950-1980*". Supervised by Prof Gabriele Metzler (HU Berlin).

Law Department

Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann

Jens Brückerhoff: "The Law of Maritime Salvage in Comparative Law and in the Conflict of Laws".

Ali El-Haj: "The Migration of Legal Norms".

Robert Ficht: "Statutory Control of Unfair Contract Terms in Business Contracts".

Arne Gutsche: "Conceptions of Contract as a Question of National Identity".

Richard Marter: has submitted his PhD thesis on "The review of standard contract terms in collective proceedings in Germany, France and England" (in German).

Christopher Schuller: "Trusts and Human Rights".

Farida Valiullina: has completed a draft of her PhD thesis on "The Dialogue of the Courts in Europe: Interactions between the Strasbourg Court, the Luxembourg Court and the Courts of ECHR Member States".

Zoé Jacquemin: has completed her PhD with a dissertation on "*Payer, réparer, punir. Etude des fonctions de la responsabilité contractuelle en droits français, allemand et anglais*", as joint doctoral degree with the Université Panthéon-Assas. The public defence of her thesis took place in Paris on 9th December 2015, where she was awarded the top mark of "*avec la mention très honorable et les félicitations du jury*".

Publications

DANNEMANN, G., with Debora Weber-Wulff. "Viel Licht und noch mehr Schatten. Wie Universitäten auf Plagiatsdokumentationen reagieren." [Much Light, Even More Shadow: How Universities React to Documentations of Plagiarism.] *Forschung & Lehre* 22 (2015): 278-280.

---. "Plagiatsaufklärer sieht Parallelen zum Fall Schavan." *Der Tagesspiegel*. 8 Oct 2015.

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

---. Rev. of *La réparation intégrale en Europe. Études comparatives des droits nationaux*, by Philippe Pierre and Fabrice Leduc, Bruxelles: 2012. *Journal of European Tort Law* 6.3 (2015): 345-347.

EISENBERG, Ch. "Sportliches Handeln und die Ungewissheit kapitalistischer Märkte. Plädoyer für einen funktionalen Sportbegriff". *Reflexive Sportwissenschaft. Konzepte und Fallanalysen*. Swen Körner and Volker Schürmann, eds. Berlin: Lehmanns Media Verlag, 2015. 73-84.

SCHULTE BEERBÜHL, M. *The Forgotten Majority: German Merchants, Naturalization, and Global Trade (1660-1815)*. Oxford: Berghahn, 2015.

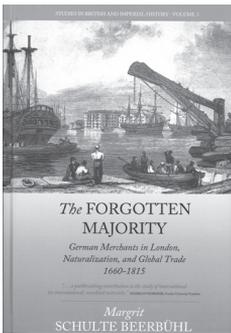
---. "The global expansion of cocoa and chocolate: diffusion, industrialisation, mass production and advertisement". Special Issue. *Food & History* 12.1 (2014). Published 2015.

---, with Albrecht Cordes, eds. *Dealing with Economic Failure. Between Norm and Practice (15th to 21st Century)*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2015.

---. "Trading Networks across the Blockades: Nathan Mayer Rothschild and His Commodity Trade during the Early Years of the Blockades (1803-1808)". *Revisiting Napoleon's Continental System. Local, Regional and European Experiences*. Katherine B. Aaslestad and Johan Joor, eds. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. 135-152.

---. "Diffusion, Innovation and Transnational Cooperation: Chocolate in Europe (c. 18th-20th Centuries)". Special Issue. *Food & History* 12.1 (2014): 9-32. Published 2015.

---. "Vincent Nolte: Global Player and Bankrupt: German entrepreneurs in America". *Immigrant Entrepreneurship. German-*



Visiting Researchers

SPRINGBORG, P. "Hobbes, Donne, and the Virginia Company: Terra Nullius and 'the Bulimia of Dominion'". *History of Political Thought* 36.1 (2015): 113-64.

"Hobbes and the Word". *Obbedienza religiosa e resistenza politica nella prima età moderna. Filosofi ebrei, cristiani e islamici di fronte alla Bibbia*. Luisa Simonutti, ed. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers, 2015. 183-2012.

