

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# WHAT IS THE CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES?

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

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

We offer:

- An interdisciplinary international 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's past and present while offering a range of options to study in more depth.

Our students, graduates, and staff are drawn from all over the world giving the Centre a stimulating international atmosphere.



The newly arrived students getting to know one another on their first day at the Centre for British Studies in October 2017.

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## THE CENTRE IN 2017

2017 was a somewhat challenging year for the Centre.

The university-wide structural review has left us largely unchanged and ready for the future. A happy prospect!

In spite of Brexit, more than 120 students applied for our Master in British Studies, and 33 lively, intelligent, young people from all over the world have once again begun their studies in October.

Our Brexit-related lecture series attracted large crowds, and the media continue to be interested in our Brexit experts. A team from the culture and literature department put together an e-book and subsequent printed volume which focuses on Brexit and the cultural sector.



Networking:  
Prof Allan Cochrane and  
Dr Marius Guderjan

In September, the Berlin-Britain Research Network organized a large international and interdisciplinary conference on the social, political, and cultural challenges of Brexit, which was featured on Deutschlandfunk.

In other words: Brexit has brought us even more interest from the general public, the media, fellow academics, and from prospective students. It has generated ideas for books, articles, conferences, and a new bid for our Graduate School in British

Studies. And paradoxically, it has led to even closer ties with our academic and non-academic partners in the UK and in Berlin.

At the same time, no one knows whether academic exchange will continue to prosper, and what already existing partnerships will look like in the future. So far, our students are secure in their Erasmus funding for the work placements in Britain – but will that still be possible in 2019?

Will we be able to invite guests from the UK as easily as before?

Can our close ties with scholars from Birkbeck, King's and Goldsmith's College, from the OU, the LSE, Warwick, Dundee, and Cardiff Universities, from Cambridge, and perhaps most lastingly, from Oxford survive the current political developments?

Congratulations to Class  
2015-17 who graduated  
from the programme  
with excellent results



We sincerely hope so and put all our efforts into maintaining and intensifying our partnerships.

The new academic year began with our annual Keynote Lecture, held by Baroness Susan Greenfield, the renowned neuroscientist and member of the House of Lords. She provided the audience with fascinating in-



The audience in a lively discussion with Nikesh Shukla and Musa Okwonga

sights into her research on the impact of 21st-century technology on the brain.

It was followed by a reading and conversation between authors and activists Nikesh Shukla and Musa Okwonga, co-organised with The Literary Field Kaleidoscope. The collection of accounts and writings by people of colour in the UK,

*The Good Immigrant*, which Nikesh Shukla has edited, sparked off a lively debate with our international audience. Again, Brexit loomed large, as it has changed the experience of being non-white in a divided Britain.

It is, therefore, an inspiring and cheering prospect that the scholarly community and the collegiate atmosphere at the Centre persist, helped by the input from international students, postgraduates, lecturers, and guests. In 2017, Dr Mary Boyle and Katharina Herold, both literary scholars from Oxford, spent the summer at the Centre. Dr Jason Allen from the University of Cambridge, our new Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, has recently arrived, and Dr Rebecca Scott Bray (University of Sydney, Australia) followed for a shorter visit. Both join the team of legal scholars at the Centre.

It is in our daily work that we reassert key values such as tolerance and openness. And the Centre's raison d'être has not changed. On the contrary, it is perhaps more urgent and more relevant than ever before as a physical space for exchange on all things British, but also as a miniature model of what future collaborations with British institutions in Berlin could look like. We are therefore all the more pleased to be strongly involved in the new partnership with the University of Oxford into which the three Berlin universities and the Charité have entered.

Although the impact of future political developments is unclear, we intend to weather the Brexit storms to our best abilities, by drawing both on our history and by developing new projects with our partners and continuing to promote exchange between Berlin, Germany, and Britain.

In this spirit, we wish everyone a productive new academic year, extend our thanks for all the positive support to our alumni, students, board members, colleagues, guests, and staff, and look towards the future with unbroken optimism.

Gesa Stedman  
Director



Mary and Katharina enjoying their research stay at the Centre

## MA 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 2016 the Centre graduated its first generation of Master of Arts (MA) in British Studies after the MBS had been discontinued. We offer a 24-month course (120 ECTS) with compulsory and elective modules, a work placement of three months, and a writing period of six months for the MA thesis. Furthermore, advanced study seminars are available (which may alternatively be substituted by any other HU seminars). 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 personalised tutorials aimed at fostering early-stage independent research.

### Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the course are:

- to add competence in British Studies to qualifications the students 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

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.

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

## Course Structure

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

The Certificate Phase comprises 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 on page 7). Students have to attend an average of around 20 hours of classes per week. During the Master Phase students take part in advanced seminars including 'transdisciplinary optional modules' which can be chosen from any other master programme. Furthermore, they spend three months on a work placement with a firm or institution in the UK. The final part of the Master Phase is dedicated to writing a six-month Master Thesis.

The entire course is taught in English.

### Never Mind Brexit We Love British Studies

Britain's relationship with Europe is changing.

European businesses and political, financial, and cultural institutions all need experts on Britain fast.

You could be one of them.

[www.gbs.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbs.hu-berlin.de)  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

## Modules of the Course

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

### a) Compulsory Modules

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

### b) Compulsory Elective Modules

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

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

### c) Compulsory Elective Modules at Other Departments

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

## Modules for Students of Other HU Study Programmes

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

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



# MA BRITISH STUDIES

## Course Outline

### 1st Semester

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

## MA British Studies Students

### Class 2016-2018

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Balakshiy, Yuliya	Kazakhstan	Foreign Languages
2. Barth, Taylor	USA	Science in Psychology, Biology, Social Work
3. Beaumier, Sacha	New Zealand	Sociology and English
4. Bolhuis, Elvira	Ukraine	Management Marketing
5. Chornoivanenko, Viktoriia	Ukraine	International Law (European Law)
6. Dibirov, Ismail	Russia	Jurisprudence and Translator, Interpreter English
7. Feng, Minying	China	Translation and Interpreting
8. Freitas Ornelas, Ana Carolina	Brazil	Audiovisual: Film, Radio, and Television Studies
9. Freytag, Franziska	Germany	English and American Studies, Linguistics
10. Hinz, Leonore	Germany	English and American Studies, Linguistics
11. Hübinger, Anne	Germany	English Philology, Media, and Communication Studies



Name	Country	First Degree
12. Keenan, Monika	Australia/UK	Performing Arts
13. Khusaenova, Diana	Russia	Linguistics
14. Kilian, Eva-Maria	Germany	German and English Studies
15. Kutsovol, Anastasiia	Ukraine	Publishing and Editing
16. Messow, Sandra	Germany	English, Business Administration
17. Nüchter, Lena	Germany	Ancient History, English Philology
18. Rahimi, Maryam	Iran	English Literature
19. Šašková, Klára	Czech Republic	International Area Studies
20. So, King Hang Ricker	Hong Kong	English Studies
21. Turlybekova, Maiya	Kazakhstan	Political Science
22. Von Linde-Suden, Leonie	Germany	English and Italian
23. Wells-Rhoden, Phillip	Canada	Political Science
24. Živković, Katarina	Serbia	English Language, Literature, and Culture



## Class 2017-2019

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Alavi, Shaghayegh	Iran	English Translation
2. Angelevitch, Elizabeta	Israel	Graphic Design
3. Arakelian, Grach	Russia	Modern European History and Culture
4. Arslanyan, Melisa	Turkey	English Language and Literature; Radio, TV and Film Studies
5. Baldandorzheva, Nadezda	Russia	English and Chinese Philology
6. Bilici, Pelin	Turkey	American Culture and Literature
7. Breithaupt, Tanja	Germany	English and Business Administration
8. Çevik, Halil Ibrahim	Turkey	English Language and Literature
9. Daflis, Ann-Katrin	Germany	English and American Literature, Culture, and Linguistics
10. Galkina, Anastasia	Russia	Russian, Literature and English
11. Grigoreva, Natalia	Russia	Commerce, Foreign Languages English and German
12. Harrison Lambe, Chiara	Ireland	Art History
13. Ho, Chui Yee	Hong Kong	Translation and Interpretation
14. Loève, Youna	France	Cultural, Historical, and Literary Studies of the Anglophone World
15. Nabiullina, Aisylu	Russia	Education: English and German
16. Oehme, Florentine	Germany	German and English Studies
17. De Oliveira, Valdirene	Brazil	Political Communications
18. Park, Joonseok	South Korea	English Education, Philosophy
19. Petcu, Anisia-Elisabeta	Romania	English and German Language and Literature
20. Prado, Natália Cortez do	Brazil	English Language and Literature
21. Riera Morón, Eliana	Venezuela	Modern Languages
22. Scholten, Lotte	Netherlands	English Language and Culture
23. Schörner, Alexandra	Germany	English Studies and Arts
24. Seguro Meyge Vale, Adriana	Brazil	Journalism
25. Shimanuki, Yuma	Japan	English

Name	Country	First Degree
26. Spreckelsen, Theresa	Germany	British and American Studies; Cultural and Social Anthropology
27. Sudas, Darya	Belarus	Philologist, Translator, and Teacher Foreign Languages and Literatures
28. Tosi, Alessandra	Italy	Languages and Cultures for Tourism
29. Wang, Chao	China	English: Foreign Languages and Literatures
30. Zakharenko, Aleksandra	Russia	English and Literature
31. Zenina, Mariia	Russia	Theory and Teaching Methods of Foreign Languages and Cultures
32. Zhang, Yudan	China	English and International Journalism
33. Zhao, Wan	China	English Studies



## Teaching

### Example

#### **Access Disability Studies: Disability, Art, and Agency in the UK Context**

Johanna Zinecker

In the summer semester 2017, this seminar introduced students to the growing field of Disability Studies and to disability as a relatively new category in Cultural Studies. Focusing questions around lived experience of



disability and agency, students gained insight into key aspects and actors of UK disability culture and disability arts. They explored the meaning and possibilities of art for the empowerment and expression of disabled people and their allies, and for a transformation of our culture and its perception of disability in general.

While the first sessions were dedicated to current and historical discourses of disability, discussing different models of disability, theories of normalcy and disablement as well as disability aesthetics, the second part of the seminar centred on individual practices of contemporary UK artists. These included Liz Crow, Alison Lapper, Marc Quinn, Claire Cunningham, Mat Fraser, Bobby Baker, Sue Austin and others. Topics through which artistic works were explored ranged from voice and testimony; creative resistance and affective communities; "crip humour" and satirical reclamations, to representations and aesthetics of disabled bodies and lives in sculpture and dance. Exhibition practice and interventionist curating were also part of the wider discussions. One highlight of the seminar was an artist talk with James Leadbitter, who introduced and discussed his artistic projects on disability, neurodiversity, and mental health care with the students. For most of the students, disability was an entirely new subject to debate seriously within academia. We created a space for open engagement in class and enjoyed many thought-provoking and sometimes emotional and controversial discussions. In their evaluations, students found the seminar relevant and very interesting, not just in terms of learning new ways of thinking about disability, culture, and art, but also in relation to their own experience. Teaching methods aimed for a balance between theory and practice and included practising visual and aesthetic analysis, colloquium-style discussions of theory, student-led reading/viewing response discussions, presentations, and written summaries.