"Mary Astell's Critique of Marriage Practices". *Feminist Moments: Reading Feminist Texts*. Katherine Smits and Susan Bruce, eds. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015. 27-34.

"Charlie Hebdo and the Banlieux". *Südtiroler Wirtschaftszeitung*. 16 January 2015. 19.

"Paris und der Dschihad". *ff (Südtirol)*. 15 January 2015. 45.

"Beware of the Greeks". *Südtiroler Wirtschaftszeitung*. 6 February 2015. 19.

"German Austerity and Grexit". *Südtiroler Wirtschaftszeitung*. 20 February 2015. 19.

"TTIP, Trade and Transparency". *Südtiroler Wirtschaftszeitung*. 3 April 2015. 19.

Library

The Centre's library is technically and logistically linked to the main library of Humboldt-Universität with its computerised administration system. It provides excellent working and research opportunities for students, researchers, and the general public.

The library's main areas of collection are those of the relevant disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 28,600 volumes and 8,000 items of electronic material.

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.

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

On Liberty: The Case for Retaining the UK Human Rights Act

Prof Shami Chakrabarti CBE
Director National Council for Civil Liberties London

19 November

On 11 September 2001, our world changed. The West's response to 9/11 has morphed into a period of exception. Governments have decided that the rule of law and human rights are often too costly. Drawing on her own work in high-profile campaigns, Shami Chakrabarti showed the threats to democratic institutions and why rights are paramount in upholding democracy.

LIBERTY
PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS



The Human Rights Act 1998 introduced in Britain a set of human rights mentioned in a post-WWII international document called the 'European Convention on Human Rights' (1950). It has enabled individuals in the UK to

rely on these rights in British courts and has played a major role in protecting human rights in Britain. On the one hand, the Human Rights Act has been lauded for precisely these reasons. On the other hand, it has received criticism, for example, for the way it has challenged the executive and protected certain criminal suspects. In its 2015 manifesto, the Conservative Party has vowed to "scrap the Human Rights Act, and introduce a British Bill of Rights". Shami Chakrabarti's lecture sought to challenge this position. It also raised and explored various questions related to human rights protection. Before taking on questions from the audience, Shami Chakrabarti read an excerpt from her book, entitled *On Liberty* (Penguin Books, 2014).

Shami Chakrabarti has been Director of Liberty (The National Council for Civil Liberties) since September 2003. A barrister by background, she was called to the Bar in 1994 and worked as a lawyer in the Home Office from 1996 until 2001 for governments of both persuasions.



SPOTLIGHT

20th Anniversary of the Centre for British Studies

The main highlight of the summer semester was without doubt the Centre's 20th anniversary. The event was held in the chapel of the economics department at HU, a suitable venue for such a festive occasion. Current students, alumni, current and former staff, the university's deans, fellows, partners, the Centre's Board members and invited guests spent a stimulating and emotionally charged evening together.

After opening words by the Centre's then director, Prof Eisenberg, the Vice-President for international affairs, Prof Kämper-van-den-Boogaart, and the then British Ambassador Sir Simon McDonald, a panel discussion took a look back in history. Former British Ambassador Sir Christopher



Prof Eisenberg welcoming the guests



Sir Simon McDonald congratulating the Centre

of the committee which set up the Centre, Prof Bernd Weisbrod, a historian from Göttingen University. The panel was chaired by the current Advisory Board chairman, former British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Paul Lever. In particular for the younger members of the audience, history came alive with memories of the early 1990s when plans for the Centre were under way and the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War dominated German, as well as European politics.

After a musical interlude, movingly rendered by alumna Anna Wittan – she sang "Auld Lang Syne" to mark the 'historical' moment of the programme – a panel of younger lecturers presented the Centre's future. Chaired by Roland Wenzlhuemer, now professor at Heidelberg University, but formerly a lecturer in history at the Centre, Dr Erik Spindler, Dr Marius Guderjan, Ali El-Haj, Johanna Zinecker and Jessica Fischer talked about their own research, their approach to Great Brit-



ain, their interests, and how they had made their way to the Centre for British Studies via numerous British or international institutions. The emerging field of medical humanities, migration of law concepts, devolution, historical migration to Britain, and narratives of migrants' identities were among the research areas which the panel discussed, much to the delight of the audience which was able to observe the shaping of future directions of the Centre's research output and role as a central place for UK-related research in an international perspective. The programme finished with Anna Wittan singing "Waterloo Sunset" by the Kinks, and as a final song, the English traditional "Spanish Ladies".