James Leadbitter introducing his art and discussing artistic strategies with the students

## Further Activities

### Visit to the British Embassy

The Centre's annual tour around the British Embassy in Berlin took place this year on 3rd November, together with this year's new students and two new members of staff: Christine Seuring, our new librarian, and our new Alexander von Humboldt Fellow and Researcher in Law Dr Jason Allen. Astrid Ladd, responsible for Communication & Bilateral Relations, kindly gave us a tour, together with Katharina Sprockhoff, MA British Studies student from the year 2014–2016, who works in the UK Trade and Investment department at the embassy. Following the tour, Simon Wells, Head of Press, took the time to inform us about his duties at the embassy and was there to answer questions, of which there were many, especially about work placements at the embassy and, of course, how Brexit will change visits to the UK in the future.



In the Embassy's conference room

### Graduation Class 2015-2017



In December, the Centre was able to hand out the final MA British Studies Certificates to class 2015-17. This year, quite a few students were able to join the graduation and it was a pleasure to see so many happy faces. The results of this class were again outstanding and in her speech the Director, Prof Stedman, acknowledged the effort, courage, and dedication that was needed for such a success:

"... we have brilliant graduates with excellent grades who are out in the world already, or about to conquer it. Keep up your curiosity, commitment, and courage, and you will go far!"

To this can only be added the request to the alumni to please stay in touch with us and keep us updated on their whereabouts. According to GBZ tradition, the graduation ceremony was followed by the Christmas Party. Three generations of MA students not only used the opportunity to exchange their study experience at HU but also to enjoy some music, drink the obligatory pot of mulled wine or hot toddy, and thus get into the Christmas and holiday spirit.



Proud and happy - and rightly so

## SPOTLIGHT

### Student Project

#### Goodbye UK – A Journey Through Pre-Brexit Britain



For this year's contribution to the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften, the MA British Studies class of 2016-2018 invited visitors to join them on a journey to explore the UK's complex political landscape and rich cultural heritage; and to illuminate some of the circumstances and developments that had led to the Brexit vote almost exactly a year earlier in June 2016.

As we wanted to illustrate the country's diversity beyond just England or London, we used a railway map layout to allow visitors to physically 'travel' around the four nations and explore the idiosyncrasies as well as the unique situation and cultural character of each region. Our content creators worked tirelessly to prepare and present a thoroughly researched breadth of informative and engaging content ranging from posters, video installations, games, and quizzes to an immersive live demonstration of our very own British tea ceremony. One of the highlights was an exhibition on Broken Relationships that illuminated individual responses to an abstract political event: Sacha Beaumier had spoken to people around the globe about their thoughts and emotions on Brexit, collected items they associated with their stories, and presented both at the event in an installation that was declared a favourite by many visitors.

For the first time this year, we were working together with the Centre's PhD students, who brought their expertise to the table and presented their diverse areas of research in our on-stage programme, which was attended in large numbers.





From left: Entertainment: The Irish singer Kilkelly; Public Interest: Lena explains the project to the HU Vice-President Prof Obergfell and the Berlin Minister for Science and Research Steffen Krach; Academic offspring: Kid's corner

The programme included informative talks, a Scottish poetry reading, an interactive roundtable discussion with experts and Britons living in Berlin, and an interactive video installation inviting visitors to become part of a research project on protest in a democracy. The on-stage programme was concluded by singer-songwriter Kilkelly, who topped off the evening with beautiful Irish songs.

For our younger visitors, the kids' team had set up a cosy and colourful library corner where children could partake in a number of games and activities. A photo booth proved a success with visitors of all ages, who enjoyed the opportunity to take a selfie in front of 10 Downing Street in the company of famous and infamous public figures.

And since we all know that the surest way to people's hearts (and interest) is through their stomachs, our food team had racked up a trolley full of donated and home-made British delicacies such as sandwiches, muffins, scones, and Guinness cake. Visitors could even indulge in gin and tonic made to order.

The event was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and donors, and by the help and hard work of everyone involved. We are happy to say that it was an all-round success, and we already look forward to visiting next year's event.

Leonore Hinz & Lena Nüchter  
(project managers)

Preparing the poster exhibition



Interactive exhibition on 'Broken Relationships' with the EU



## Work Placements

The placement scheme has consistently been one of the most popular elements of the course. Students get the opportunity to gain experience in an organisation relevant for their future careers and to 'study the British Isles on the ground'.

### Reports

Leonie von Linde-Suden

#### **Llenyddiaeth Cymru/Literature Wales, Cardiff**



Leonie enjoying Cardiff

"I can't compliment Leonie enough on her work ethic, professionalism and how she has taken ownership of the work she was tasked with."

Alys Lewin,  
Literature Wales

For my work placement I applied to Literature Wales, the national company for the development of literature in Wales, and have not for a moment regretted that decision. I was welcomed very warmly by my new colleagues, who treated me as one of the team and gave me interesting and challenging tasks. They also made sure that I understood every part of how the company works – I joined meetings between them and other organisations and attended all the events they organise. LitWales is based in Cardiff, the capital of Wales, a city of about 360,000 inhabitants which sports an interesting mix of very old and very new buildings and a very diverse population. I found a lovely flatshare in Roath, an area densely populated by students and close to the city centre and university and within cycling distance to the LitWales office in Cardiff Bay. I also had plenty of time to explore the wider Welsh landscape and sights - so rich in natural beauty and history. Overall I enjoyed working for Literature Wales very much and I can well imagine working in a similar environment after graduating from the Centre for British Studies.

Ismail Dibirov

#### **Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, London**

I worked for the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce in London, an NGO that was established more than 100 years ago to promote trade and cooperation between the UK and Russia. My official position here was Project Coordinator; I helped the RBCC team to conduct research on relevant companies and business sectors, prepared the events held and organised by the Chamber, also interacted with both current and potential members. Although the working language of the office in London is English, they generally seek Russian-speaking interns, as all three RBCC offices are bilingual and need to be able to provide support in both languages. I really enjoyed my internship with the RBCC, especially because

of the events we organised and the people I got to meet there. The Chamber regularly organises and promotes events, such as business conferences, round tables, and networking evenings, which are very useful in terms of learning new things related to trade and business between the two countries. Apart from that, it is a great platform for networking and meeting new people involved in international business. If you're a GBZ student who speaks Russian, I would highly recommend applying to the RBCC for your work placement. Working and living in London is a great way to enjoy a change of scenery after a year in Berlin: London is Moscow in overdrive and it has reminded me of what it is to live at a fast pace with a packed schedule.



Christmas Cocktails:  
Ismail with Gaby Henze,  
UK Representative of  
Schneider Group

Class 2016-18	Institution
Balakshiy, Yuliya	Globalexicon Ltd., London
Barth, Taylor	Glasgow Film Festival
Beaumier, Sacha	Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
Bolhuis, Elvira	British in Germany, Berlin
Dibirov, Ismail	Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, London
Freitas Ornelas, Ana	Tern TV, Glasgow
Freytag, Franziska	KK Communications, London
Hinz, Leonore	Metal Culture, Liverpool
Hübinger, Anne	Little Museum of Dublin
Keenan, Monika	National Trust, Lyme Park, Cheshire
Kilian, Eva-Maria	Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons, London
Kutsovol, Anastasiia	New Island Books, Dublin
Messow, Sandra	Deveron Projects, Huntly, Scotland
Nüchter, Lena	Birmingham City Council
Rahimi, Maryam	DMA Media Ltd., London
Šašková, Klára	Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
So, King Hang Ricker	The Village Storytelling Centre, Glasgow
Turlybekova, Maiya	International Development Ireland, Dublin
Von Linde-Suden, Leonie	Llenyddiaeth Cymru/Literature Wales, Cardiff
Wells-Rhoden, Phillip	Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons, London
Zhang Jianhui	European Documentation Centre, Cardiff
Živković, Katarina	New Island Books, Dublin

## MA Theses

Class 2015-17	Thesis Title
Akyüz, Alican	The Posthuman Predicament in the Works of J.G. Ballard and R. Thomson
Andreeva, Anastasiia	Labour Markets and Working Conditions for Young Researchers in the UK: The Impact of Human Capital
Bargmann, Jaqueline	The New Populism in the UK. Brexit and its Populist Representations in the News Media
Daubney, Christopher	Brexit and Devolution: Fishing for a Constitutional Crisis?
Deacy, Charlotte	The Crisis of Democracy: Youth Participation and the Extension of the Franchise
Egittton, Cory	Repatriating the Post-Colonial Treasure Chest: Exploring the British Museum's Aboriginal Australian Artefacts
Eichenauer, Annemarie	The Housing and Accommodation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the United Kingdom. A Comparison to the German Approach
Fleck-Hansl, Philipp	British Brutalist Architects
Khristina, Mariia	Analysing Metaphorical Concepts in the Brexit Campaigns
Krauße, Lara-Marie	British Women and Transnational Migration. The Impact of Class on the Prospects of Life in Colonial India
Lescher, Alexandra	Teaching the EU – A Comparative Analysis of British and German School Textbooks
Mancini, Gaia	Art and Activism in the United Kingdom: The Intentions Behind British Artivism
Mittelhaus, Mari	Brexit and the Arts – Augmenting Barriers or Bridging Divides?
Monteith, Amber	Canada, the UK, and the Cuban Missile Crisis: A Cross-National Case Study Analysis of Political Culture through Political Manifestos and Print Media
Perminova, Svetlana	Eastern European Women Writers in the UK: Migration, Memory, Identity
Popović, Danica	Conflict and Peace Building in Kosovo and Northern Ireland: A Comparative Perspective
Porter, Benjamin	You Ain't no Muslim Bruv. British-Muslim Identities
Pyykkö, Sonja	Women's Confessional Life Writing in 21st-Century Britain
Scharf, Dorit	Autobiographies of Criminals in Contemporary Britain
Schmiede, Ricarda	The Notion of Obscenity in the Context of Explicit Depictions of Sexuality

Singer, Sarah	Murder Most Magical – Crime and the Supernatural in Paul Cornell's <i>Shadow Police</i> Series: Challenging Archetypes and Confronting Stereotypes
Tóth, Selim	From the UK with Hate – Racism and Xenophobia Against EU Nationals in Times of Brexit
Ullah, Rabea	Representations of the Labour Party in Literature, Theatre and Television Post 1997
Walter, Miriam	Career Paths of Political Leaders in the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany: 1970-2017

## Alumni

The Centre puts a lot of emphasis on staying in touch with its alumni. In the coming year, we hope to establish a "Stammtisch" in Berlin to provide alumni with an opportunity to celebrate and strengthen the bonds and connections they made during their time at the Centre. We also provide them with a regular newsletter to keep them up to date on the Centre's activities. We strongly encourage our alumni to keep us informed about where their lives take them after the MA British Studies. Graduates from the Centre have moved on to work in very different fields and institutions, such as media and publishing, translation, the performing arts, research/academia, teaching, NGOs, political organisations, education management and private sector management.

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

We are very sad to report that Audrey Domise passed away on 15 January 2018 at a tragically young age. Audrey was a bright and popular student in the MBS class of 2010-12. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to Audrey's family and friends.

## What happened to ...

### Lisa Bungeroth

#### Class 2010-2012

Whilst completing my MA thesis at the GBZ in the summer of 2012, I was offered a fixed-term post at Universities UK, the membership body for UK universities, where I had interned before as part of my Masters. This turned into a permanent position and I moved to London wholly in 2013 and have been building my life and career here since. After spending four years at Universities UK working on EU and UK higher education and research policy and learning the ropes of policy influencing, I moved to the Royal College of Nursing last year and now work as a Policy Manager on UK and international health policy. My MA at the GBZ has provided me with a solid understanding not just of British politics,



Lisa happy in the UK

culture and law, but also in how to develop an evidence base to convincingly make the case for policy change on behalf of the organisations I work for. And it has helped me pass the Life in the UK-test that I need for my British citizenship application that I am currently filing! The icing on the cake are all the fantastic people I have met here – including the lovely Englishman I have just bought a London flat with.

### **Alican Akyüz** **Class 2015-2017**



Alican pursuing an academic career

At first, with its interdisciplinary curriculum and diverse student body, the GBZ looked like an anomaly. Soon enough, however, thanks to its all-encompassing MA programme, the centre provided me with a set of scholarly horizons as well as a comprehensive vision in terms of what humanities and social sciences might look like in the 21st century. Such that my time at the centre was that of a process in which I discovered what I truly aspire to accomplish in life. As a result, I spent my pre-doctoral year in the US and am now looking to pursue my research interests in Europe. I am therefore grateful to the centre's teaching members, visiting scholars, speakers, and administrative staff. An inspirational anomaly as it was, the GBZ at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin remains a homely and scholarly community in my memory.

## **THE CENTRE'S STAFF TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES**

### **International and Comparative Contract Law**

Professor Dannemann gave this series of lectures at Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter terms 2016/17 and 2017/18. 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.

On 10 January, Prof Eisenberg gave a lecture on "**British History - Before and After the Brexit**" as part of a lecture series for first semester students at the HU History Department.

In 2017, she furthermore taught the following two seminars at the Department of History:

### **“Insularity” as an Historical Argument. An Introduction to the History of England and the United Kingdom**

SoSe 2017

It is by no means only the Brexiteers who regard the circumstance of insularity as an important cause of the independence and distinctiveness of the United Kingdom as a European state. Historians and social scientists, such as Max Weber, Norbert Elias, and Alan Macfarlane, have also contributed to the argument, attributing these features to the ‘natural’ demarcation of territory. However, there are a number of other islands, such as Sicily or Japan, which in recent centuries have developed quite differently from England or the United Kingdom. This shows that the island situation as such does not explain much, unless the relationships of the respective societies to their environment are also explored. On the basis of this consideration, the seminar presented and analyzed relevant historical studies that establish such arguments. Students discussed aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural history from the Middle Ages to the present day. The course provided an opportunity to practice precise and differentiated historical reasoning.

### **The Pre-Industrial British Economy: Concepts of Contemporaries and Historians**

WS 2017/18

In the last third of the 18th century, two Scots published books in which the capitalist market economy was for the first time described as a “system”: *An Inquiry into the Principles of Political Oeconomy* (1767) by Sir James Steuart and *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776) by Adam Smith. Today these works are regarded as founding documents of modern economics; they still influence our understanding of the functioning of national economies. The seminar dealt with central ideas of these authors and their reception. The main interest, however, was in the creation of their works. Notions and findings contained therein can be explained less by the state of the capitalist market economy in their time, as recent research has highlighted, than by the specific Scottish perspective of the two founding fathers. Both Steuart and Smith had in mind the economic backwardness of their country compared to England and were driven by the desire to find a specific Scottish way of economic development. As scientists, they were also “rivals in fame”.



## RESEARCH

### Conferences and Workshops

#### Competitors and Companions: Britons and Germans in the World

Annual conference of the *Arbeitskreis Großbritannien Forschung* (AGF) / German Association for British Studies



Photo: AGF

Julia Eichenberg (Humboldt-Universität), Daniel Steinbach (University of Exeter) and Tobias Becker (German Historical Institute London) were the convenors of this conference on 19-20 May. By focusing on the phenomenon of competition, it brought to the fore a dimension rarely explored in the history of relations between the two countries. The lectures covered diverse topics such as the scientific competition of hygiene and public health institutes before World War I, the business competition of the news agencies Reuters and Wolff or the competition between the Quaker-organised Friend's Emergency and War Victims' Committee and the British Save the Children Fund, which both committed themselves to the field of humanitarian aid in Germany after the Second World War. Gaynor Johnson (University of Kent) analysed political aspects of British-German rivalry in her keynote on "Twentieth Century British Foreign Policy and the German Question". The analytical content of the conference topic proved to be extraordinarily fruitful in all the papers and discussions, because they put both conflicts and socializing effects of competition into perspective.

In a general meeting following the conference, it was decided that the *Arbeitskreis Deutsche Englandforschung* (ADEF) should be renamed *Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung* (AGF).



### Reading Group

The Reading Group of the Centre for British Studies met to discuss text selected by some of their members. The specific focus of the sessions during the summer semester was on interdisciplinary methods. Students, PhD students, researchers, and lecturers exchanged ideas, for example, about critical discourse analysis. Sources for this session were articles by Ruth Wodak, Jan Blommaert, and Chris Bulcaen. In



another meeting, our new colleague Dr Sam McIntosh presented the methods and sources he uses for his contextualised legal research. He gave some examples from his PhD entitled 'Open Justice and Investigations into Deaths at the Hands of the Police, and in Police and Prison Custody'.

## Staff Retreat

In September, the Centre's staff began the new academic year with a retreat to Babelsberg, near Potsdam. The agenda for this two-day workshop consisted of three main areas. We talked about the future of the Centre in relation to internationalisation and restructuring strategies at Humboldt-Universität. Secondly, we explored possible options and new partners in the light of changes which Brexit may have on research relations and study exchange. We also discussed the Centre's research profile, identified potential projects for co-operation between the disciplines, and talked about improving work flows to give academic staff more time for research and writing. The retreat gave us the opportunity to explore in greater depth issues important to all of us, and to spend time with one another outside the usual pressures of meetings, teaching commitments, and committee work both at the Centre and beyond it.



## Conference: European Law Institute

Prof Dannemann is one of the Reporters of the European Law Institute Project on Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms, of which a first draft was published in the *Journal of European Consumer and Market Law* (EuCML) 5 (2016), 164-169. 18 legal scholars from 10 countries attended a conference held at the Centre from 16-17 November to discuss recent developments and numerous improvements. Prof Dannemann also chaired a discussion on the liability rules proposed by this draft at the German Federal Ministry of Justice on 30 November.



## SPOTLIGHT

### Berlin-Britain Research Network Conference

#### Audit UK: Social, Political, and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit

Dr Marius Guderjan and Prof Gesa Stedman

From 27 to 29 September 2017, the Centre's Berlin-Britain Research Network held an international conference on the political, social, and cultural transformations underway in Britain and the potential trajectories of the pending exit from the European Union. Funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), the conference was highly successful in fostering an interdisciplinary dialogue across political science, sociology, cultural studies, law, economics, and migration studies.



The opening panel with the title "Brexit: Social, Political, and Cultural Disintegration?" on 27 September discussed the underlying causes for the public support to leave the European Union in the 2016 referendum. Prof John Clarke (The Open University), Dr Maria Sobolewska (University of Manchester) and Dr Kirsten Forkert (Birmingham City University) explained the multi-faceted reasons for the rise of populist movements, nationalism, and anti-immigration sentiments which found their expression in the Brexit campaign.



The panellists  
(from left):  
Rebecca Bramall,  
(chair, University  
of the Arts  
London),  
Maria  
Sobolewska,  
John Clarke,  
Kirsten Forkert

On 28 September, various panels continued to examine the challenges of populism, political extremism, racism, and xenophobia for British society. The panels also dealt with the implication of Brexit for the devolved nations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the future relationship with the EU. It was



explored how the current challenges to pluralist societies may be successfully met and how countries may avoid becoming 'closed' and the European project derailed.

The last day of the conference was organised in two parallel workshop sessions dealing with the concepts of agency and recognition/representation in the context of austerity policies and Brexit. Participants explored the potential uses of these concepts as media for understanding current developments and as potential guides for future action. The innovative workshops provided a valuable interdisciplinary opportunity to discuss the consequences of austerity policies on the ability of individuals and communities to shape their life trajectories.



The conference was stimulating and well-received by all participants. It contributed to the strengthening of existing ties and the extension of the membership of the Berlin-Britain Research Network. Presentations and selected interviews with participants were broadcast by Radio Deutschlandfunk in their programme "Aus Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaft".

The outcome of the conference provides the basis for a forthcoming edited book exploring the Brexit vote, not only in its own right but also as an expression of wider shifts in the UK's social and political structures and discourses, in particular around the experience of and responses to austerity. For this purpose, it brings together carefully articulated case studies with theoretically informed discussion of the relationship between austerity, Brexit, and the rise of populist politics.

Funded by the  
German Research Foundation: **DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

## Current Research Projects

### Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

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

Readers may remember from the last Annual Reports that in 2014, Anne Kriken Mann donated to the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin some 10,000 personal documents 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 people and politicians. Francis Mann's law firm Herbert Smith Freehills donated some additional 2,500 documents in 2015 and 2016.

In 2016, Prof Dannemann was awarded a grant by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* which allowed him to take off summer term 2017. Together with student assistants Christoph König and Franziska Stamm, Prof Dannemann used this time for a close reading of the some 12,500 documents. The main findings will soon be published in a jointly authored article.