The offsprings of British Studies



The unofficial GBZ choir who "Never Forgets"

and the deans of the university then spent a pleasant evening with a dinner at *vino e libri*. The whole event was filmed by a Channel 4 TV crew, whose output was broadcast on the Channel 4 news on the eve of the British Prime Minister's visit to Berlin.

During the reception which followed, alumni, students, former and current staff, guest lecturers, fellows, all the invited guests and members of the public discussed past memories and future perspectives. A GBZ choir, consisting of talented students, staff, and alumni, surprised the audience with a well-rehearsed rendition of the *Take That* pop song "Never Forget". The panelists, the Centre's Board, staff



**Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be.**

(Robert Browning)

Monday Lectures

Cultural Threads: Transnational Textiles Today

Prof Jessica Hemmings

Head, Faculty of Visual Culture, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland

12 January



Prof Hemmings on
'cultural threads'

'Cultural Threads' considers contemporary artists and designers who work at the intersection of cultures and use textiles as their vehicle. Ideas about belonging to multiple cultures, which can result in a sense of connection to everywhere and nowhere, are more pertinent to society today than ever. So too are the layers of history – often overlooked – behind the objects that make up our material world. This lecture considers contemporary textiles and their relationship with postcolonial culture.

Jessica Hemmings is currently Professor of Visual Culture and Head of the Faculty of Visual Culture at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

British Council Literature Seminar: Evening Readings and Discussions

Lavinia Greenlaw

29 January

This lecture was organised together with the British Council Germany

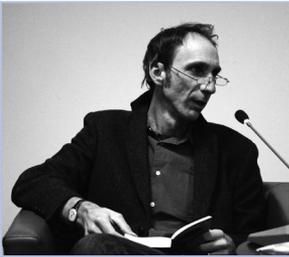
Poet and novelist Lavinia Greenlaw was born in London and studied Modern Arts, Publishing and Arts History. Her published poetry includes the collections *Night Photographs* (1993) and *A World Where News Travelled Slowly* (1997). The title poem won the Forward Poetry Prize (Best Single Poem). Her third collection, *Minsk* (2003), was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. Greenlaw's first novel *Mary George of Allnorthover* (2001) appeared in several countries and won the Prix du Premier Roman Étranger. Her second novel, *An Irresponsible Age*, set in London in the 1990s was published in 2006. She has also written two non-fiction works, *The Importance of Music to Girls* (2007) and *Questions of Travel: William Morris in Iceland*, published in 2011. Her most recent poetry collections *The Casual Perfect* and *A Double Sorrow: Troilus and Criseyde* were published in 2011 and 2014.



Lavinia Greenlaw (left) discussing her work with Dr Cordelia Borchardt

Will Self

30 January



Will Self (photo British Council)

Will Self was born in London where he began writing fiction and worked as a cartoonist for the *New Statesman* and *City Limits*. Nominated in 1993 as one of *Granta* magazine's 20 „Best of Young British Novelists“ his fiction includes six short story collections: *The Quantity Theory of Insanity* (1991), winner of the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, *Grey Area* (1994), *Tough, Tough Toys for Tough, Tough Boys* (1998), *Dr Mukti and Other Tales of Woe* (2003), *Liver* (2008) and *The Undivided Self* (2010). He is also the author of the novels: *My Idea of Fun* (1993), *Great Apes* (1997), *How the Dead Live* (2000), *Dorian* (2002), a retelling of Oscar Wilde's classic tale, *The Book of Dave* (2006) and *The Butt* (2008) which won the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize. His novel *Umbrella* (2012) was shortlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize for fiction. His latest novel *Shark* was published in 2014. He discussed his work with Dr Gregor Hens.