Prof Dannemann is also preparing a more substantial grant application in cooperation with partners and other researchers from the Humboldt-Universität (including Prof Eisenberg from the Centre), 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 40th F.A. Mann Lecture, delivered by Lord Mance, 27 November 2017, Middle Temple Hall, London.

#### Research Group on the Law of Digital Services

An international research group on the law of digital services was set up in 2015, including Prof Dannemann and many other key members of the Research Group on Existing EC Private Law (Acquis Group). During 2016, the Group elaborated a full "Discussion Draft of a Directive on Online Intermediary Platforms", which was published in *Journal of European Consumer and Market Law (Eu-CML)* 5 (2016), 164-169.

The European Law Institute adopted this as one of their current research projects and appointed Prof Dannemann as co-reporter. The Centre for British Studies hosted a drafting workshop which took place on 16-17 November 2017.

## German Civil Code

Together with Prof Reiner Schulze, University of Münster, Prof Dannemann is co-editing the first English language commentary on the German Civil Code, to be published by C.H. Beck, Hart and Nomos in 2018.

## Academic Misconduct

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

## Further Activities

### Conference Papers and Lectures

"Art. 24 (Applicable Law)", Conference: 'Discussion Draft of a Directive on Online Intermediate Platforms', Jagellonian University Krakow, 20 January \* "Conflict of Laws", European Law Institute Working Group on Digital Platforms Conference, University of Osnabrück, 3 March \* "*Was bedeutet der Brexit für Großbritannien und seine Regionen?*" Evening Seminar, *Sächsische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung: 'Das uneinige Königreich. England und der BREXIT'*, 9 March \* "*Was zeichnet gute rechtswissenschaftliche Praxis aus?*" Evening Seminar, Law & Society Institute, Berlin, 19 April \* "The Future of German Unjustified Enrichment Law." Conference: 'Global Futures of Unjust Enrichment', University College London, 21 April \* "Judges and Legislators as Comparative Lawyers." Conference: 'Comparative Legal Studies in the Contemporary World: An Insight into Iranian and German Law', Azad University, Tehran, 29 April \* "Methodologies of Comparative Legal Studies." Conference: 'Comparative Legal Studies in the Contemporary World: An Insight into Iranian and German Law', Azad University, Tehran, 29 April \* "'Brexit means Brexit' means what? *Zum künftigen Verhältnis von Großbritannien, Europa und Deutschland.*" PhD Graduation Lecture, University of Hamburg, 3 May \* "WiseWoman." Celebration of the 65th birthday of Prof Debora Weber-Wulff, University of Applied Sciences, Berlin, 12 May \* "What Future for the Leistungskondiktion?" Seminar on 'Unjust Enrichment', University Carlos III, Madrid, 26 May \* "Brexit: Heading to the Cliffs?" Rotary Club Berlin-International, 16 July.

### Other Conference Attendances

Attended a conference on '*Deutsche Perspektiven zum Brexit*', organized jointly by the *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik* and Aston University, Berlin, 2 February \* Participated in a panel on



'Examining Research Integrity' at the 15th International Symposium of Information Science, Humboldt-Universität, 13-15 March  
\* Chaired a session at '*Schnittstelle zwischen Medizin und Recht in der notariellen Praxis*', organised by the Institute for Notary Law, Humboldt-Universität, 29 June  
\* Attended a conference on 'Counting Votes and Weighing Opinions: Collective Judging in Comparative Perspective', held at All Souls College, Oxford, 20-21 July  
\* Hosted and chaired a workshop of the European Law Institute Project Group 'Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms', 16-17 November  
\* Participated in a panel on 'Europäische Perspektiven auf den Brexit', Europäische Akademie Berlin / Irish Embassy, Berlin, 22 November  
\* Chaired a panel on 'Liability of Platform Providers' at a conference on '*Faire Regeln für Nutzer von Online-Verkaufsplattformen*', organized by the *Sachverständigenrats für Verbraucherfragen*, held at the German Ministry of Justice, 30 November.

## Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg



Professor Eisenberg continued to write her monograph "The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism", in which she examines the interaction between the characteristics of the British market economy in the 18th century and the emergence of modern sport. Last year, she expanded the research focus to include the question of the impact of this interaction on the economics of the Scottish Enlightenment.

On several occasions, she presented research findings to colleagues and the public, such as the contemporary history colloquium at the Friedrich Meinecke Institute of the Faculty of History, FU Berlin (20 July), a conference on the 'Cultural History of Sports' at the University of Bochum (21/22 September), another conference on 'Global History of Horse Races' at the University of Mannheim, and the European Sports Historians' Congress at the University of Strasbourg (7-9 December).

## Prof Dr Gesa Stedman



Gesa Stedman has published the first joint publication of the 'Writing 1900' network in 2017, co-edited with Philip Bullock and Stefano Evangelista, a special issue of *The Forum for Modern Language Studies*, on literary spaces and communities around 1900, which built on prior conferences of the network in Berlin and Oxford. Plans for a new project focusing on European exchange in the wake of World War I are currently under way. Gesa Stedman continues her research on Anglophone visitors to Berlin in the late 19th and

early 20th century. Together with Sandra van Lente, she has also published an e-book and subsequent print version entitled *It's not just the economy, stupid! Brexit and the Cultural Sector* (<https://edoc.hu-berlin.de/handle/18452/19182>) which draws on her wide network of contacts in the literary field and cultural sector in the UK. She continues to write reviews and blog articles on current literary events for The Literary Field Kaleidoscope. Prof Stedman returned to one of her earlier research projects with a paper on the history of emotions, delivered at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. Furthermore, she expanded earlier work on Ali Smith in an article on the metafictional and ontological characteristics in Smith's recent novels.

## Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE

The book project "The Rise and Fall of the Written Self" is part of Humboldt-Universität's Future Concept funded by the Excellence Initiative, and is designed to reconstruct the main forces and parameters in the development of life-writing in English culture from the late 15th to the 21st centuries. Based on a broad range of sources from libraries in Oxford, Cambridge, and London the book will analyse the most significant changes in expressing and constructing selves and then use the evidence to re-examine the validity of the 'individualization postulate' that has been central to so many studies of Western modernization processes.



## Dr Marius Guderjan

Dr Marius Guderjan continued his research on intergovernmental relations in the UK and Germany as part of his 'Habilitation' project and applied for various funding schemes to conduct his field studies on the British Isles. Beyond this, he worked on the reasons and implications of the EU referendum, and published an article reflecting on European integration theories in the context of Brexit with the title "Brexit und andere Krisen – Welche Erkenntnisse liefern uns Theorien europäischer Integration?" in *INDES Zeitschrift für Politik und Gesellschaft*. Marius also presented his ideas at a joint panel discussion co-organised by the Centre and the European Academy Berlin in July. Together with Adrian Wilding, Marius has researched the ideology, causes, and consequences of 'Brexit populism', and produced a project application and a paper, which he presented at the 3rd Prague Populism Conference. It will be published in the *Czech Journal of Political Science*. In his role as a co-chair of the Berlin-Britain Research Network, Marius, together with Prof Stedman, successfully organised the AUDIT UK confer-



ence in September which was funded by the DFG (see Spotlight). As the co-chairman of the *Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung* (German Association for British Studies), he participated in the annual conference in Berlin. On top of this, Marius became a member of the Regional Studies Association.

## Dr Sam McIntosh



Sam McIntosh joined the Centre in December 2016. After settling into teaching and other responsibilities at the Centre, and designing the course 'the Coercive State', Sam has prepared and submitted a research funding application to the Volkswagen Stiftung (November). This is intended to fund a one-year project that will examine the reach of the investigative obligation under Article 2 of the *European Convention on Human Rights* (the Right to Life), when it comes to the deaths of unsettled migrants and refugees in Europe. In September, Sam presented and chaired a workshop at the conference 'Audit UK: Social, Political and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit', and has joined Marius Guderjan, Paul Carmichael, and Hugh Mackay as a leader of the Berlin-Britain Research Network. Sam continues to conduct research into Coroners and Coroners' courts in England and Wales, and is currently working on a paper which explores the evolution of the historical purposes behind holding inquests into certain types of death.

## Jessica Fischer



Jessica Fischer's research project "Narratives of Neoliberalism. Agency after 9/11 in Selected British Debut Novels" investigates contemporary literature in the light of neoliberal discourses. It focuses on novels published after 9/11 or 7/7, and specifically, on the forms of agency they construct for British-Asian identities in the way the lives of the protagonists are narrated. In 2017, Jessica Fischer took part in the Arbeitskreis Cultural Studies (January), attended the British Council Literature Seminar (January) and the Literary Colloquium of the Centre's Graduate School of British Studies (February), collaborated with artist and choreographer Patricia Woltmann (May and July), and actively participated in the Interdisciplinary Reading Group. She presented her research in the Cultural Studies Colloquium of the Graduate School (July), read a paper on "Representations of Migrants and Migration in the 20th and 21st Centuries", and taught a workshop with Dr Guderjan and Felicia Kompio at the conference 'Audit UK: Social, Political, and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit' (September).

## Felicia Kompio

Felicia is currently working on her PhD thesis on urban political participation in early 19th-century Europe. She looks at revolutionary events in three cities around 1830 in order to gain insight into changing practices, their perceptions, and both the local and European discourse accompanying this process. Her PhD project thus combines a microhistorical approach and the European perspective as well as urban history and the history of revolutions. It is supervised by Prof Thomas Mergel (Department of History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Prof Christiane Eisenberg (Centre for British Studies). In summer 2017, Felicia joined the German Historical Institute, London for a two-month research stay. She visited archives and libraries in Bristol and London, which hold source material on the most violent event of the Reform Bill Crisis of 1831, the Queen Square Riots in Bristol.



The Centre's History Department: Prof Eisenberg and Felicia Kompio

## Johanna Zinecker

Johanna continued to work on her PhD, which examines artistic production on mental health and madness in the UK context, utilizing approaches from across the Critical Medical Humanities, Disability and Cultural Studies. The joint PhD is supervised by Prof Eveline Kilian (English Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Prof Brian Hurwitz (Centre for the Humanities and Health, King's College, London). As a member of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies, she participates regularly in its activities and in the Research Colloquium organized by Prof Kilian. Throughout 2017, Johanna took part in a number of conferences, including 'Hysteria and Art – Traumatic Coincidences' (London); 'Take Care – Symposium for Critical Care and Relational Ethics' (Berlin) and 'Interventionen – Diversity in Arts and Education' (Berlin). Johanna also engaged in debate around Brexit, particularly in relation to arts and culture. She organized the public lecture "Austerity, Brexit and the Public Mood" by Dr Kirsten Forkert, contributed to *It's not just the economy, stupid! Brexit and the Cultural Sector* (Stedman and van Lente, eds, 2017) and co-convened the workshop on "Recognition" at the Audit UK conference (with Dr Sam McIntosh and Dr Adrian Wilding). In November, she was an invited speaker and moderator of the "Focus UK Panel" at 'Fragile Affinities – (re)strengthening international artistic collaboration' at *Akademie der Künste*, Berlin, organised by *Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste*.