The audience enjoying the readings

Politics of Well-Being in Britain

Prof Ian Bache

Director of Learning & Teaching for Internationalisation, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield

7 May

Over the past decade there has been increasing debate at both national and international level over the extent to which governments can improve the well-being of their citizens. This debate is often in response to increasing recognition that the dominance



Ian Bache on the politics of well-being

of GDP as a measure of prosperity has not led to wholly desirable outcomes for society and has led to a number of initiatives aimed at developing alternative or complementary measures of progress. Britain has been at the forefront in introducing well-being measurement. In 2010 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) launched its *Measuring National Well-being Programme*, the aim of which was 'to develop and publish an accepted and trusted set of National Statistics which help people understand and monitor well-being'. Ian Bache, Professor of Politics at the University of Sheffield, addressed two questions during his talk: How and why has well-being risen up the UK government's agenda? What are the prospects for well-being as a guide to UK public policy?

Britain's Future – in Europe? Consequences of the General Elections for the Country and its Neighbours

Ulrich Storck

Director Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) London Office

12 May



Ulrich Storck

Ulrich Storck has been Director of the London office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung since 2012. He studied economics, psychology and development politics in Frankfurt, Montpellier, Hamburg and Berlin. In his talk Ulrich Storck addressed questions which arose after the UK elections in May 2015: what does an absolute majority mean for the Cameron government with regard to the future of Scotland and the internal balance of the UK? Because Cameron has placed himself in such an impossible position, does his re-election lead the way to Brexit? What are the consequences generally for the electoral system and the modernisation of the British constitution? In the face of the unexpectedly clear victory of the Conservative Party, Ulrich Storck also had to rethink his previous diagnoses.

Public Reading: *The Shock of the Fall*

Nathan Filer

Author

18 May



Nathan Filer signing his book for students

Nathan Filer is an author and registered mental health nurse. His novel *The Shock of the Fall* won the Costa Book of the Year Award 2014 and several other major literary awards, and was one of the UK's biggest selling titles of 2014. It has been translated into thirty languages (including German, where it is published as *Nachruf*

auf den Mond, 2015). The novel describes the life of a young man from Bristol dealing with his grief at the death of his brother, and his experience of schizophrenia. Nathan Filer read from his novel and talked about the text in relation to his work in mental health care. Afterwards, the audience had the opportunity to buy his books and get a personalised autograph from the author.



Let Each Woman Play a Woman's Part: Women and Ulster Unionism

Dr Diane Urquhart

Reader in Modern Irish History, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool

4 June

This lecture considered the most sizable women's political organisation in Ireland's history, the Ulster Women's Unionist Council and female marginalization within the unionist movement. Dr Diane Urquhart is Reader in Modern Irish History and Deputy Director of the Institute of Irish Studies of the University of Liverpool. She has published extensively on women and political activism in 19th and 20th century Ireland.



Erik Spindler, Diane Urquhart

Austerity and Human Rights in the UK and Europe

Panel Discussion

2 November

As part of our Berlin-Britain Research Network on Critical Austerity Studies, we hosted a panel talk in cooperation with the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR). After an introduction by Michael Windfuhr (Deputy Director, DIMR) on the current state of



Human Rights in Europe, Dr Thomas Steffen (Staatssekretär im Bundesministerium der Finanzen) justified the necessity of Greek bailouts and unpopular austerity measures in order to consolidate public finances and protect taxpayers from other member states. Professor Imogen Tyler (Lancaster University) highlighted the normative aspect of the economic crisis and how public spending cuts have undermined the British welfare state. Dr Gareth Mulvey (University of Glasgow, Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network) also argued that austerity policies have created more vulnerable groups, including families and refugees. Instead of significantly reducing public debts, austerity would risk high future costs with negative consequences for human rights.

The Making of Magna Carta: In Commemoration of the 800th Anniversary

Dr Hugh Doherty

Lecturer in Medieval History, School of History, University of East Anglia

9 December

The lecture explored the historical background to the drafting and publication of Magna Carta, focusing in particular on the contribution of the laity – earls, barons, and knights, burgesses, and free men – to the formation of the political programme of the rebels and to the articulation of this programme in that most famous and most iconic of documents. Dr Hugh Doherty is Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of East Anglia and specialises on charters and historical narratives of the 12th century.