Johanna discussing artistic responses and concerns around Brexit with UK artists and experts from the cultural field at *Akademie der Künste*, Berlin  
Photo: Jörg Wagner

## SPOTLIGHT

### The Literary Field Kaleidoscope



The Literary Field Kaleidoscope project, led by Gesa Stedman and former lecturer Sandra van Lente, was very active in 2017. By drawing on our respective networks of academics, alumni, practitioners, artists, writers, and activists, we were able to attract a large number of contributors to our ebook *It's not the economy, stupid – Brexit and the Cultural Sector*, which was also published in print in the autumn of 2017 ([www.gbz.hu-berlin.de/downloads/pdf/brexit-and-the-cultural-sector\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de/downloads/pdf/brexit-and-the-cultural-sector_pdf.pdf)). It is available on request from the Centre, and can be downloaded from HU's ebook server. The booklet collects worried, yet still optimistic British and European voices warning against the loss of cultural diversity which Brexit may bring. They passionately call for exchange, ambiguity, contact and controversy, and rightly claim a central place for the cultural sector in the debate on Brexit and its consequences.

As part of the Interdisciplinary Project Seminar on migration, writers and activists Nikesh Shukla and Musa Okwonga were invited to a very well-attended reading on 17 November 2017. The audience participated actively in the wide-ranging debate and contributed their own experience and thoughts on being a non-native in Berlin and listened attentively to accounts by the two British authors on matters of diversity in the literary field, education, and everyday life in the UK. The anthology *The Good Immigrant*, edited by Nikesh Shukla, which was part of the set texts for the course, came to life that night, rather than being an abstract text with little connection to the students' own experience.



Gesa Stedman introducing Nikesh Shukla (left) and Musa Okwonga to the audience, who were treated with a very thoughtful and yet entertaining reading and discussion

Now in its second year, The Literary Field Kaleidoscope is very successful at attracting readers for its diverse publications such as reviews, interviews, reports from book fairs, and other articles. Gesa Stedman and Sandra van Lente's blog, [www.literaryfield.org](http://www.literaryfield.org), serves as one of the many outreach activities the Centre undertakes for both specialist and general audiences.



Amongst its longer features in 2017 was a comprehensive interview with an award-winning independent bookshop in the north of Berlin, and a conference report from the Frankfurt Book Fair where right-wing publishers had been given a public platform, resulting in considerable public outrage. The ongoing debate will have an impact on future fairs, and on the literary fields both in the UK and in Germany, tying in with current political developments far beyond any 'literary' concerns. Furthermore, students published reviews and summaries of their master theses which have a relation to the literary field on the website.

A further highlight in 2017 was the public lecture by the director of the London Book Fair, Jacks Thomas. She opened up new perspectives for the audience by explaining how diversity and inclusivity are targeted by the Book Fair and how the fair tries to encourage the industry to reach out to new readers by organising panel debates, workshops, and public events.



## Visiting Researchers

### Dr Jason Allen, LL.M

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellow



Jason Allen is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for two years from September 2017, supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Jason is a constitutional lawyer and legal theorist. He recently completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge as a Poynton Scholar. During his time in Berlin, Jason will explore the distinct contribution that legal theory has to make to understanding the concept of money. The leading English text, *The Legal Aspect of Money*, was written by Berlin émigré F.A. Mann in 1938 and is now in its 7th edition. The way money is made, moved, and counted changed dramatically over the course of the 20th century, however, and those changes are accelerating now with the entry of private currencies such as Bitcoin and new accounting mechanisms such as 'Distributed Ledger Technology'. While at the Centre, Jason intends to publish a series of papers on the broad theme of money, law, and information technology and on F.A. Mann's legacy in Anglo-German legal studies. Jason also plans to publish some of the material in his doctoral dissertation on the legal nature of the British Crown, which in fact presents some of the ontological problems as money. Jason is currently translating Prof Christian von Bar's *Gemeineuropäisches Sachenrecht* from German into English for publication with the Oxford University Press, and expects the first volume to be completed during his stay at the Centre.

### Dr Mary Boyle

I spent nearly five months (April-August 2017) at the Centre for British Studies, part-funded by the DAAD. I am a medievalist, working on German and English literature, and had completed my DPhil at Oxford the previous year – a comparative study of late-medieval pilgrimage accounts. At the Centre I was able to conduct



preliminary research into a project looking at reader responses to the '*Narrenschiff*' / 'Ship of Fools', as well as to participate in workshops with doctoral researchers. The GBZ was an immensely welcoming environment, and I appreciated

the opportunity to network with people outside my immediate discipline, who take a wide range of approaches to British cultural studies, not least my mentor, Prof Gesa Stedman. I am now beginning an Irish Research Council-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Maynooth University, and I have no doubt that my time at the GBZ played a part in my being selected for this role.

## Aleksej Davidenko

Aleksei Davidenko is a postgraduate student at the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University in Kaliningrad. He visited the Centre for British Studies in March 2017 because of his academic interest in the field of history and culture of the Victorian age in England. He is working on a PhD thesis concerning the image of the gentleman in the social imagination of the Victorians. He is currently doing research on the history of the concept of the 'gentleman' in order to better understand social practices of the Victorians. At the Centre, Aleksei had access to a wide range of materials for his paper on the usage of the concept in Victorian newspaper advertising. Furthermore, he consulted Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg on the subject of his research.

## Katharina Herold

I am working towards my DPhil in English Literature at the University of Oxford. I was a visiting scholar at the Centre for British Studies in May 2017. My stay at the GBZ gave me the opportunity not only to meet established experts in the field of British culture and literature but also enabled an exchange with other PhD students working on the cultural relations between Britain and Germany. It was thrilling to see the variety and breadth of interdisciplinary research done by the GBZ students.

I would like to thank Prof Stedman and her amazing team for providing me with the perfect conditions to foster my own DPhil research, which investigates the interrelationships between English and German Decadent literature and the East 1880-1920. The research visit to the GBZ allowed me to draw on the rich facilities of the Centre as well as the Berlin libraries. I am very much looking forward to continuing the collaboration in the 'Writing 1900' network.



## Bruno Leipold

I was very fortunate to spend the Winter Semester 2016-17 as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for British Studies. The time spent at the Centre was hugely helpful in providing me with an ideal research environment to work on my PhD (which I submitted in October 2017 at the University of Oxford). My PhD explored the relationship between Karl Marx and republicanism, and included extensive discussion of British and German republicans in mid-19th century London.

Working on these thinkers and political activists was greatly aided by the expertise of the Centre of British Studies, particularly conversations with Prof Christiane Eisenberg about Chartism and British trade unions and Prof Patricia Springborg about the history of republicanism. It was also an exciting time to be at the Centre in the immediate aftermath of the Brexit vote, and the possibility of attending several eye-opening and informative events organised by the Centre. The Centre's staff were also enormously generous and welcoming, which made my visit not only intellectually stimulating but a personally enjoyable one.

## Dr Rebecca Scott Bray

Associate Professor Rebecca Scott Bray is a criminologist and socio-legal studies scholar at the University of Sydney, Australia, whose work focuses on death and the dead in law and society. She has particular interests in death investigation, death review and the coronial jurisdiction, and in cultural criminology with a focus on practices such as death-related art and media. Rebecca visited the Centre for British Studies from December 2017 to January 2018 to meet and discuss collaborations with Dr Sam McIntosh, given their shared research interests in coroners' inquests and human rights.

During her time at the Centre, Rebecca completed an article on critical coronial issues, commenced a new death investigation project, worked on her monograph, and began organising a 2018 international multidisciplinary death investigation research lab which will involve Dr McIntosh.



## Prof Patricia Springborg

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



From March 2 to 4, 2017, Patricia was invited to participate in a Symposium at the University of Tübingen, organized by Prof Otfried Höffer to produce a volume on Hobbes's *De Cive* as part of the series *Klassiker auslegen*, published by De Gruyter, now in press. From 8-9 June 2017, she gave an invited paper presentation, "Thomas Hobbes and the Political Economy of Peace", to the workshop on 'Thomas Hobbes and Peace', at the University of Edinburgh. And from July 15 to 21, 2017, she participated in the Summer School in Modern Political Theory, on 'Two Faces of Modernity: Conflict and Unity in the Modern Understanding of Politics', Grožnjan, Croatia, to which she delivered a keynote: "Constitutionalism, Ancient & Oriental". On October 17, 2017 she delivered her paper on "Hobbes and the Political Economy of Peace" to the graduate seminar in Political Theory and Institutions at the University of Naples, 'Parthenope', directed by Prof Olivier Butzbach. And from October 18 to 20, 2017, she participated in the Politics & Labour Network Workshop at the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Napoli, to which she delivered a paper on "Populism and Demography". From November 23 to 29, she was invited to Boğaziçi Üniversitesi in Istanbul for consultations with Professors Murat Akan and Halil Edhem Eldem, over her new project in Ottoman historiography and politics, and signed a contract with Koc University Press for the publication in Turkish of her book, *Western Republicanism and the Oriental Prince* (Cambridge, 1992), forthcoming 2019.

The Centre is a lively place that offers an environment in which academics can meet and discuss interdisciplinary topics related to the UK, and it gladly welcomes international guests to enrich its research activities.



## SPOTLIGHT

### Berlin Graduate School of British Studies (BGSBS)

Officially, the funding period of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies ended in 2017. However, it has been such a resounding success that the Centre intends to maintain the core structure in years to come.

Our first scholars have handed in, or will hand in in 2018, their theses. They have given us top marks for designing a flexible yet supportive, tailor-made programme for them. We will allow the next group of doctoral students to profit from their experience of course.

Three new members from three different departments at Humboldt-Universität have joined the group of professorial supervisors: Prof Magdalena Nowicka (sociology, BIM), Prof Martin Heger (law), and Prof Thomas Mergel (history).

Although our first attempt at obtaining funding for a Research Training Group failed, the reports contained so much praise for our work that we will make a second attempt, this time in conjunction with King's College London, and with a stronger focus on Brexit.

Meanwhile, the next courses on career planning and preparing the oral defence of the thesis are being planned for next spring, and some of our doctoral students are in increasing demand as experts on migration, Brexit, and higher education, allowing them to appear on panels and conferences. Once again, it is Brexit-related concerns which interest both the media and the general public.

A highlight in terms of graduate activity was the participation of our doctoral students in this year's *Lange Nacht* presentation. Melanie Neumann organized and chaired a late-night panel debate with Irish and British expats living in Berlin, and gave a talk on "Britons in Berlin after Brexit". Furthermore, Jessica Fischer, Arne Gutsche, and Jennifer Jacob all spoke at the Audit UK conference organized by the Berlin-Britain Research Network.



Above: Jennifer and Arne presenting conference papers.

Left: Melanie chairing a round-table talk.



## A year in the life of a PhD student

**Melanie:** The highlights of my year included my active participation and presentation of my research at two very inspiring conferences in Ireland: the 1st Global Irish Diaspora Congress at Dublin City University in August and the 17th International Conference in Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick in September. Furthermore, I experienced great interest in my research and was, for example, asked to talk at an event on British migration to Berlin, co-organised by the Berlin Senate.

**Anna:** In May, I had the chance to attend the award ceremony of the European Union Prize for Literature in Brussels - the key subject of my thesis. The 2017 Hermes Graduate Seminar in Aarhus and my talk on Brexit, post-truth and post-modernism at *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 2017* were two more exciting and productive experiences this year. Also, I have been able to focus on my thesis full-time since September 2017 thanks to the Elsa-Neumann scholarship I will receive for the next two years.

**Sonya:** In 2017, thanks to the scholarship of the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, I was able to devote more time to my PhD project, which resulted in the first two completed chapters. The highlights of my year included teaching and working with students of MA British Studies, giving a talk on Scottish political poetry at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 2017*, and attending a seminar on women's roles in art, organized by the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung in Dresden.

**Tathagata:** The year 2017 involved quite a bit of travelling to conduct the expert interviews for my thesis. I made contact with the London Metropolitan Police and the Delhi Police, and followed that with personal interviews with officers involved directly with the policing of protests. For this purpose I travelled to London twice throughout the year and travelled to India in September.

**Jenny:** In 2017, I concluded the expert interviews which I had conducted for my thesis and for which I had travelled to different places in the UK and Germany. In autumn, I presented at our Audit UK conference which led to a lively discussion with the audience about the consequences of Brexit for higher education in the UK. I'm also very happy about the publication of my first article as part of a journal published by the University of Magdeburg. If you're interested to follow my higher education blog on twitter, you can find me @JJs\_HE\_blog.

## Doctoral Students

### Culture and Literature Department

Supervision by Prof Gesa Stedman, unless otherwise stated

**Jessica Fischer:** "Narratives of Neoliberalism. Agency after 9/11 in Selected British Debut Novels."

**Jennifer Jacob:** "Effects of priorities in science policy on grant evaluation and research: A comparative study of funding agencies and their relation to policy-makers and scientists in Germany and the UK". Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann and Prof Schlaeger.



In a turning-point-colloquium, PhD students discussed methodological and conceptual issues with Prof Stedman and Dr McIntosh

**Melanie Neumann:** "Recent British and Irish Migration to Berlin – A Case of Lifestyle Migration?"

**Sonya 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:** "European Literature in the Context of European Cultural Policy – The European Union Prize for Literature in the UK, Ireland, and Germany".

**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).

### History Department

Supervision by Prof Christiane Eisenberg

**Felicia Kompio:** "Revolution of the Street. Forms of Political Participation in early 19th-Century European Cities". Co-supervised with Prof Thomas Mergel (HU Berlin).

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

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

## Law Department

Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann

**Jens Brückerhoff:** has submitted a PhD thesis on the law of maritime salvage in comparative law and in the conflict of laws.

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

**Robert Ficht:** "Statutory control of unfair contract terms in business contracts".

**Arne Gutsche:** "Conceptions of contract as a question of national identity".

**Christoph König:** "F.A. Mann (1907-1991)".

**Katharina Steinbrück:** "Der Umgang mit dem Recht der Europäischen Union in Großbritannien im Rahmen des "Brexit" – Eine rechtsvergleichende Studie zum Verbraucherkreditrecht und dem Umgang mit missbräuchlichen Klauseln".

**Farida Valiullina:** completed and successfully defended her thesis on "The Dialogue of the Courts in Europe: Interactions between the Strasbourg Court, the Luxembourg Court and the Courts of ECHR Member States".

## Publications

**DANNEMANN, G.** "Anglo-amerikanischer Rechtskreis". *Staatslexikon Recht · Wirtschaft · Gesellschaft*. Vol I, 8th edition. Herder-Verlag, 2017. 195-206.

---. "WiseWoman". *Forschung, Lehre & Ethik: Festschrift für Prof. Dr. Debora Weber-Wulff*. Carsten Busch, Jürgen Sieck and Gefei Zhang, eds. Berlin: 2017. 99-105.

---. "Adjustment/Adaptation (Anpassung)". *Encyclopedia of Private International Law*. Jürgen Basedow, Giesela Rühl, Franco Ferrari and Pedro de Miguel Asensio, eds. Vol. 1. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017. 16-20.

---. Rev. of *Damages for Violations of Human Rights: A Comparative Study of Domestic Legal Systems*, edited by Eva Baginska, *Ius Comparatum – Global Studies in Comparative Law* 9, Springer, 2016. *Journal of European Tort Law* (2017): 372-375.

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



**STEDMAN, G.**, and Sandra van Lente, eds. *It's not just the economy, stupid – Brexit and the Cultural Sector*. Berlin: Centre for British Studies, 2017. [www.gbz.hu-berlin.de/downloads/pdf/brexit-and-the-cultural-sector\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de/downloads/pdf/brexit-and-the-cultural-sector_pdf.pdf)

---, Philip Bullock, and Stefano Evangelista, eds. *Literary Communities in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: Space, Place and Identity. Special Issue. Forum of Modern Language Studies 3.3* (2017).

---, with Philip Bullock and Stefano Evangelista. "Introduction". *Literary Communities in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: Space, Place and Identity. Special Issue. Forum of Modern Language Studies 3.3* (2017): 271-273.

---. "A habituée of the Romanische Café' – Alix Strachey's 1920s-Berlin". *Literary Communities in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: Space, Place and Identity. Special Issue. Forum of Modern Language Studies 3.3* (2017): 338-348.

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---. Reviews on *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope*. Online: [www.literaryfield.org/reviews-articles](http://www.literaryfield.org/reviews-articles), 2017:

- "Reader's Report – Short Reviews of Recent and Not So Recent Novels" (April 2017)
- "The Bricks That Don't Build a Novel – Kate Tempest's First Novel" (May 2017)
- "Haunted by a Powerful Novel – Evie Wyld's *All the Birds, Singing*" (May 2017)
- "A Boy in Winter – Rachel Seiffert's New Novel" (June 2017)
- "The Arrogance of the 'Hybrid' Intellectual – A Review of *Broken German* by Tomer Gardi" (September 2017)
- "*Beatlebone* by Kevin Barry – Experimental Fiction on an Irish Island" (October 2017)

**GUDERJAN, M.** "Brexit und andere Krisen – Welche Erkenntnisse liefern uns Theorien europäischer Integration?" *INDES Zeitschrift für Politik und Gesellschaft* 2 (2017): 88-97. (Brexit and other crises – which insights do European integration theories have to offer?)

---. "Commonwealth." *Staatslexikon*. 8th edition. Freiburg: Herder, 2017. Vol. 1. 1142-1146.



---, M. Foster et al. *The United Kingdom and the EU in 2030 – Scenario report of the first European Future Summit of the European Academy of Berlin*. Europäische Akademie Berlin, 2017.

**FISCHER, J.**, Sebastian Berg, and Georgia Christinidis, eds. *Special Issue. Hard Times Magazine* 100 (2017).

---. "Interview with Jürgen Enkemann." *Special Issue. Hard Times Magazine* 100 (2017): 3-11.

**JACOB, J.** "The impact of impact: Anforderungen an Wissenschaft und Forschungsförderung in Großbritannien." *Hochschulen als Organisation und die Organisation von Hochschulen: Reformen des Wissenschaftsbetriebes in Theorie und Praxis*. Philipp Pohlenz, ed. *Magdeburger Beiträge zur Hochschulentwicklung* 6 (2017): 17-34.

**MCINTOSH, S.** Rev. of *Commissions of Inquiry: Problems and Prospects*, edited by Christian Henderson. *International Comparative Law Quarterly* (upcoming).

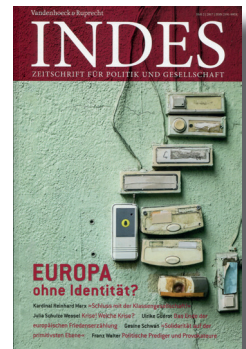
**NEUMANN, M.** "Disappointed, but Confident – #BritsinBerlin after Brexit." *Brexit Brits Abroad*, 31 July 2017. Online: <https://brexitbritsabroad.com/2017/07/31/disappointed-but-confident-britsinberlin-after-brexit/#more-537>.

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**ZINECKER, J.** "These are the Gestures of Brexit – A conversation with Farah Saleh and Victoria Tischler about their collaboration on Brexit Means Brexit!" *It's not just the economy, stupid! – Brexit and the Cultural Sector*. Gesa Stedman and Sandra van Lente, eds. Berlin: Centre for British Studies, 2017. 10-17.

## Visiting Researchers

**SPRINGBORG, P.** "Hobbes's Absolutist State: Commentary on De cive, chapters 11, 12 and 13". *Hobbes's De Cive, Klassiker auslegen*. Otfried Höffe, ed. DeGruyter, 2017. 131-144.



## Library

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

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 35,000 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.

In 2017, the library received a generous donation of Anne Kriken Mann, widow of F.A. Mann's son David. F.A. Mann's archive is currently at the centre of a large and long-term research project, led by Prof Dannemann. The donation consists of a substantial collection of literature on the humanities, which is now integrated in the library holdings and can be found on the library catalogue PRIMUS.

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



## EVENTS

### Keynote Lecture

#### **The 21st Century Mind: Blowing it, Expanding it, Losing it**

Prof Baroness Susan Greenfield, CBE, FRCP (Hon)  
President and Founder of Neuro-Bio Limited

6 November



Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield gave this year's keynote lecture with which the Centre customarily opens the academic year. Susan Greenfield is one of the most distinguished neuroscientists with a world-wide reputation for her work on the synaptic pharmacology of the human brain and on neuro-degenerative processes leading to Alzheimer and related diseases. She is also known for her many best-selling books such as *The Private Life of the Brain*, *Tomorrow's People*, and *Mind Change*, books in which she brilliantly

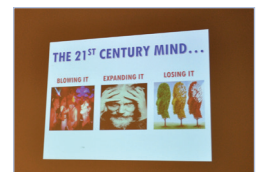
expounds how human brains work and what impact developments in information technology can have on them, so that her readers got a clear impression of what is at stake in the neurosciences today, medically, scientifically, technologically, and ethically.