Hugh Doherty showing off the Magna Carta



The Centre would like to thank the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank* for generously supporting its lecture series.

Visitors at the Centre

Visitors from the British Embassy

On 19 May, Nick Pickard, Deputy Ambassador, and Nick Leak, Head of Economics and European Affairs at the British Embassy, joined the seminar on British International Relations to talk about the UK's foreign policy direction, the work of the Foreign Office, and the British Embassy in Berlin. Their talk was followed by a Q&A session and a discussion of various issues, including the upcoming referendum on the UK's EU membership, Russia's annexation of Crimea and the UK's involvement in the Iraq war and the Middle East. The session provided a valuable opportunity to gain first-hand insights and experience diplomats in action.



Marius (left) with his guests from the Embassy

Advisory Board

The Centre's Advisory Board held its annual meeting on 29 May. As is the custom, the Centre's staff informed the Board members about the year's activities. The structural reforms of HU and its possible implications for the Centre were once again a major topic. Further points of discussion were the challenge of implementing the changes in the curriculum after the MBS has been reformed to the MA British Studies, the students' increasingly refined language skills, and the immense workload of the Centre's staff and how it manages to keep the activity level so high. The Board members also met the students and listened to their praise and criticism. The chairman, Sir Paul, concluded that the Centre has done extraordinarily well and that the Anniversary event was very successful and encouraging.



Discussing the Centre's affairs

language skills, and the immense workload of the Centre's staff and how it manages to keep the activity level so high. The Board members also met the students and listened to their praise and criticism. The chairman, Sir Paul, concluded that the Centre has done extraordinarily well and that the Anniversary event was very successful and encouraging.



Sir Paul (left) and Ulrich Hoppe

Visit of the HU Vice President Prof Dr Recardo Manzke

At the end of the summer semester, on 13 July, Prof Dr Recardo Manzke visited the Centre to introduce himself as the current HU Vice President for Finance, Personnel, and Technical Matters. The Centre's staff informed him about its activities in the areas of teaching, research and public debates. Further issues discussed were the current university reforms and the differences between the humanities and the natural sciences.



Prof Manzke getting to know the Centre



Katharina, a British Studies student, being interviewed about her talk with the Queen

Public Relations

The activities of the Centre for British Studies were communicated to a wider public through various channels: on the internet, in public lectures, through special events, and the media.

The Centre received particular media attention because of its anniversary, its public events, and its members' expertise. Prof Eisenberg, Prof Schlaeger, and Prof Stedman were interviewed for a special on the Centre for British Studies in the *Berliner Zeitung*. Channel 4, too, reported about the Centre's anniversary. The British Council Literature Seminar was mentioned by various media (e.g. *TAZ*). Additionally, it reached the public through Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube, as well as through a live stream.

Prof Dannemann (n-tv, *The Guardian*, *Sputnik News*, hr info, SWR 1, NDR 2 Spezial, Deutsche Welle, Euranet Plus, GMX, Sputnik Deutschland) and Dr Guderjan (*Der Tagesspiegel*) were asked to comment on the British general election of 2015, on the country's role in the EU, and on the Queen's visit to Germany. As a member of VroniPlag, Prof Dannemann was interviewed by numerous journalists (e.g. *Zeit Online*, *FAZ*, *TAZ*, *Deutschlandfunk*, *Spiegel Online*, *Der Tagesspiegel*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Science* magazine, *ZDF Morgenmagazin*, *wallstreet online*, *Times Higher Education*, *Radio Eins*, *Der Spiegel*, *Vice News*, *ZDF Berlin PolitiX*, *NDR*, *Tages-Anzeiger Zürich*, *Der Bund Bern*) about plagiarism, in particular about the doctoral thesis of Germany's defence minister Ursula von der Leyen.



Prof Dannemann gave numerous interviews on the topic of plagiarism

Most interviews, articles and press releases can be found at the Centre's webpage:

www.gbz.hu-berlin.de

FELLOWS

Honorary Fellows

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

Fellows

Prof Paul Carmichael
 Prof Valentine Cunningham
 Dr Stefano Evangelista
 Andy Feist
 Dr Hugh Mackay
 Dr Gerry Mooney
 Lynn Parkinson
 Dr Pikay Richardson
 Dr Steven Truxal
 Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB
 Prof Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

Newly appointed in 2016:

Dr Carlo Morelli

Dr Morelli is Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Dundee. He teaches on labour markets, inequality, and income distribution at the Centre. His research is highly multidisciplinary utilising geography, economics, and history and focuses upon contemporary public policy with particular reference to inequality, income distribution, and poverty. Carlo has a specific interest in issues of child poverty, regional devolution, and globalisation. His recent published work has examined the significance of the living wage and the continuing challenges of poverty in Scotland. He is currently researching the characteristics of the most extreme and persistent poverty in the UK.



Dr Adrian Wilding

Dr Wilding teaches at the University of Jena, having previously taught at the University of Edinburgh and the Open University. At the Centre he teaches courses in politics, particularly on new social movements and on civil society. His research interests centre on extra-parliamentary politics and protest movements and understanding these from a political theory perspective. His recent publications have focused on the current transformation of UK higher education, on the global Occupy movement, and on environmentalism. He is currently working on two projects, one on austerity as a form of governmentality, the other on internet activism in the wake of the Snowden revelations. He is the co-author of the book *Revolutionary Recognition* (Heathwood Press, forthcoming 2016).



STAFF

Academic Staff

Director

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, M.A. (Oxon)

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, director of the Centre. He studied law at Freiburg i.Br. and Bonn. He 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. Prof Dannemann joined the Centre for British Studies in 2003. He 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. He is a 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, a founding member of the Acquis Group (European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law), and chair of the Group's Redaction Committee and Terminology Group. On the MA British Studies programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches 'Mooting' and 'Constitutional Law and Political System'.

Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

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's history department, and joined the Centre for British Studies in October 1998. She has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und*

englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009), translated as *The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800* (2013). Prof Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In May 2015, the Max Weber Stiftung reappointed her as a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the German Historical Institute London. From October 2013 to September 2015, she served as the Director of the Centre.

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA

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 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-Prize *Kuratorium* of the *Alfred Toepfer Stiftung* in Hamburg. He is also 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 co-editor of the *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* (REAL) until 2010 and is currently writing a book about 'Life-Writing and Identity Construction Past and Present'.

Prof Dr Margrit Schulte Beerbühl

Margrit Schulte Beerbühl is Professor of History at the Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf. She is currently standing in for Prof Christiane Eisenberg, who is on a sabbatical, and teaches 'The History of Migration to and from Britain (17th to 20th century)'. Her *Habilitation* was recently published in English under the title of *The Forgotten Majority: German merchants globalization and naturalization (1660-1818)*, Berghahn 2015. She has published widely on the history of migration, economic failure, and consumption. She currently focuses on the worldwide speculation bubble of 1799 for which she received a scholarship by LOEWE-Schwerpunkt 'Außergerichtliche und gerichtliche Konfliktlösung' ('Extrajudicial and Judicial Conflict Resolution') of the Goethe University of Frankfurt in 2013/4. In the last few years, her interest

has focussed on the history of chocolate and chocolate firms. She has edited a special volume on the history of chocolate in *Food & History* in 2015 and co-organizes an exhibition with the Chocolate Museum in Cologne on "The History of Rhenish Chocolate Firms (ca 1850 to 1970)" in 2016.

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Professor of British Culture and Literature. Studied English, French, and film/theatre studies at 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. Prof Stedman was Professor of English and American Literature, at Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen from 2005-2008 and was appointed Professor of British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in 2008. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the *Journal for the Study of British Culture* of which she was a co-editor for many years. She co-leads the research network Writing 1900 and the Berlin-Britain Research Network on Critical Austerity Studies. Prof Stedman sits on the jury of the Humboldt-Universität Graduate School for scholarships for post-docs and early-stage researchers. She is Deputy Head of the Committee for a Family-Friendly University, and advises HU's International Strategy Unit in an unofficial capacity. She is Deputy Director of the Centre, Dean of Studies, and Spokesperson of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies.