In her wide-ranging lecture, Professor Greenfield gave the packed Senatssaal a fast forward introduction to the fundamentals of the brain's structure, work and susceptibility to input from the environment, touched upon questions such as the uniqueness of human adaptability, the brain's plasticity and, one of the trickiest problems, consciousness, and then went on to describe the most promising ways of understanding and treating neuro-degenerative diseases. Every step in her brilliant exposition was illustrated by graphic powerpoint presentations which helped the general audience to grasp the scientific basis and the general drift of her

elucidating arguments. The lecture was followed by a lively debate and a reception.



An interested public listening to what may happen to their brain



## Monday Lectures

### **Brexit and the UK Constitution. Where Are We Now, and Where Are We Going?**

Professor Alison Young

Public Law, University of Oxford

9 January



This lecture examined the constitutional implications of Brexit. It drew on the litigation challenging whether the UK was able to trigger Article 50 by use of the prerogative alone. It also examined the constitutional implications of Brexit more broadly, e.g. for parliamentary sovereignty and for the role of the judiciary, for the devolved legislatures and the stability of the Union.

Alison Young is Professor of Public Law at the University of Oxford and a Fellow and Tutor in Law at Hertford College. She has published widely in the area of public law, specifically looking at the UK Constitution and constitutional protections of human rights, as well as commenting on the recent Miller litigation.

### **Brexit: Xenophobia or Xenophilia?**

Emerita Professor Helen Cowie

Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences, University of Surrey

23 January

In this lecture Professor Helen Cowie spoke about how aspects of xenophobia and xenophilia have played out following the Brexit referendum vote in Britain.

Helen Cowie is Emerita Professor of Health and Social Care at the University of Surrey and acts as research supervisor for Regent's University. She is Fellow of the British Psychological Society and joint Chair of the European Network for Social and Emotional Competence (ENSEC). Her work focuses on child development and young people. She has specialised in the area of school-bullying, including cyberbullying and strategies on how to counteract them. Her latest book *Bullying in Schools: Interventions and Prevention* will be published soon.

"Thank you again for a wonderful evening. I really enjoyed the questions and discussion after the talk ... Your lecture series is so topical. Thank you once more for letting me be part of it."

Best wishes Helen



## **“A Vote Against Me.” Poles in Post-Brexit-Vote Britain**

Prof Dr Magdalena Nowicka

Berliner Institut für empirische Integrations- und Migrationsforschung, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

2 May



What does it mean to be a migrant? What is the role of the media? How are exclusion and inclusion narrated? Prof Nowicka presented new research results about Polish migrants in London and Birmingham, their opinions on the Brexit vote, and their positions in Britain. She introduced the notion of the cultural precariat as a widespread condition of migrants in Europe and presented her fascinating empirical data to the audience.

Magdalena Nowicka is professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and member of the Berlin Institute for Integration and

Migration Research (BIM), both at Humboldt-Universität. Her publications include *The Ashgate Research Companion to Cosmopolitanism* (edited with Maria Rovisco, 2011) and numerous articles on migration, transnationalism, conviviality, diversity, racism, and cosmopolitanism.

## **Brexit and Business Law**

Prof Dr Dr h.c. mult. Jürgen Basedow, LL.M. (Harvard Univ.)

Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht Hamburg

1 June

With Great Britain's declaration that it will withdraw from the European Union, the procedure under Article 50 TEU has been initiated. Prof Jürgen Basedow's lecture explained what this means in real terms. Which legal questions have to be solved during the next two years? What happens when an agreement cannot be reached? What perspectives already exist for a future working relationship between the EU and Britain – especially within the realms of civil rights?

Prof Jürgen Basedow has been director of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg since 1997. His publications cover a wide range of topics, such as

conflict of laws and international civil procedural law or antitrust law. Besides Brexit, he is currently working on topics such as the transnationalisation of private law, and the history of comparative law.

This lecture was a co-operation with the Humboldt Comparative and European Law Lectures (HUCCELL). It took place at the library of the Walter Hallstein Institute.

## **Building Bridges and Bursting Bubbles in UK Publishing: Books, Brexit and Beyond**

Jacks Thomas

Director, The London Book Fair

19 June

Books are an integral part of the UK's creative economy, with book publishing generating up to £4.4bn in 2015. But what will recent developments such as the rise of e-books, social media, diversity, uncertainty around Brexit, fake news and a post-truth era mean for UK publishing? Jacks Thomas, Director of The London Book Fair, reflected on current trends in UK publishing, book selling, and the book market in general.



Jacks Thomas has been Director of The London Book Fair since 2013, having worked in the arts and corporate sectors for over 20 years. The London Book Fair is one of the world's leading publishing events, spanning books, audio, TV, film, gaming, academic publishing, technology and beyond. Thomas drives the ongoing development of the Fair, with recent additions to the programme including the launch of London Book and Screen Week in 2015.



## One Year After the Vote: Brexit and the Future of UK Universities

Professor Dr Jan Palmowski

Modern and Contemporary History, Pro Vice Chancellor, School for Cross-Faculty Studies, University of Warwick

26 June

It is difficult to think of an issue that united universities as much as their opposition to Brexit before the referendum. Indeed, no other sector was as unequivocal about its negative impacts. This presentation considered how universities have sought to come to terms with the realities of Brexit. It argued that the universities' responses have to be considered in conjunction with fundamental changes to the governance of education and research, passed into law as the UK Higher Education and Research Bill in May 2017.

Whilst the long-term consequences of Brexit will provide significant challenges to universities, even the past twelve months have forced UK universities to adapt rapidly, and to focus on regional engagement and the influencing of policy as never before.

Jan Palmowski is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, and currently serves as Secretary General to the Guild of European Research Intensive Universities. He is particularly interested in how national identities are formed, and in processes of reconciliation in post-conflict societies.



## Austerity, Brexit and the Public Mood

Dr Kirsten Forkert

Media Theory, Senior Lecturer, Birmingham School of Media  
Birmingham City University

3 July

In this talk, Kirsten Forkert developed the concept of a “public mood” both as a particular affective climate, which is currently marked by melancholy, nostalgia, and harsh moral judgements, and as a construction of public opinion. She examined the relationship between this public mood, austerity, and emerging right populist politics, as exemplified by the Brexit vote and political rhetoric which appeals to those who voted to leave the EU.

Kirsten Forkert is a researcher and activist who examines the politics of cultural work and education. She completed a PhD in Media and Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London



in 2011. Next to her book *Artistic Lives* (Ashgate, 2013) Kirsten has also published on media art, activism, and the globalisation of education. Prior to academia, Kirsten was active as a media artist, curator, and critic.

## Public Reading: *The Good Immigrant*

Nikesh Shukla

Writer and Diversity Activist

The Literary Field Kaleidoscope

14 November

Nikesh Shukla conceived and edited *The Good Immigrant* (Unbound), an acclaimed collection of essays about race and immigration by 21 writers of colour. He is the editor of *Rife Magazine*, an on-line magazine for young people and the author of the novels *Coconut Unlimited* (Quartet), which was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award, and *Meatspace* (Friday Project). Nikesh Shukla has been shortlisted for the Liberty Human Rights Arts Award and named as one of Foreign Policy's 100 Global Thinkers 2016. This reading was chaired by the multi-talented poet, author, and broadcaster Musa Okwonga.



## Different Worlds of Social Justice: Pensions and Old Age in Germany and Great Britain

Professor Dr Cornelius Torp

Historian, Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin

29 November

Which impact have the British and German pension systems had on the living conditions of elderly people? How has their social status changed over the last decades? Prof Cornelius Torp summed up the different developments of pension provision in Britain and Germany since the Second World War. He emphasised the divergent ideas of social justice which were inscribed in the two pension systems.

Cornelius Torp is Professor of Modern History at the Freie Universität Berlin. He has published widely on modern German and European history, the history of globalization, and on the history of the welfare state. He is the author of *Challenges of Aging: Pensions, Retirement and Social Justice* (2015).



## Visitors at the Centre

### Advisory Board

This year's meeting of the Centre's Advisory Board took place on 9 June. A major topic at this meeting was the future status of the Centre. The Board again emphasized their view that it was important that the GBZ should keep its status as an independent institution and that its interdisciplinarity is an essential characteristic of its teaching and research. The Board expressed the wish to talk to the presidium of HU about this issue at the next meeting in 2018. The Centre's staff confirmed that everyone tries to support important initiatives, to take part in events and to participate in university committees in order to underline its reputation as an active and modern university institution. Brexit and its possible consequences, not least for the Erasmus+ funding of the students' work placements in the UK, was another issue discussed at the meeting.



Sir Paul (left) with Sam McIntosh and Prof Eisenberg



As is the custom the Board talked to the current student group and reported back to the staff that they were an engaged, interested, and highly motivated group who have minor issues

with the workload but appreciate the interdisciplinary character of the course and the diversity to be found among students, guest lecturers, and staff.

### Prof John Bell QC (hon.), FBA, FRSA

Professor John Bell, University of Cambridge, visited the Centre on 17 March 2017 and discussed comparative law methodology with our doctoral students.

### Visit of HRH Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge

Professor Dannemann met the Duchess of Cambridge for a brief discussion about the work of the Centre for British Studies and academic relations between Germany and the UK at the Queen's Birthday Party, Residence of the British Ambassador, Berlin, 19 July 2017.

## Public Relations

In terms of PR, the year 2017 was busy for the Centre for British Studies. With the Brexit referendum in 2016 and the UK general election 2017, the institute again proved to be an important platform for experts sharing their knowledge and a valuable source of information for the media or general public.

We worked closely with the main press and public relations office of Humboldt-Universität to promote our lectures and inform about the political situation in Great Britain.

Video  
Gerhard Dannemann, Politikwissenschaftler an der Humboldt Universität Berlin, zur Wahl in Großbritannien



Prof Dannemann in *Tagesschau*, 8 June 2017

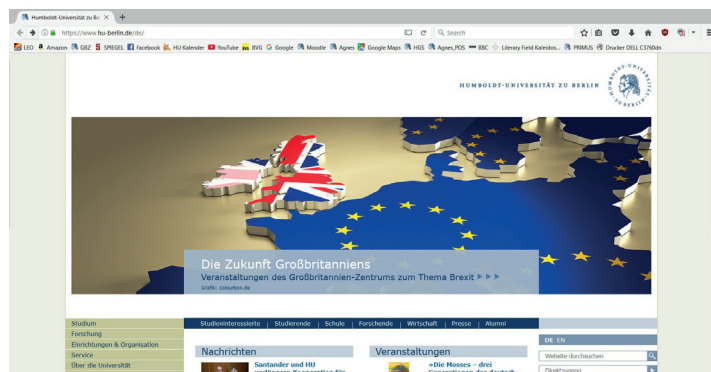
Our academic staff answered specific questions in various media outlets: Dr Guderjan was interviewed by Radio Dreyeckland, radio B2, and ZDF. Prof Dannemann gave interviews to Tagesschau, SWR 2, WDR, Deutschlandradio Wissen, Bayern 2, NDR, SRF, n-tv, Deutschlandfunk, N24, WDR 5, ZEIT online, dpa, hr-info, ZDF, Deutsche Welle, SRF 4, hr 2, Radio Bremen, SR 2, RTL, for example. They were mainly asked to comment on developments and possible consequences of the Brexit referendum, the general election, and the terrorist attacks in the UK.