Dr Marius Guderjan

Lecturer and researcher in British politics. Dr Guderjan's teaching responsibilities include UK politics, policy and foreign relations. Before he joined the Centre in August 2014, Dr Guderjan worked as a senior research assistant at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan. He was involved in various projects and project applications including Myplace and MyWeb (FP7 funded), and InnoSi (Innovative Social Investment, Horizon 2020 funded). In 2013, he 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, Dr Guderjan completed an MA in European Politics (Research) with distinction at the University of Liverpool and studied social science with an emphasis on politics at the University of Cologne. Current research activities examine devolution and regionalisation processes in the UK. Further research interests include European integration, Europeanisation, international relations, political attitudes and participation, Euroscepticism, the welfare state, and social policy.

Dr Erik Spindler

Lecturer and researcher in history. Dr Spindler holds degrees in history from the universities of Durham, Dublin, Louvain, and Oxford, and professional qualifications in teaching (Université catholique de Louvain) and sex education (Institut für Sexualpädagogik). Prior to coming to Berlin, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Université Libre de Bruxelles, and joined the Centre as Alexander von Humboldt Fellow before transitioning to the more multifaceted position of lecturer in 2012-13. He has taught a range of courses over the years, often skills-focused courses in the broad thematic areas of sex and death. He is currently on sabbatical leave and lives in Dublin.

Ali El-Haj, LL.M. (Cantab)

Ali M. El-Haj joined the Centre for British Studies in 2013 as a lecturer and researcher in English law. He attended Vienna International School (VIS) throughout his school years and holds an LL.M. in public international law from Cambridge University and an LL.B. (Hons) in law from University College London (UCL). His main research interests are in constitutional law and public international law. Prior to joining the Centre, Ali worked as a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law and, thereafter, the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law. In the 2014/2015 winter semester, Ali co-taught 'Constitutional Law and Political System' and 'English Legal System'. In the 2015 summer semester, he taught 'Tort Law'. He currently co-teaches 'Mooting' and 'Constitutional Law and Political System'. Apart from his teaching work at the Centre, Ali is a member of the Admissions and Examination Committee. The latter interviews select candidates to the MA in British Studies programme. He is also the Alumni contact person and, in that capacity, has introduced the revamped Alumni Newsletter.

Jessica Fischer, M.A.

Jessica Fischer is a lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. 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 School of British Studies, she is writing her PhD thesis on forms of agency in British Asian debut novels published after 9/11. She follows new directions in postcolonial studies, and investigates contemporary art and its contexts. In addition, Jessica Fischer is a member of 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. This year, she taught 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar "World War One": Modernist Art', 'Academic Writing', 'Contemporary British Literature in Context: Postcolonial Britain', 'Week 1 Project: British Art/British Identity', 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar "Narratives of Crime": Crime from a Cultural Studies Perspective', and 'Advanced Seminar: Literary Theories/Narratology' on the M.A. British Studies programme.

Sofia Permiakova, M.B.S.

Lecturer and researcher in British culture and literature since August 2015. Sofia studied English philology with a focus on poetry translation at Perm State National Research University, Russia. In 2013, she moved to Berlin to study for her Master degree at the Centre for British Studies; and in October 2015, her Master thesis, "Women at War: Representation of War in British Women's War Poetry of the First World War", written under the supervision of Prof Gesa Stedman, won the Humboldt Prize. Before joining the Centre for British Studies, Sofia worked on various cultural projects, mainly art festivals and theatre productions, in Russia and Glasgow, Scotland, and taught English at Perm State National Research University. She has also been working as a freelance book critic for the Russian magazine *Afisha*. As a member of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, she started working on her PhD thesis on British women's war poetry in spring 2015. Her research interests include gender studies, linguistics, and textual analysis. In the winter semester 2015/2016 and the summer semester 2016, she is teaching a practice-led course 'Cultural Project Management', and co-teaching 'Advanced Cultural Management' with Prof Stedman, as well as several workshops on poetry and poetry analysis. Together with Reet Tamme and Dr Guderjan, Sofia is also in charge of coordinating students' work placements.



The Centre's staff and some Graduate School students (from left).

- Front: Prof Schulte Beerbühl, T. Sarkar, Prof Stedman
Second row: S. Permiakova, S. Plötz, J. Jacob, C. Radke
Third row: C. Smith, A. Schoon
Standing: S. Zöllner, Dr Guderjan, E. Thalheim, A. El-Haj,
J. Fischer, Prof Dannemann, Prof Schlaeger

Reet Tamme, M.A.