Prof Dannemann, as a member of VroniPlag, also gave interviews about plagiarism (e.g. Bayern 2, BR, Il Fatto Quotidiano). Prof Eisenberg was interviewed by Deutschlandfunk on "Sport und Spiel" (sports and games).

The Centre featured several times on the HU homepage with Brexit-related topics and in the newspaper HUMBOLDT.

Most interviews and articles can be found on the Centre's webpage: **[www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de)**

The Centre is prominently mentioned on Humboldt-Universität's title page on 1 June 2017



## FELLOWS

### Honorary Fellows

The Right Honourable Ben Bradshaw, MP

Sir Christopher Mallaby, GCMG, GCVO

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA

### Fellows

Prof Paul Carmichael

University of Ulster

Prof Valentine Cunningham

University of Oxford

Dr Stefano Evangelista

University of Oxford

Andy Feist

Home Office, UK

Dr Hugh Mackay

The Open University, Wales

Dr Gerry Mooney

The Open University, Scotland

Dr Carlo Morelli

University of Dundee

Lynn Parkinson

University of Bradford

Dr Pikay Richardson

Manchester Business School

Dr Steven Truxal

City University London

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB

Centre for British Studies (until 2013)

Prof Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Dr Adrian Wilding

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

## STAFF

### Academic Staff

#### **Prof Dr Gesa Stedman**

##### **Director**

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

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

#### **Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg**

##### **Deputy Director, Dean of Studies**

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 in October 1998.

Prof Eisenberg has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich* (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009), translated as *The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800* (2013). Prof Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the German Historical Institute London. In 2017 she has been elected to the Editorial and Scientific Board of the *European Studies in Sport History*.

## **Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, MA (Oxon)** **Head of Exams and Admissions**

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, Director of the Centre until September 2017, since then Chair of Admissions and Examinations. Studied law at Freiburg i.Br. and Bonn. Taught



From left: C. Radke, M. Guderjan, C. Smith, S. McIntosh, G. Mooney (guest lecturer), Ch. Seuring, G. Dannemann, S. Zöllner, G. Stedman, S. Permiakova, J. Fischer, J. Jacob, A. Schoon, F. Kompio, J. Zinecker

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 (University Lecturer, then Reader in Comparative Law) 1995-2002, 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. Visiting Research Fellow of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford; founder and general editor of the Oxford University Comparative Law Forum and the German Law Archive, co-reporter of the European Law Institute "Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms" project. On the MA British Studies programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches "Constitutional Law and Political System".

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

Senior Professor of British Literature and Culture. Studied history, philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford. He was Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Konstanz from 1976-95, and visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, at Fudan University, Shanghai, and also Visiting 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 chaired its Board of Trustees from 2011-2015. 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".

## Dr Marius Guderjan

Lecturer and researcher in British Politics. Marius' teaching responsibilities include the 'UK's Constitutional Law and Political System', 'Analysing British Politics', and 'British Foreign Relations'. Before he joined the GBZ in August 2014, Marius worked as a senior research assistant at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University. He was involved in various projects and funding applications including Myplace and MyWeb (FP7 funded), and InnoSi (Innovative Social Investment, funded by Horizon 2020).

In 2013, Marius obtained his PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University for the thesis 'When Europe meets the local level – a fusing multilevel compound?'. His thesis explores European integration of local government in England and Germany. Prior to his PhD, Marius completed an MA in European Politics (Research) with distinction at the University of Liverpool and studied Social Science with an emphasis on politics at the University of Cologne. Marius' habilitation project examines intergovernmental relations in devolved and federal states. In addition, he has a strong interest in the cause and consequences of Brexit. Further research activities include European integration, Europeanisation, international relations, political attitudes and participation, Euroscepticism, the welfare state, and social policy.

## Dr Sam McIntosh

Lecturer and researcher in Law. Sam was awarded his PhD in law by City, University of London in April 2016. His thesis discussed the principle of open justice in the context of investigations into deaths at the hands of the state. Sam spent three years of his PhD as a visiting student at the University of Vienna. Sam holds an LLM in Public International Law and an MA (joint honours) in Spanish and European History from the University of Edinburgh.

He is qualified as a lawyer in England and Wales and has worked at three of the most highly regarded human rights firms in the country. He began his training in the criminal defence department at Imran Khan & Partners and went on to finish his training and work in the civil departments at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and Hickman & Rose. At both firms he worked primarily on civil cases against the police and prison authorities, and on inquests into deaths at the hands of the state. After leaving legal practice, Sam worked as a Sessional Lecturer and then a Teaching Fellow at the University of Reading, teaching criminal law, tort law, and constitutional and administrative law. He also worked as a research assistant on the

Law, Terrorism and the Right to Know project at Reading University. This project explored democratic traditions of media freedom and the contemporary demands of national and international security in the context of terrorism-related court cases.

Sam's research interests include domestic and international human rights law, Coroners and the Coroners' courts, open justice and the media's relationship with the courts, transitional justice, the rights of unsettled refugees under Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and recognition theory. Sam teaches and co-teaches on the following courses: 'The Coercive State', 'Mooting, Debating' and 'Constitutional Law and the Political System'.

## Jessica Fischer, MA

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 about fictional narratives of neoliberalism.

This year Jessica Fischer taught the 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar I: Narratives of Crime' with Prof Stedman, the 'Advanced Seminar: Postclassical Narratology' and the course 'Novels of Transformation: Making Subjects in the British Bildungsroman', the 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar I: Migration' with Prof Stedman and 'Week 1 Project: Finding Poetry'. She was invited as a guest lecturer to the 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar II: Self, Society and Agency' of Dr Guderjan and Felicia Kompio.

Jessica Fischer is a member of the German Association for the Study of British Cultures, the Association for Anglophone Post-colonial Studies, the Berlin-Britain Research Network, and the advisory board of Hard Times magazine. Before joining the Centre for British Studies in 2013, she worked freelance for various universities and cultural projects. She is part of the Centre's PR team and cooperates with the main press and public relations office of Humboldt-Universität.

The Centre's staff introducing themselves to the new group of students in October 2017



## **Felicia Kompio, MA**

Lecturer and researcher in British History. Felicia's research focuses on Britain in a European perspective. She studied History and Political Sciences at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she finished her MA studies in 2016. Her research interests include the cultural history of politics, the history of revolutions, European urban history, and history of European communication networks in a transnational perspective. She joined the Centre for British Studies in 2016 and is currently teaching 'Academic Writing' and co-teaching 'Commerce and Culture in British History' and, in the summer term, 'Interdisciplinary project: Self, society, and agency'.

## **Johanna Zinecker, MA**

Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature. Johanna's main interests include visual arts and cultural production in interdisciplinary and social-political fields, mental health cultures, art and activism, cultural disability and feminist studies as well as cultural policy, in particular in relation to politics of diversity and inclusion. She studied English and American Studies and German Literature at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Manchester. Since 2005, Johanna has worked in the field of arts and culture in various roles, including from 2008 to 2012 as assistant curator at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. Here she helped to create a number of large-scale international exhibitions, artistic productions, and publications on versatile contemporary topics, e.g. Architecture and Ideology (2012), Floating Food (2011), On Rage (2010) and Rational/Irrational (2008). Beyond academia, Johanna continues her engagement with the cultural sector and volunteers in a community inclusion project in Berlin. She has trained in non-violent communication, both in Berlin and London.

Johanna teaches in the area of Cultural Studies on the MA British Studies programme. She also convenes and teaches the practice-led seminar Cultural Project Management, which produces a public arts and humanities event each year. Other teaching related roles include academic advisor for student placements in the UK cultural sector. Since 2017 Johanna is also Equality Officer of the Centre. In this capacity, among other duties, she advises students and staff on related matters and has organized a diversity and inclusion workshop (with Kathrin Tietze, Bremen) for MA and PhD students in 2017.

## 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, MA**

Corinna Radke 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 MA 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 co-ordinating funding applications, organising conferences and other events as well as preparing the manuscripts of conference proceedings and supervising their publication. Finally, she edits the Centre's annual report and is the Centre's deputy equal opportunities officer.

## Catherine Smith, BA (Hons)

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

## Sylvena Zöllner

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

## Librarians

### Christine Seuring

Graduated from Cardiff University with a BA in History and English Literature as well as from the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam as a librarian. Worked and lived in Slovakia, Italy, and France and spent the main part of her professional life as a librarian at the *Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen* in Berlin. She joined the Centre in October of this year as successor to Evelyn Thalheim.



## Evelyn Thalheim



Evelyn's farewell reception

After 21 dedicated years, the Centre's librarian Evelyn Thalheim retired in August 2018. When she came to join the few people that staffed the Centre in 1996, she was faced with the task of setting up an interdisciplinary research library focused on the UK. When she arrived, the library consisted of 60 books. So, supported by the academic staff, she began to scan the catalogues and to order publications on British history, politics, the legal systems, culture, literature, and art. Thanks to Evelyn's determined efforts, the Centre's library now boasts 35,000 titles. It is situated in the August-Boeckh-House where readers not only have access to state-of-the-art technology, but are also able to work undisturbed in sunlit, spacious rooms. Evelyn will of course stay in contact with the Centre but will also use her free time to enjoy Berlin's generous offer of exhibitions and art galleries, meet friends, and do what she likes best – read and paint.

## Student Assistants

In 2017 the Centre was supported by the following students:

**Lorenz Böttcher**, Law

**Patrick Daus**, History

**Esmé Ellis**, English Literatures

**Stefan Jooß**, Industrial Engineering and Management

**Christoph König**, Law

**Sophie König**, European Literatures

**Madalina Luca**, Law



From left: Esmé, Sophie, Stefan, Madalina, Lorenz

## SPONSORS

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

Please donate a minimum amount of € 25.00 to the following bank account (it will be tax deductible in Germany):

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For more information, please contact Corinna Radke:  
[corinna.radke@staff.hu-berlin.de](mailto:corinna.radke@staff.hu-berlin.de)

## **Notes:**

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