Lecturer and researcher in British history and society. She studied modern history, art history, and German linguistics at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and is currently writing her PhD-Thesis on the social science discourse on race and ethnicity in Britain, 1950-1980. Before joining the Centre for British Studies in October 2015 she was a researcher at the Collaborative Research Centre "Representations of Changing Social Orders" and a member of the Unit for the History of Western Europe and Transatlantic Relations at the Humboldt-Universität. Prior to that she worked in the interdisciplinary project "Sport and Green Space in the Contemporary European City" in 2007, a cooperation between the Centre for British Studies and the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her research interests include migration, cultural transfer, sociology of knowledge, and postcolonial studies. She also has a strong interest in sport history, history of globalisation, and in working in an interdisciplinary context. Reet teaches 'Academic Writing', 'Application Skills' and 'Discourse Analysis' in the winter term. Additionally, she is one of the Centre's internship co-ordinators and supports Non-EU students with the visa applications for their stay in the UK.

Johanna Zinecker, M.A.

Lecturer and researcher in British culture and literature. Johanna's main interests include visual arts in interdisciplinary contexts, mental health culture, and the history of psychiatry as well as feminist and queer culture, ethics, and theory. She studied English and American studies, and modern German literature at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Manchester. Since 2005, Johanna has worked in the field of art and culture in various roles. From 2008 to 2012, she was full-time project coordinator and assistant curator at the department of Visual Arts at *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* in Berlin, where she helped to create a number of large-scale international exhibitions, artistic productions, and publication projects on various contemporary topics. In the summer term 2015, Johanna taught 'Mental Health: Current Literary Approaches' as part of the module 'Self, Society and Well-Being'. For this she invited British author Nathan Filer to introduce his award-winning book *The Shock of the Fall* (2013) to the students and to a wider audience in our lecture series. Johanna also taught the practice-led course 'Cultural Project Management' throughout 2014/15 and was in charge, together with Dr Spindler, of coordinating the student placement scheme.

Visiting Researchers

Prof Patricia Springborg

Patricia Springborg (D Phil Oxon) held a personal chair in Political Theory in the Department of Government before being appointed Foundation Professor in Political Science the PPE programme in the School of Economics of the Free University of Bolzano (2007-13). Elected to the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences in 1999, she has been a stipendiary fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars in Washington DC, the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, was a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at St. John's College, Oxford, and the recipient of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Award in International Peace and Security, taken up at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. She has published four books, four edited books and over 70 articles in international refereed journals and edited collections.

Administrative Staff

Corinna Radke, M.A.

Corinna studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität and in Madrid (funded by Erasmus), as well as passing a two-year further education course on public administration. 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 M.A. British Studies. In this context, she prepares courses on the HU's e-learning platform 'Moodle'. In 2015, she actively supported the implementation of the new regulations within the Master course. 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 the organisation of 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 equal opportunities officer.

Catherine Smith, B.A. (Hons.)

Catherine studied humanities with history of art at the Open University. She is foreign language secretary responsible for the respective director. Her duties include co-ordinating visiting arrangements for guests, organising conferences, seminars, meetings, events, as well as the Lecture series and the recently formed Berlin Graduate School of British Studies at the Centre. Apart from managing the office, she supports the Centre's teaching and research activities, co-ordinates the M.A. British Studies admission interviews, assists with the editing of research papers, the translation of German texts into English, and is there to advise students.

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. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all records for our Master degree, calculating the students' Master grade, and preparing the final certificates.

Librarian

Evelyn Thalheim

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

Student Assistants

In 2015 the Centre was supported by the following student assistants:

Alexandra Buchanan

Law

Patrick Daus

History

Christoph König

Law

Julia Peter

European Literatures

Thore Podlich

Gender Studies

Alexandra Prohm

Law

Friederike Sachs

English Literatures

Sophie Thiele

English Literatures

Martha Turewicz

Comparative Literature

Lea Zimmermann

Law



Friendly and supportive: the Centre's student assistants

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